

prop-108: Suggested changes to the APNIC Policy Development Process

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Introduction

- A number of areas of inconsistency or opportunities for improvement in the APNIC PDP were highlighted during the APNIC35 meeting in Singapore.
- This policy looks to three of those areas and proposes ways to address them

Three areas

- A. Timing Requirement for the Policy-SIG chairs to announce consensus in the Open Policy Meeting
- B. Requiring for consensus to be called and demonstrated at the APNIC Members Meeting
- C. The length of the required comment period for successful policy proposals after the AMM

Problem Statement:

A: Consensus during OPM

- Current practice is for the chairs to decide if consensus has been reached immediately after calling for consensus from the floor.
- This does not allow enough time for the chairs to make their consensus decision based on the consideration of various factors raised from the floor as well as discussion among themselves.
- In recent meetings there have been situations where consensus has been particularly hard to gauge.
- This may be due to a smaller number of strongly held opinions, or an even split between supporters and objectors.
- In these cases it may assist the Policy-SIG chairs in returning an appropriate decision if more time was afforded them for internal discussion.
- This is particularly relevant where there might be disagreement between the Chairs.

Proposed Solution

A: Consensus during OPM

- In order to ensure that the SIG chairs have time to discuss any issues relevant to considering consensus for or against a proposal, the first paragraph of Step 2 of the PDP should be replaced with:

Step 2. Consensus at the OPM

Consensus is defined as "general agreement" as observed by the Chair of the meeting. The Chair, at their sole discretion, may wish to confer with their Co-Chairs before judging consensus. This discussion may occur in private and the final determination of consensus should be given by the Chair before the end of the OPM.

The Chair should ensure that it is made clear if consensus is currently being gauged on part of a proposal, or the proposal in its entirety. This will ensure that OPM participants are clear in their responses.

Problem Statement:

B: Consensus to be demonstrated at AMM

At the OPM a policy proposal is required to gain consensus, and then the same consensus is required to be shown at the AMM on the next day.

While this may not be considered a real problem, it could be argued that it is not an effective use of time and resources.

Proposed Solution:

B: Consensus to be demonstrated at AMM

- In address duplication of process, the first paragraph of Step 2 of the PDP should be replaced with:

Consensus must be reached at the SIG session. The AMM Meeting Chair may, at their sole discretion and with no obligation, seek an additional call for consensus at the Member Meeting for the process to continue. If the call for consensus on a proposal at either of these forums is not successful, the SIG (either on the mailing list or at a future OPM) will discuss whether to amend the proposal or to withdraw it.

Problem Statement:

C: Comment Period Length

- Section 4 of APNIC PDP document requires that “Proposals that have reached consensus at the OPM will be circulated on the appropriate SIG mailing list for a period of eight weeks.”
- Eight weeks is a significant amount of time to allow for additional comments after a policy proposal has gained consensus at the OPM.
- It is in fact longer than the entire discussion period under which the proposal was presented.
- At present all the 8 week comment period serves to do is to significantly delay the implementation of policy which been demonstrated to have the consensus of the community.

Proposed Solution:

C: Comment Period Length

- In order to allow for the shortening of this period, Step 2 of the PDP should be replaced with:

Proposals that have reached consensus at the OPM will be circulated on the appropriate SIG mailing list for a period, the duration will not be shorter than two weeks but may be extended on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the Chair. This is known as the "comment period".

Thank you

