

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION  
TUTORIAL****STUDY PERIOD 2010-2013****English only  
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**STUDY GROUP SPECIAL G – CONTRIBUTION 5****Source:** Iran**Title:** Oppose having only e-meetings

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**ABSTRACT**

E-Meetings may have its advantage in reducing the GTO's carbon footprint, expenses, and in making use of modern technology. However, there are practicality and feasibility aspects worth considering especially when a global collaboration is called for.

**INTRODUCTION**

In order to cut cost and reduce the GTO's contribution to carbon emissions, having virtual meetings seems to be the ideal solution. Nevertheless, advanced as a technology might be, all problems cannot be addressed and resolved. To sacrifice spending could still bring forth an entirely new problem to the success of GTO in achieving its mission & visions. The view expressed in this contribution is not to oppose e-meetings entirely but to propose a combination of both physical and virtual meetings.

**E-MEETINGS ONLY: REASONS TO OPPOSE**

The following enumerates reasons to oppose having e-meetings only:

1. Global e-meetings raise questions on the timing of virtual collaboration so that each individual from different time-zones can rendezvous at the same time as others;
2. For some MSs, having sufficient high-speed electronic communication facilities to participate in effective, global electronic meetings will actually increase costs;
3. Members could host physical meetings at no additional cost to GTO;
4. Physical absence leads to a less conducive environment for a meeting; how does a chairman judge the 'mood of the room' when they cannot see everyone? Is the principle of "silence is agreement" applicable to such environment? etc.

**CONCLUSION**

As a recommendation, we propose that meetings held for GTO should not resort to electronic means entirely. Apart from time-zone and infrastructure cost factors, human-related factors are not to be excluded. Human accents and expressions are difficult to perceive especially across borders. Using e-meetings as a medium of communication will add more "friction" to it. It is the best interest of every member that a global decision or consensus to be achieved with minimal misconceptions as possible. Therefore, taking advantage of both means (physical and virtual meetings) will increase efficiency of our collaborative efforts globally.