The Future of the ASO: An Open Consultation

Axel Pawlik
Managing Director
RIPE NCC

Axel Pawlik | May 2018 | RIPE 76

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

What is the ASO

- The Address Supporting Organization (ASO) is part of the structure of ICANN

- The ASO Address Council (ASO AC) is also part of this structure:

  - Has a coordinating role in global policy development

  - Defines procedures for selecting individuals to serve in other ICANN bodies, including the ICANN board

  - Provides advice to the ICANN Board

  - Selects candidates for two seats on the ICANN Board

  - Elects one seat for the Nomcom

What is the ASO

- The role of the ASO is fulfilled by the Number Resource Organization (NRO)

- The ASO Address Council (ASO AC) is also part of this structure:

  - Has a coordinating role in global policy development

  - Defines procedures for selecting individuals to serve in other ICANN bodies, including the ICANN board

  - Provides advice to the ICANN Board

  - Selects candidates for two seats on the ICANN Board

  - Elects one seat for the Nomcom

What is the ASO

- The role of the ASO is fulfilled by the Number Resource Organization (NRO)

- The role of the ASO AC is fulfilled by the NRO Number Council (NRO NC):

  - Has a coordinating role in global policy development

  - Defines procedures for selecting individuals to serve in other ICANN bodies, including the ICANN board

  - Provides advice to the ICANN Board

  - Selects candidates for two seats on the ICANN Board

  - Elects one seat for the Nomcom

Who is the ASO?

- The NRO Executive Council (NRO EC) (CEOs of the five RIRs)

- The NRO Number Council (NRO NC) (15 RIR community members)
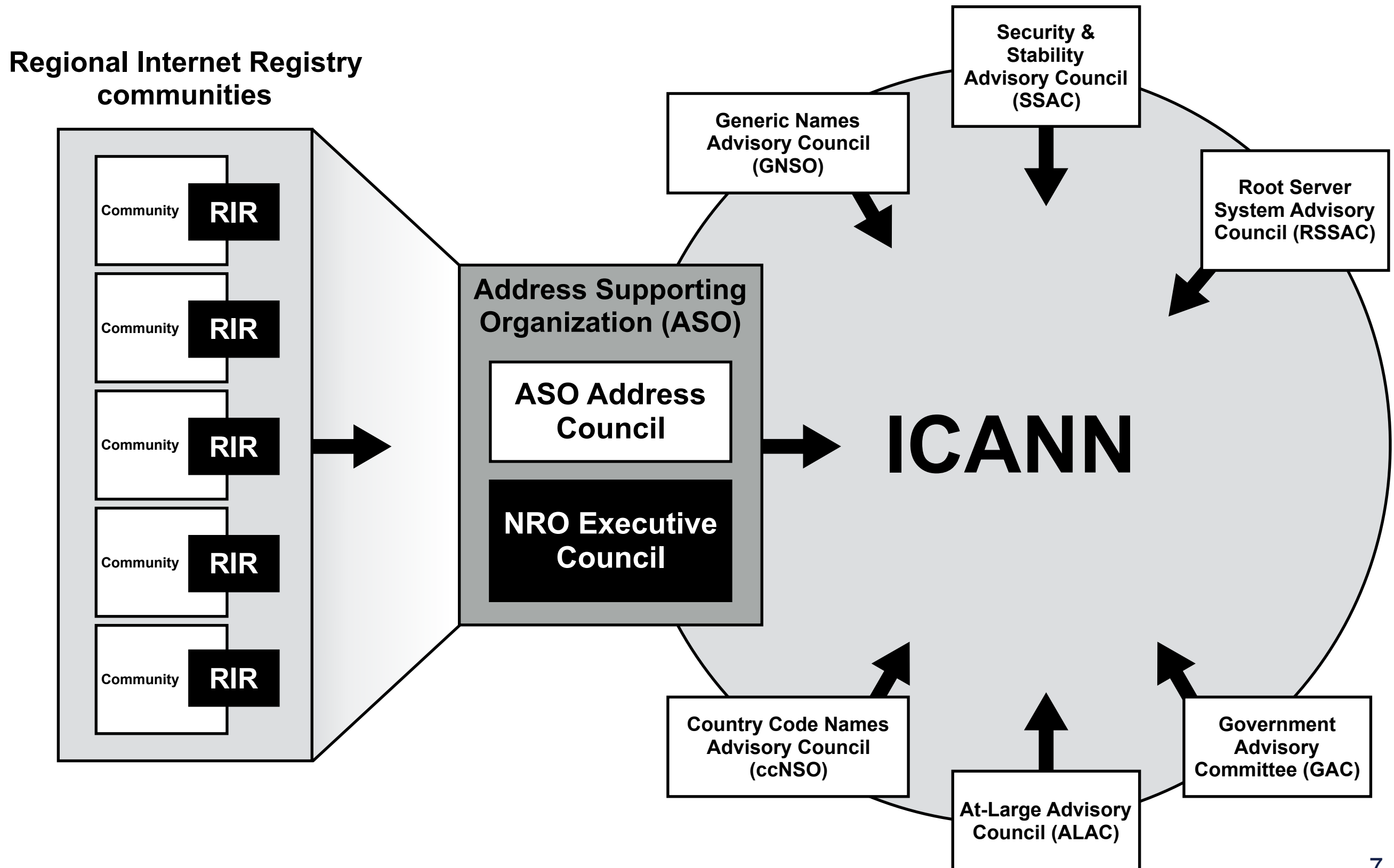 - From our region:

