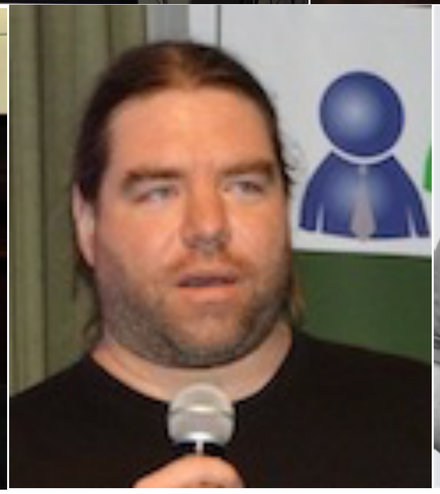
The Hitchhikers Guide to Internet Technical Governance

How is the Internet coordinated in this part of the world?

Sander Steffann – 2025-09-18

The beginning

Long, long ago...



The beginning

Long, long ago, in 1989

- In 1989 the people building the early Internet began meeting to coordinate with each other
  - "The European IP Networks", in French: "Réseaux IP Européens", RIPE for short
  - Collectively called "the RIPE community"
- In 1992 they started a coordination center to be the secretariat for the community
  - The RIPE Network Coordination Center, RIPE NCC
  - Initially didn't distribute IP addresses, that came a bit later!

World map (Mercator projection etc...)

The global picture

Acronyms, acronyms everywhere!

- ICANN
- IANA
- PTI
- ASO
- GNSO
- ccNSO
- GAC
- SSAC
- RSSAC
- IETF
- ISOC
- NRO
- RIR
- AFRINIC
- APNIC
- ARIN
- LACNIC
- RIPE NCC

The global picture
Acronyms, acronyms everywhere!

One World, One Internet

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ICANN Acronyms and Terms

ICANN has hundreds of acronyms and terms, which can be confusing. We created this multilingual tool to help explain what these terms mean and facilitate your work within the ICANN community.

Term of the Day

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

ICANN.org Home | Announcements | Blogs | Media Resources

ICANN Acronyms and Terms

Type in the acronym or term you are looking for in the Search bar below.

In addition to English, translated versions of acronyms and terms are also available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish. Links for each language are located in the top right of the page.

Find an Acronym or Term

Search

Click the first letter of the term you are looking for to search alphabetically.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

How does this fit together?

Simplified, but accurate enough for now...

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RIPE
Community

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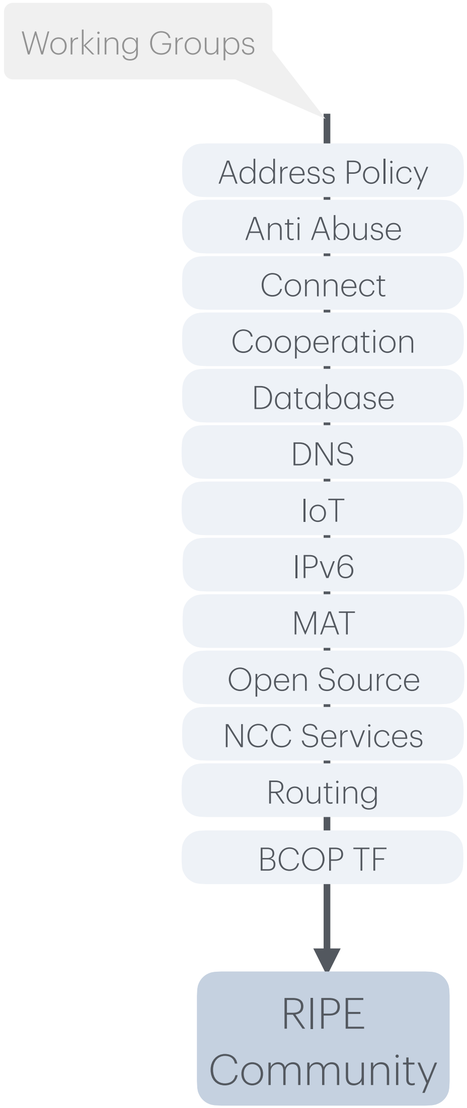

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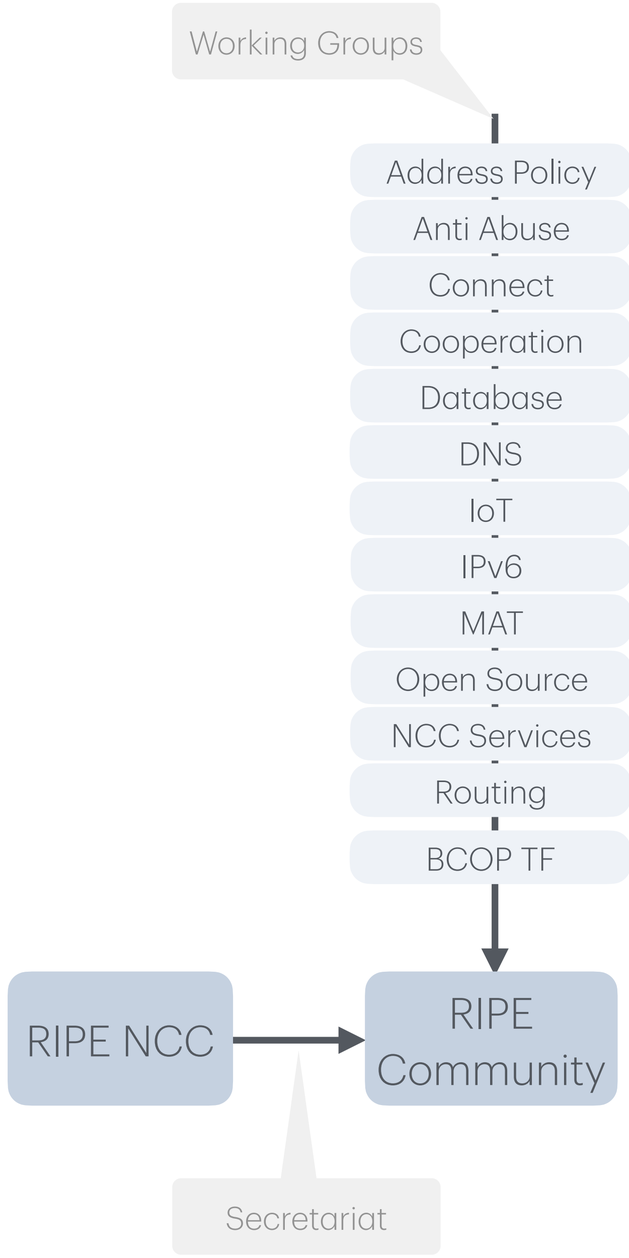

