

Review of ICANN Regions

(From: <http://icann.org/announcements/announcement-rev-28nov06.htm> - 28 November 2006)

Introduction

One of the core values underlying ICANN's structure and operations is support for broad and informed participation reflecting the geographic diversity of the Internet at all levels of policy development and decision making. This support is implemented by numerous requirements for geographic diversity reflected in ICANN's bylaws, in the operating procedures of ICANN entities and in its culture. These requirements are framed in terms of Geographic Regions, as provided in [Article VI, Section 5 of the bylaws](#):

Section 5. INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

...As used in these Bylaws, each of the following is considered to be a "Geographic Region": Europe; Asia/Australia/Pacific; Latin America/Caribbean islands; Africa; and North America. The specific countries included in each Geographic Region shall be determined by the Board, and this Section shall be reviewed by the Board from time to time (but at least every three years) to determine whether any change is appropriate, taking account of the evolution of the Internet.

At its June 2003 meeting in Montreal the [ICANN Board adopted resolution \[03.100\]](#) that the ICANN Board reaffirms the existing definition of five geographic regions and reaffirms the existing methodology for allocating specific countries and territories to particular regions, pursuant to Article VI, Section 5, of the bylaws, and further resolved [03.101] that the ICANN board adopts the [allocation table posted by the staff on 5 June 2003](#).

As more than three years have passed since the 2003 review was completed, the Board will review the definition of the ICANN's geographic regions and the methodology for allocating specific countries and territories to particular regions.

Current allocation methodology

In advance of the July 2000 Yokohama meeting, ICANN posted a topic paper on "[Definition of ICANN's Geographic Regions](#)" and specifically [requested the Governmental Advisory Committee \(GAC\)](#) to give its "views on the proper allocation of countries, territories, and distinct economies as recognized in international fora among the five geographic regions defined by the ICANN Bylaws."

The [GAC recommended](#) that ICANN make reference to existing international norms for regional distribution of countries. After this recommendation and [comments made at the ICANN Public Forum on 15 July 2000](#), the Board discussed the appropriate means for allocating countries and territories to the ICANN Geographic Regions. In the discussion, the [Board expressed concern](#) about itself deciding how to allocate countries to Regions, but noted that it was necessary to do so and that it was best to refer to some independently prepared and authoritative list for this purpose. The ICANN staff proposed use of the February 2000 version of two lists prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division, and also recommended (based on GAC comment) that dependent territories be grouped together with the country of citizenship for the territory. Thus, a resident of New Caledonia (overseas territory of France located in the Pacific Ocean) would be grouped with Europe rather than Asia/Australia/Pacific.

The Board adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, [Article V, Sec. 6](#), of the ICANN Bylaws calls upon the Board to determine a specific allocation of countries among five general geographic regions (Europe; Asia/Australia/Pacific; Latin America/Caribbean islands; Africa; North America); and

Whereas, this year's At Large membership elections will entail the selection of one Director from each of ICANN's five geographic regions; and

Whereas, the Governmental Advisory Committee, upon the ICANN staff's request for advice, [recommended](#) that "With regard to the definition of ICANN's Geographic Regions, ICANN should make reference to existing international norms for regional distribution of countries," it is

Resolved [00.64] that the staff is directed to assign countries to geographic regions on the basis of the United Nations Statistics Division's current classifications of "Countries or areas, codes and abbreviations," as revised 16 February 2000, and "Composition of macro geographic (continental) regions and component geographical regions," as revised 16 February 2000.

The above methodology — employing the lists prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division and recognizing the grouping of dependencies with their mother countries — was then implemented.

In June 2003, the Board reaffirmed this methodology.

Issues relating to the Review of ICANN Regions

The allocation methodology adopted by the Board in July 2000 and reaffirmed in 2003, has worked without significant problems. The 2002 ICANN reforms, which emphasized the importance of ensuring geographic and other types of diversity within ICANN, make the definition of the Geographic Regions relevant not only for the membership of the Board, but also for the GNSO Council, the ALAC and the ccNSO.

