

# ICANN's Geographic Regions

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# A (very) brief history

ccNSO sent report expressing concerns about ICANN Geographic Regions to the ICANN Board.

ICANN Board set up cross constituency working group.

Initial Report – How are Geographic Regions used within ICANN?

Interim Report – What are we trying to achieve when using Geographic Regions, and are we achieving these goals?

Final Report – Recommendations for improvements.






# Findings

- There is no single independent, authoritative list of countries and regions that ICANN can “adopt”.
- The present regional structure has a number of problems and has never been properly authorised.
- The original intent was that the structure should change to reflect the changing make up of the internet community. It hasn't, but does this matter now?
- Geographic Regions have worked reasonably well for their original purpose – geographic diversity of the ICANN Board...
- ...and not so well for use by SO's and AC's.
- Changing the number of Regions would cause financial and organizational issues.

# Provisional Recommendations (1)

- Have a formal, top-down Regional structure for use with the ICANN Board membership.
- Adopt the present structure of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) i.e. follow the infrastructure.
- 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.

# Changes if RIR Structure were adopted

Region	Current #		RIRS #	
Africa	54		54	No change
Asia/Pacific/Aust	73		58	+11 -26
Europe	78		78	+24 -24
Latin America/ Caribbean	33		29	+5 -9
North America	8		27	+22 -3

# Some Benefits of RIR Structure

- The number of Regions would remain at five, avoiding the significant restructuring.
- Aligning regions with the technical “infrastructure” of the numbering resource allocation system seems logical and defensible.
- A total of 62 countries and territories would move to new regions, but many are territories being assigned to their “proper” geographic region.
- Moves several Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries from AP Region into the EU (RIPE) Region. Reduces the geographic spread of AP and many of the countries consider themselves more orientated towards Europe than Asia.

# Some Benefits of RIR Structure

- Much of the English and French speaking Caribbean moves into NA Region from LAC (and EU, in the case of some territories). Most have closer language, cultural and travel links with NA than they do with LAC. Increases the number of countries in previously numerically very small Region - should increase the options for representation and participation within the Region.
- As has been requested, there would be no change to the African Region.
- It should encourage participation as joint meetings of the RIR and ICANN Region should be possible.

# Some Disadvantages of the RIR Structure

- No Arab Region would be created as has been requested.
- Caribbean countries would be split between two Regions, partly on geography and partly on language.
- Some countries may not wish to change Regions.
- Some “mother countries” may not wish their territories to be in a different region to themselves.



# Provisional Recommendations (2)

- Quite separately, introduce bottom-up Special Interest Groups – may be temporary or long-term – for groups of countries with shared interests, e.g. Small Island States, Arab Nations, Caribbean Countries.
- Not part of ICANN decision making structure – but may lobby for support of official representatives.
- May require a minimum number of members before ICANN “recognition” granted.
- Amount of support from ICANN subject to finances available – primarily directed at helping with communication between members (mailing lists, web site, telecon services)

# Potential Additions to Asia/Pacific/Aust

American Samoa (NA)	Guam (NA)
British Indian Ocean (EU)	Northern Mariana Is. (NA)
New Caledonia (EU)	French Polynesia (EU)
Pitcairn (EU)	Reunion (EU)
French Southern Ter. (EU)	Wallis & Futuna (EU)
Mayotte (EU)	



# Potential Losses from Asia/Pacific/Aust

Antarctica (NA)	United Arab Emirates (EU)
Armenia (EU)	Azerbaijan (EU)
Bahrain (EU)	Cyprus (EU)
Georgia (EU)	Israel (EU)
Iraq (EU)	Iran (EU)
Heard Island (NA)	Jordan (EU)
Kyrgyzstan (EU)	Kuwait (EU)
Kazakhstan (EU)	Lebanon (EU)
Oman (EU)	Palestinian Territories (EU)
Qatar (EU)	Saudi Arabia (EU)
Syria (EU)	Tajikistan (EU)
Turkmenistan (EU)	Turkey (EU)
Uzbekistan (EU)	Yemen (EU)



# Potential Additions to Europe

United Arab Emirates (AP)	Azerbaijan (AP)
Armenia (AP)	Cyprus (AP)
Bahrain (AP)	Israel (AP)
Georgia (AP)	Iran (AP)
Iraq (AP)	Jordan (AP)
Kyrgyzstan (AP)	Kuwait (AP)
Kazakhstan (AP)	Lebanon (AP)
Oman (AP)	Palestinian Territories (AP)
Qatar (AP)	Saudi Arabia (AP)
Syria (AP)	Tajikistan (AP)
Turkmenistan (AP)	Turkey (AP)
Uzbekistan (AP)	Yemen (AP)



# Potential Losses from Europe

Netherland Antilles (LAC)	Aruba (LAC)
Falkland Islands (LAC)	French Guiana (LAC)
South Georgia & S. Sandwich Islands (LAC)	British Indian Ocean Territory (AP)
New Caledonia (AP)	French Polynesia (AP)
Pitcairn (AP)	Reunion (AP)
French Southern Terr. (AP)	Wallis & Fortuna (AP)
Mayotte (AP)	Anguilla (NA)
Bermuda (NA)	Bouvet Island (NA)
Guadeloupe (NA)	Cayman Islands (NA)
Martinique (NA)	St. Pierre & Miquelon (NA)
Saint Helena (NA)	Turks & Caicos (NA)
BVI (NA)	St. Barthelemy (NA)



# Potential Additions to LAC

Netherland Antilles (EU)	Aruba (EU)
Falkland Islands (EU)	French Guiana (EU)
South Georgia & S. Sandwich Islands (EU)	



# Potential Losses from LAC

Antigua & Barbuda (NA)	Barbados (NA)
Bahamas (NA)	Dominica (NA)
Grenada (NA)	Jamaica (NA)
Saint Kitts & Nevis (NA)	Saint Lucia (NA)
St. Vincent & the Grenadines (NA)	



# Potential Additions to NA

Anguilla (EU)	Bermuda (EU)
Bouvet Island (EU)	Guadeloupe (EU)
Cayman Islands (EU)	Martinique (EU)
St. Pierre & Miquelon (EU)	Saint Helena (EU)
Turks & Caicos (EU)	BVI (EU)
St. Barthelemy (EU)	Antigua & Barbuda (LAC)
Barbados (LAC)	Bahamas (LAC)
Dominica (LAC)	Grenada (LAC)
Jamaica (LAC)	Saint Kitts & Nevis (LAC)
Saint Lucia (LAC)	St. Vincent & the Grenadines (LAC)
Antarctica (AP)	Heard & MacDonald Is. (AP)





# Potential Losses from NA

American Samoa (AP)	Guam (AP)
Northern Mariana Is. (AP)	