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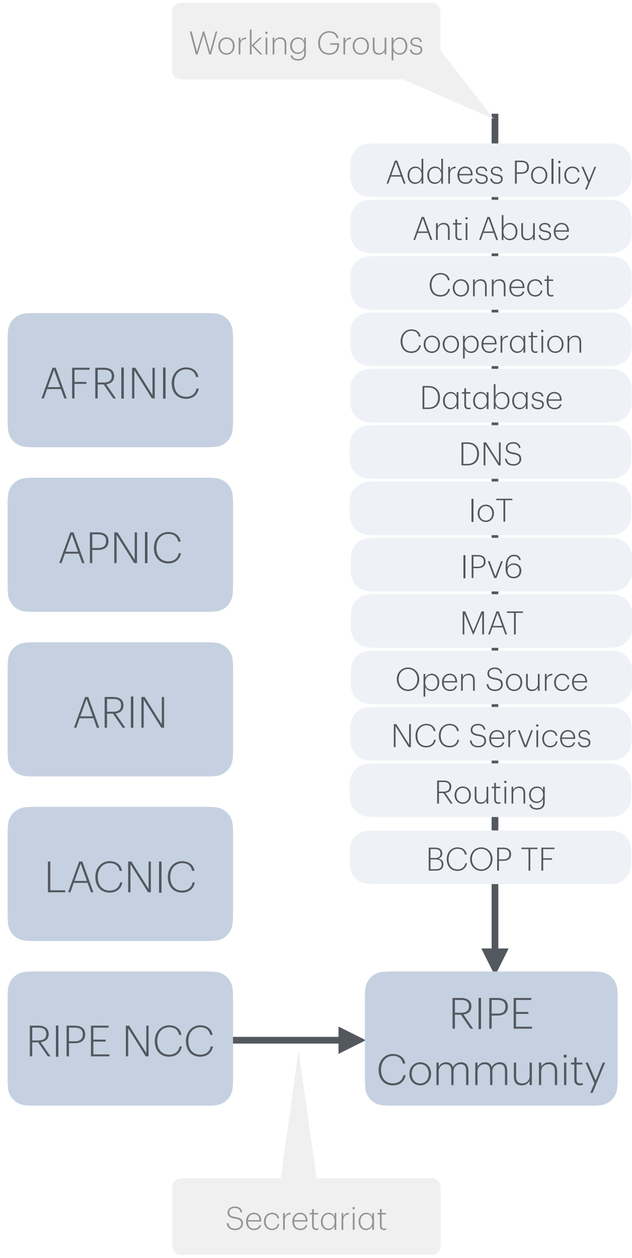

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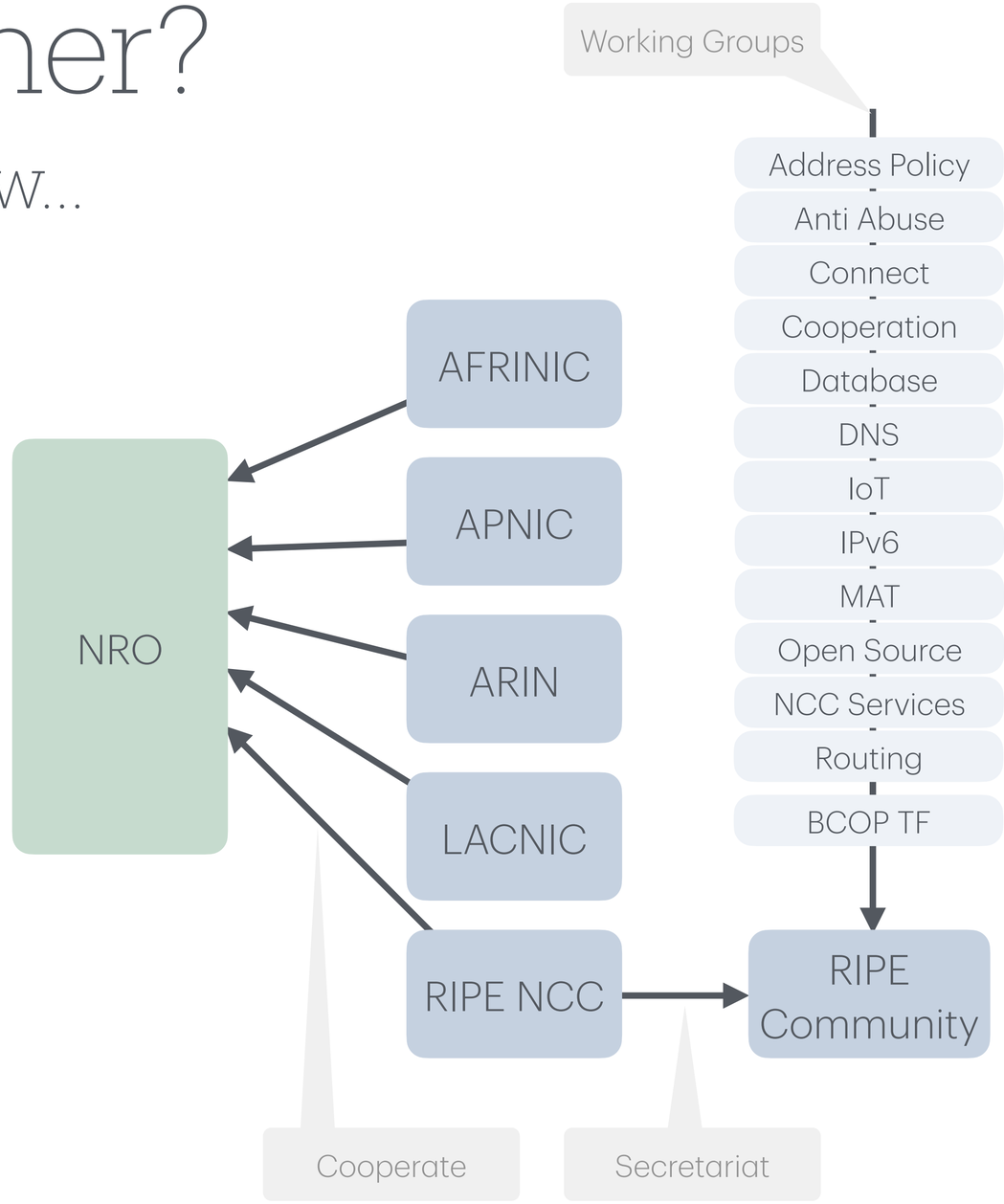

