

APNIC 50

PDP and SIG Guidelines Documentation Review and Recommendations

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Documentation review

- As requested by the Policy SIG Chairs and the APNIC EC
- At [APNIC 48](#) and [APNIC 49](#)

Scope

- Review of documentation related to APNIC's Policy Development Process (PDP) and SIG Guidelines
- The documents in scope include:
 - APNIC-111-v002, the [Policy development process](#), and
 - The un-numbered [APNIC SIG Guidelines](#).
- Comparison with current practice
- Review of community inputs / proposals
 - Since APNIC 33

Output of the review

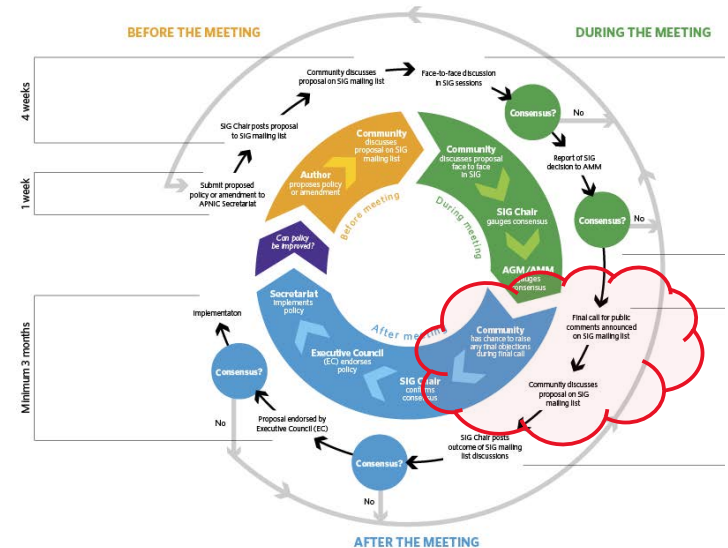
- Recommended changes
 - make documents match current practice
 - clean-up of typos, incorrect links, references and sections
 - restructure and numbering of SIG Guidelines
- Review of undecided community proposals that would result in change to current practice

Changes to names

Original Name (used in current documents)	New Name (used in proposal)
OPM / Open Policy Meeting	APNIC Conference
AMM	AGM/AMM
(Policy) SIG session / meeting	Open Policy Meeting (OPM) – for Policy SIG
(Other) SIG session / meeting	SIG meeting

Comment Period vs Last Call

- Community proposals to rename the ‘Comment Period’ to ‘Last Call’ [appendix 1]
 - A simple name change would be purely editorial
 - Amendments would represent a change in policy
 - No change recommended as this does not align with current practice
- The phrase “substantial objections” is used in the PDP description
 - Recommended to bring it into line with SIG Guidelines “major objections”



Who can participate in the PDP?

- Current documentation
 - Anyone may attend the meetings and participate in discussions and the decision making.
- Recommendation
 - Anyone with an interest in the management and use of Internet number resources in the Asia Pacific may...”
 - Secretariat staff explicitly excluded from consensus call
 - Provision for remote participants in the “show of hands”

Mailing list and remote participation

- Inclusion of mailing list discussions in the assessment of consensus is (and always has been) the current practice
- Use of Confer
 - Electronic consensus measurement is an equivalent to the physical ‘show of hands’
- Recommend to make explicit that mailing list and electronic ‘show of hands’ is included in the consensus determination

Consensus Measurement

- Confer
 - Community feedback was mixed
 - Use of Confer has been inconsistent
- An electronic participation platform is required to meet the accessibility expectation in the bottom-up consensus process
- Recommend to investigate a suitable platform for use of ongoing electronic consensus measurement

SIG Chair Elections

- Virtual/remote participants considered to be “present”
- Investigate a mechanism for remote participant voting in elections
- Investigate a way to restrict voting eligibility
 - Conference Registration
 - Mailing List subscription
- May require further changes to the SIG Guidelines
 - Not included as recommended change to current document

SIG Chair Elections - Online Voting

- Secretariat may
 - Use BigPulse voting system
 - Used for APNIC EC and NRO NC elections
 - Voting eligibility
 - same criteria as NRO NC online elections
- <https://conference.apnic.net/50/elections/voting/>

General Agreement vs Rough Consensus

- Community proposal to adopt the “Rough Consensus” [Appendix 2]
- APNIC model being confused with IETF’s “rough consensus”
 - IETF’s discussion of technical solutions differs substantially from policy discussions. Noted at APNIC 38
- These two models are not the same
 - IETFs RFC7282: An unsatisfied person is not sufficient to break rough consensus
 - APNIC: An unsatisfied person with a Major Objection is enough to break consensus. The model requires that “everyone consents to the decision” and that it is “acceptable to all participants”
- Adopting the ‘rough consensus’ model may work for APNIC
 - Community must accept change to Major Objections
- Not recommended as an editorial change in the current document
 - Amendments would represent a change in policy

New version/withdraw/abandon proposal

- Community proposal to expire a proposal is “six months” [Appendix 3]
- In current practice, Policy SIG Chairs require an author to incorporate community feedback before re-presenting the proposal
 - New proposal text must reflect community feedback
- In current practice, Policy SIG Chairs decide to abandon a proposal after three unsuccessful OPMs
- The recommendation is to adopt current practice
 - Amendments would represent a change in policy

