ICANN's geographical Regions II : the sequel

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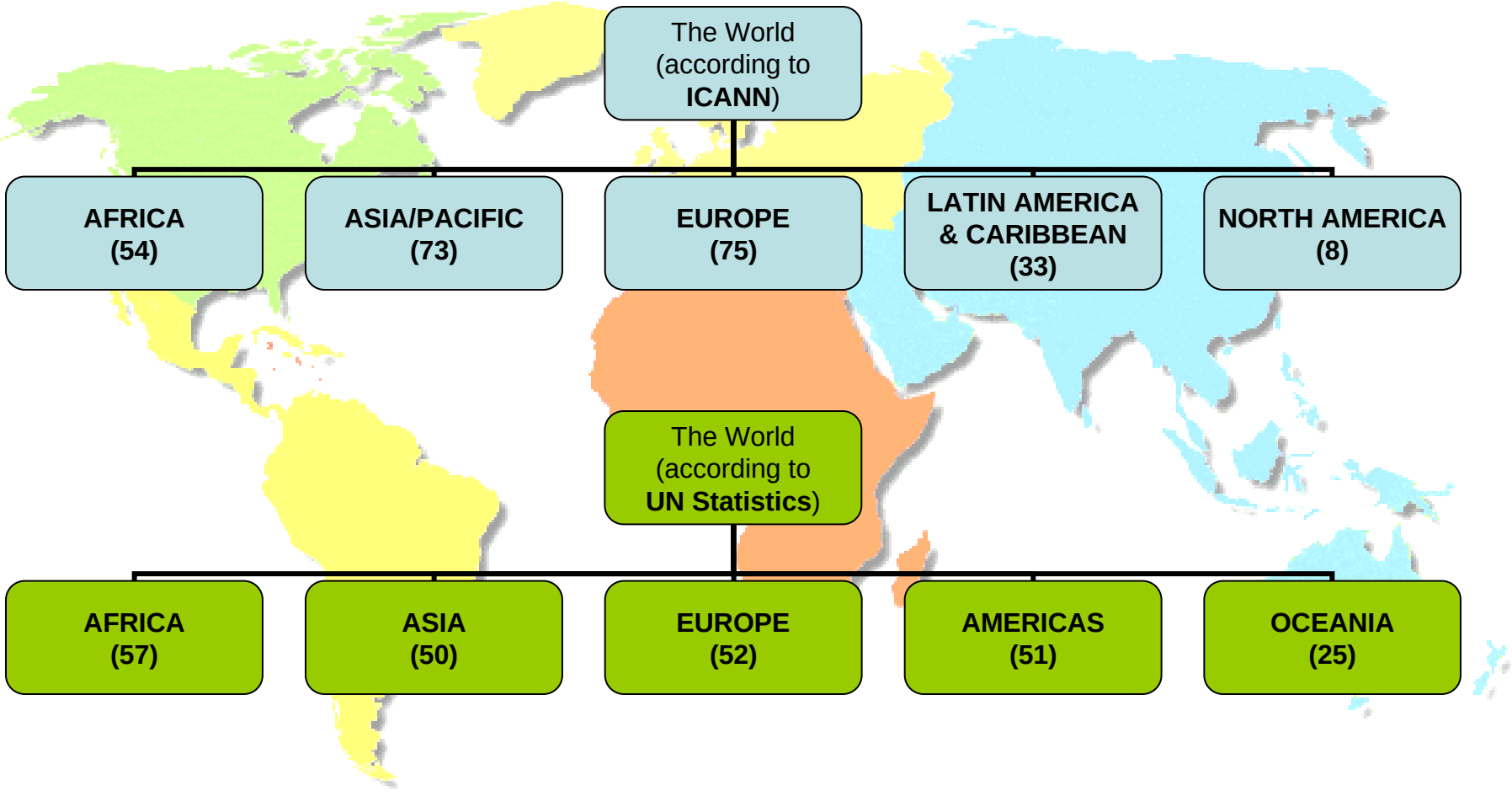
Disclaimer

The conclusions and recommendations contained in Regions II : The Sequel are those of the authors and do not represent the views and opinions of the ccNSO.