At the time of the two previous reviews conducted of the ICANN Regions, the ccNSO did not exist. The ccNSO discussed the relevance of the ICANN Regions at its members meeting in [Marrakesh](#) and more recently released a [background paper and questionnaire](#) on the matter. Concerns raised by the ccNSO include disproportionate representation on the ccNSO Council and dependent territories being located in an ICANN region associated with country or citizenship, which in some cases leads to a ccTLD being in an ICANN region which is removed from its geographic location.

Review of ICANN regions (From: <http://survey.icann.org/cgi/ccnso>)

During this year, ICANN will conduct its third review of ICANN's regions. This will be the first time the ccNSO has had an opportunity to be involved in the review. In an effort to establish whether the current composition of ICANN's regions is a concern for ccTLD managers, a questionnaire has been prepared. It would be appreciated if ccTLD managers could complete this questionnaire. The responses will assist the ccNSO determine the type of advice it provides to the review of ICANN's regions.

Please respond to this [questionnaire](#) by 6 November 2006.

How do ICANN Regions affect the ccNSO

ICANN's five regions and the distribution of countries among them was determined some six years ago and prior to the existence of the ccNSO. The distribution of countries in ICANN's five geographic regions is as follows:

Africa — 54

Asia/Australia/Pacific — 73

Europe — 75

Latin American/Caribbean Islands — 33

North America — 8

ccNSO Council

The ccNSO Council has 18 members: in accordance with ICANN's bylaws, the ccNSO Council consists of three ccNSO Council members selected by the ccNSO members within each of ICANN's Geographic Regions plus three members of the Council selected by ICANN's Nominating Committee.

This means that, at a minimum there are three representatives from each of ICANN's five regions on the ccNSO Council at any one time.

Country of citizenship

Dependent territories are located in the ICANN region associated with their country of citizenship. In some cases this leads to a ccTLD being in an ICANN region which is removed from their geographic location.

Background

The five geographic regions adopted by ICANN evolved from the White Paper discussions.

At the Yokohama meeting in July 2000, the ICANN Board of Directors was required to determine the specific definition of the five geographic regions in connection with the ICANN At Large elections.

ICANN staff proposed the use of the February 2000 version of two lists prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division, and also recommended (based on GAC comment) that dependent territories be grouped together with the country of citizenship for the territory. Thus, a resident of New Caledonia (overseas territory of France located in the Pacific Ocean) would be grouped with Europe rather than Asia/Australia/Pacific.

On 16 July 2000, the Board resolved to direct staff to assign countries to geographic regions on the basis of the United Nations Statistics Division's current classifications of "Countries or areas, codes and abbreviations" as revised 16 February 2000, and "composition of macro geographic (continental) regions and component geographical regions" as revised 16 February 2000.

At the meeting in Montreal 2003, the Board conducted a second review of ICANN's geographic regions. It was proposed that the basic definition of the Geographic Regions remain in effect, based on reference to the current versions of the United Nations Statistics Division documents.

On 26 June 2003, the Board reaffirmed the existing definition of five geographic regions and reaffirmed the existing methodology for allocating specific countries and territories to particular regions, pursuant to Article VI, Section 6 of the ICANN bylaws, and the allocation table posted by the staff on 5 June 2003 <http://www.icann.org/montreal/geo-regions-topic.htm>

In accordance with the ICANN bylaws, the geographic regions are to be reviewed again this year. In 2003, the regions were agreed by the Board at the same meeting in Montreal that the Board adopted amendments to the ICANN Bylaws to include the ccNSO. This will be the first opportunity for the ccNSO to comment on the regions.

The chart below provides a breakdown of the Physical Region of a ccTLD, the region it has been designated to by ICANN, and the region it has been designated to by the United Nations Statistics Division.