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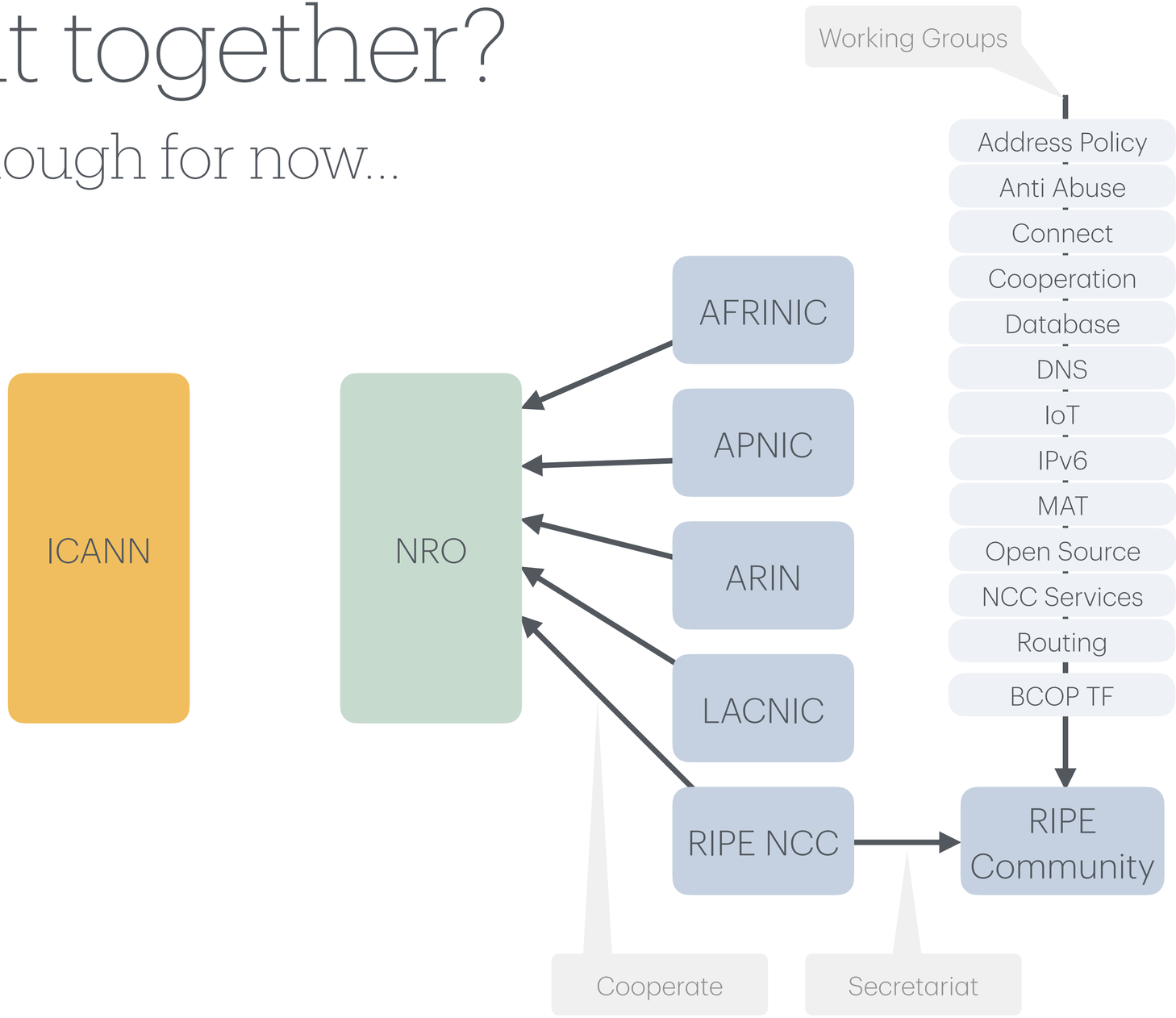

