

# ICANN's Geographic Regions



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# Initial Purpose of ICANN Regions

- Geographic Regions were first defined in 1998 as an aid to ensuring “broad international representation” on the ICANN Board.
- Make-up of the ICANN Board should “reflect the geographical and functional diversity of the Internet”.
- The procedures for appointing Board Members were to be “sufficiently flexible to permit evolution to reflect changes in the constituency of Internet stakeholders”.

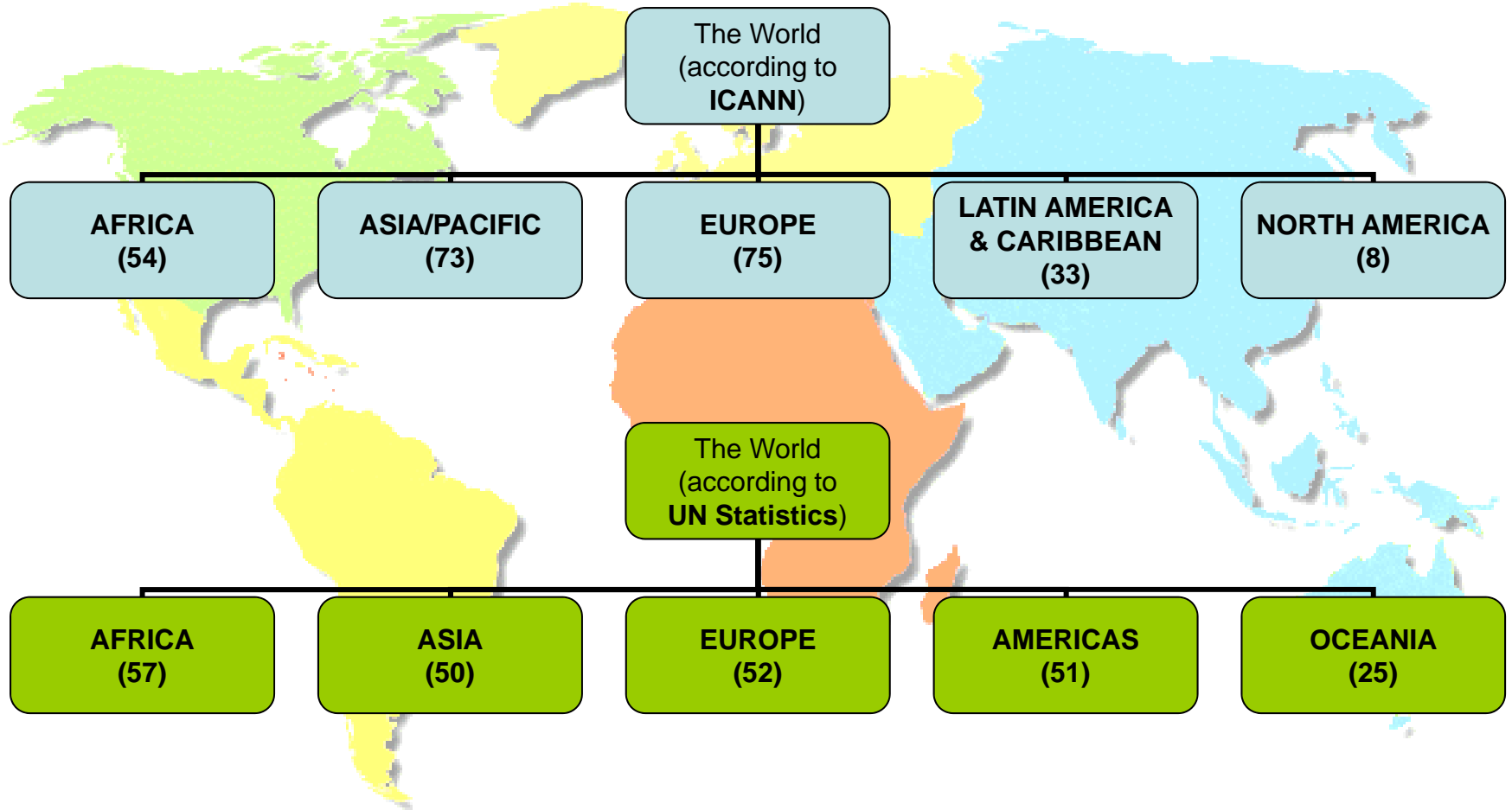
# Original Goals

1. Geographic diversity
2. which reflects geographical diversity of the Internet and which is
3. flexible enough to continue to reflect the constituency of Internet stakeholders as it changes over time.

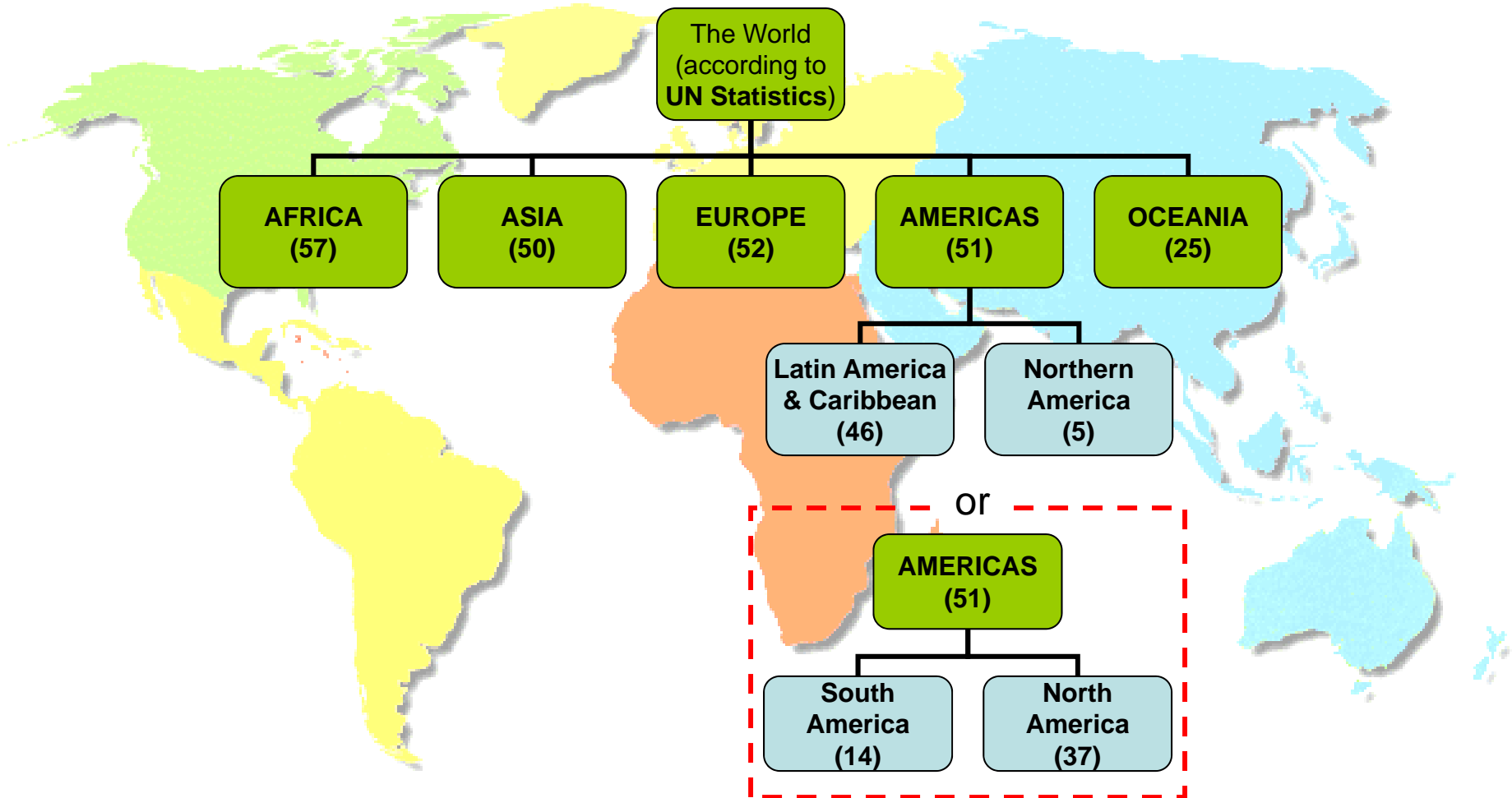
# Implementation

- Five Regions named in first draft of Bylaws
  - Africa
  - Asia/Australia/Pacific
  - Europe
  - Latin America/Caribbean
  - North America
- Probably based in existing and planned RIRs
- Allocation of countries to Regions used UN Statistics Division tables – but greatly modified!
- Desire to adopt independent list is understood, but..
- ...how do statistics-based allocations relate to Internet diversity?

