

# Introduction to ICANN

*How you can help ICANN Shape the  
Future of the Internet*

**Liz Gasster**  
**Senior Policy Counselor**

**Abu Dhabi**  
**4 August 2009**

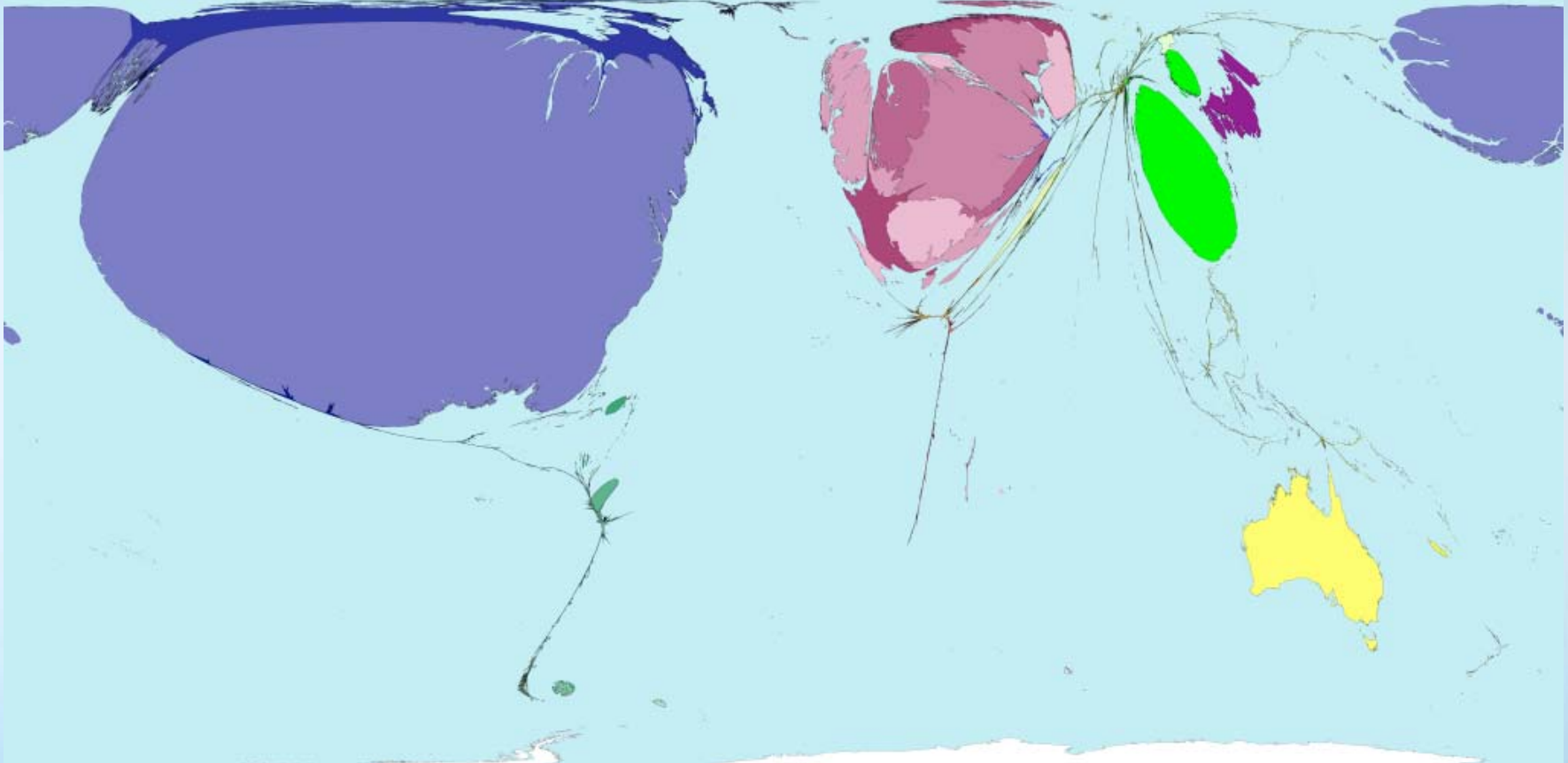
# Goals for the Day

- To introduce ICANN to you
- To introduce ICANN's New generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) Program including:
  - The latest program developments
  - Recent work on the four “overarching” issues
- To share the latest on Internationalized Domain Names
- To update you on current Policy work and invite you to participate
- Special Event: Executive Panel Discussion on “ICANN and the Internet Community in the Middle East ”

