

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION
TUTORIAL**

STUDY PERIOD 2010-2013

**English only
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Algiers, 27 September 2011

STUDY GROUP SPECIAL G – TEMPORARY DOCUMENT 11

Source: Chairman, Special Study Group G

Title: Report of Special SG G meeting, 27 September 2011

1. Introduction

Special SG G met in Algiers, Algeria on 27 September 2011. The agenda and work plan for the meeting are shown in TD2R1 and TD3R1, respectively. The list of participants is shown in Annex 1 and TD6 provides the list of documents.

2. Background

TD1, containing background information on the recommendations of the United Nations High Commission on Structure (UNHCS) to restructure the ITU and replace it by a new Global Telecommunication Organization was introduced. The UNHCS requested this SG to study three issues relating to the location, working methods and funding for the GTO:

2.1 Issue 1 - Location

To better accommodate and reflect the composition of the GTO, the UNHCS has decided that the GTO operational locations should be decentralized to better meet the needs of its membership.

2.2 Issue 2 - Working methods

To reduce the carbon footprint of the GTO, save money and take advantage of modern technology, all meetings of the GTO will be electronic, virtual meetings.

2.3 Issue 3 - Funding

Given decentralization and electronic working methods, the current annual budget of 150M CHF will be reduced to 100 M CHF. What new funding mechanism is recommended that recognizes the new structure, demographics and focus of the GTO?

3. Structure of working groups

SG G authorized creation of four Working Parties (WPs) to consider these matters, with Terms of Reference given in TD4R1. The SG appointed the leadership for these WPs as follows:

WP1: Mr. Abossé Akue-Kpakpo, Chair

WP2: Mr. Imad Elhajj, Chair

WP3: Mr. Paul Odoi, Chair; Ms Taous Benmimoune, Vice chair

WP5: Mr. Mohammad Bader, Chair; Ms Khadidja Ben Bouchaib, Ms Hayet Bendjebara, Vice chairs

3.1 Document Allocation

Document allocation to the WPs, as approved, is shown in Table 1, below:

WP	Contributions	TDs
1	C- 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 38, 73, 75, 82, 83	3R1,4R1
2	C- 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 31, 32, 33, 40, 41, 69, 78	3R1,4R1
3	C-7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36, 43, 44, 45, 52, 70	3R1,4R1
5	C-4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 31, 32, 33, 40, 41, 69, 78	3R1,4R1

Table 1 - Document Allocation

4. Working Group results

The reports of WP1, WP2, WP3 and WP5 are shown in Annexes 2 to 5, respectively.

5. Study Group proposals

Considering the reports of the WGs, the SG approved the following proposals to UNHCS:

5.1 Location issue

The report of Working Party 1, as shown in Annex 2, was introduced by the WP1 Chairman. Following discussion by the Study Group, amendments were made to the WP1 proposals and the following were agreed as recommendations of the Study Group:

- Having the administrative headquarter of GTO in Geneva
- Implementation of permanent offices of GTO outside headquarters for running regional activities and hosting meetings
- Having rotating meetings in the different parts of the world.

5.2 Working Methods issue

The report of Working Party 2, as shown in Annex 3, was introduced by the WP2 Chairman, who responded to questions for clarification. The report of Working Party 5, as shown in Annex 5, was then introduced by the WP5 Chairman, as it addressed the same Work Methods issue. Following questions for clarification of the WP5 proposals, the Study Group discussed the similarities and differences between the proposals of the two Working Parties.

After recognizing and removing some duplication in the proposals of the Working Parties, areas of common agreement were identified. These included, e.g., holding both virtual and physical meetings. Some issues were unresolved, such as the amount of time for advance notice of a meeting and availability of the draft agenda, accommodation of the time zone differences among participants in virtual meetings, and appropriate decision-making criteria that could be based on the type of meeting and the priority of the issue under discussion.

