ICANN GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS REVIEW WORKING GROUP

Last November the ICANN Board formed a community-wide working group to further study and review the issues related to the definition of the ICANN Geographic Regions, to consult with all stakeholders and submit proposals to the Board to resolve the issues relating to the current definition of the ICANN Geographic Regions.

The ICANN Geographical Regions were originally created as a means of obtaining geographical diversity in the composition of the ICANN Board. By an ICANN Board resolution in 2000[1], the ICANN Staff was instructed to assign countries to geographic regions on the basis of the United Nations Statistics Division's current classifications[2]. It also introduced the concept of "citizenship" in relation to the use of ICANN Geographic Regions.

Subsequently, ICANN Geographic Regions were adopted in various ways when defining the organisational structures for the ALAC, GNSO, and ccNSO.

Currently the ICANN Bylaws define five geographic regions[3]:

- Africa;
- North America;
- Latin America/Caribbean;
- Asia/Australia/Pacific; and
- Europe.

The working group formed by the Board produced an "Initial Report" in July of this year (see - http://www.icann.org/en/topics/geographic-regions/initial-report-geo-regions-review-wg-31jul09-en.pdf. The Initial Report identified the various applications and functions to which "ICANN Geographic Regions" are currently applied by existing ICANN structures. It briefly documented other regional structures used within ICANN but not defined in the Bylaws and documented the "issues" that working group members thought should be covered during its subsequent investigations.

The working group is now developing a second "Interim Report" which will begin to focus on specific issue areas in which it may develop recommendations to the Board. Two face-to-face meetings of the WG will be held at Seoul with the aim of publishing the Interim Report for community comment shortly thereafter.

In the meantime, working group members are interested in soliciting specific community input on the impact, if any, the geographic region framework has on

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[1] www.icann.org/en/minutes/minutes-16jul00.htm
[2] http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm
[3] www.icann.org/en/general/bylaws.htm#VI-5

the specific work of the various communities in ICANN. The formal survey will be circulated shortly, but to permit the ccNSO community to comment on the both questions themselves and the possible ccNSO responses, a <u>draft</u> copy of the questions is appended below:

1. Do you understand the current goals of the ICANN Geographic Regions framework?

2. Do you understand how your community applies the ICANN Geographic Regions framework to its operations and procedures? [e.g. for the ccNSO; appointment of ICANN Board members, electoral constituency for ccNSO Council members, recognition of one ccTLD organisation per Region.]

3. Do you think the ICANN Geographic Regions framework provides any benefits to your ICANN community? If yes, how? If not, why not?

4. Are there applications of the ICANN Geographic Regions framework that are not currently employed that could be applied by your community?

5. Can you identify any specific problems (and potential solutions) that exist with the current ICANN Geographic Regions framework?