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# Proposed Changes to SIG Guidelines for Discussions

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# Introduction

- The need for proposals or discussions for a certain SIG topic may change over time
- This proposes to describe the possible options SIG participants can chose when facing the situation of no longer having policy proposals at a SIG

# Major function of the SIGs

- Handling of proposals
  - Facilitate discussions, seek consensus, request APNIC for implementation
- Following the SIG guidelines and having elected Chair/Co-Chairs are important for fair and transparent operations

# SIGs at the APNIC Forum

- Today, Policy SIG and NIR SIG are the only SIGs
- Operational SIGs abolished its format as a SIG and had incorporated into other sessions
  - APOPS, IPv6 Plenary, IXP session, etc

# NIR SIG Today

- No proposal over past five years
  - An NIR Updates session in reality, similar to RIR Updates
  - Fee Schedule, Voting rights are discussed at dedicated sessions organized per needs basis
- Similar to other APNIC sessions which do not take SIG format
  - Global Reports, IX session?
- Is SIG the best format to run the session for such contents?
  - SIGs are designed to best accommodate and handle proposals: additional formalities, restricts flexibilities

# Possible Alternative

- Reformat as "NIR Community Session" or "NIR Reports session" for example
  - Continue to be a regular session with a dedicated mailing list
- Give chance to all NIRs to give updates as a default – more comprehensive information sharing
  - No need to submit request for presentation each time
  - Submit a request only when presenting a topic other than updates
- Allow Chairing the session from wider participants
  - NIRs can take turns to Chair the session for experience
  - small session, many people know each other
  - no need for elected Chair/Co-Chair if no proposal

Other consideration:

Have volunteers to consider contents and proactively seek speakers?

- Opportunity open to all, not just Chair/Co-Chair

## Discussions so far

- Introduction of the idea at NIR SIG in APNIC35
  - No comments at NIR SIG
  - A concern expressed at AMM from an NIR about losing a forum for NIRs
  - A concern expressed privately from an NIR about whether it would be easy to bring it back to a SIG when needed

# The issue may not just be for NIR SIG

- Policy SIG currently have proposals at every session but it may change
  - IPv4 pool exhaustion, and transfer policy in place
  - e.g. No proposal at Open Policy Forum in JP Jul 2013
- Worth defining what to do when there will no proposals for consecutive SIGs in advance



# Possible Way Forward

- There should be a described process to consider continuation of the SIG when there are no proposals submitted for consecutive sessions
- There should be an option to continue the sessions under a non-SIG format, instead of totally dissolving the session
- There should be an easy mechanism to re-activate a SIG, if needs come back in the future to discuss proposals on the SIG topic

Reflect them in the SIG Guidelines Document

# Proposal

- Add descriptions in the SIG Guidelines document about the process of:
  - Hibernating a SIG
  - Reanimation a SIG

# Process for Hibernating a SIG

- If there are no proposals submitted to the SIG for three consecutive SIG sessions, the SIG can be put to sleep.
- The SIG Chair/Co-Chairs will notify the community to put a SIG into hibernation at the following SIG session and the SIG community will have an option to select

# Options for SIG Hibernation

- a. Put the SIG into hibernation and continue to hold the session in a different
  - Regular sessions will continue to be organized under a non-SIG format with a dedicated ML
- b. No longer hold the SIG session and hibernate the SIG
  - This option could be considered only situation in “2.2 Dissolving a SIG” in the SIG Guideline document applies
  - Instead of dissolving the SIG completely, hibernation allows the SIG to be re-animated easily when necessary

# Reanimating a SIG

- If a proposal is posted to the SIG to discuss and seek consensus from the community, the SIG will be re-animated, without any formal approval from the community, to facilitate the discussion
- The same criteria as today will apply to judge the relevance of the topic to the SIG
  - i.e. The topic must be consistent with the charter of the SIG
- The hibernating SIG Chair/Co-Chair will make the decision to accept or decline a proposal to the SIG

## Reanimating a SIG (contd)

- If a proposal is accepted, the hibernating SIG Chair/Co-Chair will be responsible to re-activate the SIG to facilitate the discussions
- If the hibernating SIG Chair/Co-Chair position expired at the time of putting the SIG to sleep, Secretariat will follow the SIG guidelines to elect Chair/Co-Chair

# Discussions at NIR SIG

- Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2013
  - <http://conference.apnic.net/36/program#session/61671>
- Some support confirmed for the proposal
  - Some questions raised about the term of Chair/Co-Chair during hibernation
  - A few hands raised against the proposal
  - Substantial number of people supported continued discussions – partially due to misunderstanding of the process

# Clarification about SIG Chair/Co-Chair term during hibernation

- The term of Chair/Co-Chair is counted only during active SIG period
  - During hibernation, the term of Chair/Co-Chair is not counted
- If a Chair resigns during hibernation Co-Chair will take the position, until electing a Chair at the next APNIC Conference



## How does this Affect Policy SIG

- There is not immediate effect as we have proposals at every APNIC conferences
- Clarifies the options and process in case no proposals at consecutive Policy SIG sessions

## Next Steps

- Inform about the SIGs discussions at AMM (Fri 8/30)
- If the general support is confirmed at SIGs, APNIC secretariat will post SIG Guidelines Document with changes reflected, for editorial comments
- No ML discussions as this is guidelines document, not policy document, so not a policy proposal in the formal sense

# Questions?