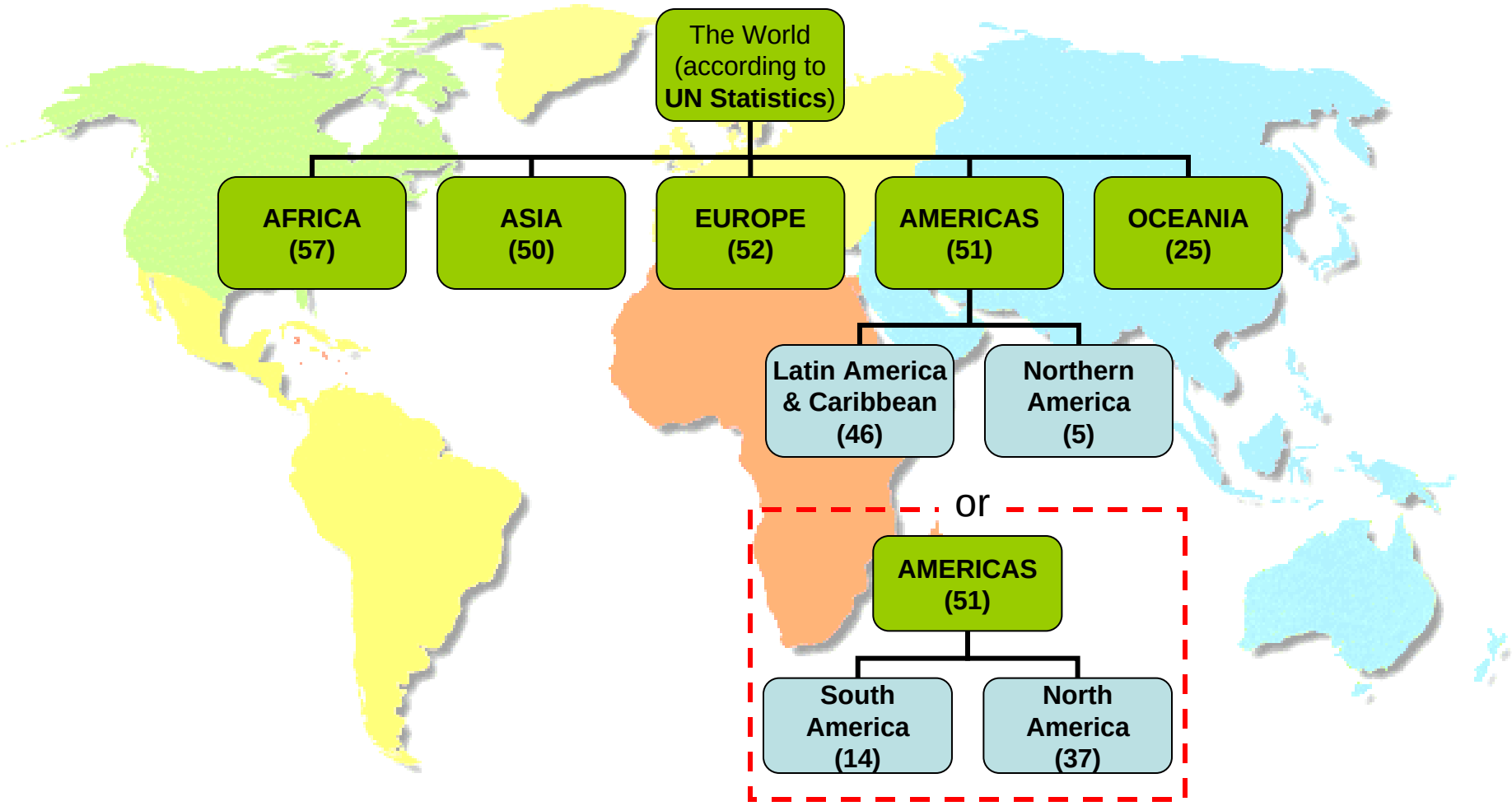
Agenda

- A quick reminder of the previous episode.
- What has happened since then?
- Where are we now?
- Hints about the next exciting episode
  - Regions III : The Final Report.

