

Final Report Recommendations of the Geographic Regions Review Working Group - RySG Comments

The Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Final Report Recommendations of the Geographic Regions Review Working Group (WGGR) and wishes to offer the following comments.

The RySG notes that it has been nearly nine years since the concerns about the definition and use of Geographic Regions were highlighted by the ccNSO in 2007 and almost three years since the WGGR produced its final report in June 2013. The reason for these exceptionally long timelines is unclear but they might be cause of concern for some RySG members. When the uniform Framework for a Cross Community Working Group (CCWG) Life Cycle: Principles and Recommendations (<https://www.icann.org/public-comments/ccwg-framework-principles-draft-2016-02-22-en>) is finalized and implemented, we hope the overall CCWG process will be greatly improved.

RySG generally supports the recommendation that ICANN shall maintain its current geographic regions framework that is suited to the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs), while each SO or AC has flexibility in applying the geographic diversity principles.

Although the WGGR final report specifically focuses on geographic diversity, the RySG believes that this issue should be considered in light of the overall diversity issue at ICANN, as promoting functional, geographic, and cultural diversity is a core value of ICANN (see ICANN's Bylaws).

The RySG agrees with the WGGR recommendation that “[C]ultural, language, economic and other situational factors that from time to time forge commonalities within the Internet community must also have the opportunity to be addressed.” (81). To this end, the RySG notes “diversity” is within the scope of the Accountability Work Stream 2 and we look forward to participating in that work in the coming months.