Policy Impact Assessment Summary

AFRINIC-38 Public Policy Meeting
18 November 2026 · Hyatt Regency Cape Town, South Africa

IPv6 as a Criteria in IPv4 Soft Landing

WHAT THIS CHANGES

Links every IPv4 request during exhaustion to a simultaneous IPv6 request and a deployment plan with milestone targets (25 → 95 % over 48 months).

KEY IMPACTS

- **CPM:** Amends s.5.4.4 — all IPv4 requests require a simultaneous IPv6 request (if none held) and a credible deployment plan; progressive thresholds 25/50/75/95 % over 12/24/36/48 months for access and content-hosting networks.
- **SYSTEMS:** MyAFRINIC: linked IPv4/IPv6 workflows, deployment-plan capture, retrospective-review triggers. NMRP + NetSuite: process/billing updates. IPv6 Addressing Plan tool: update to capture deployment plans.
- **OPERATIONS:** IPv4 and IPv6 evaluation procedures require revision; retrospective review of existing IPv6 holdings adds significant workload; FAQs and member comms need updates.
- **HR:** Additional Hostmaster capacity and targeted training required; possible recruitment if request volume increases materially.
- **FINANCE:** Staff training and potential headcount increase; review costs depend on automation achieved.

AREAS AFFECTED

- CPM
- SYSTEMS
- OPERATIONS
- HR
- FINANCE

FULL ASSESS-MENT

afrinic.net/afpub-2026-v6-001-draft03#impact

AFRINIC Policy Compliance Dashboard

WHAT THIS CHANGES

Requires a new MyAFRINIC compliance dashboard and a formal non-conformance procedure.

KEY IMPACTS

- **SYSTEMS:** New MyAFRINIC dashboard — automated checks (WHOIS, RPKI, reverse DNS); member-visible compliance status and history; email alerts on status changes.
- **OPERATIONS:** New non-conformance monitoring and service-withholding procedure to be published; measurable compliance metrics per CPM.
- **HR:** Additional Hostmaster staff required to manage member non-compliance workload.
- **FINANCE:** Costs subject to myAFRINIC v2 project and associated recruitment.

⚠ Legal: Appendices 6 & 7 may fall outside CPM Sections .3.1 PDP scope (operational/enforcement matters) — authors advised to reconsider their inclusion.

AREAS AFFECTED

- SYSTEMS
- OPERATIONS
- HR
- FINANCE
- LEGAL

FULL ASSESS-MENT

afrinic.net/afpub-2026-gen-002-draft02#impact

Dynamic IPv4 Pools Exhaustion Management Framework

WHAT THIS CHANGES

Introduces 3 new IPv4 pools, expanded delegation sizes, and a post-exhaustion waiting list; amends CPM s.5.4.

KEY IMPACTS

- **CPM:** Amends s.5.4.6.1 — adds Pre-Softlanding, Policy-Reserved, and Recovered pools alongside the current Soft-Landing pool, each with separate tracking.
- **SYSTEMS:** MyAFRINIC and NMRP resource forms require updating; automated pool inventory with tagging and audit logging needed.
- **OPERATIONS:** New procedure to identify fraudulent/gaming requests; FAQ updates required.
- **IT / HR / LEGAL / FINANCE:** No impact.

⚠ Policy conflict: Overlaps with AFPUB-2026-IPv4-001 (recently ratified, under implementation) — author should review and address.

AREAS AFFECTED

- **CPM**
- **SYSTEMS**
- **OPERATIONS**

FULL ASSESS-MENT

afrinic.net/afpub-2026-ipv4-003-draft01#impact

Public Policy Meeting (PPM)

WHAT THIS CHANGES

Requires PPM dates to avoid clashes with RIRs, IETF, ICANN, ISOC and be announced 1 year in advance.

KEY IMPACTS

- **COMMS & PR:** Announcing dates 1 year ahead → LOW risk. Staff support this.
- **COMMS & PR:** Announcing venue 1 year ahead → HIGH risk (emergencies, health & safety). Staff recommend removing the venue timeline requirement.
- **SYSTEMS / IT / HR / FINANCE:** No impact.

⚠ Admissibility: Co-Chairs must determine whether scheduling requirements fall within PDP scope (Bylaws Art.11.3; CPM s.3.1) before this can proceed.

⚠ DPP conflict: GEN-005's provision for additional online-only PPMs would prevent 1-year advance notification of dates.

AREAS AFFECTED

- **COMMS & PR**
- **LEGAL**

FULL ASSESS-MENT

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PDP Working Group (WG) Guidelines and Procedures

An Impact Assessment is published on afrinic.net. Scan the QR code to read it at:
afrinic.net/afpub-2026-gen-001-draft02#impact

PDP Working Group (WG) Guidelines and Procedures

LEGAL ASSESSMENT — s.3.3.7 | Principal Concerns (I) & (II)

Context: The proposal addresses a genuine concern: PDP dysfunction when the Board is inquorate. However, it goes beyond continuity — it appears to materially redistribute governance powers between the community, Number Council, Co-Chairs and the Board, raising legal, procedural fairness and governance concerns.

(I) Authority to convene Public Policy Meetings: Under Bylaws Art.11.2, the Board "shall call a Public Policy Meeting at least once a year." If the Number Council is empowered to convene PPMs independently, the proposal must clarify how the associated legal responsibilities — including logistics and contracts — will be discharged and who will be accountable. The Board's role must not be reduced in effect to that of a mere financial sponsor of meetings convened by another body.

