
REGIONAL REPRESENTATION: OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

BACKGROUND

1. During the Third Conference of States Parties (CSP3) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) held from 11-15 September 2017, the Conference recognised that: ‘the difference in approaches to regional representation in the appointment of vice-Presidents and the Management Committee requires further discussion and clarification during the informal preparatory process leading up to the Fourth Conference of States Parties with a view to resolving this and other issues related to the Terms of Reference of the Management Committee at the Fourth Conference of States Parties. The Conference also requested the Presidency to allocate sufficient time to these discussions during the informal preparatory process of the Fourth Conference of States Parties’ (paragraph 45 of the *Final Report* (ATT/CSP3/2017/SEC/184/Conf.FinRep.Rev1)).

2. The ATT Secretariat prepared this background paper on behalf of the President of the Fourth Conference of States Parties (CSP4) to support the discussions on this matter that will take place during the informal preparatory process leading up to CSP4. The paper sets out the options for regional classification that States Parties may consider when deciding the approach to be adopted by the ATT process.

CURRENT ATT PRACTICE

3. The [Terms of Reference for the Management Committee](#) provide that: ‘The Management Committee shall comprise the President of the Conference of States Parties and a State Party representative designated by **each UN regional group**’ (emphasis added)(paragraph 2). The [Rules of Procedure](#) provide that: ‘the Conference shall elect a President and four vice-Presidents for the following session of the Conference from among the representatives of participating States Parties’ (Rule 9.1).

4. While it has been the practice in the ATT process so far that the President and four Vice-Presidents (informally known as the ‘Bureau’) represent regional groupings, there is no requirement in the Rules of Procedure to that effect and there is also no agreement among States Parties on what constitutes regional groupings. One of the issues that has arisen in the context of this discussion is the desirability of having the *same* approach to regional representation in both the Management Committee and the Bureau. The ATT Secretariat currently uses the regional groupings adopted by the United Nations Statistics Division (described below) to classify States for the purposes of reporting and participation statistics.

5. A description of the options available for the regional classification to be adopted by the ATT is provided below.

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION: UN REGIONAL GROUPS

6. The United Nations has, essentially, two systems of regional classification for UN member states:

- a. **Geopolitical regional groupings:** The [United Nations Regional Groups of Member States](#) are geopolitical regional groups of UN member states, also known as UN ‘electoral groups’, which are the product of decisions by the UN General Assembly over the years to facilitate the election of countries and office holders to the principal institutions, governing bodies and chairman-ships of the UN system;¹ and
- b. **Geographical regional groupings:** A [list of geographic regions used by the United Nations Statistics Division](#) in its publications and databases. Each country or area is shown in *one* region only. These geographic regions are based on continental regions; which are further subdivided into sub-regions and intermediary regions drawn as to obtain greater homogeneity in sizes of population, demographic circumstances and accuracy of demographic statistics (Source: United Nations Statistics Division).

7. Details of the two systems of classification are included in Annexes A and B.

8. An overview of some of the characteristics associated with each system of classification is included in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Overview of Characteristics of UN Regional Classification Systems

Geopolitical regional groupings	Geographical regional groupings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States are familiar with the groupings • Politicized process • Not fully comprehensive: Certain States are omitted • Groupings are subject to change over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States are less familiar with the groupings • Non-politicized process • Comprehensive: <u>All</u> States are included (including countries that are not UN member States)

¹ *What is Equitable Geographic Representation in the Twenty-first Century? Report of a seminar held by the International Peace Academy and the United Nations University, 26 March 1999, New York, USA, United Nations University, pp. 30-31* (<http://archive.unu.edu/unupress/equitable.pdf>).

Annex A. United Nations Regional Groups of Member States**African Group**

- Algeria
- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Comoros
- Congo
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Swaziland
- Togo
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Asia-Pacific Group

- Afghanistan
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- China
- Cyprus
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Fiji
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kiribati*
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lao People's Republic
- Lebanon
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Marshall Islands
- Micronesia (Federated States of)
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Samoa
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- Sri Lanka
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Tonga
- Turkey*
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- United Arab Emirates
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Vietnam
- Yemen

Eastern European Group

- Albania
- Armenia
- Estonia
- Georgia
- Romania
- Russian Federation

- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Hungary
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Republic of Moldova
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Ukraine

Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uruguay
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

- Andorra
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel*
- Italy
- Liechtenstein
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Monaco
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Portugal
- San Marino
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey*
- United Kingdom
- United States of America*

*Special cases

Israel

In May 2000 Israel became a WEOG full member, on a temporary basis (subject to renewal), in WEOG's headquarters in the US, thereby enabling it to put forward candidates for election to various UN General Assembly bodies. In 2004 Israel obtained a permanent renewal to its membership.

