Geographic Regions Review Update

GNSO Council

26 October 2011
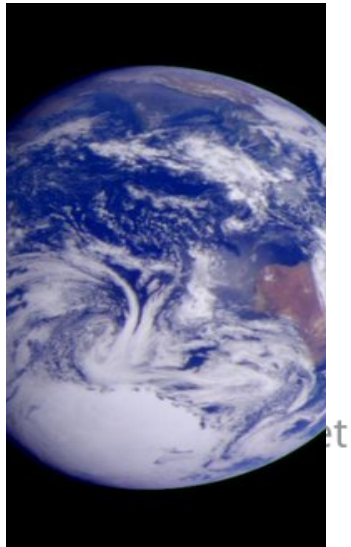
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Geographic Regions Review – Why?

- Review anticipated in Bylaws
- ccNSO Council requested review (2007)
- Board agreed and approved community-wide working group concept (2008) and charter (2009)
- WG has so far produced two reports
- Third (and final) report is drafted – with recommendations for potential changes.

GNSO Council Role

- Supported "efforts to explore improvements" and cross community WG formation (Aug 2008)
- Declared principles on relevance of regions (7)
- And principles on change of regions (5)
- Supplied two representatives to WG

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Draft Final Report - Findings

- The general 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.

- There is no single independent, authoritative list of countries and regions that ICANN can "adopt".

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Draft Final Report - Dual Approach

- 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.

- 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

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Draft Final Report - Recs

- 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.
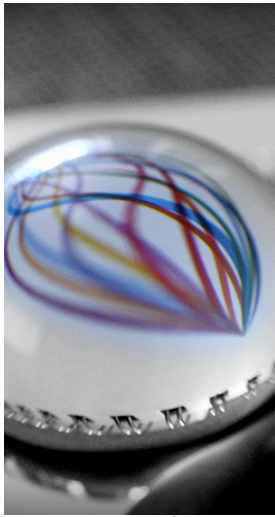
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Geographic Regions Review – Next Steps

- Public Comment Forum Open on WG Draft Final Report
- Comments Due 14 December
- WG will review comments and publish Final Report in early 2012
- Community (SO-AC) formal review opportunity
- Presentation To Board – mid 2012
- Board Review and Action – late 2012.

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Additional Information

- Geographic Regions Review Public Comment Forum - http://http://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/geo-regions-draft-final-report-30sep11-en.htm

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

Thank You