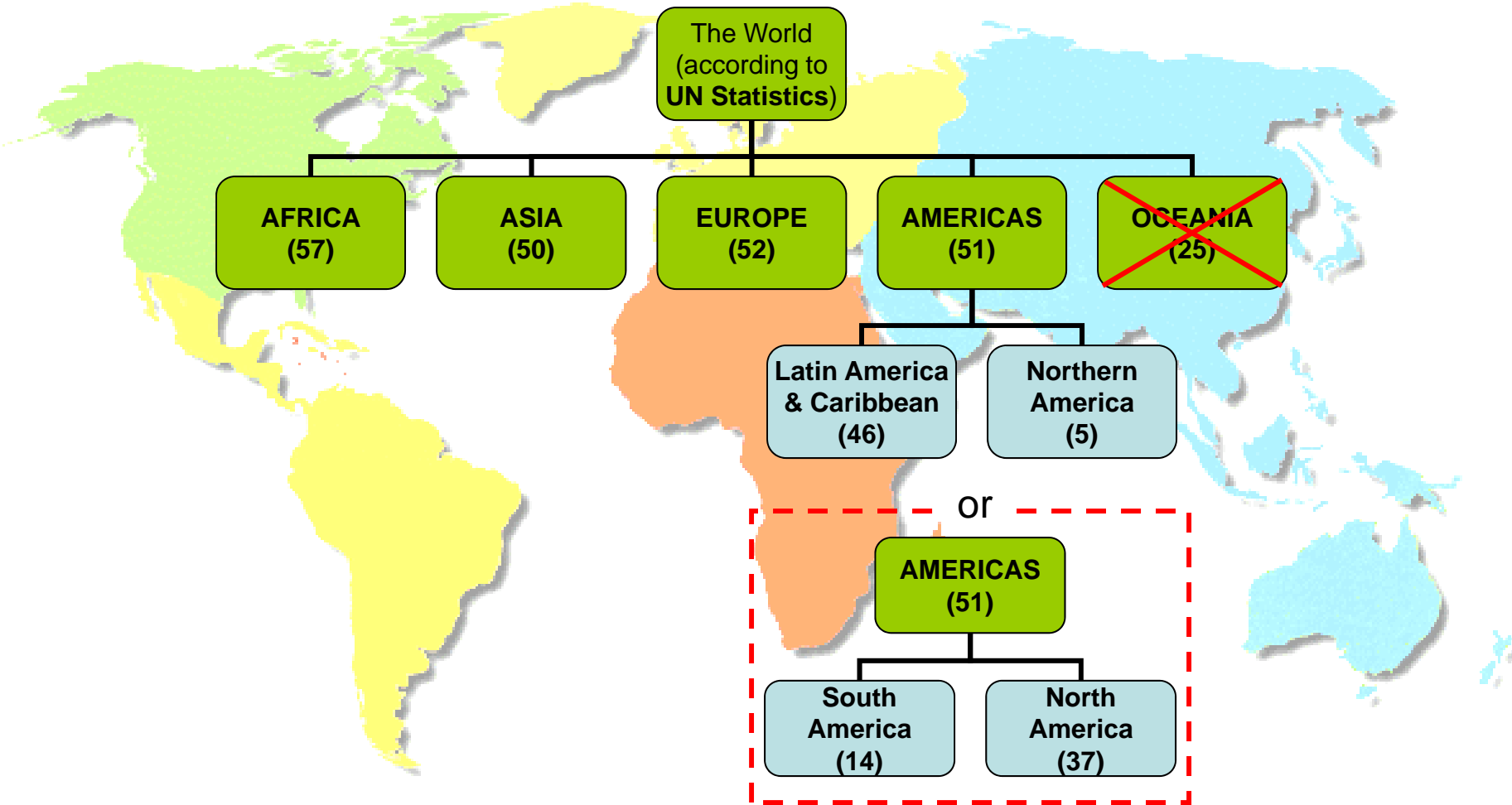
# The Two Regional Structures



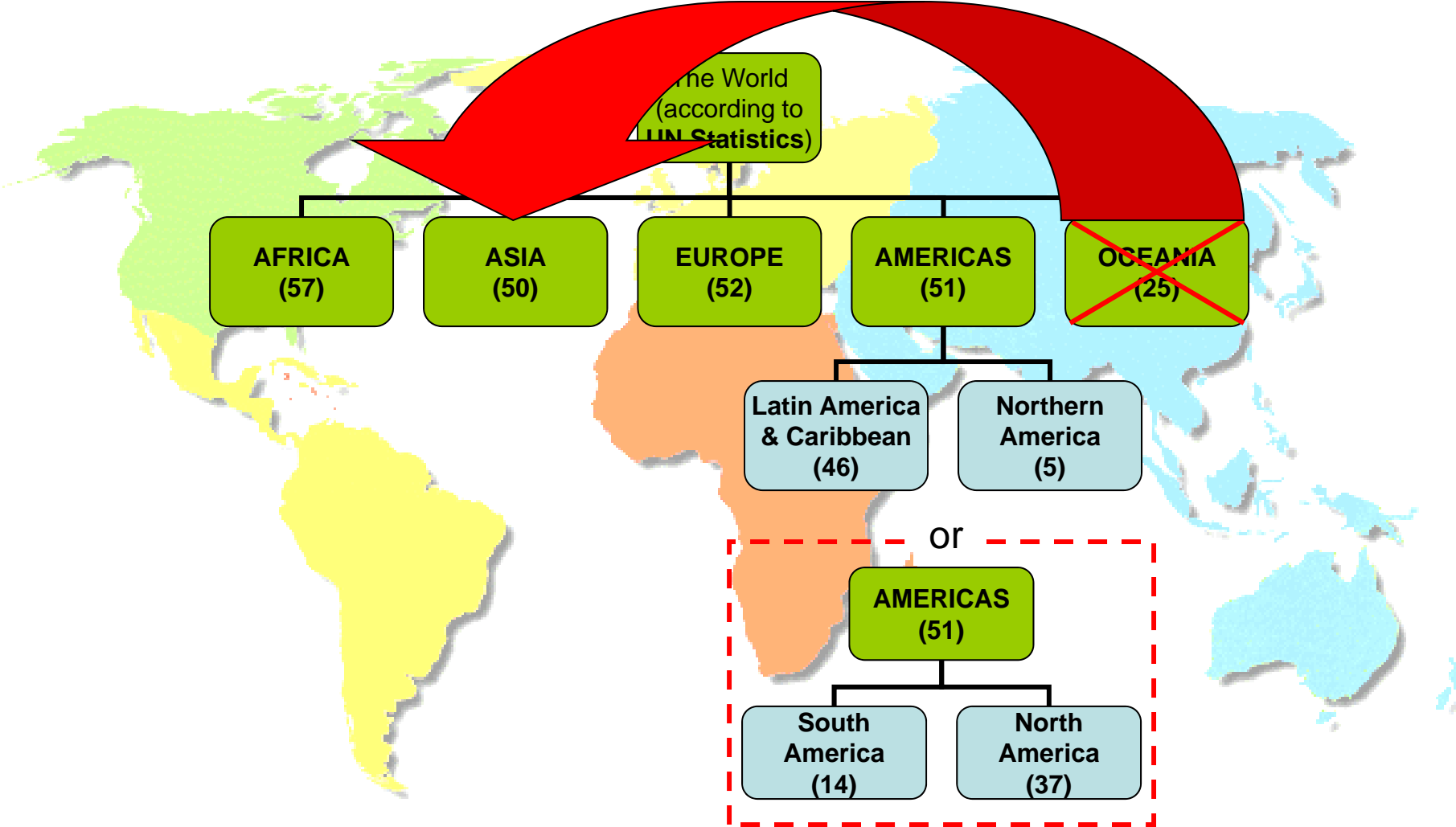
# From UN Statistics to ICANN



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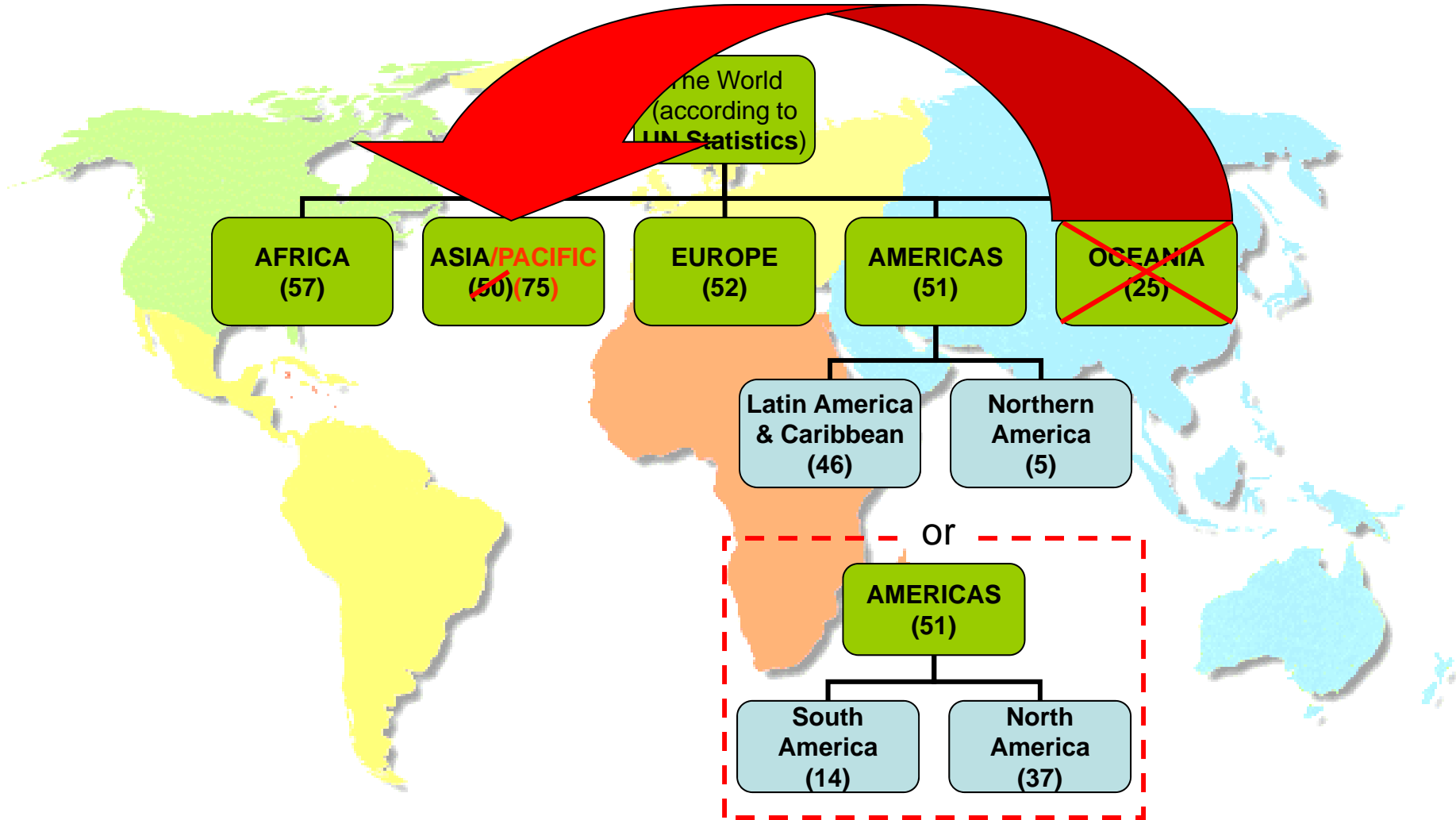