Kiribati

As of 2010, Kiribati (geographically in Oceania) is not a member of any regional group, despite other Oceania nations belonging to the Asian group. Despite its membership in the United Nations, Kiribati has never delegated a permanent representative to the UN.

Turkey

Turkey, participates fully in both WEOG and Asian Group, but for electoral purposes is considered a member of WEOG only.

United States of America

The United States of America is not a member of any regional group, but attends meetings of the Western Europe and Other States Group (WEOG) as an observer and is considered to be a member of that group for electoral purposes.

Source: <http://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml>

Annex B. List of Geographic Regions Used by the United Nations Statistics Division**AFRICA**

Northern Africa
Algeria
Egypt
Libya
Morocco
Sudan
Tunisia
Western Sahara
Eastern Africa
British Indian Ocean Territory
Burundi
Comoros
Djibouti
Eritrea
Ethiopia
French Southern Territories
Kenya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mauritius
Mayotte
Mozambique
Réunion
Rwanda
Seychelles
Somalia
South Sudan
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe
Middle Africa
Angola

Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Equatorial Guinea
Gabon
Sao Tome and Principe
Southern Africa
Botswana
Lesotho
Namibia
South Africa
Swaziland
Western Africa
Benin
Burkina Faso
Cabo Verde
Côte d'Ivoire
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Liberia
Mali
Mauritania
Niger
Nigeria
Saint Helena
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Togo

AMERICAS

Latin America and the Caribbean
Caribbean
Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
Aruba
Bahamas
Barbados
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Cuba
Curaçao
Dominica

Dominican Republic
Grenada
Guadeloupe
Haiti
Jamaica
Martinique
Montserrat
Puerto Rico
Saint Barthélemy
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Martin (French Part)
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Sint Maarten (Dutch part)
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos Islands
United States Virgin Islands
Central America
Belize
Costa Rica
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
South America
Argentina
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Bouvet Island
Brazil
Chile

Colombia
Ecuador
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
French Guiana
Guyana
Paraguay
Peru
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
Suriname
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Northern America
Bermuda
Canada
Greenland
Saint Pierre and Miquelon
United States of America

ASIA

Central Asia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan
Eastern Asia
China
China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
China, Macao Special Administrative Region
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Japan
Mongolia
Republic of Korea
South-eastern Asia
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
Indonesia
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Viet Nam
Southern Asia

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
India
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Maldives
Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka
Western Asia
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Cyprus
Georgia
Iraq
Israel
Jordan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Oman
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
State of Palestine
Syrian Arab Republic
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
Yemen

EUROPE

Eastern Europe
Belarus
Bulgaria
Czechia
Hungary
Poland
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Ukraine
Northern Europe
Åland Islands
Channel Islands
Denmark
Estonia
Faroe Islands
Finland
Iceland
Ireland
Isle of Man
Latvia
Lithuania
Norway
Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands
Sweden
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Southern Europe
Albania
Andorra
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia
Gibraltar
Greece
Holy See
Italy
Malta
Montenegro
Portugal
San Marino
Serbia
Slovenia
Spain
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Western Europe
Austria
Belgium
France
Germany
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Monaco
Netherlands
Switzerland

OCEANIA

Australia and New Zealand
Australia
Christmas Island
Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Heard Island and McDonald Islands
New Zealand
Norfolk Island
Melanesia
Fiji
New Caledonia
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands
Vanuatu
Micronesia
Guam
Kiribati
Marshall Islands

Micronesia (Federated States of)
Nauru
Northern Mariana Islands
Palau
United States Minor Outlying Islands
Polynesia
American Samoa
Cook Islands
French Polynesia
Niue
Pitcairn
Samoa
Tokelau
Tonga
Tuvalu
Wallis and Futuna Islands