Consensus at the Member Meeting

- Some argue that the AGM/AMM consensus is redundant
 - Only one SIG (the OPM) decides policy
 - APNIC Members should not be given elevated status over the broader community
- Some Members argue
 - The APNIC Membership has a stewardship role
 - The second consensus is a desirable failsafe
- This issue is black and white: You either do, or you do not, require consensus in the AGM/AMM.
- No changes are recommended as current practice is correctly documented

Appeals Process

- Community proposal to adopt an “Appeals Process” [Appendix 4]
- The EC is not the correct body to overrule a Policy SIG Chair.
 - It might conflict with its responsibilities under the PDP
- Procedures for overruling a Chair already exist in the SIG Guidelines and PDP
- No changes are recommended as current practice is correctly documented

Recommendation for PDP document

- Simplify Table of Contents
- Reference Community Code of Conduct
- Include Chairs script for consensus decisions
- Move these from SIG guidelines to PDP under Appendices
 - Basic steps in the consensus decision making process
 - Guidelines for presenting a policy proposal
 - Presentation outline
 - Guidelines for informational presentations

Recommendation for SIG Guidelines

- Make it a numbered document covered by the APNIC document editorial policy
- Simplify Table of Contents
- Restructure document to separate operational procedures from guidance
- Add additional guidance to the document
 - Reference Community Code of Conduct
 - Include procedure to change document
- Move existing footnotes to main body

What's next...

- Call for editorial comments
 - APNIC Secretariat will release a public draft of the documents and issue a call for comments
 - Announcement and drafts will be posted to
 - APNIC website
 - PDP document draft to Policy SIG mailing list
 - SIG guidelines draft to all current active SIGs
 - Comment period will be one month

Interested parties may...

- Object to the wording provided by the Secretariat
- Suggest further improvements to any aspect of the documents
- Request that an additional call for comment be made if substantial revisions are required

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Thank you!

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Appendix and Supplementary Material

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Appendix 1

<https://www.apnic.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/prop-126-v004.txt>

Current Text

Step 3: Discussion after the OPM Proposals that have reached consensus at the OPM and the AMM will be circulated on the appropriate SIG mailing list for a period. This is known as the “comment period”. The duration of the “comment period” will be not shorter than four weeks and not longer than eight weeks. The decision to extend more than four weeks, including the duration of the extension, will be determined at the sole discretion of the SIG Chair.

New Text

Step 3: Last-Call Proposals that have reached consensus at the OPM and the AMM will be circulated on the appropriate SIG mailing during four weeks.

The purpose of the “last-call” is to provide the community with a brief and final opportunity to comment on the proposal, especially those who didn’t earlier.

Consequently, during this period editorial comments may be submitted and, exceptionally, objections if any aspect is discovered that was not considered in the discussion prior to determining consensus.

Any new objections must also be substantiated and must therefore not be based on opinions lacking a technical justification.

Appendix 2

<https://www.apnic.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/prop-126-v004.txt>

Current Text	New Text
<p data-bbox="79 507 434 535">Step 2: Consensus at the OPM</p> <p data-bbox="79 573 962 633">Consensus is defined as “general agreement” as observed by the Chair of the meeting.</p> <p data-bbox="79 649 125 666">....</p>	<p data-bbox="962 507 1352 535">Step 2: Consensus Determination</p> <p data-bbox="962 573 1748 600">Consensus is defined as “rough consensus” as observed by the Chairs.</p> <p data-bbox="962 649 1014 666">.....</p> <p data-bbox="962 704 1850 889">For information purposes, the definition of “consensus” used by the RIRs and the IETF is actually that of “rough consensus”, which allows better clarifying the goal in this context, given that “consensus” (Latin for agreement) might be interpreted as “agreed by all” (unanimity). More specifically, RFC7282, explains that “Rough consensus is achieved when all issues are addressed, but not necessarily accommodated.”</p> <p data-bbox="962 928 1850 988">Consequently, the use of “consensus” in the PDP, must be interpreted as “rough consensus”.</p>

Appendix 3

<https://www.apnic.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/prop-126-v004.txt>

Current Text	New Text
<p data-bbox="79 502 434 535">Step 2: Consensus at the OPM</p> <p data-bbox="79 546 125 567">....</p> <p data-bbox="79 600 937 698">If there is no consensus on a proposal at either of these forums, the SIG (either on the mailing list or at a future OPM) will discuss whether to amend the proposal or to withdraw it.</p>	<p data-bbox="962 502 1352 535">Step 2: Consensus Determination</p> <p data-bbox="962 546 1014 567">.....</p> <p data-bbox="962 600 1825 633">If there is no consensus on a proposal, the authors can decide to withdraw it.</p> <p data-bbox="962 666 1787 731">Otherwise, the proposal will expire in six months, unless a new version is provided, restarting the discussions with the community.</p>

Appendix 4

<https://www.apnic.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/prop-126-v004.txt>

Current Text	New Text
None	<p>Appeals process</p> <p>In case of disagreement during the process, any member of the community must initially bring the matter to the mailing list for consideration by the Chairs.</p> <p>Alternately, if any member considers that the Chairs have violated the process or erred in their judgement, they may appeal their decision through the EC, which must decide the matter within a period of four weeks.</p>