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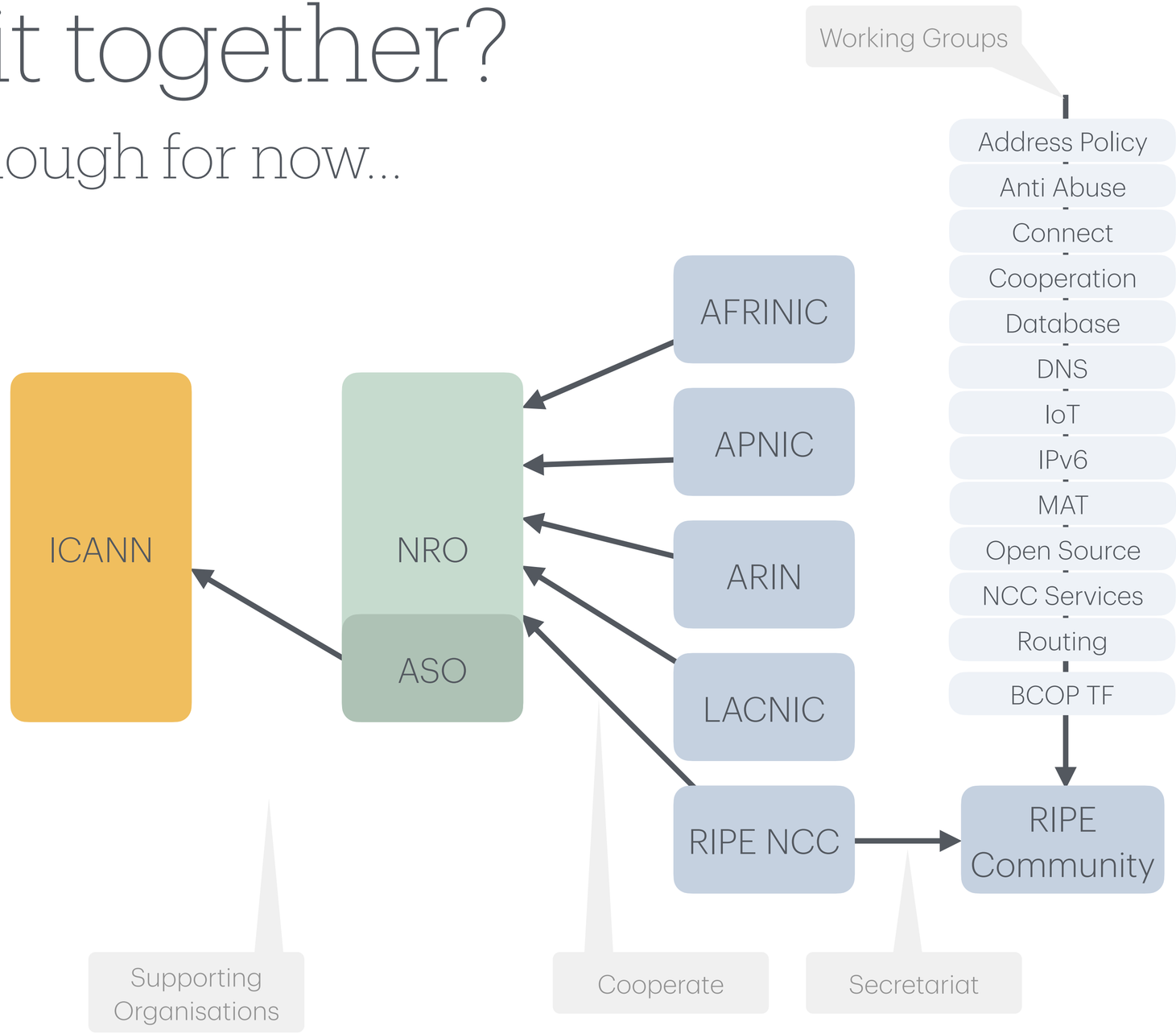

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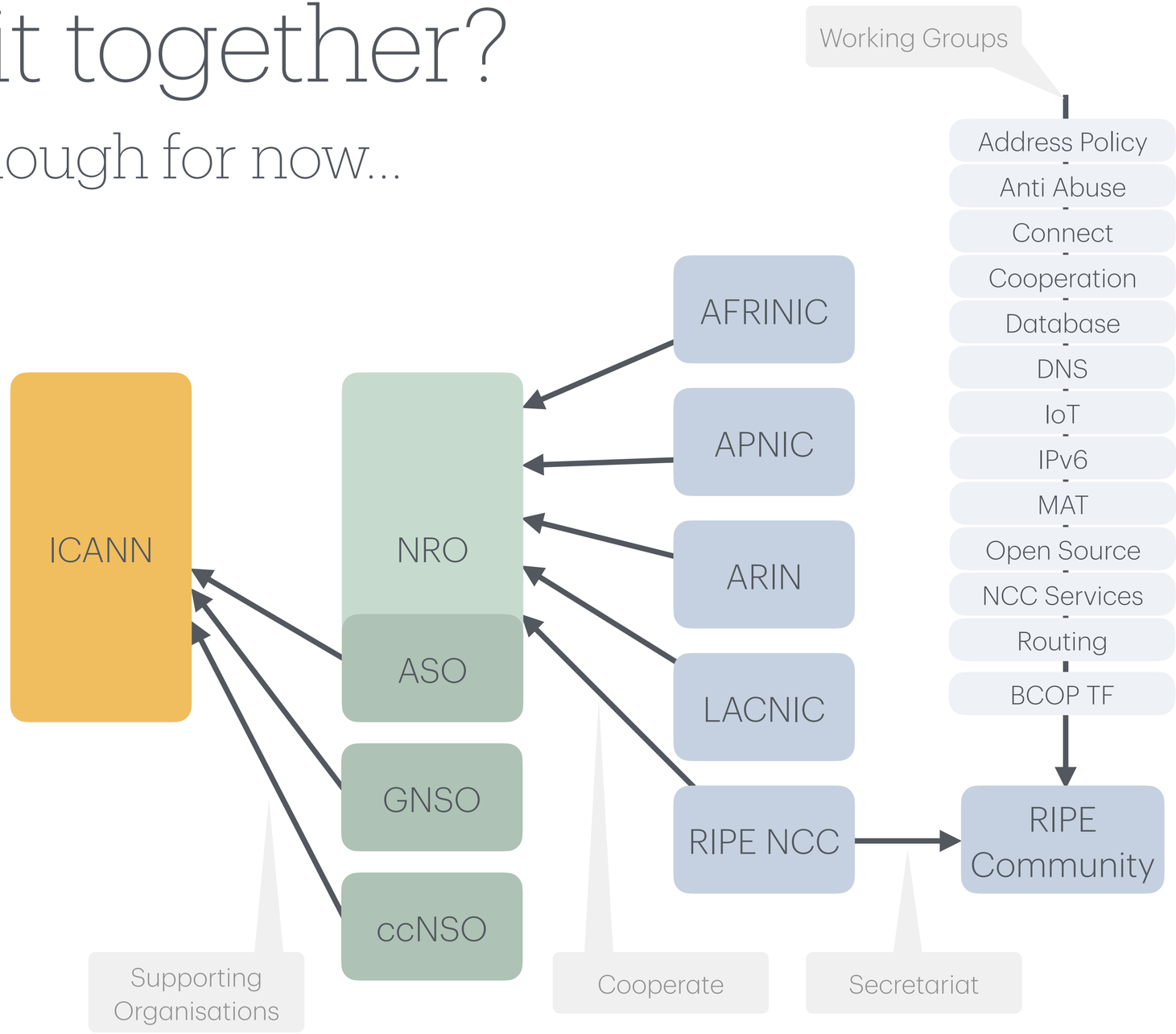

