# How ISO 3166 MA Actually Works

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# Summary

- Disclaimer

- ISO Organisation

- ISO 3166

- Rules around 3166/MA

# Disclaimer & Hat

- Sketching the framework
  - Opinions & Errors are mine

- Member of ISO 3166 MA
  - ICANN delegate
    - Still, opinions ...

# ISO Organisation

- Non-governmental
- Federation of National Standard bodies
  - 1 per (157) countries
- Standardize Anything
  - Technology & Processes
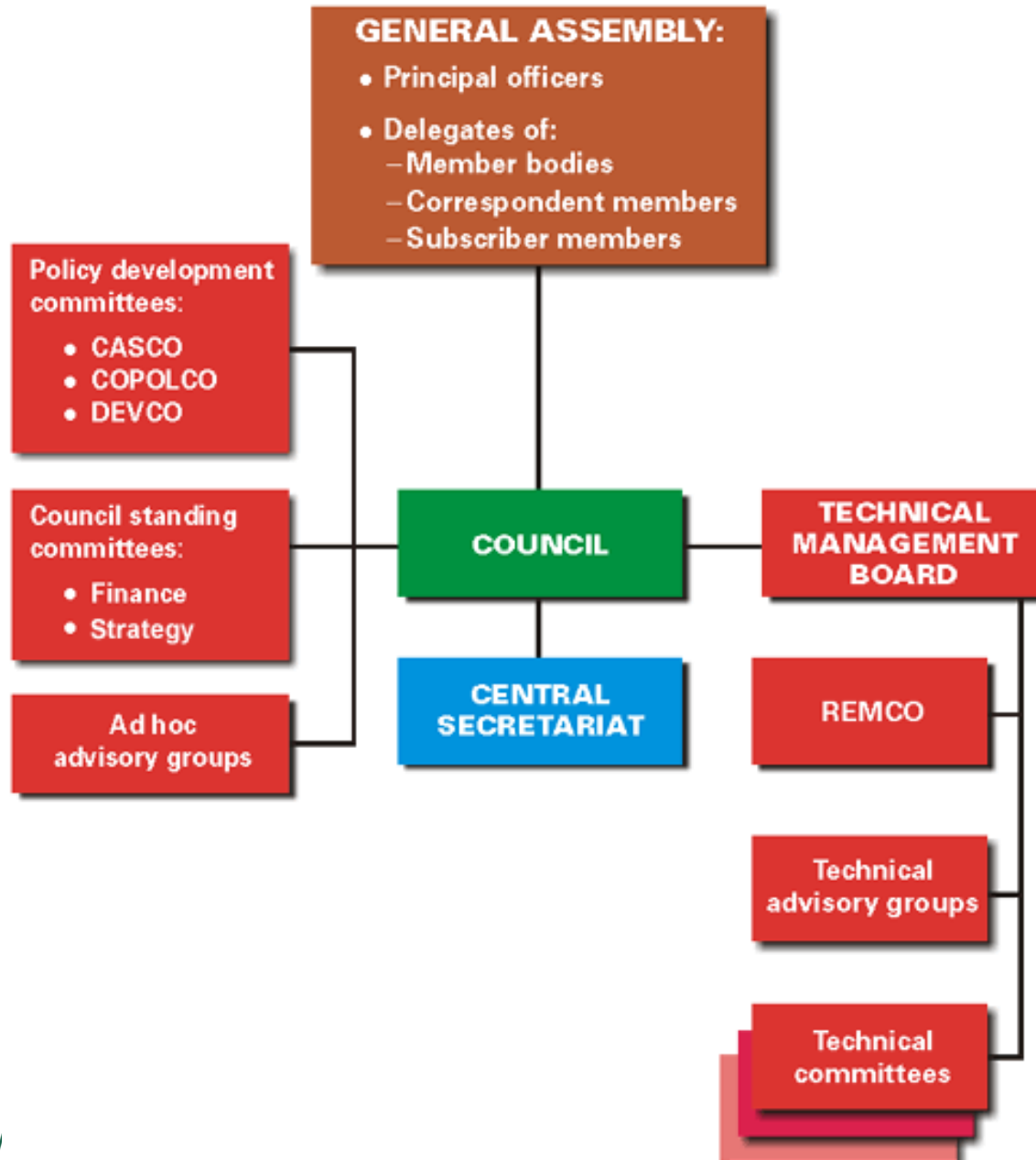- Close to IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission)

