AFRINIC-38 Public Policy Meeting — 18 November 2026, Cape Town, South Africa

PDP Working Group (WG) Guidelines and Procedures

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Authors: Alain Aina, Grégoire Ehoumi, Noah Maina

Why this proposal?

The recent lack of a Board quorum had many negative impacts on the PDP:

- Adopted policy proposals not ratified or not implemented
- No Public Policy Meeting
- Non-renewal of co-chairs
- Non-renewal of appeal and recall committees
- Non-renewal of ASO AC / NRO NC representatives
- Inactive Resource Policy Discussion mailing list

No specific rules for how the WG operates, and too much dependence on the Registry's governance.

Objectives of the proposal

1. Define clear and explicit Working Group guidelines and procedures
2. Reduce PDP dependence on the Board
3. Ensure continuity of policy development under all circumstances
4. Strengthen transparency and legitimacy of PDWG leadership
5. Modernise NRO NC community-representative selection
6. Introduce safeguards against indefinite non-ratification
7. Align with the new ICP-2 requirements for RIR ongoing commitments

What this proposal introduces

Clear rules for how the Working Group functions

A community-based Number Council

Community-based Appeal & Recall committees

Community Consultations in multiple languages

A way to ratify policies even if there is no Board

NEW

3 co-chairs (up from 2) with 3-year terms

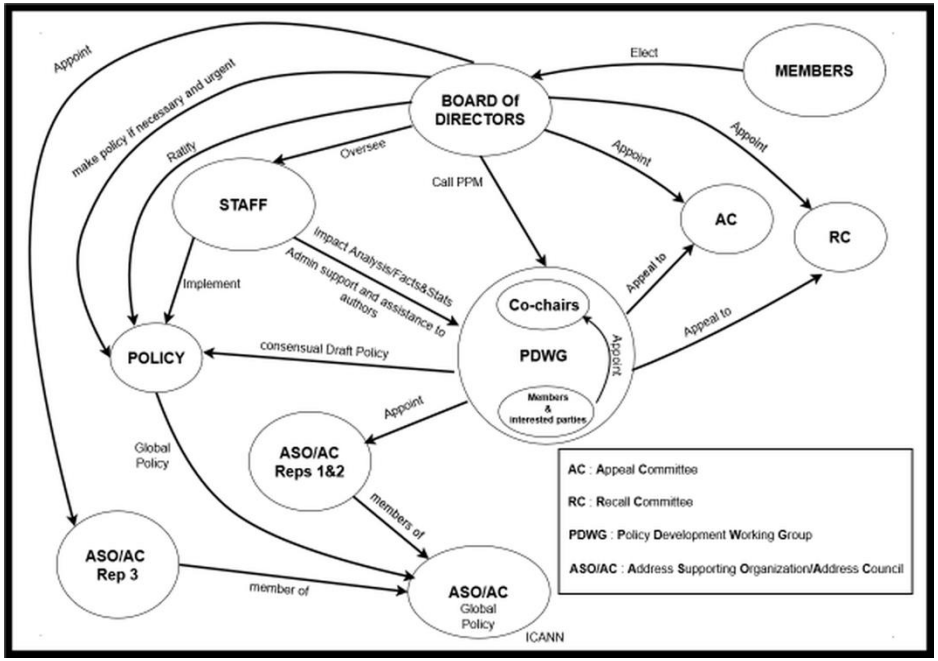
NEW

Good Faith Protection for volunteers

What the proposal does not do

- Does not amend AFRINIC Ltd governance except where explicitly stated
- Does not remove or weaken Board authority
- Does not interfere with AFRINIC operations or staff
- Does not change the grounds for appeal
- Does not create a parallel governance structure

Current AFRINIC PDP framework



New AFRINIC PDP framework (draft02)

Discussion
RPD list + PPMs

Consensus
Determined by co-chairs

Last Call
Then report to the Board

Board ratification
Reasoned decision if it declines

Implementation
By AFRINIC staff

Community Consultations: called by co-chairs anytime, in various constituencies and languages

Safeguard: if there is no operative Board, a petition (15 PDWG members from 3 sub-regions) triggers a new staff analysis. No new issue found: ratified.

Co-chairs (3)

3-year terms, staggered. Appointed by consensus. Chair the PPMs and run the PDP.

Number Council

3 co-chairs + 2 community-elected + 1 Board-appointed NRO NC members. Calls a PPM yearly.