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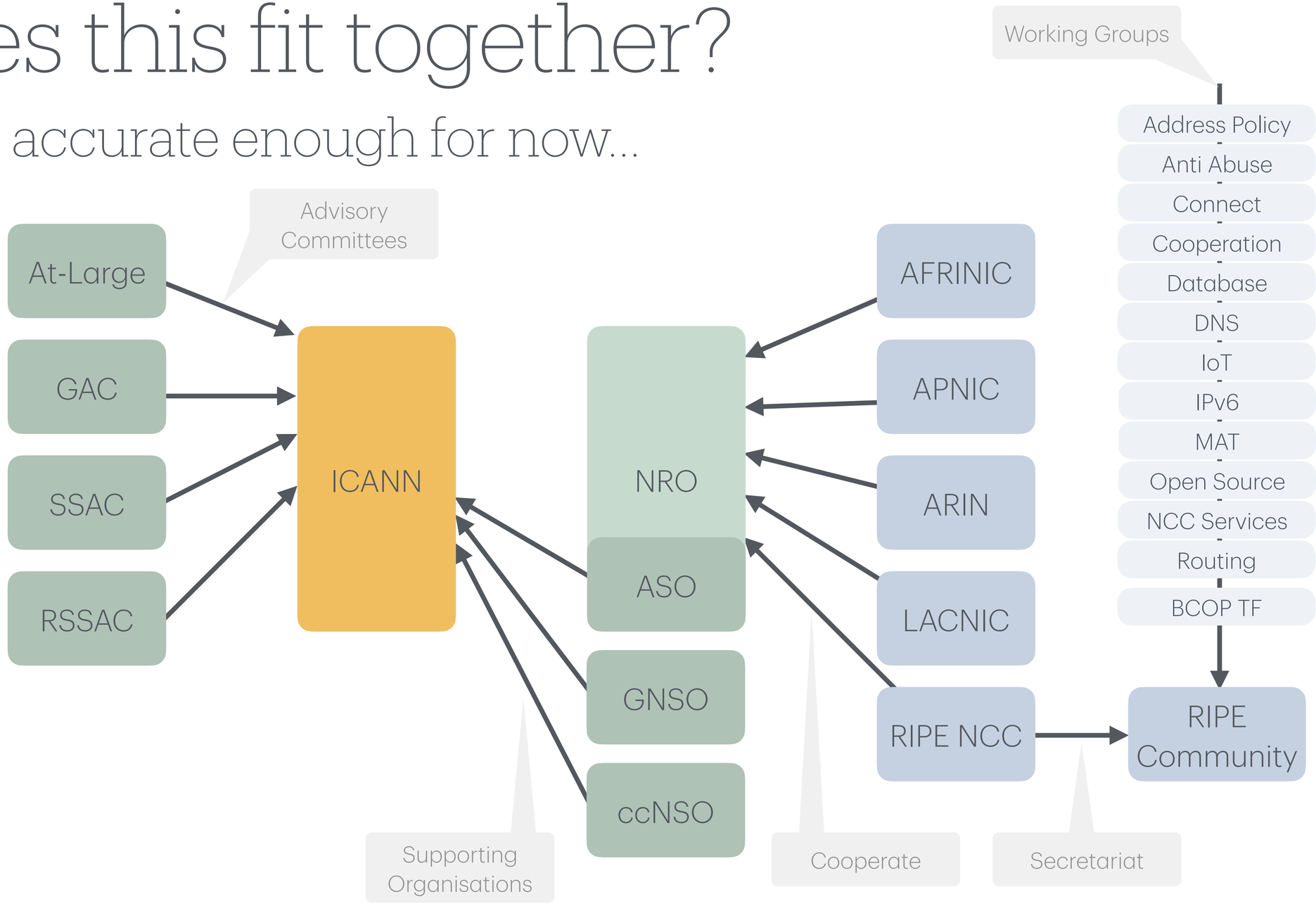