# ISO Members

- Member
  - Standard Body of a country
    - "Most representative of standarization"
  - Full rights

- Correspondent Member
  - Not active in development
    - Information only

- Subscriber Member
  - Small economies
    - Reduced fees

# ISO Funding

- Grand Total: 120M CHF
  - Member bodies holding secretariat
- ISO secretariat: 30M CHF
- Income:
  - 60% Membership fees
  - 40% Sales of publications and other services

# ISO STRUCTURE

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# ISO Technical Committees

- JTC 1:        Information Technology
- TC 1:        Screw Heads
- TC 46:        Information and Documentation
- TC 68:        Financial Services
- TC 120:        Leather
- TC 192:        Gas Turbines

# TC 46
# Information & Documentation

- 1 Coordination group
- 4 Subcommittees
  - (Different) Secretariats
    - Some have Working groups
- 4 Working Groups
  - Conveners

# ISO in Numbers

- 158 Members
  - 103 full, 46 correspondent, 9 subscriber
- 3 041 technical bodies
  - 193 TC, 540 SC, 2 244 WG, 64 Ad-Hoc
- 50 000 experts
- Avg. 7 Meetings a day

# ISO Standards

- ISO 3166

- Revisions: ISO 3166:1974

  - Effective immediately

- Can have parts: ISO 3166-1

- Latest is ISO 3166-1:2006

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# Maintenance Agency

- Data changes more quickly then standards
  - Updates standards via Newsletters
- Doesn't define standards
- Role defined in (parts of) standard and by guidelines from Council

# ISO 3166

## "Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions"

Part 1: Country Codes

Part 2: Country Subdivision Codes

Part 3: Codes for formerly names of countries

# ISO 3166-1

- Definition of scope and rules

- Lists of names, codes etc.
  - Alpha-2
  - Alpha-3
  - Numeric-3

- Rules for maintenance of codes

# Alpha-2 Codes

- AA to ZZ

- Reserved AA, Q[M-Z], X?, ZZ
  - User assigned

- Based on Short Names
  - "Visual association"
    - EN & FR preferred
  - Short names only, avoid epithets such as
    - Democratic, Republic, People's, Kingdom
      - GB preferred over UK

| COUNTRY NAME English short name | English short name lower case | English full name | Alpha-2 code | Alpha-3 code | Numeric code |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| AFGHANISTAN | Afghanistan | the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan | AF | AFG | 004 |
| ÅLAND ISLANDS | Åland Islands | | AX | ALA | 248 |
| ALBANIA | Albania | the Republic of Albania | AL | ALB | 008 |
| ALGERIA | Algeria | the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria | DZ | DZA | 012 |

| c | Remarks | Inde-pen-dent | Additional information | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Adminis-trative language(s) alpha-2 | Adminis-trative language(s) alpha-3 | Local short name(s) |
| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| | | # | fa; ps | fas; pus | Afghānestān; Afghānistān |
| | | | fi; sv | fin; swe | Ahvenanmaa; Åland |
| | | # | sq | sqi | Shqipëria, Shqipëri |
| | | # | ar | ara | Al Jazā'ir |

# ISO 3166/MA

- Standard bodies
  - AFNOR(fr), ANSI(us),BSI(gb), DIN(de), SIS(se)
- UN and other users
  - IAEA, ITU, ICANN, UNECE, UPU
- Associate members
  - WIPO, UN Terminology Service, UN Statistics Division

# Getting on/off 3166

- UN HQ

- Member 3166/MA

# Codes Reservation by

- UN

- MA Member

- Special request
  - WIPO: regional organisations

# Indeterminate Reserved

- 1949 Convention on Road Traffic

- Allocated by WIPO to Patent Organisations

- ISO/IEC 7501-1:1997 Machine readable passport

- Other coding systems

# Transitional Reserved

- Old codes
  - min. 5 years
    - now 50?
  - Up to MA

# Exceptional Reserved

- Rejected new country code
- On request
  - (UN, MA member, Int. org.)

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# ISO & ccIDN?

- Eh?
  - α-2: AA-ZZ
  - IDNs matches territories?
- Proposals:
  - Column "native names" in "native writing"
    - In scope of MA charter?
  - New part, 3166-4
    - Just for domains?

# Success of ISO 3166

- When chosen as source for ccTLD
    - It was neutral
    - Codes are unique
    - Defined outside of i-Government

Questions?