

Governance in R8 related to Zones

Antonio Luque, Past Director

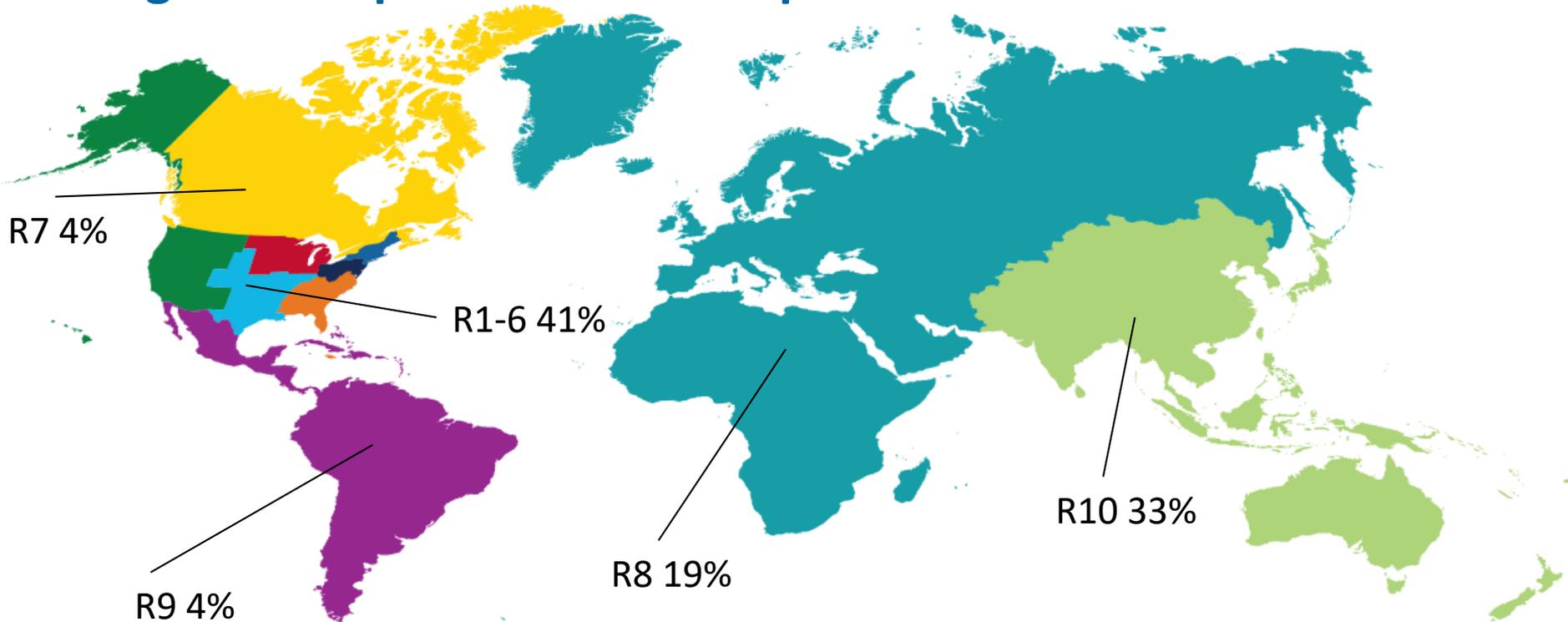
120th R8 Committee meeting, Bucharest, Romania, March 2023

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Regional map and membership



Current status

- Realignment of the Regions was approved at MGAB and BoD in November 2022.
- Region 10 splitting into new Regions 10 and 11, Regions 1 and 2 merging into new Region 2, effective 1 January 2028.
- Zones in R10 (until 31 December 2027) and in R8 (forever in principle).
- Zone representative as voting member of MGAB.
- Consensus was that zones would not add complexity to the hierarchical structure of geo units.
- Zone representative is a position at MGAB, where R8 will have two members according to its size, and where geographical diversity will be guaranteed thanks to the zone distribution.

Governance

- MGA OpMan 9.2

Zones may be formed in Regions by the MGA Board for better representation of their members. The Zone boundaries shall be approved by the MGA Board.

In Regions with Zones, the Region shall appoint a Zone Representative to the MGA Board.

The method of appointment of Zone Representatives shall be specified in the Region bylaws.

The Region Director and Zone Representative shall originate from different Zones in their Region.

Region 8 shall have Europe, Greenland, Turkey, Israel, and the countries of Asia north of Iran, west of Pakistan, north and west of Afghanistan, and north of Mongolia and China, as Zone 8.A, and Africa and the countries of Asia located west of Pakistan and not included in the previous definition as Zone 8.B.

Governance

- As specified in the manual, the zone representative shall provide better representation of Region members.
- The Region shall appoint the zone representative using a method specified in our Bylaws.
- We currently have no such provision in our Bylaws.
- In 2022 the R8 Committee decided to extend the term of the zone representative until end of 2024.
- New appointment will be needed during 2024 and it would be good to have the method of election already in the R8 Bylaws.

Discussion

- Collect the feeling of the R8 Committee and other volunteers present about all processes related to the zone representative in the Region.
- With them, a proposal for changes to R8 Bylaws and R8 Operations Manual will be prepared by OpCom for discussion and potential approval during the 121st R8C meeting in Ottawa.

New Voice for IEEE Members in Region 8

Antonio Luque, IEEE Region 8 Past-Director

IEEE is geographically organized into 10 Regions that cover the whole world. The number 10 is not “magical” but has a long history within the organization and is not likely to change. What can change, however, are the borders between Regions and the way that the members living in each of them can share their voice and participate in the global governance and decision-making processes in IEEE.

Nevertheless, this distribution of the IEEE geographic Regions has not been modified since the '80s of the last century. At that time, it was decided that Region 8 covers Africa, Middle East and Europe, while Region 10 consists of the part of Asia and Oceania. Other Regions, 1-7 and 9, cover the rest of the globe. Much has changed in the world since then, and IEEE membership is no exception to that. While in the 20th century most of the members lived and worked in the US, the situation is different now. Membership in R8 and especially in R10 has grown considerably, now outnumbering the other Regions. Since the members of each Region elect one Delegate and Director to sit on the MGA Board and the IEEE Board of Directors, this led to a situation where the diversity present at the Boards did not accurately represent the diversity and breadth of IEEE membership.

Steps had been taken to change this, and after a few years of work, in November 2022 the Board of Directors decided to change, for the first time in 40 years, the way members are represented in the governing bodies of IEEE. Region 10, the largest in terms of membership, will be split into two Regions starting in 2028, while Regions 1 and 2 will be merged into one. In addition, starting in 2023, Region 8, as the second largest, will be represented by two seats on the MGA Board, to accommodate its size and the number of members. The MGA Board is the body that oversees IEEE membership and the activities of geographic units worldwide. This is good news for the IEEE members living in this part of the world, who will have an additional voice on the MGA Board.



Image credits: IEEE Region 8

Time for discussion

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