(II) Policy-ratification fallback mechanism: Art.11.3 of the Bylaws states the PDP is "defined by the Regional Internet community and ratified by the Board." The proposed automatic ratification without Board approval is inconsistent with this. In particular, the suggestion that AFRINIC staff may implement a policy in the absence of Board ratification is legally problematic — the proposal establishes no sufficient legal basis for staff to assume that function.

FULL ASSESS-MENT

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PDP Working Group (WG) Guidelines and Procedures

LEGAL ASSESSMENT — s.3.3.7 | Principal Concerns (III)

Concentration of functions: The Number Council effectively removes the existing Nomination Committee (established under Bylaws Art.9) from the Co-Chair appointment process and transfers its functions to the Council: screening candidates; publishing the qualified list; facilitating appointments; appointing interim Co-Chairs; and sitting on the Appeal and Recall Committees. This concentration risks actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

Composition concerns (3 Co-Chairs + 2 community NRO NC + 1 Board NRO NC): (a) Outgoing Co-Chairs form part of the Council — independence is questionable. (b) Community-elected NRO NC reps are themselves elected via the Board-appointed Nomination Committee — this undermines the stated independence objective. (c) The Board-appointed NRO NC representative cannot be appointed if the Board is inquorate — the very problem the proposal aims to solve.

No quorum provision: The proposal does not specify the minimum number of members required for the Number Council to conduct business and make valid decisions, including where one or more members are unable to serve.

Better addressed through Bylaws review: If the objective is PDP continuity during Board inquoracy, the appropriate solution is a clear and legally sustainable continuity mechanism within AFRINIC's Bylaws, not a standalone PDP policy that may create parallel governance structures with uncertain authority. The Board's ongoing Bylaws review offers the appropriate opportunity to address this.

FULL ASSESS-MENT

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PDP Working Group (WG) Guidelines and Procedures

Legal Assessment — Other Observations & Conclusions

Drafting clarifications required: s.3.3 — "shall" implies mandatory rules, not non-binding guidance; clarify intended status. s.3.3.0(4) — tied vote should follow Election Guidelines (draw, not re-election). s.3.3.0(5) — "(3)" appears typographical; also, separate references to Corporate Contacts / Designated Representatives create unnecessary ambiguity. All "mailing list" references should specify "RPD mailing list".

s.3.3.2.1(a) — Co-Chairs assisting with proposal formatting: A Co-Chair who assists with formatting a proposal may face allegations of bias when subsequently assessing that proposal's progress or consensus. Administrative assistance should preferably be provided by Policy Liaison Officers.

s.3.3.3 — Contradictory nomination provisions: The process begins if at least one nomination is received, yet only one candidate results in the seat being declared vacant. The relationship between these two provisions is unclear and should be simplified.

"Final and binding" provisions vs Board's residual authority: Provisions stating that committee decisions are "final and binding" appear difficult to reconcile with s.3.3.12, which preserves the Board's residual statutory authority. A PDP committee cannot, by virtue of a community policy, conclusively bind AFRINIC in matters within the Board's statutory authority. Authors should clarify scope and ensure no conflict with the Board's retained powers or remedies available under applicable law.

Conclusion: The proposal addresses a legitimate concern, but the need for continuity does not justify arrangements that conflict with the Bylaws, blur corporate responsibilities or create parallel governance structures. The proposal in its present form requires further consideration on: automatic ratification without Board approval; Number Council creation and role; and Council composition and independence. The Board inquoracy problem is best addressed through the ongoing comprehensive Bylaws review.

FULL ASSESS-MENT

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PDP Working Group (WG) Guidelines and Procedures

Policy Liaison Inputs

s.3.3.2 Responsibilities of PDWG Co-Chairs: The section is silent as to how the Co-Chairs shall handle competing or overlapping policy proposals tabled for discussion in the same period.

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

Terminology: The proposal now uses "resource members" in some provisions but retains "members" without qualification. The authors are requested to verify that terminology is applied consistently throughout, and to clarify whether registered members, associate members, or other non-resource members have any role or standing in the PDP.

Consensus: A definition of consensus or rough consensus is recommended as it will serve as a guiding principle and will be of particular value to newcomers in the PDWG.

Availability of eligible persons for the Number Council: The transition from two to three Co-Chairs adds a third Co-Chair seat to the Number Council, increasing its complement to six members. The volunteer nature of these roles continues to give rise to availability concerns. The proposal does not address the composition and functioning of the Number Council where the Board-appointed NRO NC representative cannot be appointed (e.g. where the Board is inquorate), or where one or more members are otherwise unable to serve. A quorum provision for the Number Council should be introduced.

FULL ASSESS-MENT

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Update of PDP

WHAT THIS CHANGES

Revises PDP timing, consensus definition, mandatory IA requirements, Board role, and conflict resolution.

KEY IMPACTS

- **SECRETARIAT:** Mandatory IA per PPV with tight deadlines (4 wks/1 wk before PPM); PPV tracking tool and published procedure required; identity verification has no defined scope, data basis, or procedure.
- **LEGAL:** "Technical objections only" definition of rough consensus may exclude legitimate legal, financial, and governance concerns — clarification needed.
- **LEGAL:** Identity verification is discretionary with no defined governance framework — who authorises, what data is collected, retention period, effect on consensus.
- **LEGAL:** Board ratification wording must expressly preserve Board's legal duties under applicable law (Companies Act 2001, ss.129, 143).

⚠ Conflict with PDP Working Group (WG) Guidelines and Procedures : Both proposals amend PDWG, appeals, and Board ratification — Chairs advised to coordinate authors before both reach consensus.

AREAS AFFECTED

- **SECRETARIAT**
- **LEGAL**
- **GOVERNANCE**

FULL ASSESS-MENT

afrinic.net/afpub-2026-gen-005-draft01#impact