Alpha-2 Code	Country or Territory	Physical Region	ICANN Region	UN Regions
AFRICA				
ao	Angola	AF	AF	AF
bf	Burkina Faso	AF	AF	AF
bi	Burundi	AF	AF	AF
bj	Benin	AF	AF	AF

bw	Botswana	AF	AF	AF
cd	Congo, The Democratic Republic of the	AF	AF	AF
cf	Central African Republic	AF	AF	AF
cg	Congo	AF	AF	AF
ci	Cote d'Ivoire	AF	AF	AF
cm	Cameroon	AF	AF	AF
cv	Cape Verde	AF	AF	AF
dj	Djibouti	AF	AF	AF
dz	Algeria	AF	AF	AF
eg	Egypt	AF	AF	AF
eh	Western Sahara	AF	AF	AF
er	Eritrea	AF	AF	AF
et	Ethiopia	AF	AF	AF
ga	Gabon	AF	AF	AF
gh	Ghana	AF	AF	AF
gm	Gambia	AF	AF	AF
gn	Guinea	AF	AF	AF
gq	Equatorial Guinea	AF	AF	AF
gw	Guinea-Bissau	AF	AF	AF
ke	Kenya	AF	AF	AF
km	Comoros	AF	AF	AF
lr	Liberia	AF	AF	AF
ls	Lesotho	AF	AF	AF
ly	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	AF	AF	AF
ma	Morocco	AF	AF	AF
mg	Madagascar	AF	AF	AF
ml	Mali	AF	AF	AF
mr	Mauritania	AF	AF	AF
mu	Mauritius	AF	AF	AF
mw	Malawi	AF	AF	AF
mz	Mozambique	AF	AF	AF
na	Namibia	AF	AF	AF
ne	Niger	AF	AF	AF
ng	Nigeria	AF	AF	AF
rw	Rwanda	AF	AF	AF
sc	Seychelles	AF	AF	AF
sd	Sudan	AF	AF	AF
sl	Sierra Leone	AF	AF	AF

sn	Senegal	AF	AF	AF
so	Somalia	AF	AF	AF
st	Sao Tome and Principe	AF	AF	AF
sz	Swaziland	AF	AF	AF
td	Chad	AF	AF	AF
tg	Togo	AF	AF	AF
tn	Tunisia	AF	AF	AF
tz	Tanzania, United Republic of	AF	AF	AF
ug	Uganda	AF	AF	AF
za	South Africa	AF	AF	AF
zm	Zambia	AF	AF	AF
zw	Zimbabwe	AF	AF	AF

ASIA/AUSTRALIA/PACIFIC

ae	United Arab Emirates	AP	AP	AP
af	Afghanistan	AP	AP	AP
am	Armenia	AP	AP	AP
aq	Antarctica	AQ*	AP	AP
au	Australia	AP	AP	Oceania
az	Azerbaijan	AP	AP	AP
bd	Bangladesh	AP	AP	AP
bh	Bahrain	AP	AP	AP
bn	Brunei Darussalam	AP	AP	AP
bt	Bhutan	AP	AP	AP
cc	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	AP*	AP	AP
ck	Cook Islands	AP	AP	Oceania
cn	China	AP	AP	AP
cx	Christmas Island	AP*	AP	AP
cy	Cyprus	AP	AP	AP
fj	Fiji	AP	AP	Oceania
fm	Micronesia, Federated States of	AP	AP	Oceania
ge	Georgia	AP	AP	AP
hk	Hong Kong	AP	AP	AP
hm	Heard Island and McDonald Islands	AP*	AP	AP
id	Indonesia	AP	AP	AP
il	Israel	AP	AP	AP
in	India	AP	AP	AP
iq	Iraq	AP	AP	AP

