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## **AfriNIC transition plan step forward (Starting from provisional recognition)**

In October 2004, AfriNIC received its provisional recognition from ICANN. This came earlier than what we thought in the middle of the original phase two of our transition plan. In this document, we will try to readjust the transition plan and activities according to the new timeline. AfriNIC, in agreement with the four already established RIRs, intends to complete this plan by April 2005 to be able to request for final Recognition during the ICANN meeting in Argentina.

As described below, the various activities to be completed by April can be divided into 4 different areas:

- Administration
- Engineering
- Communication
- General

### **1.1 Administrative transition**

#### **√ Billing process:**

- **Data transfer and processing:** AfriNIC will provide RIRs with its billing & accounting software data format. Based on this information, African members' data will be dumped from the RIRs accounting system and sent to AfriNIC. AfriNIC will emulate the billing, membership process, accounting integration, etc based on the imported data - This will not affect LIR operation with their respective RIRs -.
- **Documentation of the billing transition process:** the process will be different for each RIR:
  - **For RIPE Region:** RIPE NCC will bill its old African members for 2005. Starting May 2005 (after full recognition), new LIRs will be billed by AfriNIC for the remaining period up to of the end of year (Starting of each year being AfriNIC billing cycle starting point).

- For ARIN region: Until April 2005, ARIN will bill its members up to their anniversary date in 2006. From April 2005, AfriNIC will bill ARIN members towards the end of the year (January becomes the start point of AfriNIC billing cycle).
- ARIN process will be applied for APNIC members too.

√ **Administrative process:**

Before the final recognition, AfriNIC and the RIRs will agree on the legal details and implications of administrative data transfer. A list of documents which will be transferred will be provided to AfriNIC in a transfer of authority letter which will be signed by the RIRs and AfriNIC.

- **Registration Services and membership Agreements:** AfriNIC will have its own membership and service agreement ready [link]. RIRs will provide AfriNIC with their legal process for member transfer to AfriNIC authority. Two categories of members are identified:
  - **Members registered before AfriNIC transition process:** these members will have to sign the AfriNIC RSA. The process will depend on each Region.
    - **With RIPE NCC:** using the current opportunity where RIPE NCC members must re-sign new contracts, all Africa members will receive both AfriNIC and RIPE NCC contracts. AfriNIC contract will be signed and sent back directly to AfriNIC and the RIPE contract will be sent back to RIPE NCC.
    - **With ARIN:** No action will be needed.
    - **With APNIC:** Members will be required to sign AfriNIC RSA agreement before the end of the transition process. This will allow APNIC to cancel their ongoing agreement at the final recognition.
  - **Members that join RIRs during the transition process:** will receive two agreements: One from the RIR serving their region and the other from AfriNIC. They must be informed that after AfriNIC recognition, the first agreement will become invalid.

## 1.2 Technical transition

As described in our original transition plan document, the technical transition would be done in several steps and would start just after the training at RIPE NCC. Some phases of the plan have been completed. We are now preparing to move into the Phase 2 and 3 of the technical transition process. The phases will mainly consist of setting up the environment for registration service data to be transferred to AfriNIC. We will then have:

- ⊕ PHASE 2: Setting up AfriNIC Database with data transfer tests – Standardization of the request process in Africa region (the goal being, to have the same forms, same procedure, same policy and interface for requests in our region).
- ⊕ PHASE 3: Data transfer and start of Independent Evaluation.

### 1.2.1 PHASE 2: Co-evaluation and Data transfer preparation

☞ **Registration service:** Key activities during phase 2 will be to set up AfriNIC WHOIS servers, identify process for data transfer from RIR to AfriNIC WHOIS database and schedule its implementation. The WHOIS database should be documented and made available online. Furthermore, AfriNIC should have available tools to be used by IP analysts in order to handle their job and record information about members (LIRs, ISPs other....) This is what we call registration software/database.

Additionally to the WHOIS and the registration database/tool, AfriNIC will have to design its own resources' request forms. **These forms should be used in phase 2 to allow all African requests to be received in a unified format.** Additional supporting documents should be developed and made available online.

All data related to African ISPs/LIR s will be transferred to AfriNIC DB. All requests' evaluation will then be based on this local information.

*Note: during this phase, the evaluation will be done using the RIRs unified African region's policies. .*

√ **Reverse servers:** AfriNIC will setup a DNS server to serve as secondary for reverse delegation of IP addresses allocated in Africa region. This server will initially serve as secondary for the 196/8 block – and later for addresses blocks used by RIPE & APNIC. During this phase, all the reverse delegation requests will be directly sent to AfriNIC which, through the ERX process, will add them to the appropriate zone.

### 1.2.2 PHASE 3: Final recognition and Independent evaluation

After AfriNIC gets the final RIR status from ICANN, the transition process will enter into its last phase. Starting from then:

- √ ***AfriNIC Starts applying its own policies:*** A communication will be sent to all African ISPs/LIRs including a schedule and summary of changes that will occur in each region with regard to AfriNIC policies.
- √ A new web site will be online with appropriate information to allow smooth policy changes. This will include a detailed request evaluation process, all forms, FAQs and any information which must be necessary for LIRs to understand the changes.
- √ ***AfriNIC WHOIS and database online:*** AfriNIC will start using its own database and WHOIS server only.
- √ ***Start new ERX for address blocks allocated prior to transition process:*** To takeover reverse of all the legacy allocations in Africa from other /8 blocks, AfriNIC will need to run an ERX like project with RIPE, ARIN and APNIC.