Introduction to ISO 3166

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Overview

- Disclaimer

- ISO Organisation

- ISO 3166 Details

- ISO 3166 Terminology

- Lifecycle of some Alpha-2 Codes

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Disclaimer & Hat

- Member of ISO 3166 MA & TC46/WG2

  - Icann delegate

  - All opinions are mine

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ISO Standards

- Voluntary—No International law or treaty

- Helps to be consistent in use of objects

  - Promotes interchange of goods and ideas

    - Can also protect markets
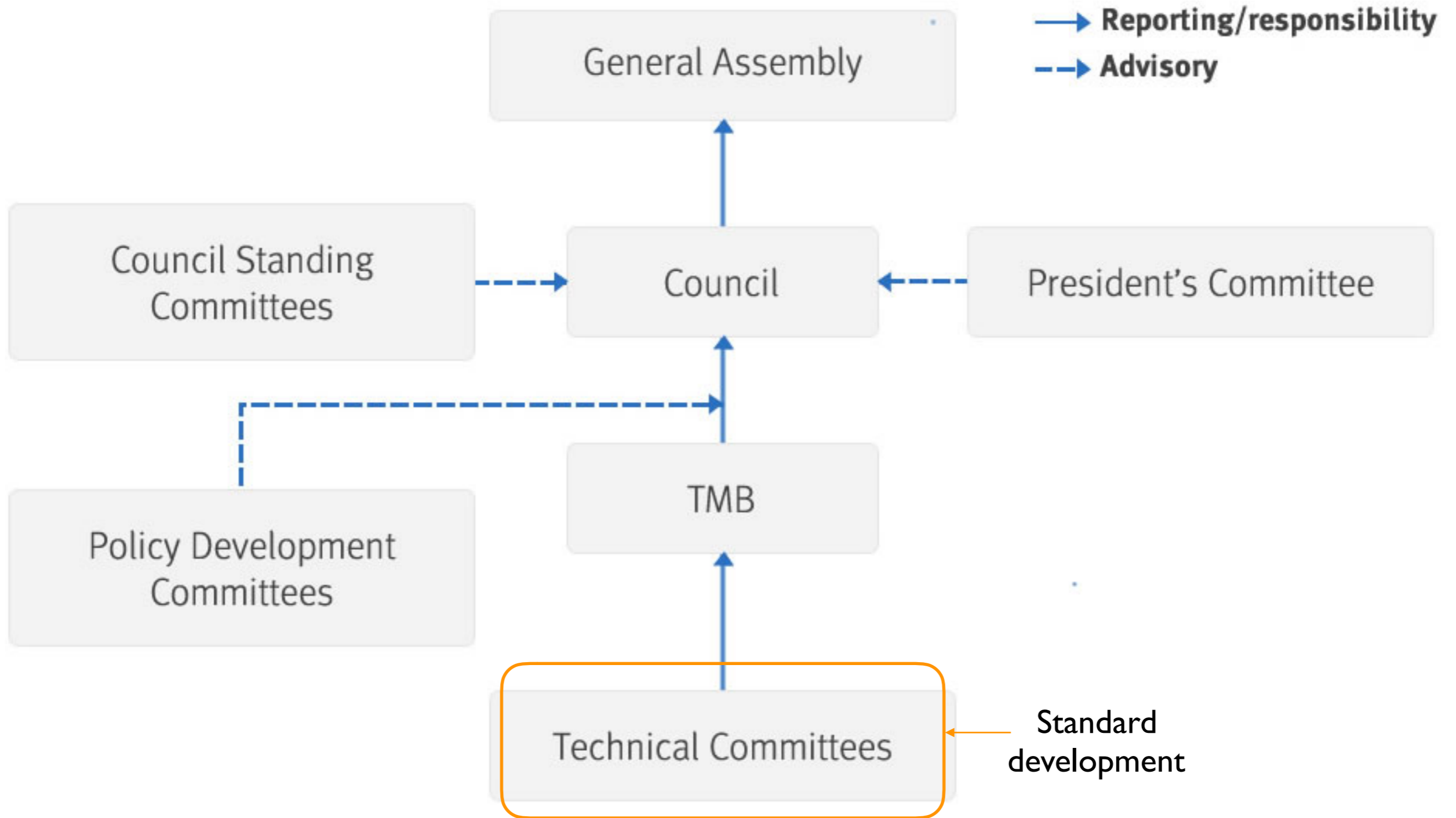
- Cost reductions