ir	Iran, Islamic Republic of	AP	AP	AP
jo	Jordan	AP	AP	AP
jp	Japan	AP	AP	AP
kg	Kyrgyzstan	AP	AP	AP
kh	Cambodia	AP	AP	AP
ki	Kiribati	AP	AP	Oceania
kp	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	AP	AP	AP
kr	Korea, Republic of	AP	AP	AP
kw	Kuwait	AP	AP	AP
kz	Kazakhstan	AP	AP	AP
la	Lao People's Democratic Republic	AP	AP	AP
lb	Lebanon	AP	AP	AP
lk	Sri Lanka	AP	AP	AP
mh	Marshall Islands	AP	AP	Oceania
mm	Myanmar	AP	AP	AP
mn	Mongolia	AP	AP	AP
mo	Macao	AP	AP	AP
mv	Maldives	AP	AP	AP
my	Malaysia	AP	AP	AP
nf	Norfolk Island	AP	AP	Oceania
np	Nepal	AP	AP	AP
nr	Nauru	AP	AP	Oceania
nu	Niue	AP	AP	Oceania
nz	New Zealand	AP	AP	Oceania
om	Oman	AP	AP	AP
pg	Papua New Guinea	AP	AP	Oceania
ph	Philippines	AP	AP	AP
pk	Pakistan	AP	AP	AP
ps	Palestinian Territories	AP	AP	AP
pw	Palau	AP	AP	Oceania
qa	Qatar	AP	AP	AP
sa	Saudi Arabia	AP	AP	AP
sb	Solomon Islands	AP	AP	Oceania
sg	Singapore	AP	AP	AP
sy	Syrian Arab Republic	AP	AP	AP
th	Thailand	AP	AP	AP
tj	Tajikistan	AP	AP	AP

tk	Tokelau	AP	AP	Oceania
tl	Timor-Leste	AP	AP	AP
tm	Turkmenistan	AP	AP	AP
to	Tonga	AP	AP	AP
tr	Turkey	AP	AP	AP
tv	Tuvalu	AP	AP	Oceania
tw	Taiwan	AP*	AP	AP
uz	Uzbekistan	AP	AP	AP
vn	Viet Nam	AP	AP	AP
vu	Vanuatu	AP	AP	Oceania
ws	Samoa	AP	AP	Oceania
ye	Yemen	AP	AP	AP

EUROPE

ac	Ascension Island	AF*	EU	EU
ad	Andorra	EU	EU	EU
ai	Anguilla	LAC	EU	LAC
al	Albania	EU	EU	EU
an	Netherlands Antilles	LAC	EU	LAC
at	Austria	EU	EU	EU
aw	Aruba	LAC	EU	LAC
ba	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EU	EU	EU
be	Belgium	EU	EU	EU
bg	Bulgaria	EU	EU	EU
bm	Bermuda	NA	EU	N/America
bv	Bouvet Island	AF*	EU	EU
by	Belarus	EU	EU	EU
ch	Switzerland	EU	EU	EU
cz	Czech Republic	EU	EU	EU
de	Germany	EU	EU	EU
dk	Denmark	EU	EU	EU
ee	Estonia	EU	EU	EU
es	Spain	EU	EU	EU
fi	Finland	EU	EU	EU
fk	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	LAC	EU	LAC
fo	Faroe Islands	EU	EU	EU
fr	France	EU	EU	EU
gf	French Guiana	LAC	EU	LAC
gg	Guernsey	EU*	EU	EU
gi	Gibraltar	EU	EU	EU