The Two Regional Structures



From UN Statistics to ICANN



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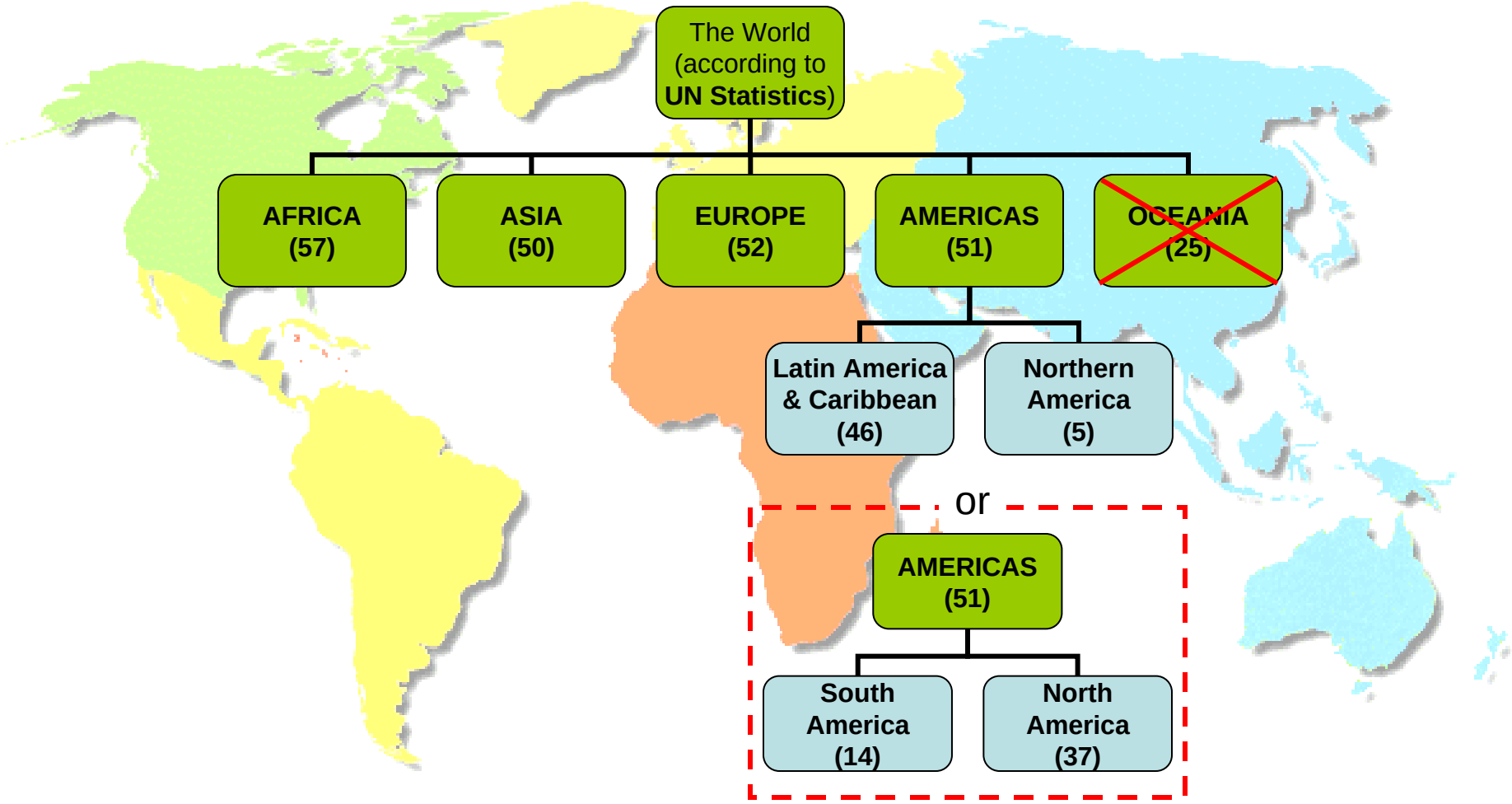

