



SUBJECT: CENTR Policy Development Rules - Review and Update

Background

CENTR's current policy development rules date back to 2005 and are based on the document approved at the GA in June 2003.

https://centr.org/CENTR-Policy-Position_Development_Rules

It was felt that these rules are no longer adequate in today's fast-paced environment. Our industry is faced with game-changing developments which require CENTR to respond - faster than ever before - to events and consultations. As prime examples of this development we can refer to the ICANN process proposal for the IANA stewardship Transition (3 weeks in June 2014) or the comment period for the draft charter of the ICG (5 days in September 2014). The existing mechanisms did not allow CENTR to respond to these within the required timeframe.

Goal of the review

The GA 51 Stockholm has instructed the Secretariat to present a proposal that addresses the need for quicker CENTR positions while at the same time being respectful to the need to have the broadest support possible amongst the CENTR Full Members.

The proposal below aims to shorten that time to 5 working days.

Principles

We have used the following principles:

1. The current mechanisms have proven their value in the past and should remain in place as the default policy development mechanisms.
2. The new process is at the basis of the so-called "CENTR BoD statement" and should be used under exceptional circumstances only if:
 - a) The external process does not allow CENTR to use one of the other mechanisms (CENTR comment or CENTR position)
 - b) The topic is considered by the BoD to be of utmost relevance to the CENTR community and therefore, a lack of response may impact negatively the organization and/or its membership
3. Given the exceptional nature of the process the following control mechanism will be enforced. The BoD substantiates in writing the decision to use this process as soon as possible and communicates it to the General Assembly in a timely manner and at the earliest opportunity.

	CENTR BoD Statement (fast-tracked)
Definition	A CENTR BoD Statement is a paper developed by the CENTR BoD in a short timeframe. This document is non-binding to CENTR membership, but shows the general position and interest of the CENTR community to the best of the BoD's knowledge.
Status	Not binding on CENTR membership.
Aim	To provide a prompt response to a request, an international statement or a document that foresees a precise deadline to submit input under circumstances where a physical meeting may not be possible and the standard CENTR position procedures are too time consuming
Authorisation to start document	Either 1. The BoD agrees unanimously, and minutes a formal action. The initiation must be in writing, and must set out the issue, or 2. Full members agree by simple majority and instruct the BoD to develop a Statement
Editor	Decided by the General Manager based on advice of the BoD or full members. The Editor will provide a first draft position. The Editor can be a single person from the staff or an ad hoc group of full members.
Timeframe from beginning to end	5 working days
Procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The BoD immediately communicates to the GA its intention to draft a Statement along with its reasons and motivations or full members agree by simple majority and instruct the BoD to develop a Statement 2. All communication on the lists regarding the Statement need to be identified in the subject line as [FAST TRACK] 3. The General Manager appoints the Editor. 4. The Editor sets a time frame to complete the drafting and releasing the Statement. The procedures should last no more than 5 days. 5. Full members receive a pre-release draft of the Statement at least 2 days before intended publication to allow them to opt-out. 6. Members have the opportunity to "opt-out" from the comment before its publication and can indicate if they want to be identified in the document as abstaining or dissenting. 7. The document is subject to unanimous approval of the BoD before final publication as a CENTR BoD Statement.
Authorisation to publish document	The Board of Directors authorizes the publication of the statement on the CENTR website and via other channels as deemed appropriate.

Next Steps

This new process will be discussed at the GA 52 - if there is consensus the Chair of the meeting will propose a simple majority vote.