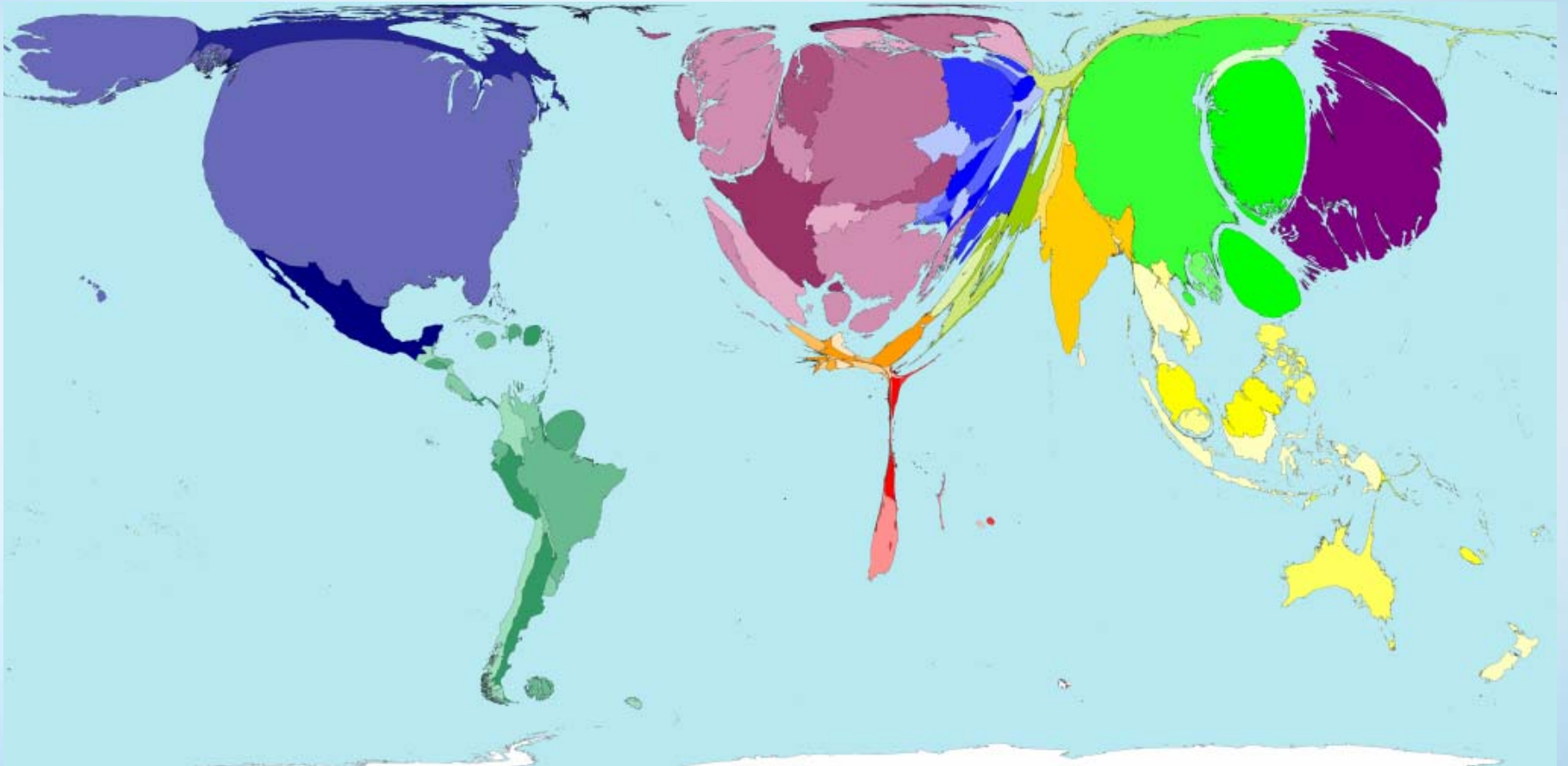
# Agenda – Introduction to ICANN

- Overview of Internet Users and the Domain Name marketplace
- ICANN's Structure
- Participation
- ICANN in 2009 and beyond