AC / RC

2 community-elected NRO NC members + immediate past co-chair. Hear appeals and recalls.

Open to all: the PDWG is community-driven, whoever operates the registry.

PDWG co-chair selection reform

Today

2

co-chairs

2-year terms, staggered

Chosen by the community at a PPM

Proposed

3

co-chairs

3-year terms, staggered yearly

Appointed by consensus

How appointment works

- Call for nominations at least 60 days before the PPM, open for 30 days
- Open to residents of the service region who attended at least 4 of the last 6 PPMs (online or in person)
- Decided by consensus as the first item of the PPM agenda
- Tie: lots are drawn. No consensus on a single candidate: seat left vacant and the Number Council appoints an interim co-chair within 2 weeks

NRO NC community representatives

Resource members vote

- One vote per member organisation
- Corporate Contacts
- Authorized contacts with voting rights given by the Corporate Contact
- Designated Representative of the Resource Member

Registered PPM attendees vote

- Reside in the AFRINIC service region
- Registered for the current PPM, attending in person
- Attended at least one of the previous six PPMs (online or in person)
- AFRINIC staff are not eligible

Candidates need the support of one Resource member and one community member. Online voting during the PPM, run by AFRINIC staff; majority wins.

Ensures broad legitimacy • Aligns with global NRO NC expectations

Number Council (NC)

- Calls a Public Policy Meeting at least once a year
- Ensures the PDP remains functional: appoints interim co-chair(s)
- NC Chair leads the consensus process if there is no co-chair
- Decides by consensus; otherwise by majority of members present
- In a tie, the Chair decides

NC composition

3 Co-chairs

2 Community-elected NRO NC members

1 Board-appointed NRO NC member

The NC Chair is elected from the two community-elected members.

Appeal & Recall committees

Recall requests must now be supported by:

10

persons from 10 different organisations

≥ 1 yr

subscribed to the mailing list

≥ 1

PPM attended in the last 2 years (in person or online)

Appeal: 3 supporters, filed within 2 weeks

Recall: decided within 4 weeks, final and binding

AC / RC composition

2 community-elected NRO NC members + the immediate past co-chair

The Appeal Committee also serves as the Recall Committee

Petition-based ratification (safeguard)

1 Board decides

Draft policy is ratified unless the Board determines otherwise. If it declines, it must publish a reasoned decision on the RPD list and the WG decides the next step.

2 Petition if there is no Board

Where there is no duly constituted and operative Board, any PDWG member may start a petition. It needs 15 PDWG members who are registered contacts of distinct resource members, from at least 3 AFRINIC sub-regions.

3 New staff analysis

A new staff analysis of the proposal is conducted. If staff find no new issue, the proposal is considered ratified and implemented by staff.

Ensures community-adopted policy cannot be stalled indefinitely.

Board authority and Good Faith Protection

Board authority

NEW

The Board retains residual statutory authority and fiduciary responsibility for the management, oversight and affairs of AFRINIC.

PDWG, co-chairs, NC, AC and RC exercise only the functions expressly assigned to them under the Working Group.

Good Faith Protection

NEW

- No personal liability for actions, decisions, consensus determinations or procedural rulings made in good faith
- Disputes resolved exclusively through WG appeal procedures
- Excludes fraud, wilful misconduct, bad faith or deliberate violation of the PDP or WG rules

Preserves the Board's role while ensuring PDP continuity.

What's new in draft02

3 co-chairs, 3-year terms

Staggered yearly; appointed by consensus

No in-person requirement

Candidates: 4 of last 6 PPMs, online or in person

Chairing of PPMs

Every PPM chaired by at least two co-chairs

Number Council by consensus

Majority of those present if consensus fails

Designated Representative

Can vote in NRO NC elections for the Resource Member

Clearer approval process

Reasoned Board decision; petition if no Board

Board authority (3.3.12)

Residual statutory and fiduciary role retained

Good Faith (3.3.13)