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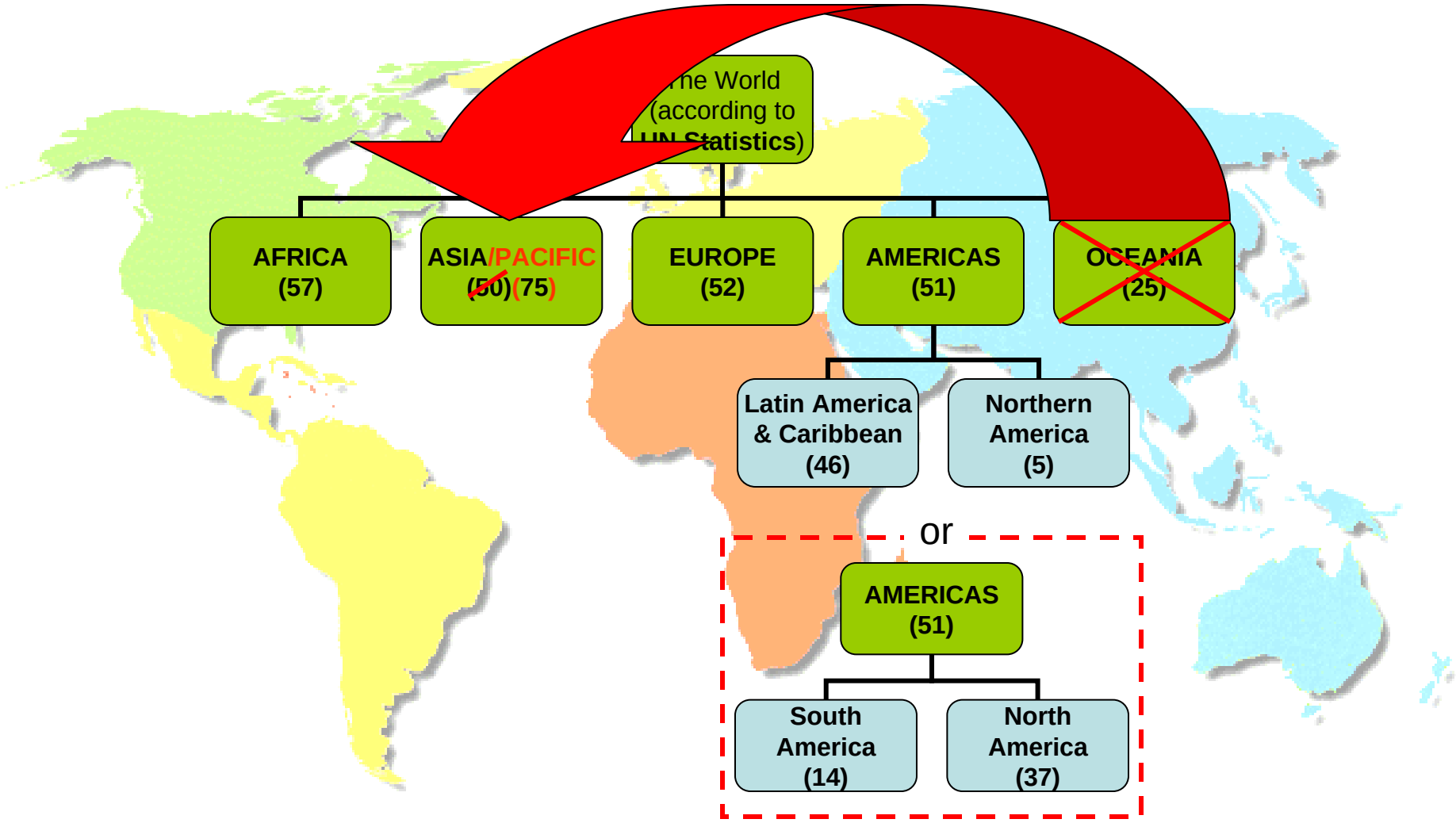

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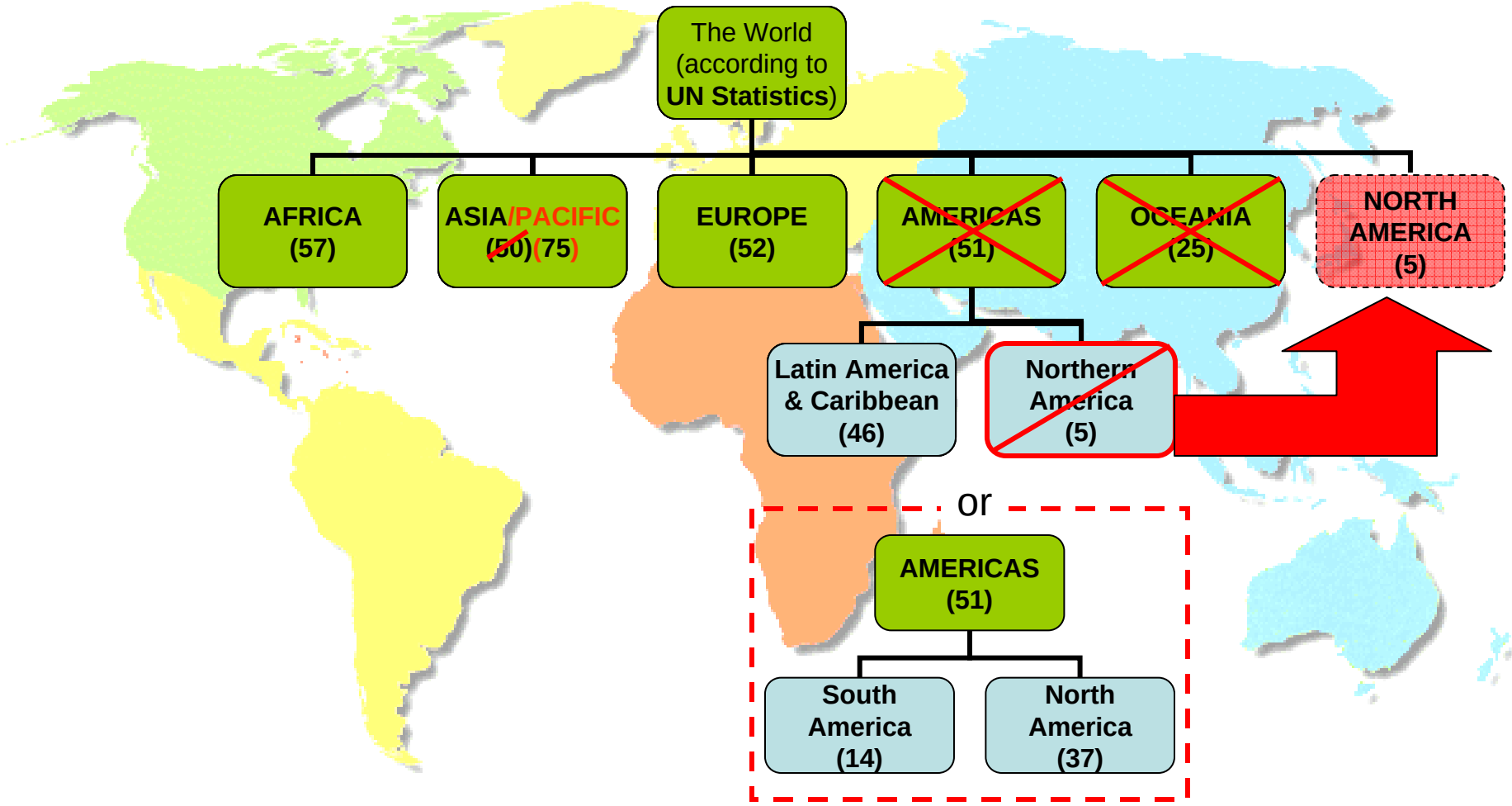

