



POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

AFRINIC is the Regional Internet Registry responsible for the management and distribution of Internet resources in the African region. All allocation and assignment of Internet number resources must also be consistent with the goals of the Internet Registry System: aggregation, conservation and registration. Policies provide the guidelines determining the allocation, usage and management of critical Internet number resources.

WHY DO WE NEED POLICIES?

Internet number resources such as IP addresses and Autonomous System Numbers (ASN) are important public resources which are vital for the continued growth and stability of the Internet. These resources are neither owned by address users, nor are they a commodity that can be bought, sold or traded. It is thus important that they are managed and distributed in a responsible and fair manner with policies acting as vehicles through which these objectives are attained.

WHO DEVELOPS THESE POLICIES?

Policies can be proposed by anyone from the community, not necessarily an AFRINIC member. The Internet community develops and agrees on all AFRINIC policies. However, just as the Internet develops, policies must evolve to suit changes in the industry. A key role of AFRINIC as well as other RIRs is to provide a forum on which members of the Internet community can discuss changes in the Internet and create policies to drive the developments.

GET INVOLVED IN THE PDP

The Internet needs to be managed responsibly through the bottom-up policy development approach. It is your duty to get involved and make decisions that suit your needs, to ensure that each organisation and the African region in general have a chance to voice their opinions, learn and share experiences from others in the industry.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN PDP

- Subscribe to and participate in the policy development mailing list discussions (rpd@afnic.net).
- Attend the bi-annual AFRINIC public policy meetings, either in person or through remote participation.

PRINCIPLES OF PDP

AFRINIC's Policy Development Process is consensus based and is:

OPEN

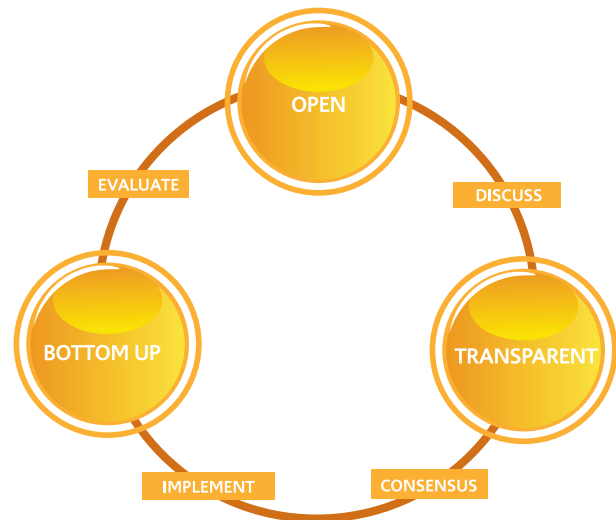
Anyone interested can get involved, propose and discuss policies. No accreditation is needed. It is inclusive, accessible and participatory.

TRANSPARENT

Meeting notes, presentations and discussions are publicly accessible. Everything is documented and published.