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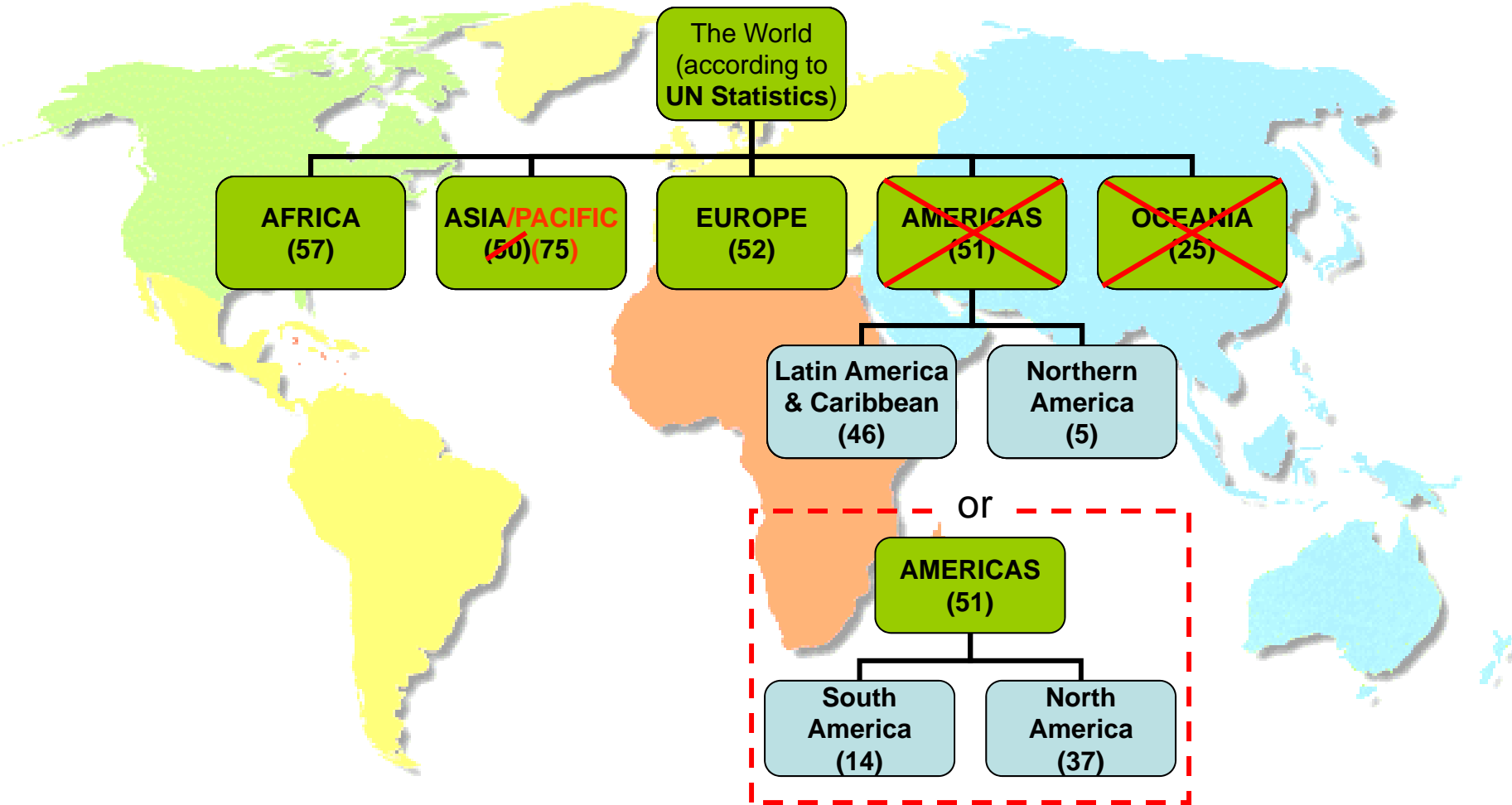