gl	Greenland	NA	EU	N/America
gp	Guadeloupe	LAC	EU	LAC
gr	Greece	EU	EU	EU
gs	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	LAC	EU	EU
hr	Croatia	EU	EU	EU
hu	Hungary	EU	EU	EU
ie	Ireland	EU	EU	EU
im	Isle of Man	EU	EU	EU
io	British Indian Ocean Territory	AP*	EU	EU
is	Iceland	EU	EU	EU
it	Italy	EU	EU	EU
je	Jersey	EU*	EU	EU
ky	Cayman Islands	LAC	EU	LAC
li	Liechtenstein	EU	EU	EU
lt	Lithuania	EU	EU	EU
lu	Luxembourg	EU	EU	EU
lv	Latvia	EU	EU	EU
mc	Monaco	EU	EU	EU
md	Moldova, Republic of	EU	EU	EU
mk	Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of	EU	EU	EU
mq	Martinique	LAC	EU	LAC
ms	Montserrat	LAC	EU	LAC
mt	Malta	EU	EU	EU
nc	New Caledonia	AP	EU	Oceania
nl	Netherlands	EU	EU	EU
no	Norway	EU	EU	EU
pf	French Polynesia	AP	EU	Oceania
pl	Poland	EU	EU	EU
pm	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	NA	EU	N/America
pn	Pitcairn	AP	EU	Oceania
pt	Portugal	EU	EU	EU
re	Reunion	AF	EU	Africa
ro	Romania	EU	EU	EU
ru	Russian Federation	EU	EU	EU
se	Sweden	EU	EU	EU
sh	Saint Helena	AF	EU	Africa
si	Slovenia	EU	EU	EU

sj	Svalbard and Jan Mayen	EU	EU	EU
sk	Slovakia	EU	EU	EU
sm	San Marino	EU	EU	EU
tc	Turks and Caicos Islands	LAC	EU	LAC
tf	French Southern Territories	AP*	EU	EU
ua	Ukraine	EU	EU	EU
uk (gb)	United Kingdom	EU	EU	EU
va	Holy See (Vatican City State)	EU	EU	EU
vg	Virgin Islands, British	LAC	EU	LAC
wf	Wallis And Futuna	AP	EU	Oceania
yt	Mayotte	AF	EU	Africa
yu	Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)	EU	EU	EU

LATIN AMERICA CARIBBEAN

ag	Antigua and Barbuda	LAC	LAC	LAC
ar	Argentina	LAC	LAC	LAC
bb	Barbados	LAC	LAC	LAC
bo	Bolivia	LAC	LAC	LAC
br	Brazil	LAC	LAC	LAC
bs	Bahamas	LAC	LAC	LAC
bz	Belize	LAC	LAC	LAC
cl	Chile	LAC	LAC	LAC
co	Colombia	LAC	LAC	LAC
cr	Costa Rica	LAC	LAC	LAC
cu	Cuba	LAC	LAC	LAC
dm	Dominica	LAC	LAC	LAC
do	Dominican Republic	LAC	LAC	LAC
ec	Ecuador	LAC	LAC	LAC
gd	Grenada	LAC	LAC	LAC
gt	Guatemala	LAC	LAC	LAC
gy	Guyana	LAC	LAC	LAC
hn	Honduras	LAC	LAC	LAC
ht	Haiti	LAC	LAC	LAC
jm	Jamaica	LAC	LAC	LAC
kn	Saint Kitts and Nevis	LAC	LAC	LAC
lc	Saint Lucia	LAC	LAC	LAC
mx	Mexico	LAC	LAC	LAC
ni	Nicaragua	LAC	LAC	LAC

pa	Panama	LAC	LAC	LAC
pe	Peru	LAC	LAC	LAC
py	Paraguay	LAC	LAC	LAC
sr	Suriname	LAC	LAC	LAC
sv	El Salvador	LAC	LAC	LAC
tt	Trinidad and Tobago	LAC	LAC	LAC
uy	Uruguay	LAC	LAC	LAC
vc	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	LAC	LAC
ve	Venezuela	LAC	LAC	LAC

NORTH AMERICA

as	American Samoa	AP	NA	Oceania
ca	Canada	NA	NA	N/America
gu	Guam	AP	NA	Oceania
mp	Northern Mariana Islands	AP	NA	Oceania
pr	Puerto Rico	LAC	NA	LAC
um	United States Minor Outlying Islands	AP*	NA	
us	United States	NA	NA	N/America
vi	Virgin Islands, U.S.	LAC	NA	LAC