Nurani Nimpuno   Hervé Clément   Filiz Yilmaz

ASO in the ICANN Structure

Regional Internet Registry communities

Community	RIR
Community	RIR
Community	RIR
Community	RIR
Community	RIR

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

ASO Address Council

NRO Executive Council

ICANN

Generic Names Advisory Council (GNSO)

Security & Stability Advisory Council (SSAC)

Root Server System Advisory Council (RSSAC)

Country Code Names Advisory Council (ccNSO)

At-Large Advisory Council (ALAC)

Government Advisory Committee (GAC)

After IANA Transition

- ASO now part of the "Empowered Community"

- This has resulted in the ASO being asked to participate more within ICANN

- This translates into more procedures and extra work being required of ASO

ASO Review

ASO Review

- August 2017: ITEMS (an independent consultancy) published its review of the ASO, as required in the ICANN Bylaws (link)

- October 2017: Review presented to the RIPE community for feedback at RIPE 75 (link)

- February 2018: NRO EC and ASO AC issued Joint Response to the ASO Review Recommendations (link)

Initial NRO Response

- ITEMS review made 18 recommendations with regard to:

  - The purpose of the ASO

  - Organisational and operational effectiveness of the ASO

  - Accountability and transparency

- The NRO EC / ASO AC Joint Response agreed to proceed with many of these recommendations

The Future of the ASO in ICANN

- The 18th Recommendation from ITEMS:

   "The NRO should initiate a public consultation, involving the five RIR communities, to determine the future structure of the ASO."

- This is important because:

   - The ASO is one of the bodies making up the new "ICANN Empowered Community" structure

   - Fulfilling this role requires a significant amount of administrative work by the ASO

   - The RIR communities may feel that this effort is disproportionate to the level of practical engagement between the ASO and ICANN

Possible Approaches Identified by ITEMS

	Option 1 Status quo	Option 2 Increased coordination	Option 3 Adoption of two-house "ASO Council"
ICANN Bylaws	No change	No change	Bylaws to state that the ASO shall have an ASO Council with two "Houses"; a Policy House (current ASO AC) and a Registries House
ASO MoU	No change	No change	Update to include more details on the scope for action of the NRO EC (Registries House)
ASO AC Rules of Procedure	No change	Formalise joint annual meeting as needed	Rules of Procedure to be renamed "ASO Rules of Procedure"
ASO Website	No change	More information on role/scope for action of the NRO EC	The ASO website to include record of all activities of the NRO EC in connection with the ASO

The Consultation

The Current Consultation

- An attempt to answer the following questions:

  - What adjustments, if any, should be made to address the issues of confusion about roles and rising workload?

  - Should adjustments be limited to ASO-related documents and agreements (such as the NRO MoU, ASO MoU, ICANN Bylaws)

  - Over what timeframes should these adjustments be developed and implemented

  - What strategic aspects should we pay attention to when considering these adjustments?

The Current Consultation

- The scope of the consultation may include (but is not limited to):

  - Updates and adjustments to ASO-related documents

  - Procedural clarifications and adjustments

  - Reported confusion of roles between the ASO and NRO, and their components

  - Perceived complexity of relationships among the NRO, ASO and ICANN

  - Relevance and cost to the RIRs of various ICANN engagement activities

The Current Consultation

- Out of the scope of this consultation:

    - The Global Policy Development Process (GPDP)

    - The ASO AC's role with the GPDP

What are the Other RIRs Saying?

- AFRINIC

  - Number Community should continue to participate within ICANN to promote its viewpoints

  - Scope creep should be guarded against - scope should not be widened unless necessary

  - AFRINIC NRO NC representatives will engage with the community to determine a way forward

What are the Other RIRs Saying?

- APNIC

    - Decided not to support the status quo and established a WG to examine this further

    - WG has developed a straw man proposal around a two-house ASO that is explained better. Exploring taking this further to simplify the ASO arrangement

    - It is helpful for Number Community to have access to the global community through ICANN (e.g. the GAC)

    - It's on the Number Community to decline other requests from ICANN

What are the Other RIRs Saying?

- ARIN

  - The relationship with ICANN should be simplified and remain focused on Number Community matters

  - NRO EC and NRO NC/ASO AC need to be diligent in declining invitations that lie outside this scope

  - The use of two names ("NRO" and "ASO") is confusing. Number Community should engage with ICANN as the NRO, with the NRO NC continuing to handle global policy development and ICANN Board election matters as usual

  - More significant changes to the Number Community/ICANN relationship should be deferred for a future review cycle

What are the Other RIRs Saying?

- LACNIC

  - Roles need to be better clarified (NRO/ASO AC)

  - The community has asked for more detailed information in order to provide ideas and suggestions

  - There is a group of moderators made up of two ASO AC members and one LACNIC Board member

  - Regional discussion list at asoreview@lacnic.net

RIR Community Consultations

- All the RIRs are seeking feedback and discussion within their communities

- We're asking RIPE community members to send their comments to ripe-list@ripe.net

Deadline for input: 30 June 2018

(For more information, see our recent article on RIPE Labs)

Questions