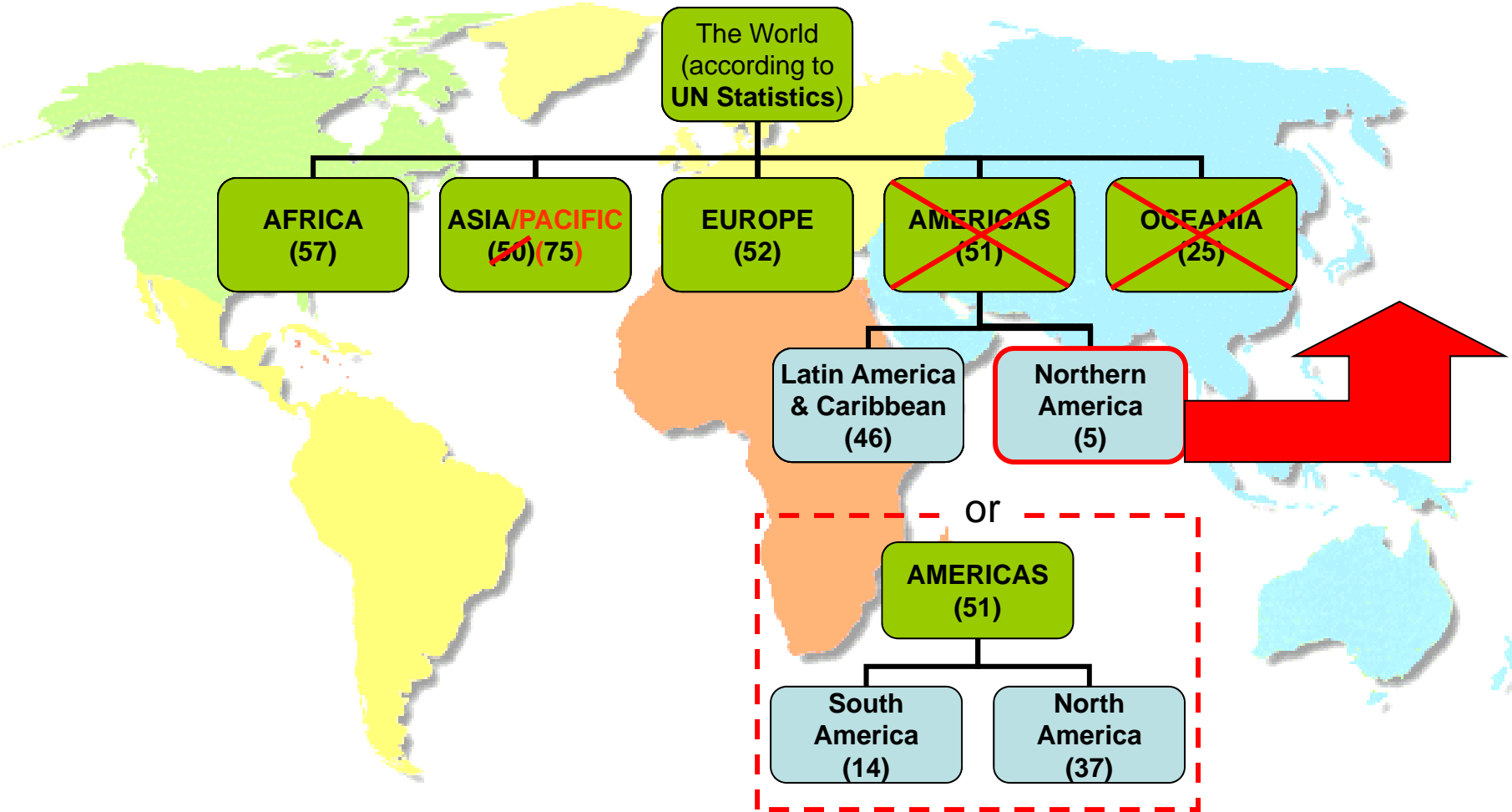
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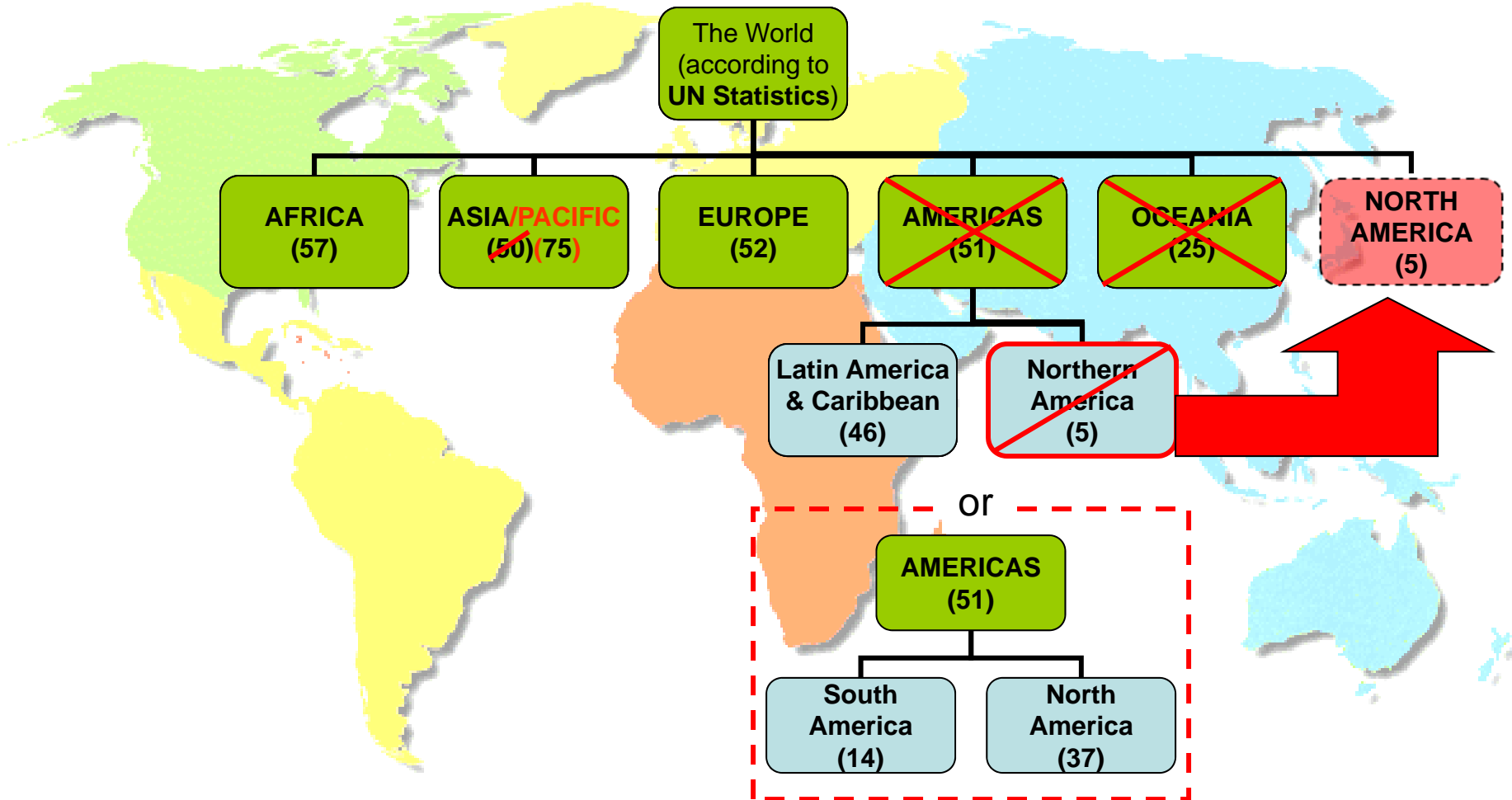
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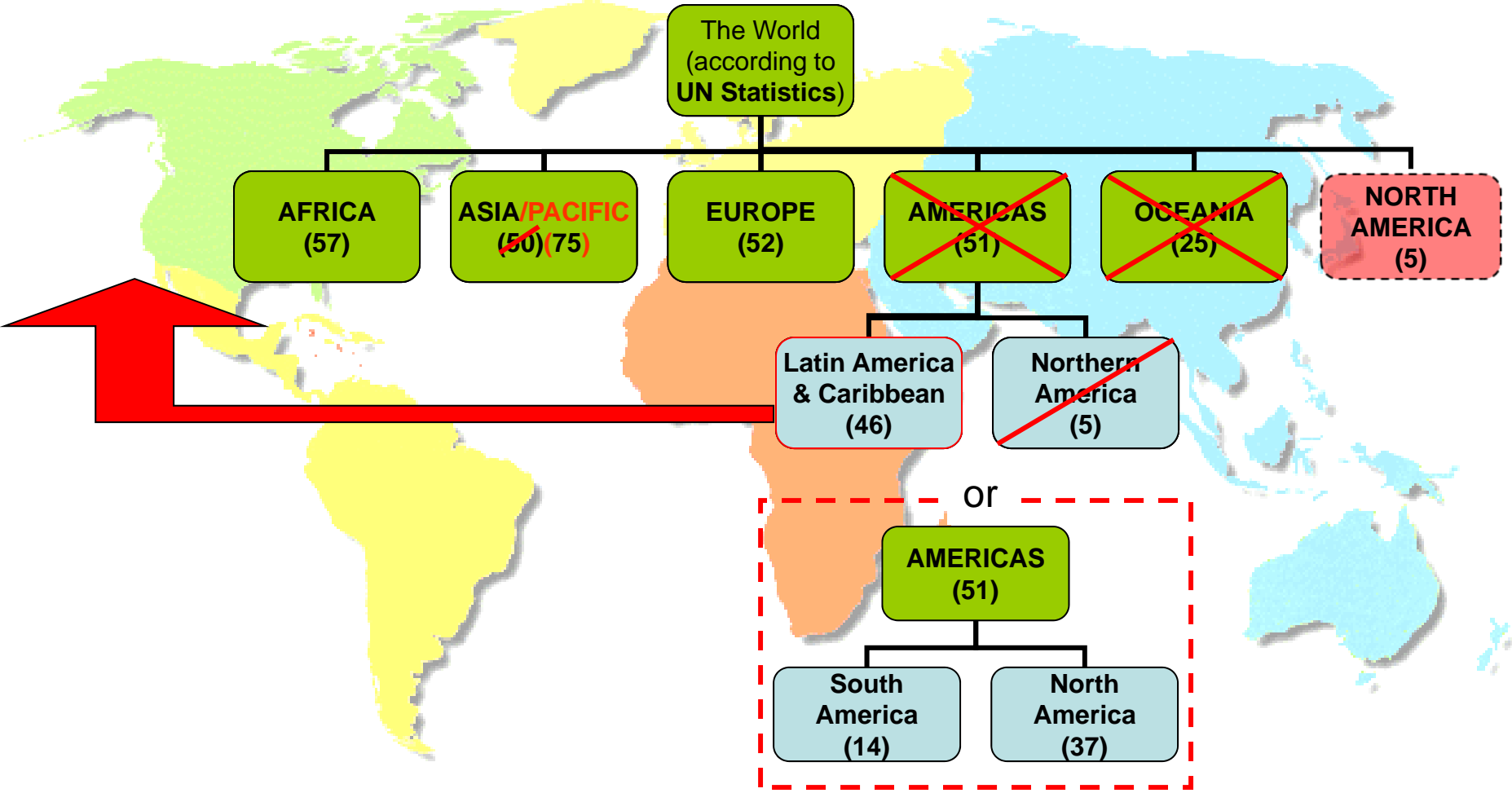
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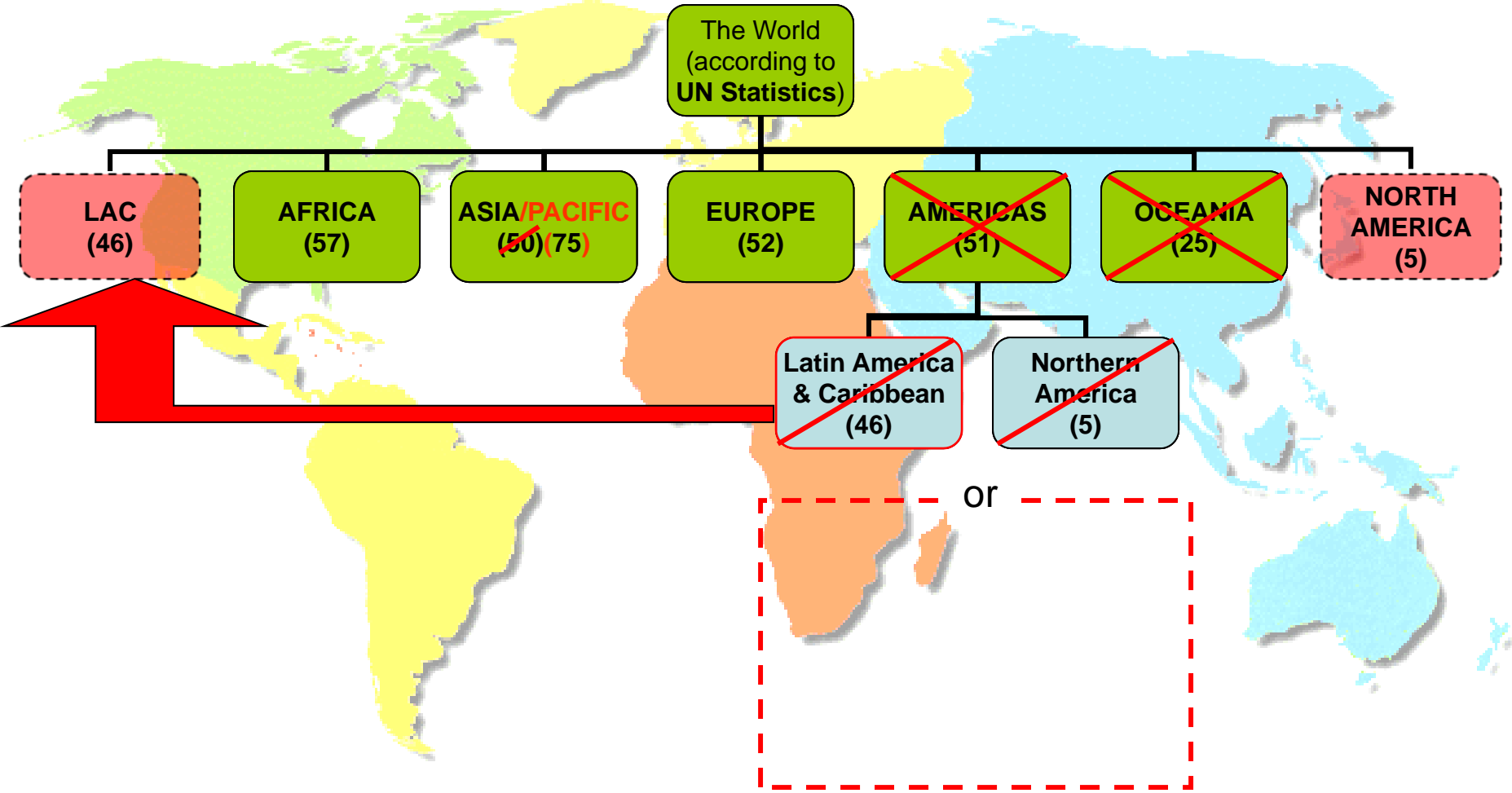
