

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION
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SPECIAL STUDY GROUP G –CONTRIBUTION 2**Source:** Mauritius**Title:** Considerations for GTO to remain in Geneva**ABSTRACT**

Creation of the Global Telecommunication Organization (GTO) to replace the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) raises issues regarding GTO structure, working methods and funding. This contribution proposes that both the administrative headquarters and operational headquarters of GTO remain in Geneva.

1. Introduction

In response to changing conditions, the United National High Commission on Structure (UNHCS) has proposed that a new, globally-oriented GTO replace the existing International Telecommunication Union, and that the operations of the GTO no longer remain headquartered in Geneva. A decentralized GTO would relate better to developing countries and creates the opportunity to improve efficiency and reduce energy consumption.

2. Discussion

There seems to be no controversy that the administrative headquarters of the GTO, as the successor organization to the ITU, should remain in Geneva. However, the proposal to decentralize the GTO and move its operations outside Geneva would lead to inefficiencies and loss of influence within the United Nations family of agencies, many of which have their main location in Geneva. Even though a great majority of the membership is located outside the Geneva area, travel to a developed area, such as Switzerland, is much simpler for the overall membership than travel to less developed areas, and the presence of well-managed and well-maintained operational facilities provides the membership with a meeting environment conducive to getting the work done.

Additionally, the effectiveness of the GTO, as in any organization, will depend on the quality of its supporting staff and infrastructure. If the majority of the GTO staff is eliminated without any clear replacements, wherever located, the effectiveness with which GTO can serve its members will be severely restricted. The proposal to locate new staff in remote locations, whether fixed or rotating among multiple countries, will create disruptions as well as inter-regional and inter-national conflicts rather than providing a harmonious organization with common goals, common operating procedures, uniform labor agreements and the like.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that the Special Study Group G recommend to the UNHCS that a decentralized structure should not be implemented for the new GTO.