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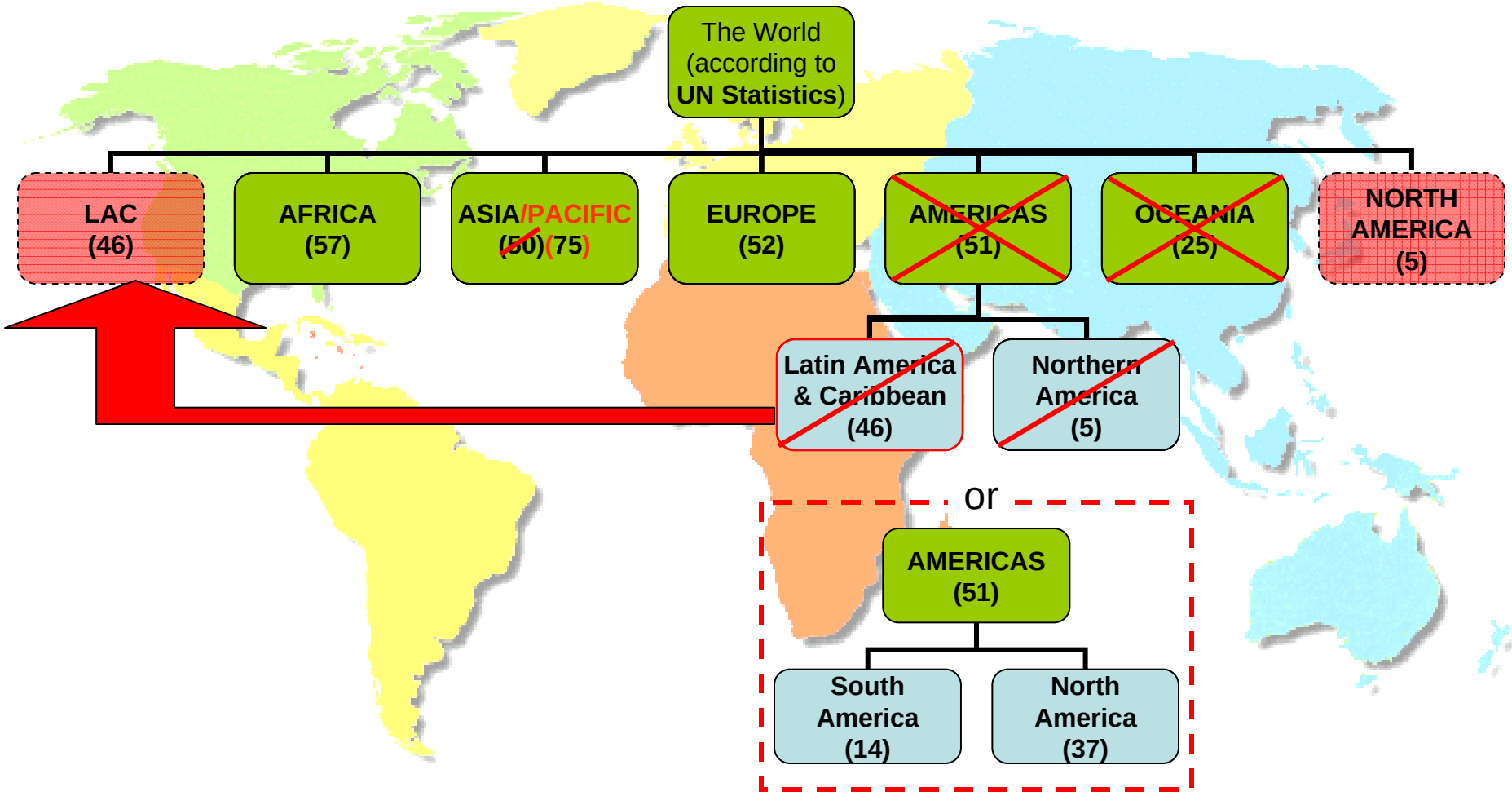

