

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION
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SPECIAL STUDY GROUP G –CONTRIBUTION 7**Source:** India**Title:** Decentralization of the GTO

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 supports the United National High Commission on Structure proposal that the operational side of GTO be moved out of Geneva and decentralized.

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. The UNHCS has found that there has been a demographic shift in membership, participation and work programme from a Euro-centric organization to an Asia-Pacific-centric organization. This is reflected not only in MS activities but in the shift in membership and participation by Sector Members (SM) and Associates. As a global organization with active participation from many countries and regions, its operations must reflect this fact.

2. Discussion

It is clear that most of the participants to GTO meetings have to travel great distances, at considerable cost and commitment of time away from their offices and homes. It is no longer acceptable that a fixed location, and in particular, a fixed European location, be the main meeting place for this organization. The disadvantage to non-European members is so great that many, especially those from developing countries, have not been able to participate.

To enable members from all over the world, and especially from the developing countries in every region, to contribute to the work of the GTO, it is essential that the operations be decentralized and no one region be given an advantage over any other region. Meetings must be held in different countries to the maximum extent possible and even the location of the administrative headquarters should be considered for relocation to other regions on a rotating basis.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that the operational activities of the GTO be decentralized with an aim to equally engage all regions in its ongoing meetings and activities. One central location to which all members are forced to attend is a concept which can no longer be accepted.