# Internet Users – Global Distribution 1990



# Internet Users – Global Distribution 2007



# What is ICANN?

- “Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers”
- We coordinate unique identifiers of the Internet:
  - “Names”; delegating Top-Level Domains, working with country registry (ccTLD) managers
  - “Numbers”; allocating IP address blocks
  - “Parameters”; maintaining data bases on behalf of IETF
- ...and develop related policies in bottom-up processes involving all stakeholders

# Operating Principles

- Help keep the unique identifiers system and root management stable and secure
- Promote competition among registrars and registries, and thus, promote choice for registrants
- “Multi-stakeholder”: A forum where many different groups can work out Internet policy together
- “Bottom-up”: All those involved can set the agenda
- Ensure opportunity for global participation

# Key Actors in Domain Name Market Place

- Registries provide central data base of all names in their top level domain
  - generic registries: examples: .com, .org
  - country code registries: examples: .cn, .in
- Registrars provide services to register names to end users and business
  - Often offer other services
  - For generic registries, all registrars are accredited by ICANN

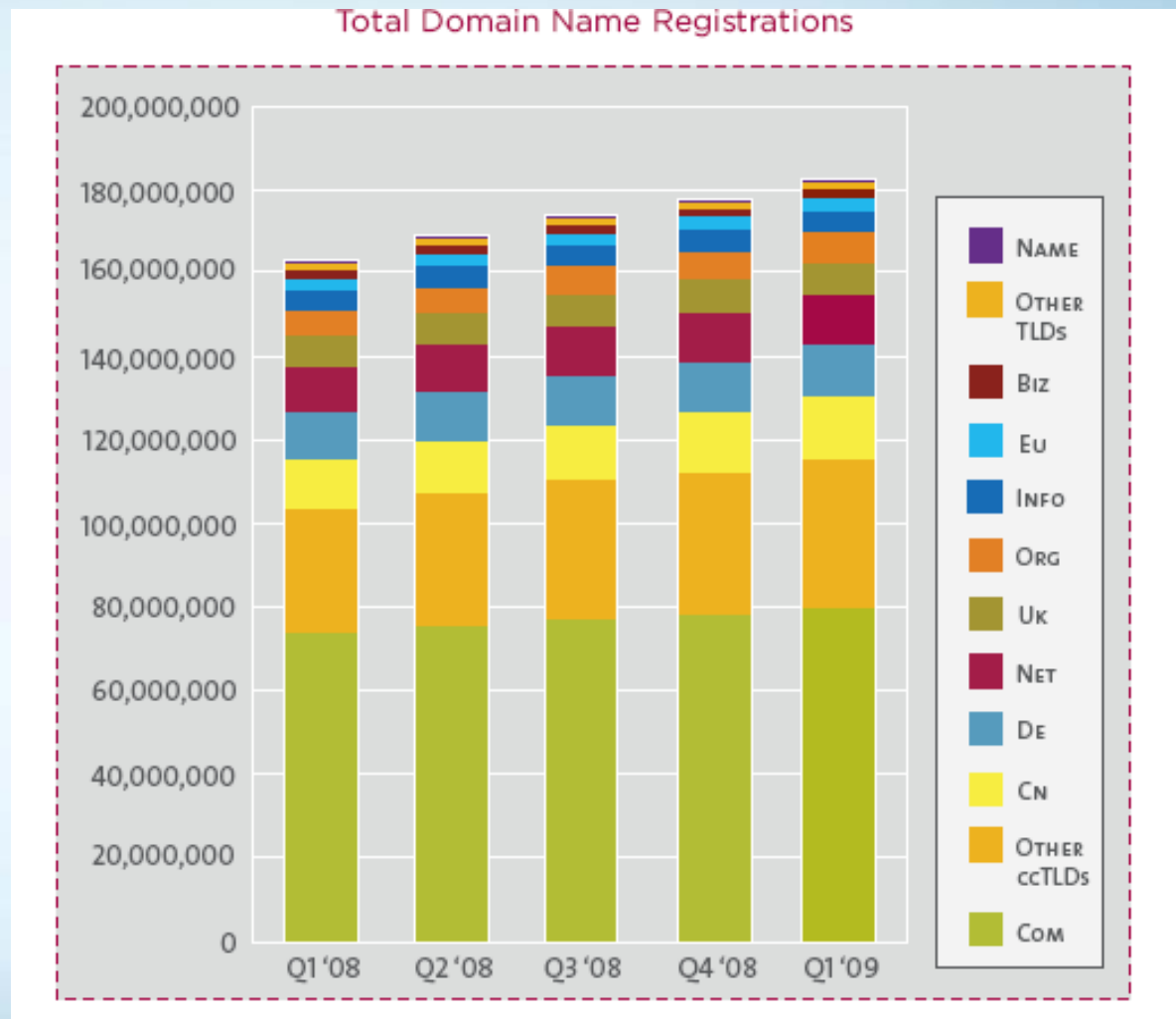


# Snapshot of the domain name marketplace



More than **183 million** domain names registered globally today

Source: VeriSign Domain Name Industry Brief, June 2009



# Competition in the domain name space

- ICANN introduced competition to the domain name space
- Registrars now have a market and a business
- Consumers have greater choice in price and services
- Domain name marketplace is even driving how we search - contextually as well as topically - and the scale of sites that can be searched
- Total registrars = 900 and counting