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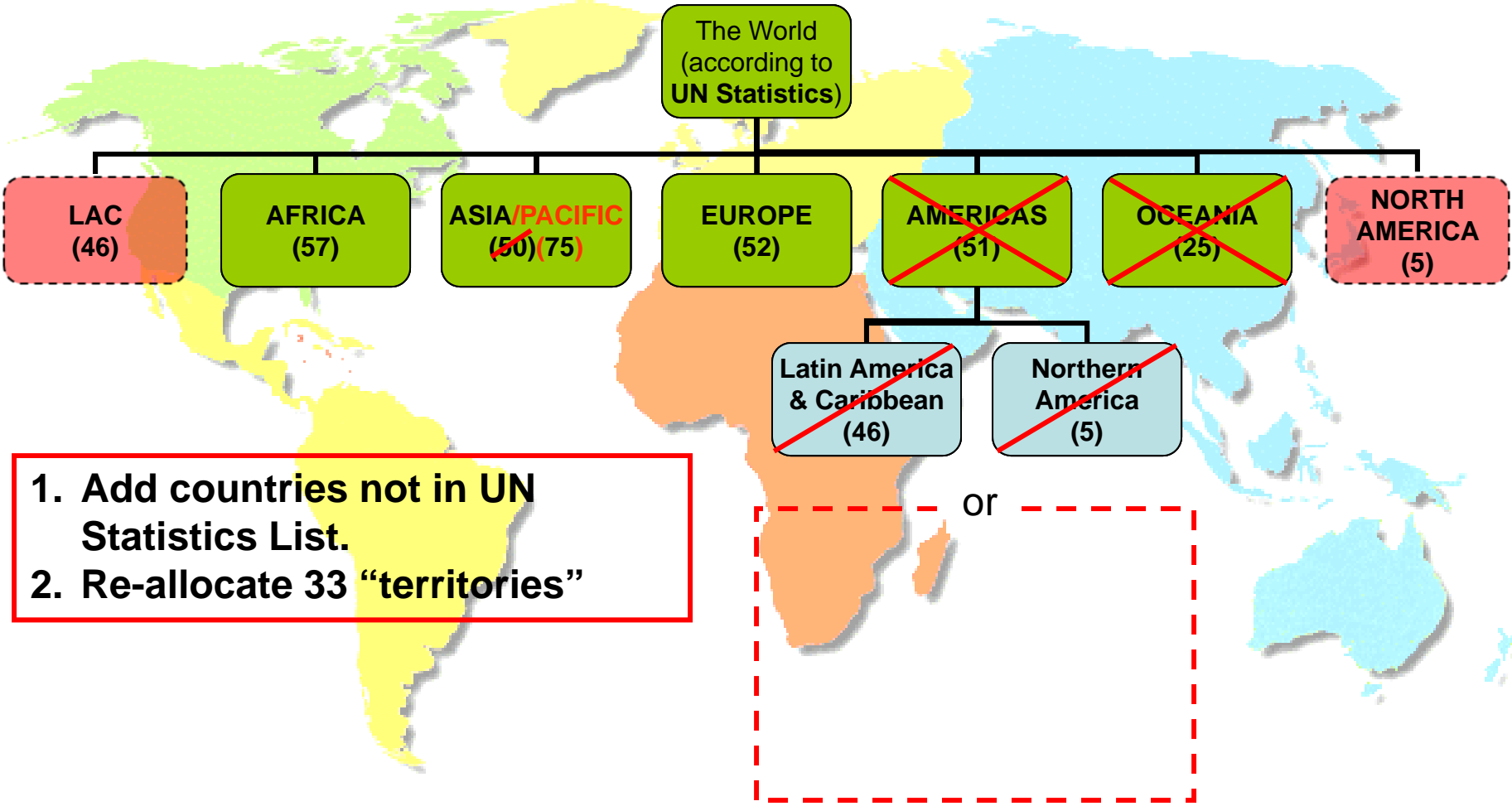
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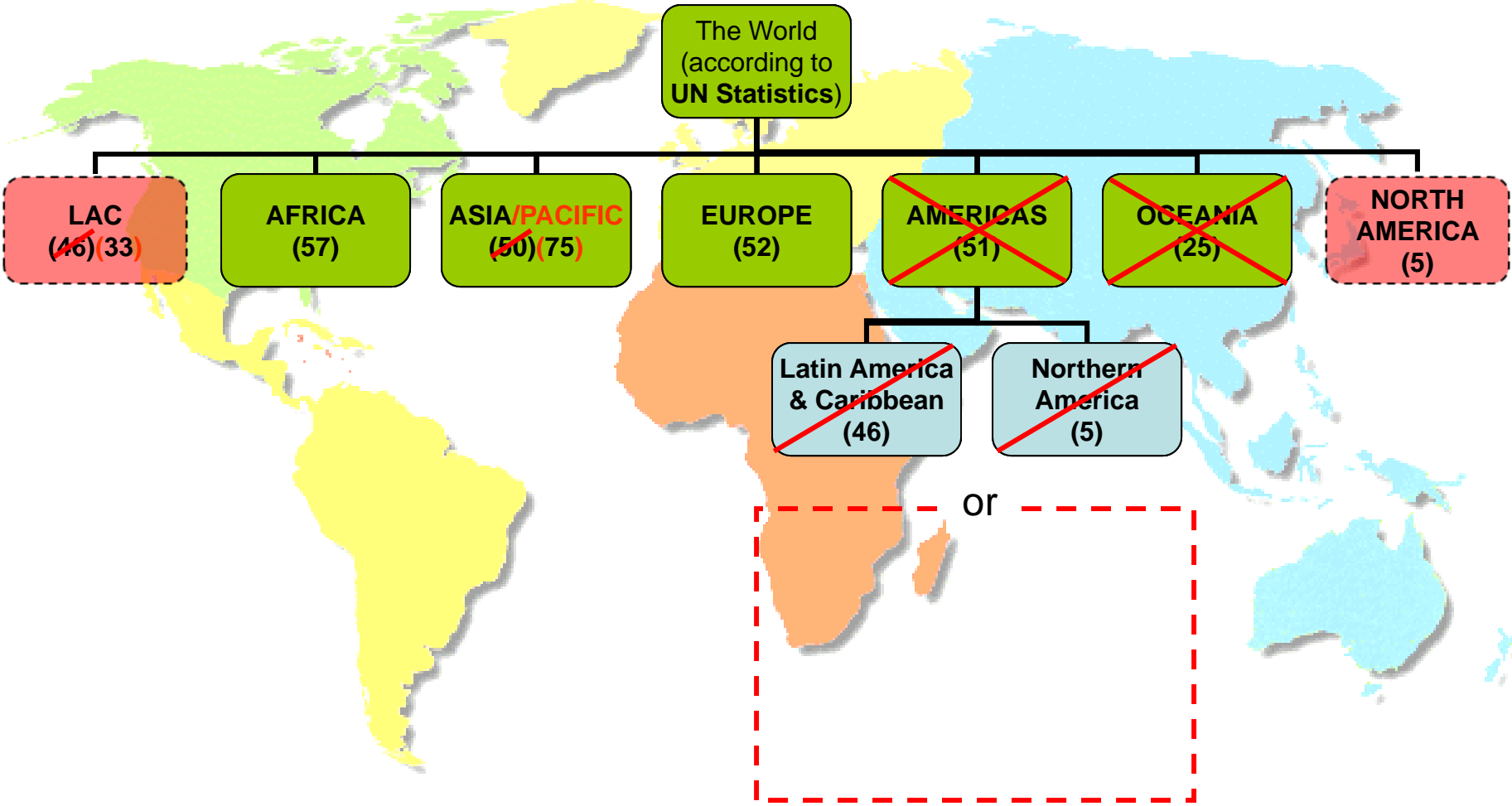
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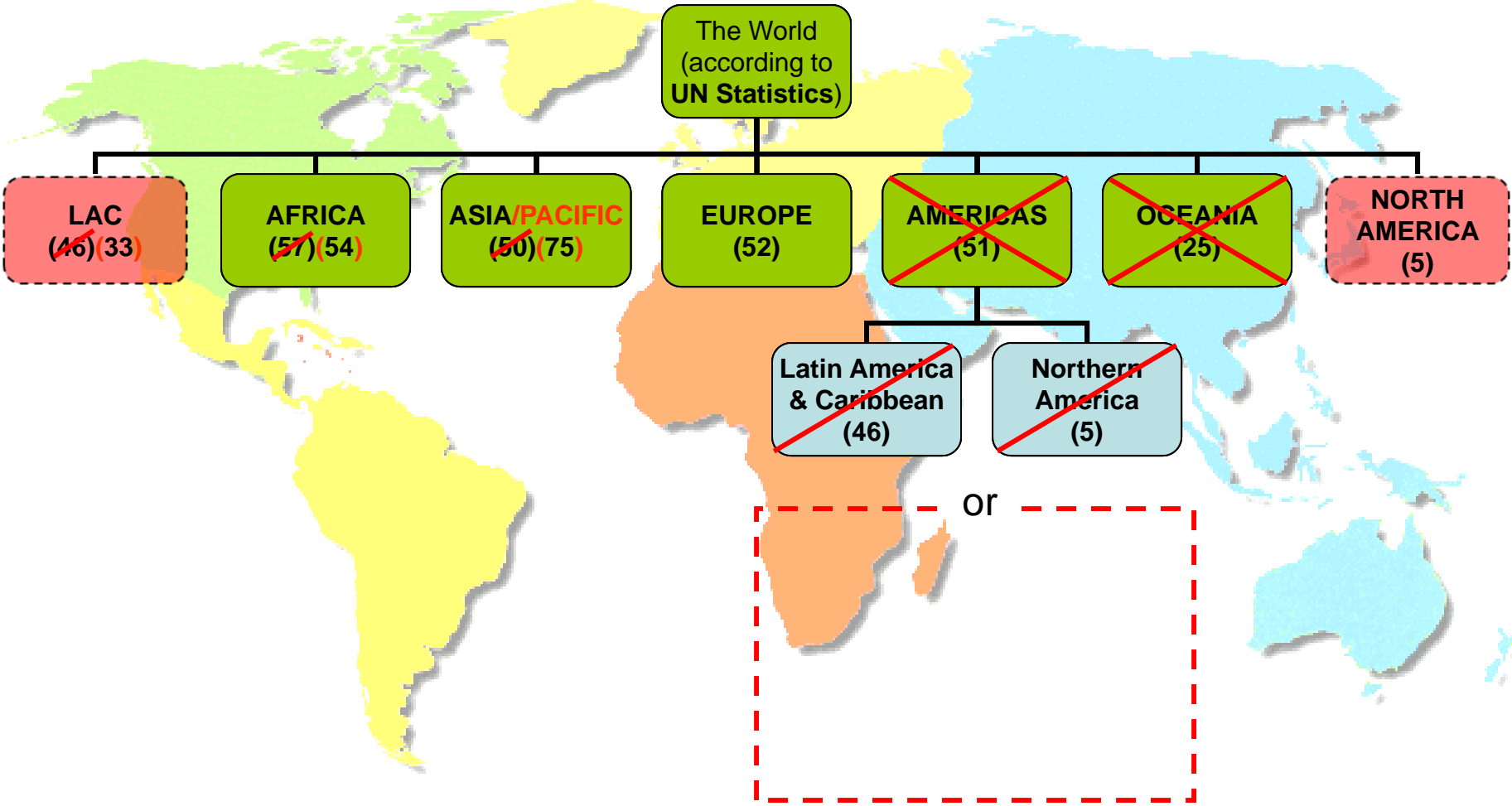