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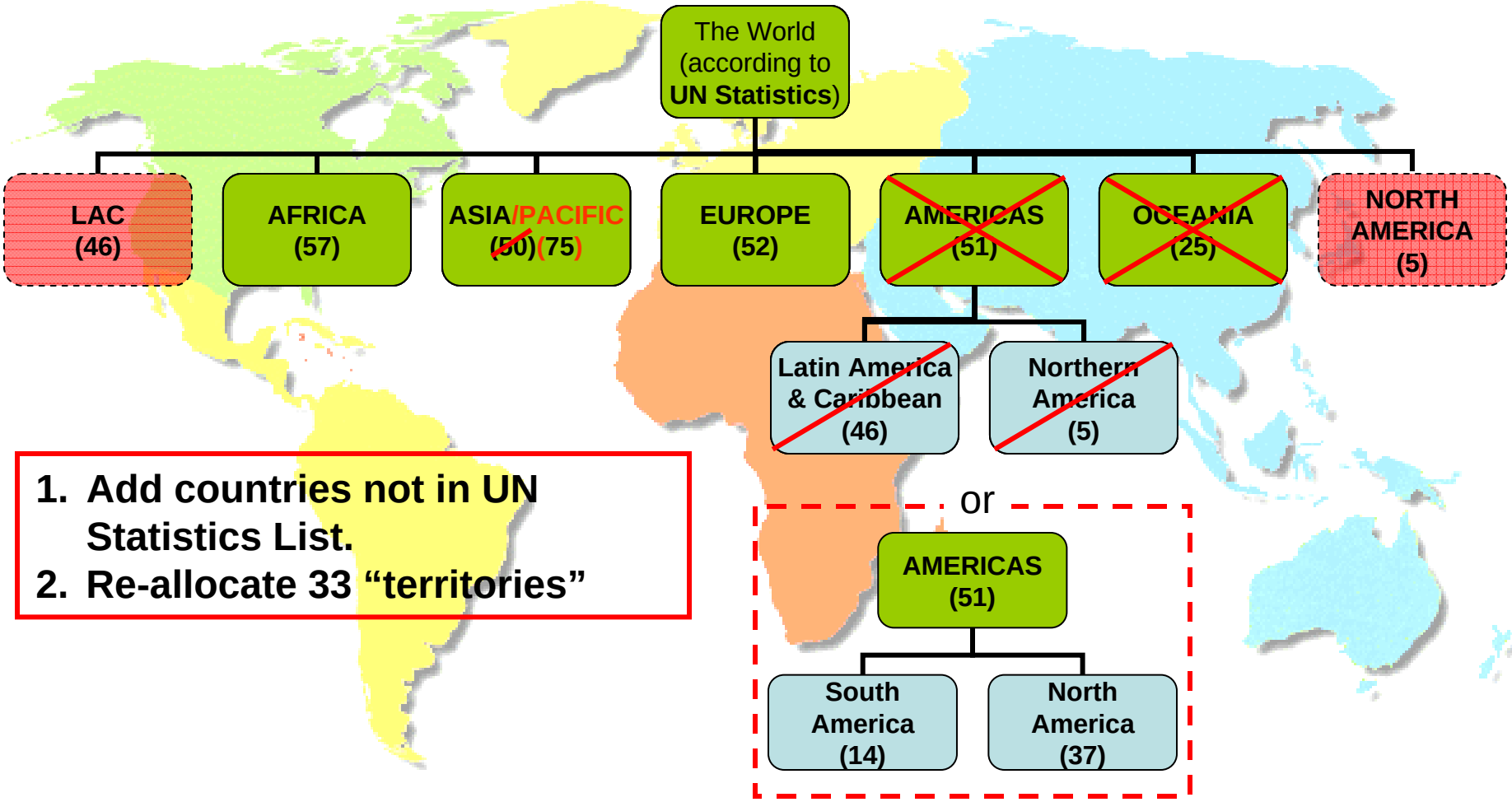