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ISO Organisation

- Non-governmental International membership organisation

  - One member per country

- Standardises Anything

  - Technology & (Business) processes

- Cooperates with IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission)

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ISO Members

- Standard body representing a country

- Full Member

  - Votes, develops, implements & adopts

- Correspondent Member

  - Observes, implements & adopts

- Subscriber Member

  - Observes

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ISO governance structure

General Assembly

Council Standing Committees → Council ← President's Committee

→ Reporting/responsibility
--→ Advisory

Policy Development Committees

TMB

Technical Committees — Standard development

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Technical Committees

- Examples:

  - JTC 1—Information technology

  - TC1—Screw heads

  - TC46—Information and Documentation

  - TC 176—Quality management and quality assurance

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TC 46

Information and Documentation

- Members

  - Participating: 38

  - Observing: 32

- Subcommittees (SC), Working Groups (WG), Maintenance Agencies (MA)

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ISO/TC 46/WG 2
Coding of country names and related

- "Owner" ISO 3166

  - Can make substantial changes of the standard

- Changes ratified by TC 46

- ± 25 members

  - ICANN Liaison type D—Information only

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Codes for the representation of name

- Part 1: Country Codes

- Part 2: Country subdivision Code

- Part 3: Code for formerly used names of countries

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"Letter" Codes

- Alpha-2 codes
  - AA to ZZ

- Alpha-3 codes
  - AAA to ZZZ

- Alpha-4 codes
  - Combination of former used codes and/or other codes

Eligible Entities

- Independent territories

  - UN members

  - Geo political interesting areas

    - Subdivisions Of Part 1 eligible for Part 2

- Note: All areas administrative entities

  - Not just Geographical names

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"Number" Codes

- ## Numeric-3 codes

  - ### 000 to 899

    - Not ISO: Assigned by UN Statistics Division M49

- ## Numerical representation or the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code elements

  - ### 1101 to 1876

    - (but the first 1 may omitted in closed systems)

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Codes Types

- Officially assigned (249)

- Other Codes (407)
  - Exceptionally reserved (12)
  - Transitional reserved (7)
  - Indeterminately reserved (30)
  - Formerly used (22)
  - Unassigned (336)
  - Escape code (1)

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Reservation styles

- Exceptionally reserved

  - Is an Exception so no rules

- Transitionally reserved

  - Duration of reservation is unpredictable and up to MA

  - Guideline is 50 years max.

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User-assigned code elements

- AA, QM to QZ, XA to XZ, and ZZ

- AAA to AAZ, QMA to QZZ, XAA to XZZ and ZZA to ZZZ

- numbers 900 to 999

- not guaranteed to be unique

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Purpose of 3166

Scope: for use in any application requiring the expression of current country names in coded form

country name: name of a country, dependency, or other area of particular geopolitical interest

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Uses of alpha-2

- Travel documents
  - ICAO DOC 9303 (machine readable passports)

- Finance related
  - ISO 4127 (Currency codes)
  - IBAN (International bank number)
  - Swift or BIC codes
  - ISO 6166 (International Securities Identifying Number (ISIN)).

More Uses

- Credit card companies for (local) credit cards (3166-2 codes)

- Trade related

  - UN/LOCODE—Trade and Transport Locations

  - UPU S42 and postal distribution centers

  - AS 4590-2006—Interchange of client information

Maintenance Agency

- Body which maintains the "ephemeral" part of a standard

- Maintenance of contents; editorial changes
  - Saves the full process for trivial changes

- 14 voting members, ±50 non-voting experts

- Registry per ISO standard (or part of)

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Names & Codes

- Names mainly from UNTERM

  - They do change

- Codes should have some relation to (short) names

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Code changes

- Countries do split (CS 2x)

- Major name change (RH)

- Countries merge (DD, VD)

- Territories change

  - Changes in Statehood (NL, AN)

  - Still in "limbo" (Kosovo)