# The Internet ecosystem

Some of the stakeholders concerned with the Internet

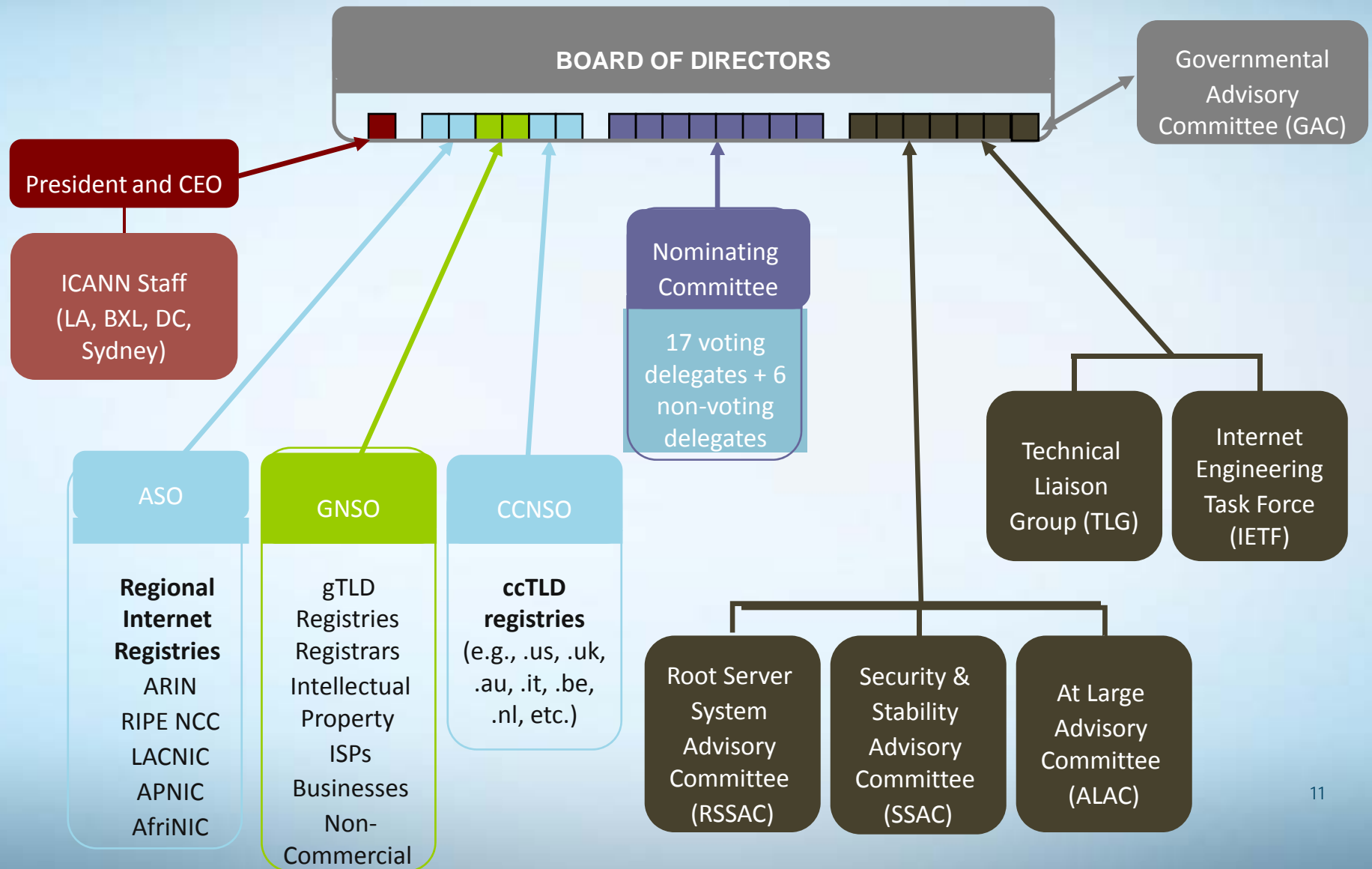
## Internet Governance Forum



ORGANISATION  
FOR ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT



# The ICANN Community



# The ICANN Community

- Open participation
- Diverse participants bring expertise and useful perspectives to inform policy making
- Consensus-based decision making
- Cooperation, coordination and consultation among participants on key issues
- Public debate is often spirited and blunt
- Formal agreements are used to create and manage various business relationships

# ICANN is a Global Organization

- Mandated by the bylaws:
  - Multinational Board
  - Multinational participation and representation
  - Accountable and transparent to a global Internet community

# How to Participate in ICANN

- Public comments are invited on ICANN activities that are underway: New gTLDs, IDNs, DNSSEC, ICANN's Strategic Plans
- Individuals and representatives of groups and organizations may participate on ICANN's many councils, working groups and committees

# Emerging and Evolving Issues

- Enhancing the Security and Stability of the Internet
- Initial and expanded deployment of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)
- Migration from IPv4 to IPv6
- Introduction of new generic Top Level Domains (new gTLDs)
- Current and upcoming studies of WHOIS
- Accountability frameworks with ccTLD managers