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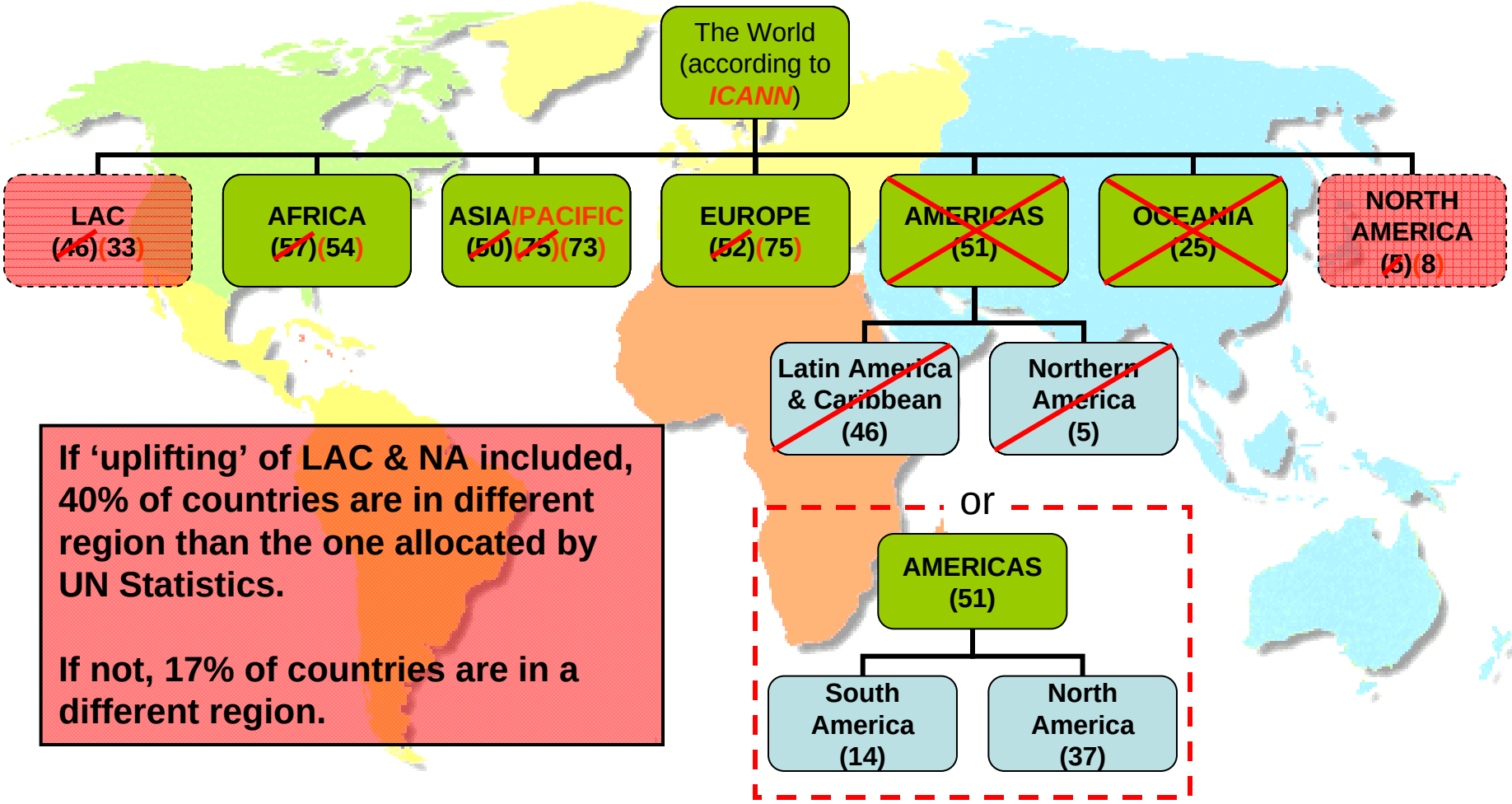

If 'uplifting' of LAC & NA included, 40% of countries are in different region than the one allocated by UN Statistics.