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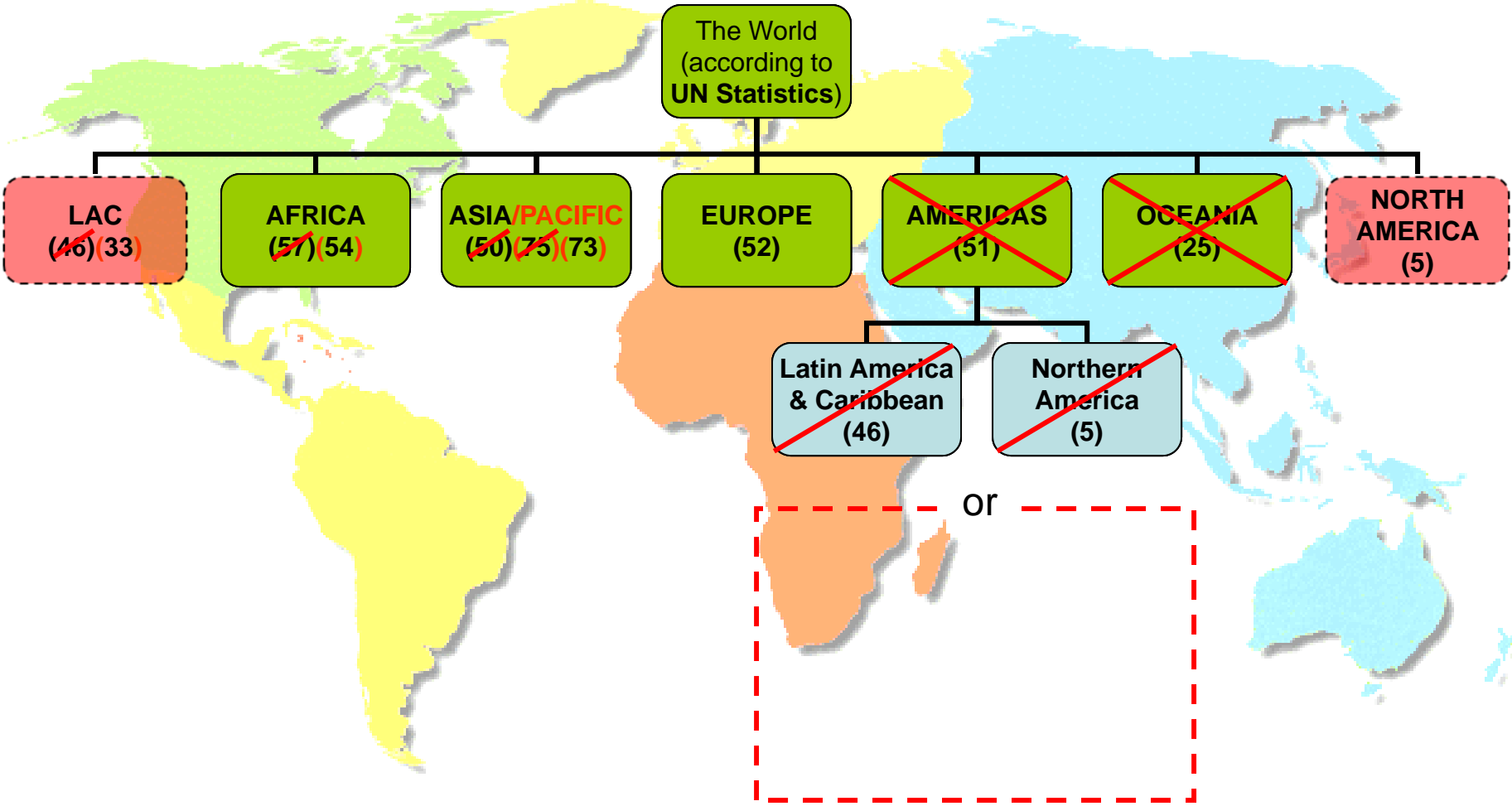




