

Ratification Report on the Policy Proposal, Amendment of Utilisation in Soft Landing AFPUB-2026-IPv4-002-DRAFT02

Introduction

In line with the Policy Development Process, we would like to inform you that the above-mentioned policy proposal attained rough consensus at the last Public Policy Meeting, held in hybrid format in Nairobi, Kenya, on 24 June 2026, during AFRINIC-37.

Co-chairs believe that the current version of the proposal (DRAFT02) addresses the notes and observations made by interested community members who participated in discussions during the life-cycle of the proposal since the first draft. The Last Call period concluded at 23:59 UTC on 31 July 2026.

The table below shows the milestones in the policy proposal's progress:

Date	Milestone / Activity
6 May 2026	The proposal “Amendment of Utilisation in Soft Landing” was received by the PDWG Co-Chairs from the author, Jordi Palet Martinez (The IPv6 Company).
15 May 2026	The policy proposal was given the ID APUB-2026-IPv4-002-DRAFT01 and posted on the AFRINIC website. An announcement was made on the RPD mailing list by the PDWG Co-Chairs — https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/014742.html
16 June 2026	The author submitted an updated version of the proposal to the PDWG Co-Chairs.
22 June 2026	The policy proposal was given the ID APUB-2026-IPv4-002-DRAFT02 and posted on the AFRINIC website. An announcement was made on the RPD mailing list by the PDWG Co-Chairs — https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/014908.html
24 June 2026	Proposal APUB-2026-IPv4-002-DRAFT02 was presented and discussed at the AFRINIC-37 Public Policy Meeting, held in hybrid format in Nairobi, Kenya. The PDWG Co-Chairs determined that the proposal reached rough consensus — https://afrinic.net/ppm-afrinic-37.html
16 July 2026	The PDWG Co-Chairs announced the start of the Last Call period on the RPD mailing list — https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/015002.html
31 July 2026	Last Call closed at 23:59 UTC. A closing deadline reminder had been sent earlier the same day — https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/015452.html

Additional Notes

The AFRINIC PDWG Co-chairs have gone through the discussions on the RPD mailing list during the Last Call and prepared this report. As supporting documentation, the summary of the assessment conducted is as follows:

One participant, Paul Hjul, explicitly expressed support for the proposal notwithstanding the implementation and monitoring concerns discussed below (<https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/015466.html>).

Summary of the Assessment

Concerns(Summarised)	Addressed / Pending	Notes
Undefined, subjective terminology (e.g. “key technical purposes”, “sufficiently documented”) could lead to inconsistent, discretion-based decisions by Hostmasters. Raised by: Alain Aina, NP Petronella, Tshepo Masuku, Phetulo Dhlamini, Taye Medoye, Nonjabulo Sphilile (29–30 July 2026).	Addressed	As per author, This concern was already discussed on the mailing list and during the PPM. He explained that broad, non-exhaustive language is intentional so that legitimate technical cases not foreseeable at drafting time are not excluded, and that the anti-abuse / fraudulent-request identification procedures referenced in the Staff Impact Assessment (Section 3.3.4) apply to implementation. The operational evaluation criteria and any abuse of discretion will be reported back to the community through the regular PIER process. The MDN proposal can be submitted by the authors as a new proposal.
The “first allocation” treatment of a qualifying request could allow an operator to receive several successive waivers (new site, redundancy, IPv6 transition, etc.) without ever reaching the 90% utilisation threshold, depleting the shared address pool. Raised by: Alain Aina, Tshepo Masuku, Taye Medoye, Nonjabulo Sphilile (29–31 July 2026).	Addressed	The author clarified on the list that the “first allocation” treatment applies only to the specific request being evaluated, not to an operator’s prior or future requests, each of which continues to be assessed individually against the current CPM rules. The author noted that the AFRINIC IPv4 pool trend and recovered-space projections indicate no immediate risk of exhaustion under this treatment.
The Secretariat’s promised operational definition of “utilisation” had not been published during Last Call, and the proposal does not state how it interacts with other CPM utilisation sections (5.5.1.4.1, 5.5.1.4.2, 5.6.3) or the concurrent Soft Landing, Recovered Space and Priority proposal (AFPUB-2026-IPv4-001-DRAFT02). Raised by: Alain Aina, Tshepo Masuku, Nonjabulo Sphilile (29–31 July 2026).	Addressed	Secretariat published the definition of utilisation on 30 July 2026 https://lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/rpd/2026/015002.html The author stated that staff has previously published guidance (via PIER) on the application of overlapping CPM utilisation provisions, and that current registry practice already applies the Soft Landing framework consistently.
Leaving qualifying criteria and the evaluation procedure (e.g.	Addressed	This is treated as an implementation / operational matter rather than a deficiency in the policy text itself. Consistent with existing

Member Services practice under Section 3.3.4) to be defined during implementation shifts substantive eligibility decisions from the community-adopted text to staff discretion, without that framework returning for community review. Raised by: Tshepo Masuku, (31 July).		practice for comparable provisions, any adoption of the operational framework, and any abuse of the associated discretion, will be reported back to the community through the regular Policy Implementation Experience Report (PIER) process.
General objection that resource policy should not be used to influence operators' IPv6 deployment or other technology choices, on governance-neutrality grounds. Raised by: Fundiswa Nadia Maseko (17 July 2026).	Addressed	This restates a policy-rationale disagreement already aired earlier in the proposal's life-cycle and during the PPM; it was not raised or supported by any other participant during Last Call and does not identify a new, unresolved issue with the DRAFT02 text.

Conclusion

Based on the above information, we advise the AFRINIC Board to ratify the draft policy proposal Amendment of Utilisation in Soft Landing AFPUB-2026-IPv4-002-DRAFT02 at its earliest convenience.

Haitham El Nakhal & Darwin da Costa
PDWG Co-Chairs