If not, 17% of countries are in a different region.

Can it be said that:

- this is still "*some independently prepared and authoritative list*"?
- the concept that "*persons from areas that are not countries would be grouped together with the country of citizenship for that area*" has been consistently applied?
- the allocations "*make reference to existing international norms for regional distribution of countries*"?
- countries are assigned "*to geographic regions on the basis of the United Nations Statistics Division's current classifications*"?

Working Group Draft Conclusions

- Present allocation of “areas that are not countries” has confused sovereignty, nationality, citizenship and residency.
- Regional structures should facilitate rather than inhibit (as perhaps they do now) representation and participation.
- ICANN already has multiple regional structures. Is this a problem?
- One size doesn’t fit all. There is a need for greater flexibility.

Summary of Working Group Draft Recommendations (Lisbon)

- Further consultations required.
- ccNSO should provide input to ICANN Regions Review.
- Within ccNSO
  - Give “areas that are not countries” the ability to choose their region for ccNSO purposes
  - Perhaps extend this option to other countries at some point
  - Allow/encourage the creation of semi-formal sub-regional groups. Perhaps give official status to these at some point
  - Allow/encourage the creation of dynamic “issues based” groupings

Subsequent Process

- Discussion at ccNSO Meeting in Lisbon
- Draft report revised by WG
- Circulated to ccNSO membership for comment (14 to 28 May)
- Draft report revised by WG
- Public consultation launched (20 June to 9 July)

Feedback So Far

- Confirmation that the concerns about the present implementation of ICANN Geographic Regions are shared by many ccTLD managers.
- The Working Group and responders appear unanimous that the **representational** issues highlighted in the report should be addressed by the ICANN Board.
- Unanimous agreement that improving **participation** in the ccNSO (and ICANN generally) is an important issue…
- …but there are very divergent views on whether or not the present Regional Structure adversely impacts participation.

Feedback So Far

- Support for the recommendation that the Working Group prepare a ccNSO submission to ICANNs Regions review process
- Support for the short term solution of self-selection, for ccNSO purposes only, by ccTLDs that are currently assigned to an ICANN Geographical Region on the basis of the citizenship criterion…
- …but only mixed support for the recommendation that the ccNSO facilitate the creation of sub-regional or interregional groups. This recommendation therefore has not be carried forward.

Revised Draft Recommendations

- That the WG prepare a draft submission to the ICANN Board detailing the ccNSO's concerns about the present Regional Structure. The emphasis should be on representational issues, but the divergent views on participation should be included.
- That the ccNSO should permit Regional self-selection, for ccNSO purposes only, by ccTLDs that are currently assigned to an ICANN Geographical Region on the basis of the citizenship criterion.

Revised Draft Recommendations

- That in the longer term, the ccNSO consider whether tying the designation of Regional Organisations to ICANN Geographical Regions (as is currently done in the Bylaws) is necessary or appropriate. A more flexible approach might be to amend Section 5 of the Bylaws to read, for example:

  "The ccNSO Council may designate a local membership organization provided that the local membership organisation is open to full membership by all ccNSO members, and provided it has, and maintains, a membership of at least (say) ten ccTLD managers …."

- It is likely that this latter proposal will be changed to a strong recommendation that the ccNSO actively pursue ways and means of increasing participation.

Self-Selection Criteria

1. **Applicability**. These procedures are available only to those ccTLDs that are currently assigned to an ICANN Geographical Region on the basis of the citizenship criterion, and are members of the ccNSO.
2. **Options.** The ccTLD may opt to join the ICANN Geographic Region with which the ccTLD Manager and the Government believe the country or territory has the closest geographic, linguistic, cultural or economic ties.
3. **Procedure.** The ccTLD manager is to submit a request, which must include a letter of support from the ccTLD government, for consideration by the ccNSO Council.
4. **Limitations**. From the date that an application under these provisions has been approved by Council, no further applications (for self-selection) from that ccTLD will be considered [for a minimum period of 5 years]. In the event the application is approved by the Council, the assignment to the ICANN Geographic Region only has affect for matters relating to the ccNSO.

Provisional Next Steps

- Continued consultation.
- Discussion by ccNSO membership and recommendation to ccNSO Council.
- Mid-July : ccNSO Council Decision on Recommendations.
- 9 to 16 July : ccNSO membership approval process.
- Tentatively 23 July: Submission of ccNSO advice to Board, and implementation of Council Resolutions

Your Comments & suggestions welcome

The End