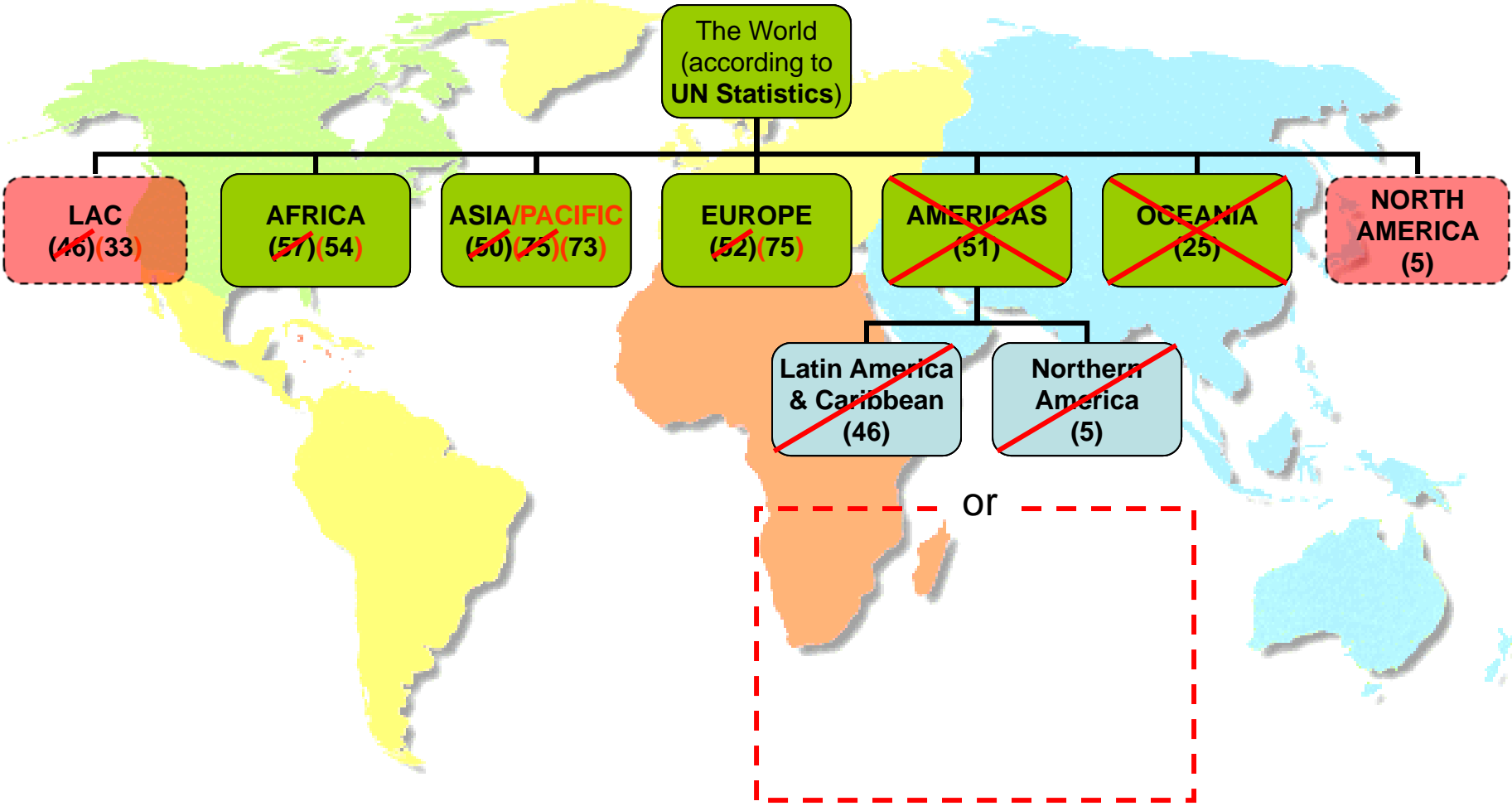
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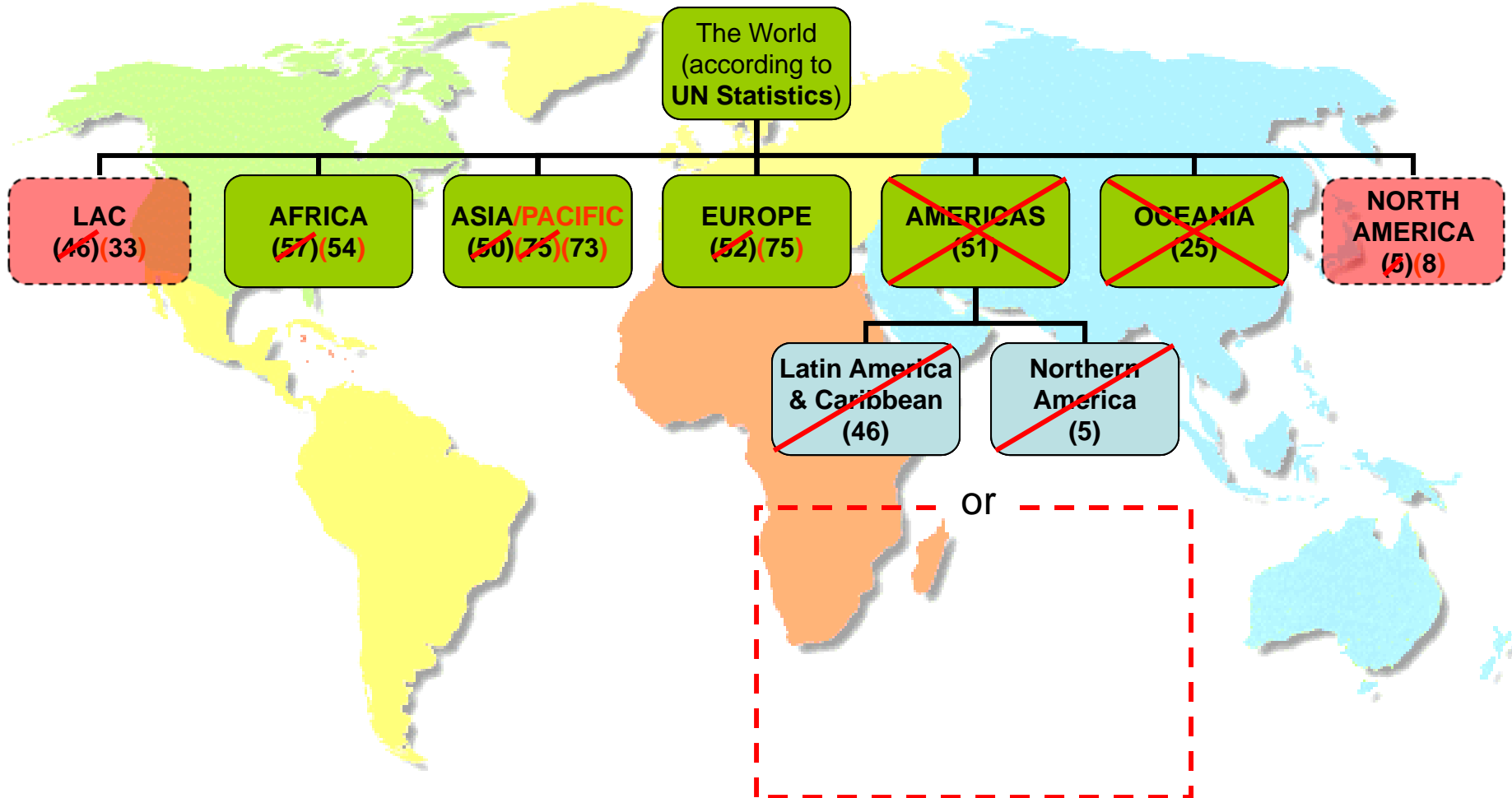
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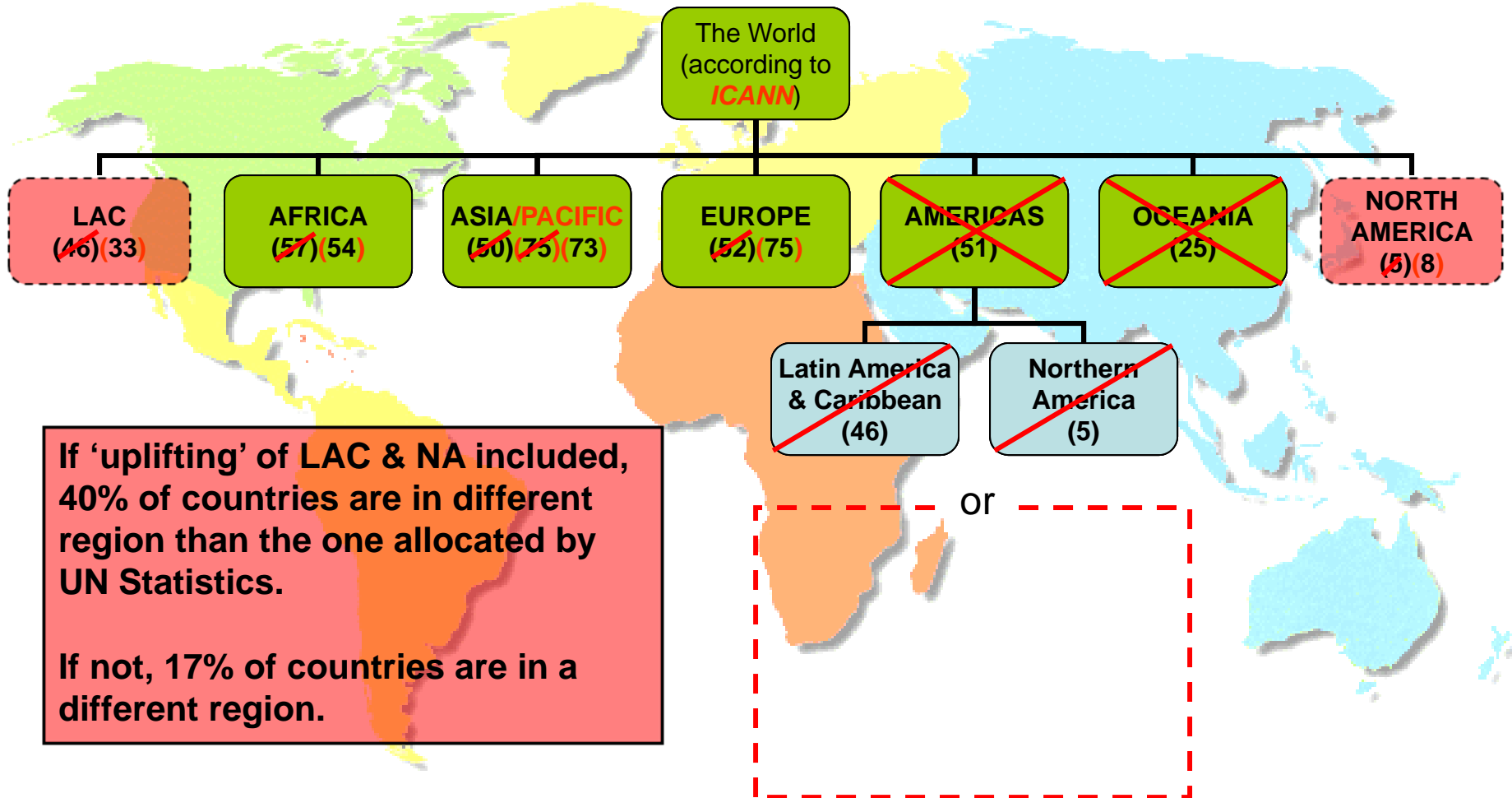
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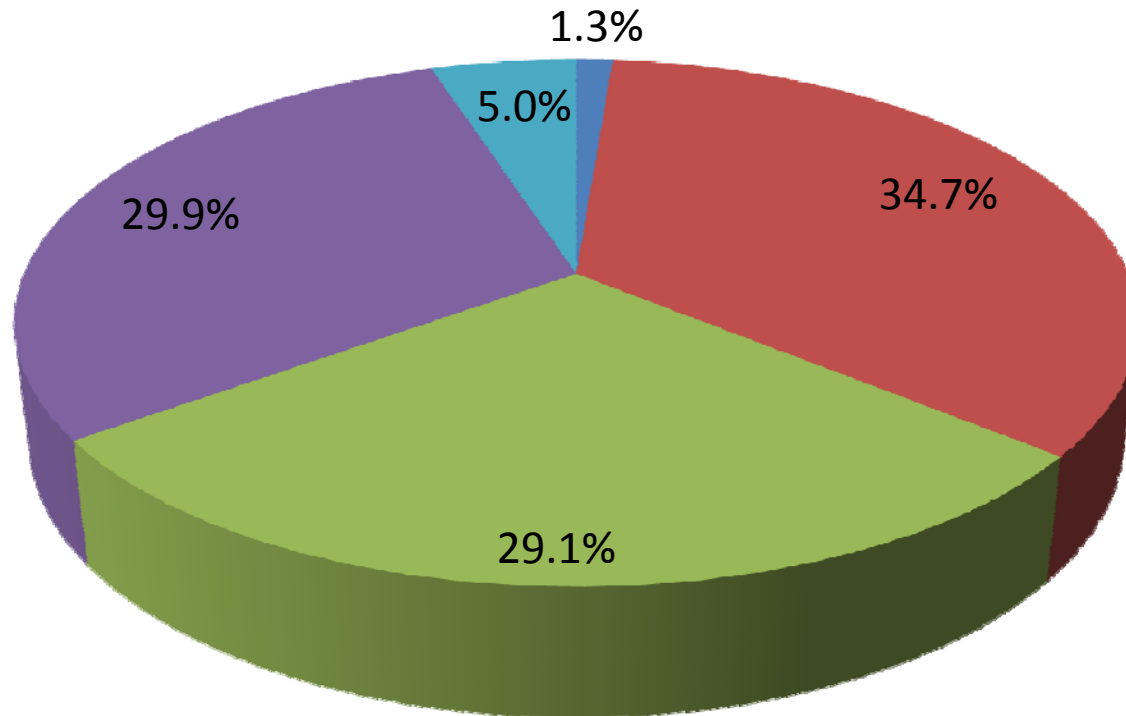


