General Principles

The ARG needs to be "rebooted" from a foundation closer to the original intent and to the ISO stipulations. Some of the clauses below are "old news", which is perfectly fine: their essence was somewhat lost over the last few years and it is opportune to refresh them and put them in context.

1. The Ada programming language shall continue to be an international standard under ISO, and shall continue to evolve as the Ada community at large requires via a regulated process that "listens" to user requirements, designs the features that meet those requirements, and assesses their technical viability via exploratory implementations.
2. ISO/SC 22 Working Group 9 (WG 9) is responsible for the ISO language standard and manages the above process consistent with ISO procedures for developing language standards. The detailed technical work is carried out by the WG 9 subgroup known as the Ada Rapporteur Group (ARG).
3. The scope of the work to be carried out by the ARG is specified by WG 9 as a whole, at the beginning of the ISO SC 22 project corresponding to the language standard revision. Details of the resulting technical work are subject to approval by WG 9 at regular intervals.
4. ARG members are recognised technical experts from within the Ada language community, who commit to operating on a voluntary basis. Per ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, these experts act in a strictly personal capacity and not as the official representative of any entity.
5. The ARG membership is approved by WG 9. Prospective members that meet the prerequisite at point 4 may propose themselves as candidates or may be sought.
6. ARG members do not receive a stipend for their ARG work, but it is desirable that their employer, if any, fund their ARG effort, including travel costs should they be incurred, in full or in part, under the premises of point 4 above. Crowd-funding or sponsorships should fund the Project Editor and the associated editorial work.
7. The ARG should be able to perform exploratory technical work to assess the viability of specific language features. To this end, the ARG should have access to up-to-date, free and open source Ada technology that serves the exploration goals.
8. All Ada vendors shall be invited to contribute to the ARG work, in a manner consistent with points 4, 5, and 6.
9. Ada vendors are, of course, entitled to run their own internal exploratory implementation teams, pursuing the vendors' own agenda on language features of interest. WG 9 will actively facilitate regular "technical alignment meetings" among all such teams, to reach a technical agreement on what recommendations for language standardization should be forwarded to WG 9. The existence of such teams should be declared explicitly to WG 9 for the sake of arranging these meetings.
10. The ARG decisions are determined by consensus, as defined in ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004:

    "consensus: General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments.
    NOTE   Consensus need not imply unanimity."

    Per ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, "sustained oppositions" are views expressed at minuted meetings and which are maintained by an important part of the concerned interest and

which are incompatible with the committee consensus. Those expressing sustained opposition have a right to be heard, and the following approach is recommended:

- If the leadership determines that there is a sustained opposition, it is required to try to resolve it in good faith.
- However, a sustained opposition is not akin to a right to veto. The obligation to address sustained opposition does not imply an obligation to resolve them successfully.

The responsibility for assessing whether or not a consensus has been reached rests entirely with the leadership. This includes assessing whether there is sustained opposition or whether any sustained opposition can be resolved without compromising the existing level of consensus on the rest of the document. In such cases, the leadership will register the opposition and continue the work.

This operating principle shall be documented in the ARG Procedures.

11. Recommendations for technical changes to the language standard must come to WG 9 solely from the ARG. This prescription has three ramifications:
    a. To obtain approval of feature proposals of their interest, vendor-internal exploratory implementation teams should persuade the ARG at technical alignment meetings. Failing to reach consensus at such meetings shall prevent WG 9 from considering those recommendations.
    b. It is expected that all recommendations put forward by the ARG to WG 9 are agreed beforehand by the ARG, including those at technical alignment meetings. In the event that some vendors disagree on any such recommendations, the ARG may continue to put them forward to WG 9, with a clear and transparent record of the points of disagreement.
    c. WG 9 should promulgate into the standard those amendment features that have enjoyed agreement at technical alignment meetings. For features that are not in that situation but that the ARG deems essential in spite of lack of agreement, WG 9 may consider to include them in the standard amendment as optional Specialized Needs Annexes. Because these Annexes are optional, vendors need not implement them to claim conformance with the standard, but their implementation, if ever undertaken, must conform with the language standard.