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Merging countries

- German Democratic Republic

  - Now Part of entry Germany

  - DD is Unassigned, alpha-4 code: DDDE

- Viet-Nam, Democratic Republic of

  - Now Part of entry Viet Nam

  - VD is Unassigned, alpha-4 code: VDVN

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Name Change

- Zaire is now Congo, (the Democratic Republic of the)

  - ZR: Transitional reserved, alpha-4 code: ZRCD

- Upper Volta is now Burkina Faso

  - HV: Unassigned, alpha-4 code: HVBF

- Southern Rhodesia is now Zimbabwe

  - RH: Indeterminately reserved for Haiti (UN Road sign convention)

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Splitting Countries

- Pacific Islands split into Marshall Islands (MH), Micronesia (FM), Northern Mariana Islands (MP), Palau (PW)

  - PC: Unassigned, alpha-4 code: PCHH

- Gilbert and Ellis Islands (GE) is now Kiribati (KB) and Tuvalu (TV)

  - GE: Assigned to Georgia, alpha-4 code: GEHH

Splitting CS

- Czechoslovakia (CS) into Czech (CZ) and Slovakia (SK)

  - CS: transitional reserved, alpha-4 code: CSHH

and then YU got divided …

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Splitting YU

- Name changed from Yugoslavia to Serbia and Montenegro (CS). Former Yugoslavia was divided into Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA), Croatia (HR), The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK), Serbia and Montenegro (CS), Slovenia (SI)

  - YU transitionally reserved, alpha-4 code: YUCS

- Reuse of CS that quickly was bad idea; code still in use in various code systems

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Splitting CS #2

- Divided into Serbia (RS) and Montenegro (ME)

  - CS transitionally reserved, alpha-4 code: CSXX

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Splitting SU

- Divided into a lot (AM, AZ, EE, GE, KZ, KG, LV, LT, MD, RU, TJ, TM, UZ).

  - BY & UA were already coded

- SU exceptionally reserved, alpa-4 code: SUHH

Statehood changes

the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Aruba   Curaçao   Sint Maarten   Netherlands
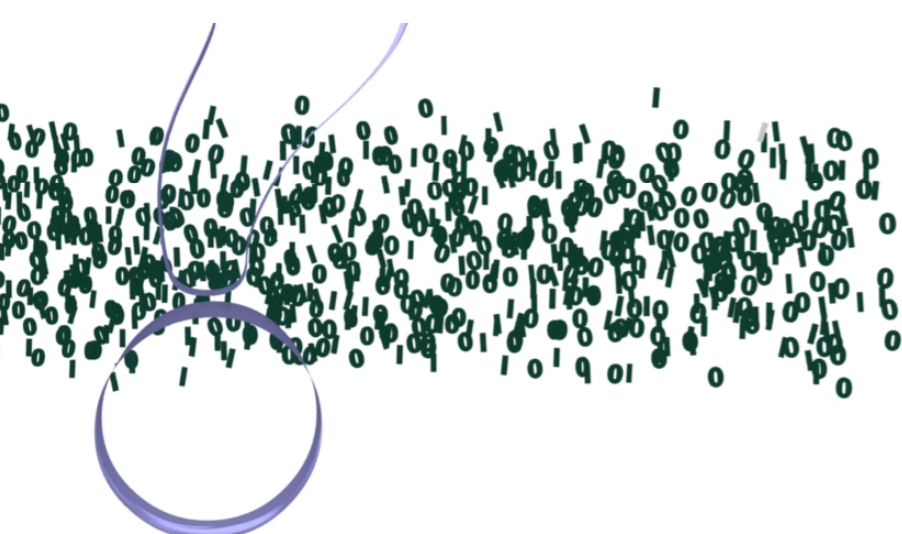
Boniare   Sint Eustatius   Saba

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Dutch Antilles AN

- Aruba

- Bonaire

- Curaçao

- Saba

- Sint Eustatius

- Sint Maarten (Dutch Part)

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Dutch Antilles

- Aruba "status aparte" 1986 begot AW

- Curaçao "aparte" 2010-10-10 begot CW

- Sint Maarten (Dutch Part) now SQ

- Bonaire

- Saba

- Sint Eustatius

} 2010 BQ, BES
Special NL municipalities

Questions?

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