# Internet User Statistics

ICANN Regions	Population ( 2009 Est.)	Dec. 31, 2000		Latest Data	
		Internet Users	% of Total	Internet Users	% of Total
Africa	991,002,342	4,514,400	1.3%	86,217,900	4.8%
Asia/Australia/Pacific	3,808,070,503	125,209,280	34.7%	843,855,936	46.8%
Europe	803,850,858	105,096,093	29.1%	425,773,571	23.6%
North America	340,831,831	108,096,800	29.9%	259,561,000	14.4%
Latin America/Caribbean	586,662,468	18,068,919	5.0%	186,922,050	10.4%
<b>WORLD TOTAL</b>	<b>6,767,805,208</b>	<b>360,985,492</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,802,330,457</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

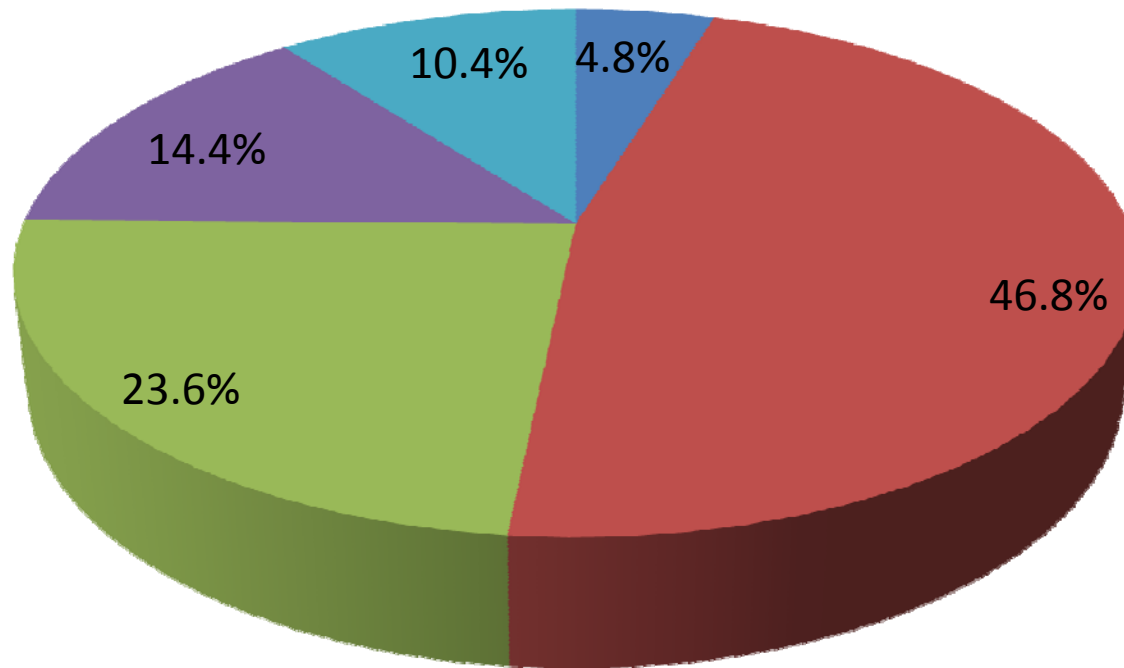
Source: [www.internetworldstats.com](http://www.internetworldstats.com)

# Percentage of Users by Region (2000)



■ Africa ■ Asia/Australia/Pacific ■ Europe ■ North America ■ Latin America/Caribbean

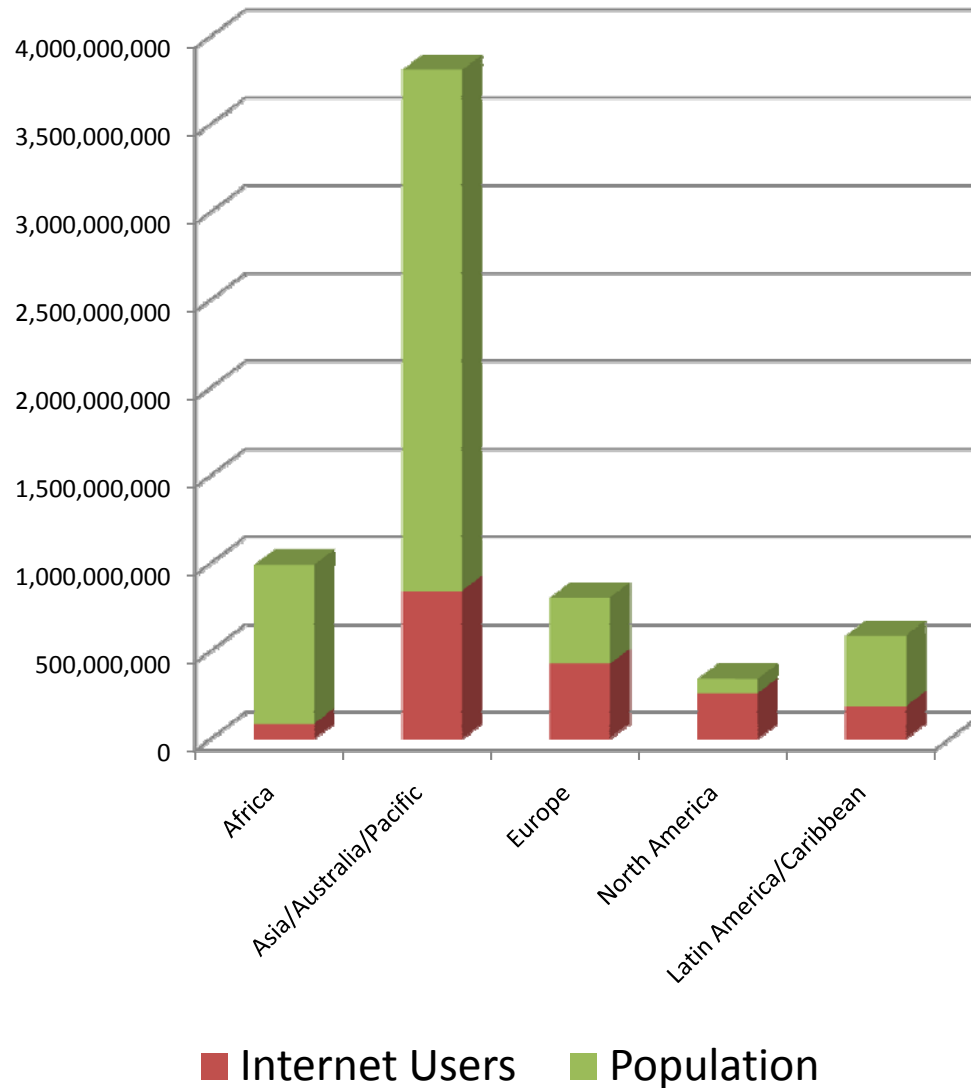
# Percentage of Users by Region (2009)



■ Africa ■ Asia/Australia/Pacific ■ Europe ■ North America ■ Latin America/Caribbean



# Potential for User Growth by Region



# Original Goals

1. Geographic diversity
2. which reflects geographical diversity of the Internet and which is
3. flexible enough to continue to reflect the constituency of Internet stakeholders as it changes over time.
4. And the structure is ICANN specific rather than the independent authoritative list that was sought
5. And it does not comply with “international norms”
6. And it was not properly authorised by the Board.

# “International Norms”

- The UNDP uses:
  - Africa,
  - the Arab States,
  - Asia and the Pacific,
  - Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and
  - Latin America and the Caribbean
- The UN Economic and Social Council uses:
  - Africa,
  - Europe,
  - Latin America & the Caribbean,
  - Asia & the Pacific, and
  - Western Asia.

# “International Norms”

- The ITU Council uses:
  - America,
  - Western Europe,
  - Eastern Europe and Northern Asia,
  - Africa, and
  - Asia and Australia.
- The ITU (BDT) uses:
  - Africa,
  - Asia & the Pacific,
  - Arab States,
  - Europe,
  - the Americas, and
  - the Commonwealth of Independent States.

# “International Norms”

- The ITU Telecommunications Bureau (BR) uses:
  - Africa
  - Americas
  - Asia
  - Europe and
  - Others
- The ITU Radiocommunications Bureau (BR) divides the world into Zones 1 (Europe and Africa), 2 (The Americas) and 3 (Australasia).

# Questions 1

- *Are ICANN's current Geographical Regions consistent with international norms? Are there other structures equally or more consistent with international norms? Would dynamic, ad hoc groupings be consistent with international norms?*
- *Do the present ICANN Geographic Regions, and their use, enhance or detract from ICANN's goal of reflecting the functional, geographic, and cultural diversity of the Internet at all levels of policy development and decision-making? What changes, if any, could be made to better reflect the cultural diversity of the Internet?*

# Questions 2

- *Do the present ICANN Regions take into consideration the varying needs and concerns of different regions, and do ICANN Regions and the selections based upon them provide the opportunity for those needs and concerns to be represented? [GNSO]*
- *Do the present ICANN regions balance the three goals of diversity of representation, ease of participation, and simplicity? [GNSO]*
- *Do the present ICANN regions enfranchise both existing and future users? [GNSO]*

# Questions 3

- *Does the present allocation of countries to regions recognise the sovereignty and right of self-determination of states? [ccNSO]*
- *The present single set of designated regions for ICANN adds to simplicity but is this balanced with the evolving needs of ICANN's supporting organisations and other bodies? [GNSO]*
- *Does the sheer size and diversity of some of the present Regions create difficulties for meaningful participation in regional dialogues for smaller and lesser-developed countries and resource-poor ccTLD managers?*