ICANN Geographic Regions

- Geographic diversity is a core component of ICANN
- Africa, North America, Latin America/Caribbean, Asia/Australia/Pacific and Europe.
Geographic Regions Review - Why?

- Review anticipated in Bylaws
- ccNSO Council requested review (‘07)
- Board agreed and approved community-wide working group concept (‘08) and charter (‘09)
- WG has so far produced two reports
- Third (and final) report is drafted - with recommendations for potential changes.
GNSO Principles - Relevance of Regions

- Consider varying needs/concerns of different regions.
- Provide opportunity to express needs and concerns.
- Considered wider context of the geo region requirements imposed on all ICANN bodies.
- Measure requirements by citizenship.
- Balance three goals:
  - diversity of representation;
  - ease of participation; and
  - simplicity.
- Enfranchise existing and future users.
- Avoid making geo-political decisions.
GNSO Principles - Change of Regions

- If any changes, improve on specifically identified imbalances.
- Simplicity (one regional set) should be balanced with the evolving needs of SOs and ACs
- Nothing sacred ICANN regions remaining at five.
- Establish mechanisms for resolving uncertainty in the relationship of countries or territories to regions
- Review regions with appropriate regularity; put in place means to understand the evolving needs and concerns of different regions.
Draft Final Report - Findings

- Principle of geographic diversity is valuable and should be preserved.
- Functional, cultural and language diversity and commonality also important.
- Changing the number of Regions would cause significant financial and organizational issues.
- No single independent, authoritative list of countries and regions that ICANN can “adopt”.
Top-Down:

ICANN should adopt and maintain its own formal, traditional, top-down Regional structure for use with ICANN Board appointments and by those SOs/ACs that wish to use it.

Bottom-Up:

Recognize and support less formal, dynamic, bottom-up “special interest groups” that build upon common interests (e.g. Small Island States, Arab States, Caribbean Islands)
• Use structure of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) as a starting point.
• Allow countries required to move, one-off opportunity to remain in old Region (with Government agreement)
• Consider more general right to self-select with Government agreement.
• SOs/ACs may use top-down structure if they wish, or may adopt alternative method for ensuring geographic/cultural diversity, subject to Board oversight.
Concerns about RIR model - not perfect
ICANN should avoid political disputes
SO-AC flexibility is good
Special Interest Groups offer opportunity and challenges - will they have substance?
Give countries/territories the option to opt-in to new system rather than forcing them to opt-out of a change
Next Steps

• Comments Summary Report and Tracking List published
• WG will review comments and publish Final Report
• Community (SO-AC) formal review opportunity
• Presentation To Board - mid 2012
• Board Review and Action - late 2012
Additional Information

• Working Group Wiki Page - https://community.icann.org/display/georegionwg/Home+Page+of+Geographic+Regions+Review+Working+Group

Q and A