No personal liability for acts in good faith

Staff impact assessment

Clarity of text 10 **Legal 8** **Practical: HR, Finance, Policy Liaison 8**

Full list in the extra slides

Definitions & Number Council 3.3, 3.3.0 — 8	Co-chairs 3.3.1 to 3.3.3 — 6	PPM, conduct & consensus 3.3.7 to 3.3.9 — 5	Appeals, approval & Board 3.3.10 to 3.3.13 — 5
"guidelines" vs "shall"	Single candidate: unclear	PPM convening: Board (11.2)	Final and binding vs Board
No NC quorum rule	"sitting chair" ambiguous	Travel costs will increase	"Operative Board" undefined
NC seat if Board inquorate	Formatting help: bias risk	Adjourned PPM: losses	Petition: who validates?
NC vs Nomination Committee	"RPD mailing list" wording	Code of Conduct reference	Disputes vs Board authority
Tie vote: draw, not repeat	Competing proposals: silent	Definition of consensus	Ratification: Art. 11.3
Voter categories ambiguous	+1 Co-Chair seat each year		
Reference "(3)" typo			
NC volunteer availability			

Staff Impact Analysis

- Section 3.3.3 provides that if at least one nomination is received, the appointment process commences, but also provides that if only one candidate is being evaluated, the absence of consensus declares the seat vacant. **The process when a single candidate is put forward, in particular, who determines that consensus is lacking, and when, is insufficiently clear.**

Section 3.3.3 Appointment of co-chairs
If at least one nomination is received by the closing date, the appointment process starts…….
The appointment must be held at the upcoming Public Policy Meeting as the first item on the agenda..

The remaining co-chairs declare a decision, based on mailing list discussions and the discussions at the PPM, as they would do for a policy proposal.. **If the working group finds itself without a co-chair, Number Council's chair will lead the consensus process.**

Staff Impact Analysis

- Exit of co-chair includes a handover period and an expectation that the sitting chair follows proposals, which have already reached consensus, to the completion of their PDP cycle. The authors to clarify whether the sitting chair is the new co-chair.

“Sitting chair” means the one who shepherded the policy proposal to consensus.

Staff Impact Analysis

- Associated costs of community consultations remain applicable. Attendance costs related to PDWG Chairs' travel to PPMs will increase.

Community Consultations can be done at low cost, including online.

- It is noted that the increase from two to three Co-Chairs will require AFRINIC staff to coordinate nominations, elections, and handover processes for an additional Co-Chair seat each year.

3.3.3 Appointment of PDWG co-chairs says:
The working group appoints three co-chairs for a **three-years term**. Chair terms are staggered yearly (seat1, seat2 and seat3).

Staff Impact Analysis

3.3.7 Individual Behaviours. The AFRINIC Community Code of Conduct provides the guidelines for enforcing the code of conduct.

- Shouldn't community CoC follow community consultation process ?
- While we agree on expected behaviours and the consequences, should the guidelines to enforce CoC be the same?
- The proposed guidelines for enforcing the code of conduct in the proposal differs

  - **Reception vs Posting**
  - **Enforcement of the CoC at PPM**
  - **Appeal against co-chairs decisions in enforcing the CoC**

Staff Impact Analysis

- Hybrid PPMs adjourned for lack of a Chair quorum “incur financial losses”

With 3 co-chairs….
Every PPM shall be chaired by at least two co-chairs. If two co-chairs can’t participate in a meeting, the working group shall appoint one (1) person to second the remaining co-chair. **If the working group fails to appoint a temporary co-chair, the meeting shall be adjourned.**

The current 3.3.3 says:

If the Working Group Chairs are unable to attend the Public Policy Meeting, the Working Group shall nominate a Chair for the session. Anyone present at the meeting, whether in person or by remote participation, may participate in the selection process for a temporary Chair.

Staff Impact Analysis

- The Number Council does not have a quorum provision. With six members (three Co-Chairs, two community-elected NRO NC representatives, one Board-appointed NRO NC representative), the proposal should specify the minimum number required for the Council to validly conduct business.

Section 3.3.0

6. Number Council (NC): The Co-Chairs, the two community-elected NRO NC members, and the Board-appointed NRO NC member shall constitute the Number Council. The Chair of the Number Council shall be elected from among the two community-elected NRO NC members. **Decisions of the Number Council shall be made by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached after reasonable efforts, a decision may be made by a majority of the members present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair shall determine the outcome.**

Staff Impact Analysis

- **(I) Authority to convene a Public Policy Meeting**

Under the current AFRINIC Bylaws, the authority to convene a Public Policy Meeting rests with the Board. Article 11.2 provides as follows: ***"The Board shall call a Public Policy Meeting at least once a year as per requirements defined in the Policy Development Process."***

Based on the quote above, the Bylaws should adapt to requirements from the Policy Development Process

The policy proposal header has the followings:
- Relation to other provisions in the AFRINIC governance framework.
1- It requires amendment of section 11.2 of the Bylaws
2- It requires amendment of the NRO NC member election process

Thank you

Questions & Discussion



EXTRA SLIDES

Full staff impact assessment (reference)

Extra: Clarity of Policy Text (3.2)

3.3 intro: “guidelines” vs “shall”
“creates uncertainty as to the enforceability of its provisions”

3.3.0 (6): quorum
“The Number Council does not have a quorum provision.”