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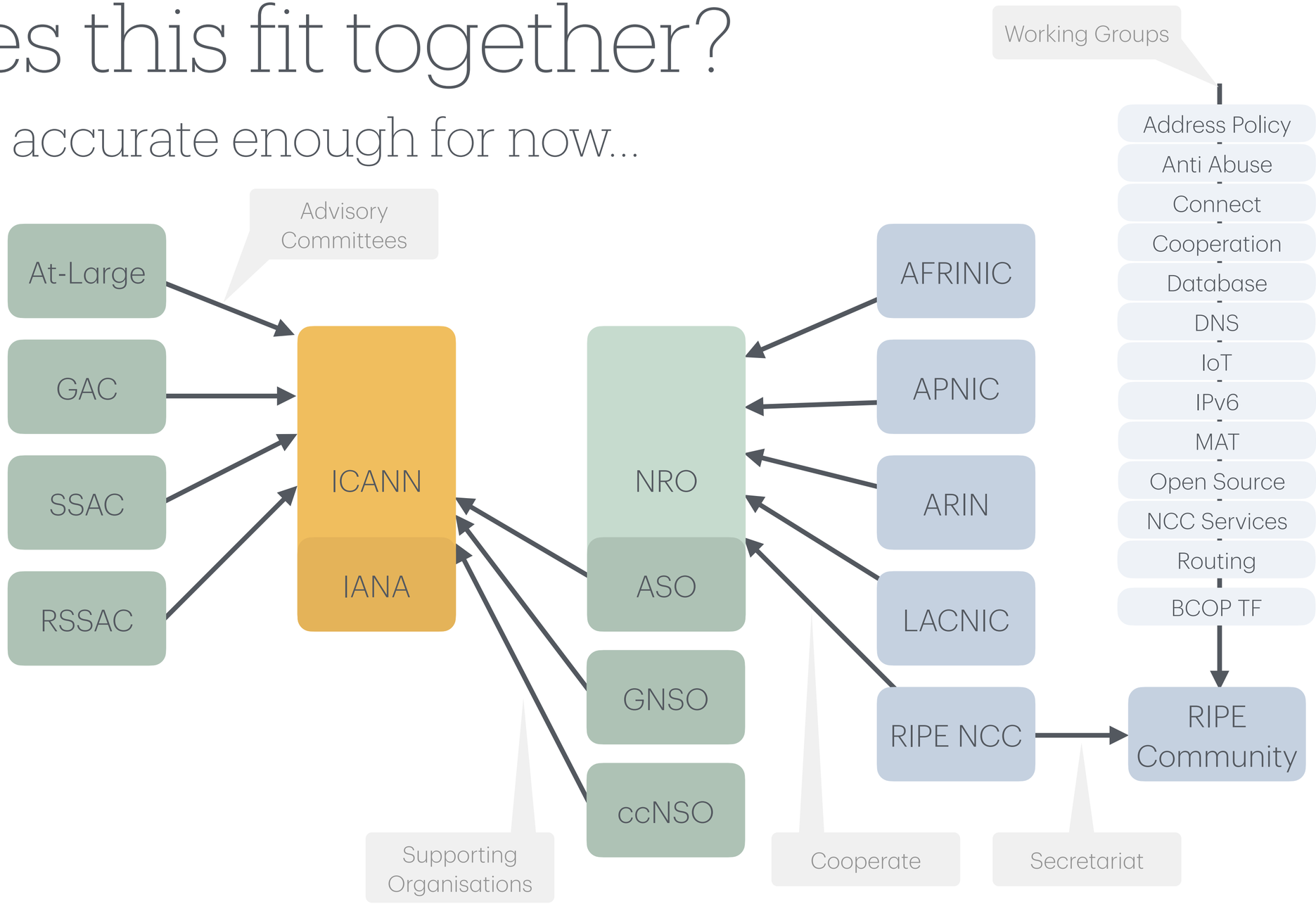

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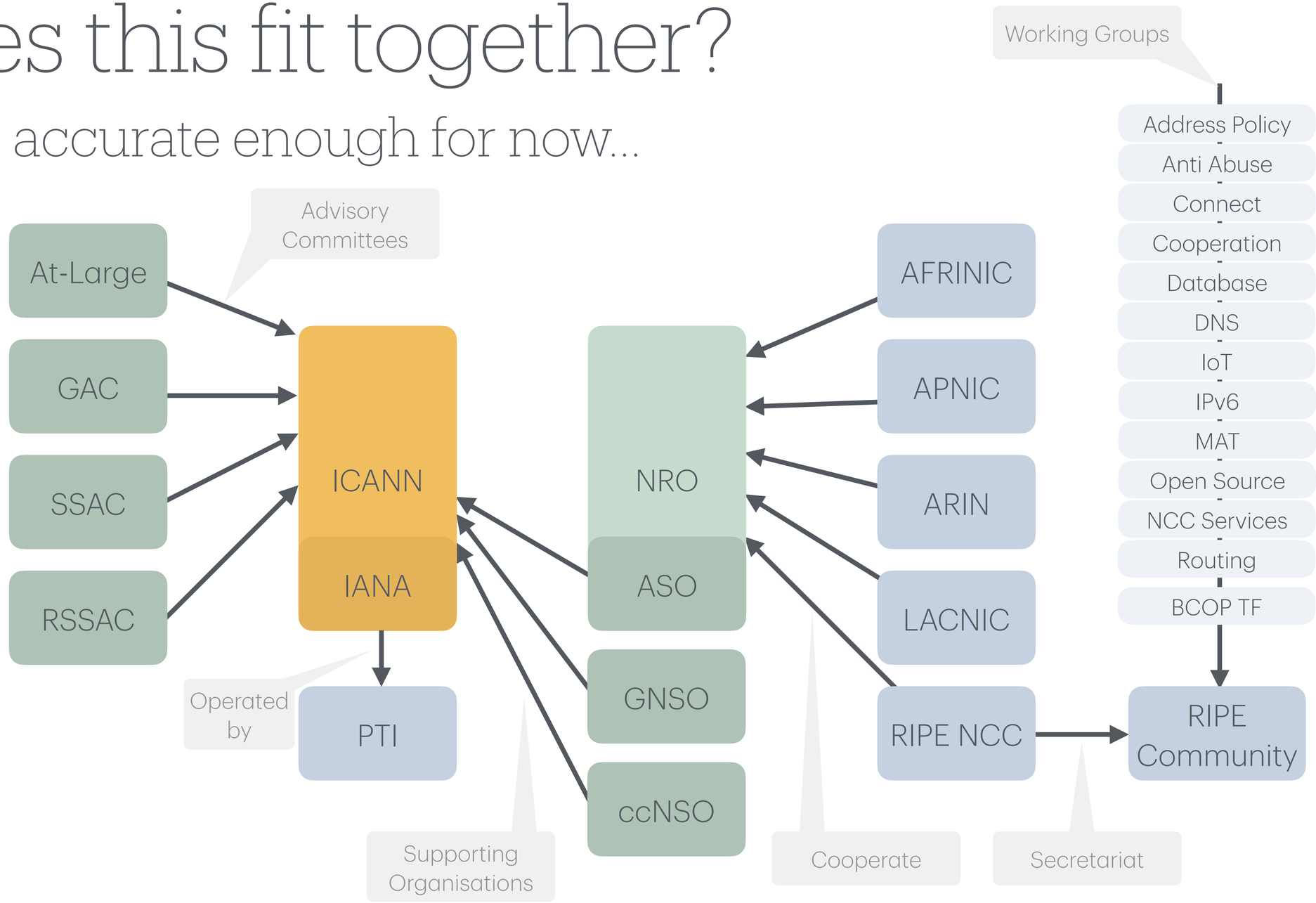

