ICANN’s Geographic Regions

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Agenda

• What’s the problem?
• The WG Recommendations
• Next Steps
• Q & A
What’s the problem?

- In 2000, the ICANN Board decided to assign countries and territories to geographic regions on the basis of the UN Statistics Division’s existing classification.
- It seemed like a good idea to use an independent, internationally accepted allocation...
- ...but here’s what happened...
The Two Regional Structures

The World (according to ICANN)

- AFRICA (54)
- ASIA/PACIFIC (73)
- EUROPE (75)
- LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN (33)
- NORTH AMERICA (8)

The World (according to UN Statistics)

- AFRICA (57)
- ASIA (50)
- EUROPE (52)
- AMERICAS (51)
- OCEANIA (25)
From UN Statistics to ICANN

- The World (according to UN Statistics)
  - AFRICA (57)
  - ASIA (50)
  - EUROPE (52)
  - AMERICAS (51)
  - OCEANIA (25)

  - Latin America & Caribbean (46)
  - Northern America (5)

  OR

- AMERICAS (51)
  - South America (14)
  - North America (37)
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World (according to UN Statistics)

AFRICA (57)
ASIA (50)
EUROPE (52)
AMERICAS (51)
OCEANIA (25)

Latin America & Caribbean (46)
Northern America (5)

OR

AMERICAS (51)

South America (14)
North America (37)
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World (according to UN Statistics)

AFRICA (57)
ASIA (50)
EUROPE (52)
AMERICAS (51)
OCEANIA (25)

Latin America & Caribbean (46)
Northern America (5)

AMERICAS (51)

South America (14)
North America (37)
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World (according to UN Statistics)

- AFRICA (57)
- ASIA/PACIFIC (50) (75)
- EUROPE (52)
- AMERICAS (51)
- OCEANIA (25)

AFRICA (57)

ASIA/PACIFIC (50) (75)

EUROPE (52)

AMERICAS (51)

OCEANIA (25)

Latin America & Caribbean (46)

Northern America (5)

AMERICAS (51)

South America (14)

North America (37)

OR

or
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World (according to UN Statistics)

- AFRICA (57)
- ASIA/PACIFIC (50), (75)
- EUROPE (52)
- AMERICAS (51)
- OCEANIA (25)

- Latin America & Caribbean (46)
- Northern America (5)

OR

- AMERICAS (51)
  - South America (14)
  - North America (37)
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World
(according to
UN Statistics)

AFRICA
(57)

ASIA/PACIFIC
(50) (75)

EUROPE
(52)

AMERICAS
(51)

OCEANIA
(25)

Latin America & Caribbean
(46)

Northern America
(5)

AMERICAS
(51)

South America
(14)

North America
(37)
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World (according to UN Statistics)

AFRICA (57)
ASIA/PACIFIC (50) (75)
EUROPE (52)
AMERICAS (51)
OCEANIA (25)
NORTH AMERICA (5)

Latin America & Caribbean (46)
Northern America (5)

or

AMERICAS (51)
South America (14)
North America (37)
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World (according to UN Statistics)

AFRICA (57)

ASIA/PACIFIC (50), 75

EUROPE (52)

AMERICAS (51)

OCEANIA (25)

NORTH AMERICA (5)

Latin America & Caribbean (46)

Northern America (5)

AMERICAS (51)

South America (14)

North America (37)
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World (according to UN Statistics)

LAC (46) → AFRICA (57) → ASIA/PACIFIC (50) (75) → EUROPE (52) → AMERICAS (51) → OCEANIA (25) → NORTH AMERICA (5)

Latin America & Caribbean (46) OR Northern America (5)

AMERICAS (51)

South America (14) OR North America (37)

OCEANIA (25)
1. Add countries not in UN Statistics List.
2. Re-allocate 33 “territories”
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World (according to UN Statistics)

- LAC (46) (33)
- AFRICA (57)
- ASIA/PACIFIC (50) (75)
- EUROPE (52)
- AMERICAS (51)
- OCEANIA (25)
- NORTH AMERICA (5)

