

22 October 2020

To: Oscar Robles, LACNIC, Chair of the Numbers Resource Organization  
Cc: Maarten Botterman, Chair, ICANN Board of Trustees

Dear Oscar,

Thank you for your letter. Given the impact the Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) may have on the Internet's routing system, including systems such as the domain name system (DNS) root servers and name servers in general, the deployment and operation of RPKI is obviously a matter of concern to the ICANN community as well as all Internet users. We hope the information we published in [OCTO-014](#), "*Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) Technical Analysis*", was of some value to the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) and their memberships.

We regret there was a misunderstanding and that you'd expected us to have the RIR input we received communicated via different mechanisms. Given the RIRs' role in the deployment of RPKI, we made a point to have extensive discussions with senior technical representatives of all five RIRs along with others in industry and academia in developing the report. We are extremely grateful for the hours of reviews and extensive input we received via email, phone calls, and chats with RIR staff and others. We incorporated the vast majority of that input into the published version of the report.

However, we were unaware the Numbers Resource Organization (NRO) anticipated *organizational* consultation between ICANN and the NRO on research work and do not recall having established a protocol for such. If you believe such a protocol is necessary to ensure ICANN and the NRO always communicate prior to research work in our respective areas of interest, we'd ask you to help us define such a process. We have been and continue to be very appreciative of the prolific research and writings by RIR staff in areas of what may be considered ICANN's "sphere of responsibility" and we do not recall, nor would we have anticipated, a requirement for prior notification or consultation by the NRO to ICANN on any research topic. We believe strongly in the need for objective research, fact-based presentation of the outcomes of that research, and the subsequent free exchange of ideas that can result. We wouldn't want to impose unnecessary non-technical constraints on the publication of such research and look forward to exploring ways in which research in areas of mutual interest can be done with flexibility and collaboration.

As an aside, please note our current address, which has changed from the one listed on your letter, is:

12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094  
United States of America

Thank you again for your letter and we look forward to working more closely in the future.

Best Regards,



Göran Marby  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)