

# AFPUB-2026-ASN-001-DRAFT02

Require newly created AS-SETs to have hierarchical names

<https://afrinic.net/policy/proposals/afpub-2026-asn-001-draft02>

AI26

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# Problem Statement

- AS-SET names are not unique across the 5x RIR databases
  - **AS-FOO** can exist in multiple or all of the 5x RIR DBs
  - When an AS-SET is created, a DB can only check if the AS-SET doesn't already exist in itself, it can't check the other DBs
  - This leads to multiple AS-SETs existing in different DBs with the same name

# Problem Statement

- If the name is not unique, the wrong AS-SET may be used
  - Either by mistake or intentionally
- It is not clear which network an AS-SET belongs too
  - Nothing in the name **AS-FOO** indicates which ASN it relates to

# Proposed Change

- All newly created AS-SETs must use a hierarchical name
  - Hierarchical set names are already defined in [RFC 2622 Sec 5](#)
  - The AS-SET name is preceded with an AS number
  - This addresses both problems

E.g. **AS-FOO** becomes → **AS23456:AS-FOO**

# Proposed Change

- This ensures the AS-SET name is unique across all 5 RIRs because the preceding AS number only exists in the local DB (as delegated from IANA to the RIR)
- Only the owner of that AS number can create an AS-SET with that ASN at the start, ensuring that users of the AS-SET know which ASN this AS-SET relates to.

Questions?