3.3.10, 3.3.12: “final and binding”
“appears inconsistent” with the Board's residual statutory authority

3.3.11: petition
Does not specify “to whom a petition … must be submitted” and who validates it

“members” vs “resource members”
“used inconsistently”: authors asked to ensure consistent terminology

3.3.11: Board
“duly constituted and operative Board of Directors” is not defined

3.3.0 (6): Board inquorate
The Board “may be unable to appoint the Board-designated NRO NC representative”

3.3.3: single candidate
Who determines that consensus is lacking, “and when, is insufficiently clear”

3.3.13: disputes
“resolved exclusively through the Working Group appeal procedures”: unclear vs 3.3.12

3.3.3: “sitting chair”
“The authors to clarify whether the sitting chair is the new co-chair.”

Extra: Legal, principal concerns (3.3.7)

Authority to convene a PPM

- “the authority to convene a Public Policy Meeting rests with the Board” (Bylaws, Art. 11.2)
- The proposal should clarify how the legal responsibilities will be discharged and “who will be accountable for them”

Ratification mechanism

- “the proposed automatic ratification mechanism is inconsistent with the existing framework under Article 11.3”
- Staff implementing a policy without Board ratification is “legally problematic”

The Number Council

- AFRINIC already has a Nomination Committee (Bylaws, Art. 9)
- The concentration of functions “risks creating actual or perceived conflicts of interest”
- Open questions: independence, and appointment of the Board's representative if the Board is inquorate

Extra: Legal, other observations (3.3.7)

3.3 intro: “shall”

Authors should “clarify the intended status of the document”; rewording suggested

3.3.0 (4): tie vote

Repeating the vote “does not reflect the current Election Guidelines”: a draw applies

3.3.0 (5): reference “(3)”

“appears to be a typographical error and should be verified”

3.3.0 (5): voter categories

Separate references “create unnecessary ambiguity”

3.3.2 et seq.: mailing list

Qualify “mailing list” as “RPD mailing list”

3.3.2.1(a): formatting help

Better provided by Policy Liaison Officers, to avoid allegations of bias

3.3.3: single candidate

Relation between the two provisions “is unclear”: simplify the wording

3.3.11: petition

Receiving and validating “should be expressly addressed”; mechanism “should be reconsidered”

“final and binding”

A PDP committee “cannot, merely by virtue of a community policy, conclusively bind AFRINIC as a corporate entity”

Extra: Policy Liaison inputs (3.3.9)

3.3.2: competing proposals

The section “is silent as to how the Co-Chairs shall handle competing or overlapping policy proposals”

3.3.7: Individual Behaviours

“The AFRINIC Community Code of Conduct provides the guidelines for enforcing the code of conduct.”

Terminology

Authors to clarify whether registered members, associate members, or other non-resource members have any role in the PDP

Consensus

“A definition of consensus or rough consensus is recommended”: of “particular value to newcomers”

Number Council availability

Volunteer roles “continue to give rise to availability concerns”; “A quorum provision … should be introduced”

Extra: HR, Finance and other impacts

HR (3.3.6)

- The increase from two to three Co-Chairs “will require AFRINIC staff to coordinate nominations, elections, and handover processes for an additional Co-Chair seat each year”

Finance (3.3.8)

- Costs of community consultations “remain applicable”
- “Attendance costs related to PDWG Chairs’ travel to PPMs will increase.”
- Hybrid PPMs adjourned for lack of a Chair quorum “incur financial losses”

Other proposals (3.3.2)

- No conflict with any proposal under discussion
- Overlap with AFPUB-2026-GEN-005 (Update of PDP): Co-Chairs and community “should be mindful of potential interactions”

No impact (3.3.3 to 3.3.5)

- Registry systems: WHOIS, RDAP, MyAFRINIC, NetSuite, NMRP, RPKI
- Member Services Operations
- IT