AMERICAS

- Latin America & Caribbean (46)
- Northern America (5)

OR

AMERICAS (51)

- South America (14)
- North America (37)
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World (according to UN Statistics)

- LAC (46)(33)
- AFRICA (57)(54)
- ASIA/PACIFIC (50)(75)
- EUROPE (52)
- AMERICAS (51)
- OCEANIA (25)
- NORTH AMERICA (5)

Or

Latin America & Caribbean (46)
Northern America (5)

AMERICAS (51)

South America (14)
North America (37)
From UN Statistics to ICANN
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World (according to UN Statistics)

- LAC (46) (33)
- AFRICA (57) (54)
- ASIA/PACIFIC (50) (75) (73)
- EUROPE (52) (75)
- AMERICAS (51)
- OCEANIA (25)
- NORTH AMERICA (5)

Or

- Latin America & Caribbean (46)
- Northern America (5)

- AMERICAS (51)
  - South America (14)
  - North America (37)
From UN Statistics to ICANN

The World (according to UN Statistics)

- LAC (46)
  - AFRICA (57)
  - ASIA/PACIFIC (50)
  - EUROPE (52)
  - AMERICAS (51)
  - OCEANIA (25)

- NORTH AMERICA (5)

- Latin America & Caribbean (46)
- Northern America (5)

- AMERICAS (51)
  - South America (14)
  - North America (37)

or
From UN Statistics to ICANN

- If ‘uplifting’ of LAC & NA included, 40% of countries are in different region than the one allocated by UN Statistics.
- If not, 17% of countries are in a different region.
What’s the problem?

• So have we been using an independent, internationally recognized allocation,
• or has ICANN devised its own allocation?
• Can it be improved?
What’s the problem?

• Some countries/territories want to change Region, or create new regions.
• Some Regions may be too large.
• ICANN Board looks at individuals, nationality and residency while some SOs/ACs look at countries/territories. Rules cannot be identical.
Investigating the Problem

- WG in place since 2009
- Exhaustive research, investigations and community contacts
- 3 reports (initial, interim and draft final)
- Multiple community interactions (workshops, comment periods and community meetings)
- Work has resulted in a “Final” Final Report that is now published
WG Recommendations

• Although the original geographic regions may not be ideal, impractical to change them at this stage.

• ICANN should take ownership of its Geographic Regions Framework based upon the current assignment of countries to regions.
WG Recommendations

• Regional framework to be used for make-up of ICANN Board and to be default diversity requirement for SOs and ACs.

• However, SOs and ACs should have the flexibility to develop own rules, subject to Board approval.
WG Recommendations

• The ICANN allocation of countries to Regions based upon *status quo*.
• Stakeholders in countries/ territories may pursue re-assignment to a geographic region that they consider to be more appropriate for their jurisdiction.
WG Recommendations

• ICANN should seek ways to recognize and accommodate Special Interest Groups to promote the interests and unique attributes of stakeholder communities that may not clearly fit into the formal top-down regional structures.

• These “bottom-up” groupings would be complementary to the formal regional framework, and would not replace it.
WG Recommendations

• The Board maintain oversight over the existing framework at all levels within the ICANN organization and review the effectiveness of its application at regular five-year intervals.
Next Steps

• Participating SOs and ACs have a full 90 days after the conclusion of the Durban meeting (17 Oct 2003) for their communities to discuss the Final Report recommendations and, if they choose, to submit a written statement back to the Working Group.

• Any such statement will accompany the Final Report when it is submitted to the ICANN Board prior to the Buenos Aires meeting.
Working Group Members

- Adiel Akplogan (ASO/NRO)
- David Archbold (ccNSO) Chair
- Fahd Batayneh (ccNSO)
- Ching Chiao (GNSO) From November 2011
- Olga Cavalli (GNSO) Until October 2011
- Zahid Jamil (GNSO)
- Cheryl Langdon-Orr (ALAC)
- Carlton Samuels (ALAC)
- Paul Wilson (ASO/NRO)

ICANN Staff Support

- Bart Boswinkel
- Gisella Gruber
- Mandy Carver
- Robert Hoggarth