- Periodic review of ICANN's structure and procedures



# Mission Deliverables for 2009 -2010

- Promote competition and choice in the domain name market – launch new gTLDs
- Expand internationalized domain names that will soon become available in generic and country code top level domains
  - Launch fast-track cc IDN process
- Take tangible steps to enhance the security of the DNS – operational readiness for DNSSEC
- Core mission improvements, including expanding compliance, further investment in staffing, implementing other organizational benchmarks.

# Strategic Plan 2009 - 2012

- Implement IDNs and New gTLDs
- Enhance security, stability and resiliency in the allocation and assignment of the Internet's unique identifiers
- Monitor the depletion of IPv4 address space and provide leadership towards IPv6 adoption
- Improve confidence in the gTLD marketplace
- Strive for excellence in core operations
- Strengthen processes for developing policy
- Strengthen ICANN's multi-stakeholder model to manage increasing demands and changing needs
- Globalize ICANN's operations
- Ensure financial accountability, stability and responsibility

# Upcoming ICANN Meetings

- [Seoul, Korea, 25-30 October 2009](#)
  - Nairobi, Kenya, 7-12 March 2010
  - Latin America (TBD) 20-25 June 2010
  - Europe (TBD) December 2010
- 
- Meetings are held three times/year, each meeting in a different continent
  - Please join us!

# **End of Introductory Comments**

**Thank You**