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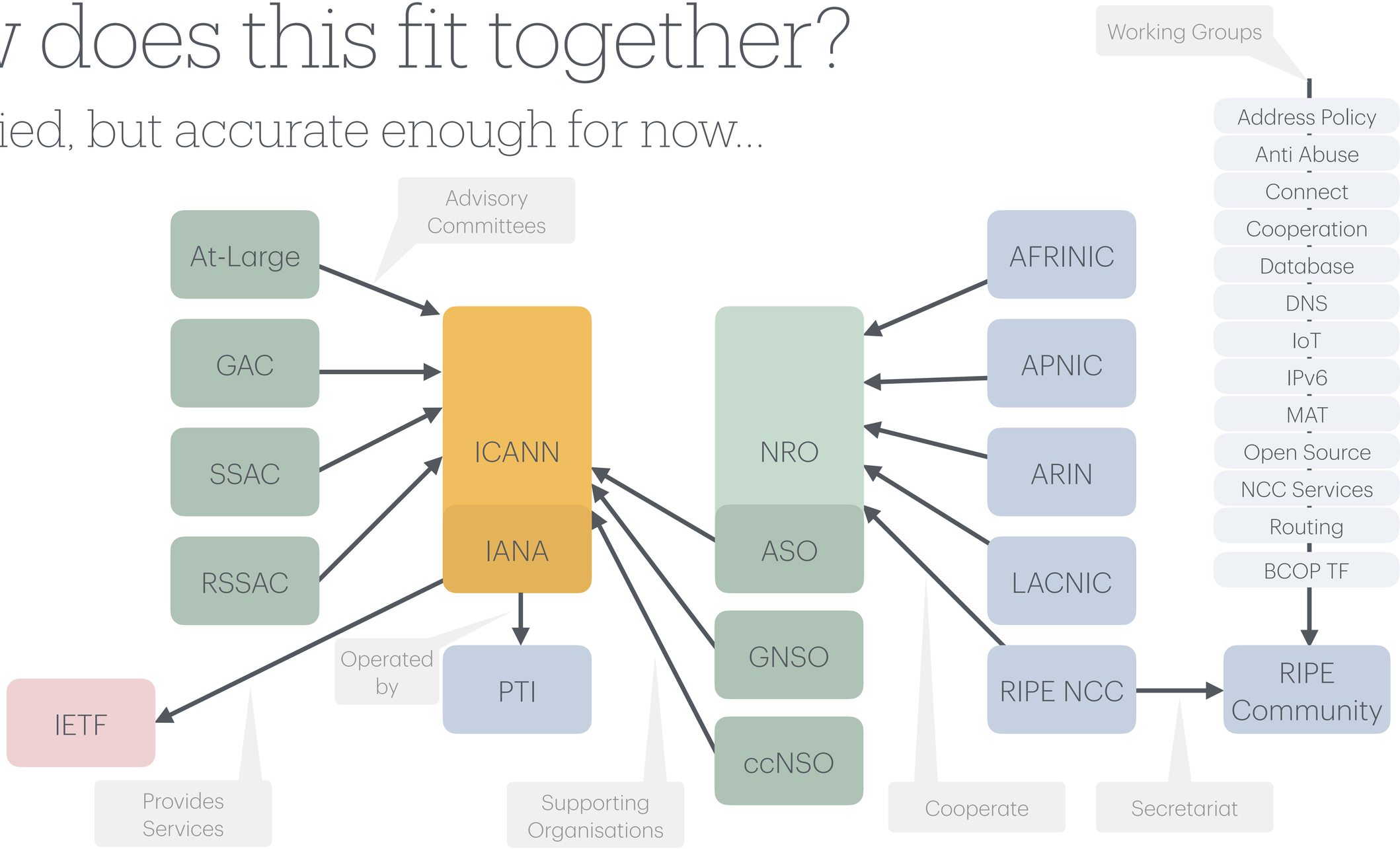

