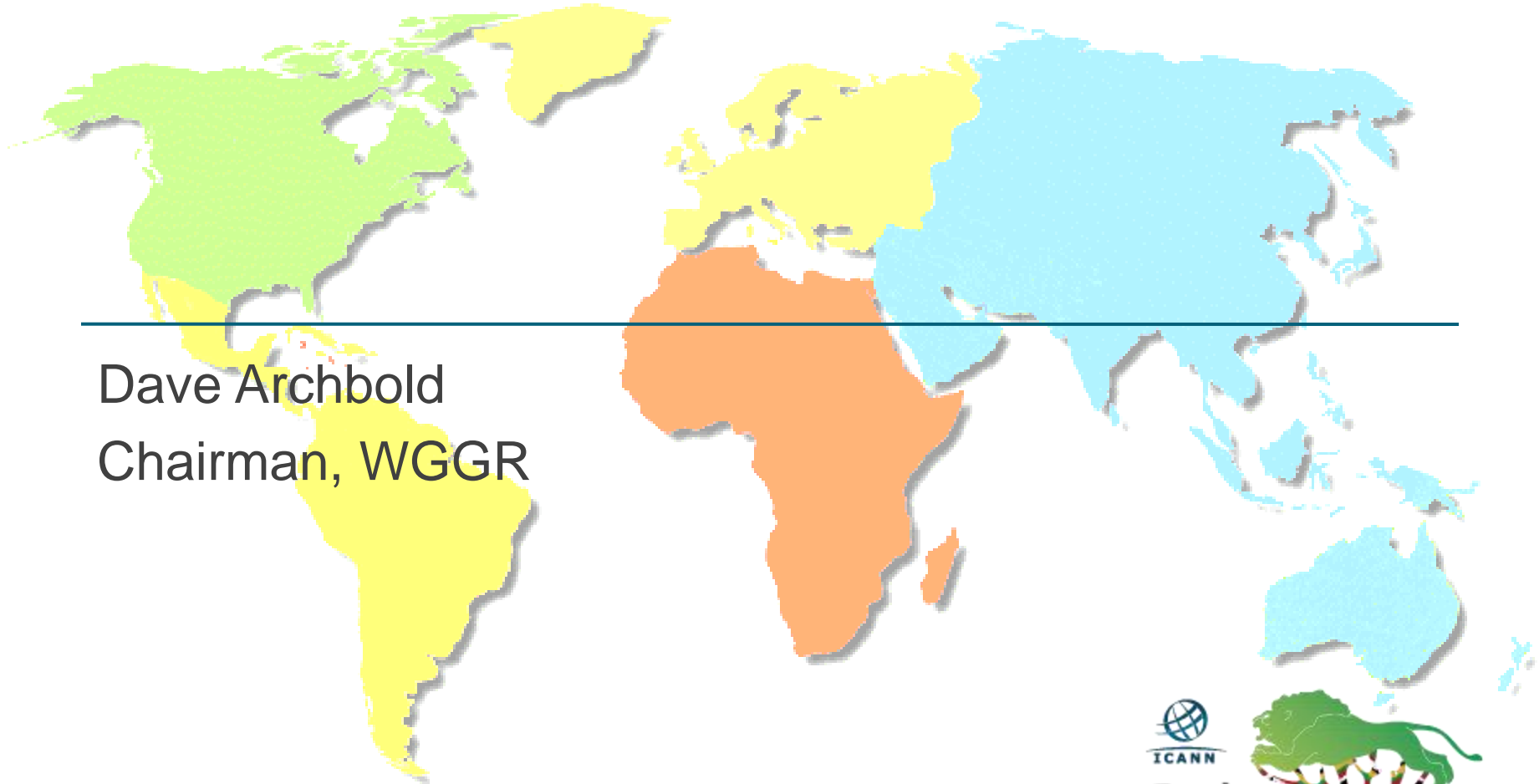


ICANN's Geographic Regions



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ICANN's Best Kept Secret – Which Region is My Country In?

- UN Statistic Division Tables :
 - 40% chance of wrong answer
- ICANN Web Site :
 - Hard to find
 - Meeting Topic for the 2003 ICANN Conference in Montreal.
 - Eight years out of date.

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”.






Recommended 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

Formal, Top-down Structure

- 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.

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.
- 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.

Dynamic, Bottom-up “Special Interest Groups”

- May be temporary or long-term
- 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)

Thoughts for ccNSO

- What comments/concerns do you have about the report?
- Need to review Bylaw provisions
- Remember the Board provisions refer to people but ccNSO provisions refer to countries.
- Keep existing 5 constituencies based on regions or move to a new model?
- Currently “recognize” only one organization per region. Why? Is “observer status” still relevant?
- How will you deal with “Special Interest Groups”?
- Do IDNs make any difference?

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Comments and Questions