BOTTOM-UP PROCESS

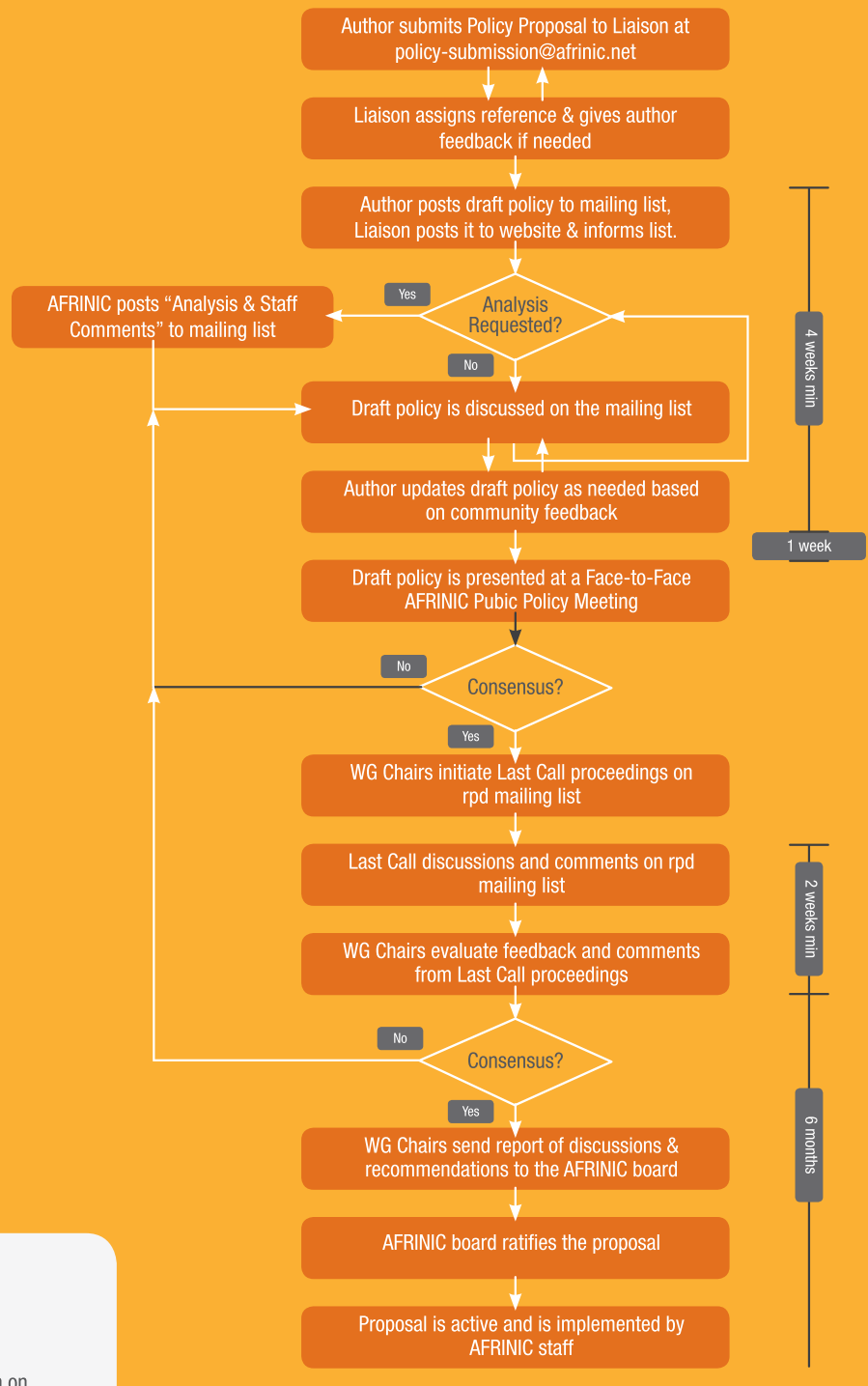
The Internet Community drives policy development i.e. proposes, discusses and approves policy.



TIMELINE

Taking "D" as the date on which a public policy meeting starts, the policy prescribes the following:

- D - one week: Deadline for making any changes to a policy proposal.
- D - two weeks: Deadline for announcing the agenda of the public policy meeting.
- D - four weeks: Duration for which a proposal must have been discussed on the mailing list before it can be put on the agenda of the next public policy meeting.
- D + three weeks: Deadline for the chairs to publish the minutes of proceedings of the last public policy meeting.
- Two weeks: Minimum duration of Last Call period. Time limit for appealing a decision or action of the chairs.
- Six months: Time after last call during which a proposal that has reached consensus must both be ratified by the AFRINIC Board and implemented by AFRINIC unless a waiver is requested.



For more information please go to:
<http://afinic.net/en/community/policy-development>

The website contains a huge range of important information on how to propose and participate in AFRINIC's policy making process.