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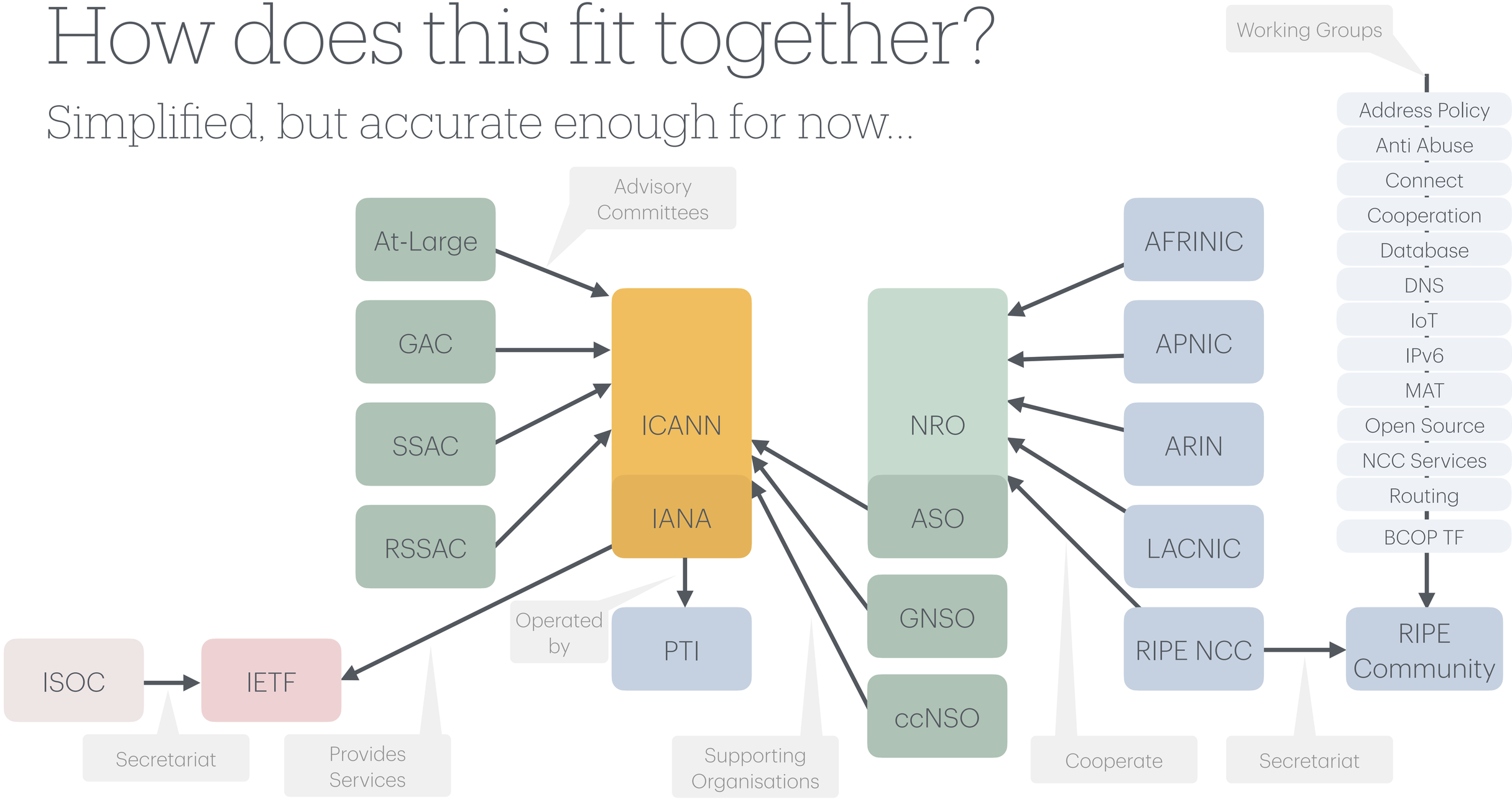

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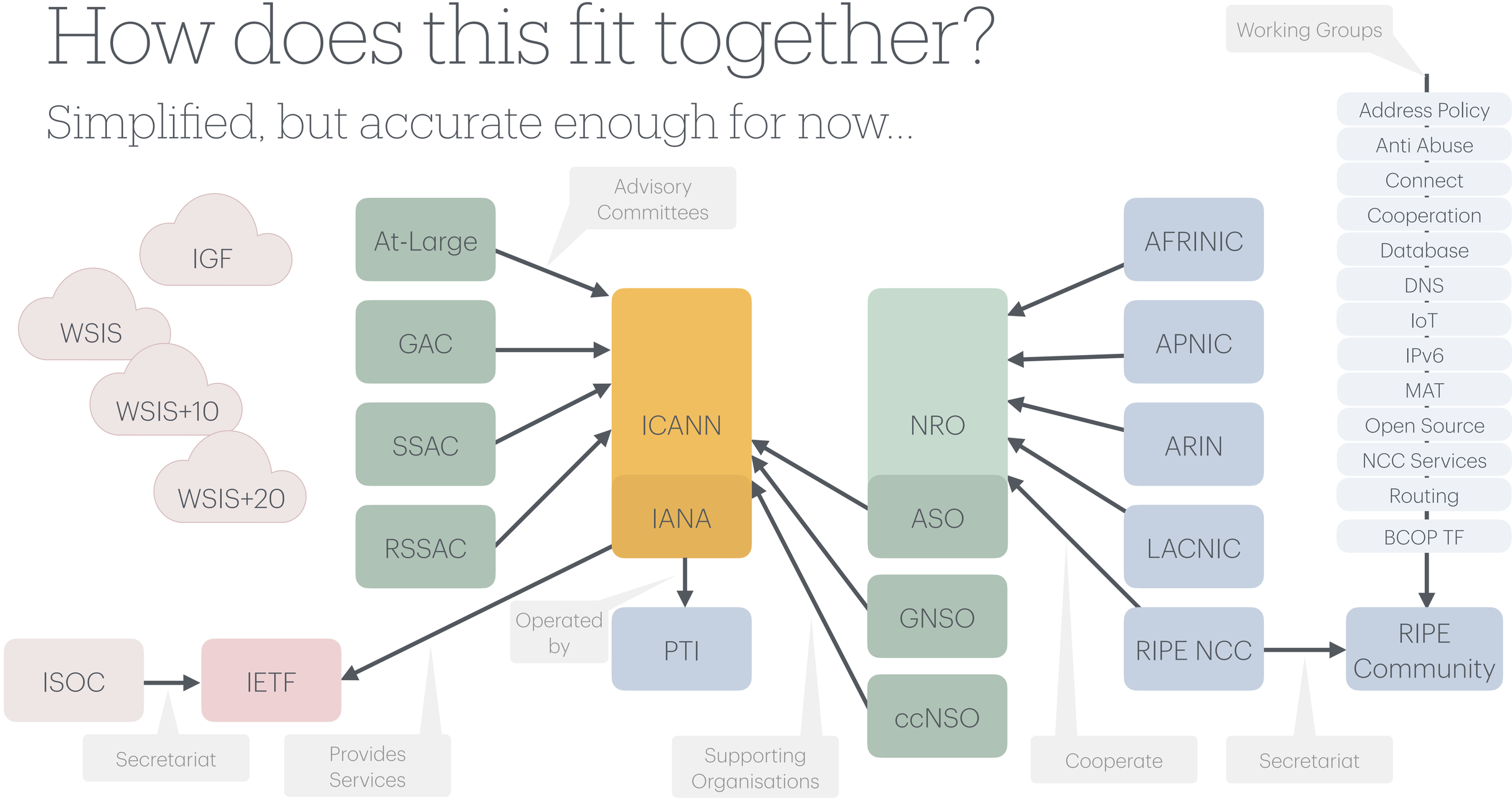
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