The Study Group agreed to recommend the following:

- Hold both virtual meetings and physical meetings, where some meetings can have simultaneous physical and virtual attendance
- GTO must ensure all representatives have access to necessary tools available for unhindered access to e-meetings.
- Means of convening virtual meetings – For Further Study
- Decision-making in virtual meetings – For Further Study

5.3 Funding issue

The report of Working Party 3, as shown in Annex 4, was introduced by the WP5 Chairman. Following questions for clarification and subsequent discussion of the observations and recommendations of the Working Party, Study Group G agree to recommend the following:

- Retain the current choices of classes of contribution for developing countries and least developed countries;
- Encourage the gradual increase of their class of contribution over 10 years, as an objective,
- Increments in contributions to the GTO should be on a case by case basis depending on the ability to contribute.

6. Conclusion of the meeting

The chairman thanked the participants for their cooperation in reaching a harmonized set of proposals which took into account the wide range of views submitted to the SG as well as the views and proposals provided by the UNHCS. The chairman thanked the chairmen and vice chairmen of the Working Parties for their effective leadership and reports on the work of the working parties. Finally, the chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the Study Group to the Secretariat for their excellent preparations and support of the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1755 on 27 September 2011.

Annex 1 – List of Participants

(to be provided by Secretariat)

Annex 2 – Report of WP 1

Algiers, 27 September 2011

SPECIAL STUDY GROUP G – TD 7

Source: Working Party 1 - Location

Title: Report of Working Party 1

The working party met in room 1 from 11h to 16h, on 27th September 2011, in Alger. 28 persons coming from 13 countries attended the meeting. 17 contributions have been received by the management team.

The main topic is the location of the GTO and the decentralization of its activities. After the presentation of the contributions and the discussions the working party agreement on the following points:

- Having the head quarter of GTO in Geneva
- Implementation of permanent representation in the regions
- Having rotating meetings in the different regions

The working party proposes a creation of a committee to make a study to take a better advantage of the decentralization and propose a guideline of better practice and propose working method, including electronically method. This study should be completed in 4 months. Members of the working party 1 are encouraged to participate in the study. A good mix of members from developing and developed countries is encouraged to participate in the study.

SPECIAL STUDY GROUP G – TD 8

Source: Working Party 2 – Work Methods

Title: Report of Working Party 2

Request

The SG G is requested to consider further the proposal that GTO hold only electronic meetings, in particular the time-zone and decision-making aspects noted above, and make a recommendation to the UNHCS by the end of this calendar year on its implementation.

Discussion

The issue of exclusive e-meetings was discussed. Some contributions were for exclusive e-meetings and some for a combination. The issue of time duration, meeting starting time and decision making was discussed.

Proposal 1:

Unopposed agreement to hold a combination of virtual and physical meetings with potential to moving to all e-meetings in the future based on the assessment of the process. Proposal to hold e-meetings early in the discussion process to close the gap and for low priority decision making phase and physical meetings at the high priority decision making phase. ITU must assure all representatives have access to necessary infrastructure required for e-meetings.

Proposal 2:

Unopposed agreement to have offline e-meetings for issues requiring long term and to guarantee same duration of meeting for all participants in all time zones.

Unopposed agreement to have online e-meetings for discussion and limited duration issues. All delegates must be given opportunity to participate just as in physical meetings. These online e-meetings must have a preset duration indicated by the chairperson.

Proposal 3:

Unopposed agreement to have the starting time of online e-meetings be synchronized between participants in different time zones.

Proposal 4:

Unopposed agreement to have decisions during e-meetings via disagreement emails. These decisions would be limited to low priority issues as agreed upon by the group. High priority decisions would be left for physical meetings.

Annex 4 – Report of WP 3

Algiers, 27 September 2011

SPECIAL STUDY GROUP G – TEMPORARY DOCUMENT 9

Source: Working Party 3 - Funding

Title: Report of WP3

1.0 Background

The annual budget of the GTO is 100 million CHF. Approximately 30% of the budget is derived from sources like sale of as sale of publications, development grants and SM dues leaving a balance of 70 Million CHF which needs to be collectively contributed by all Members. Working Party 3 considered various funding mechanisms for funding of GTO.

2.0 Issues considered

- a) Proportional contributions for all GTO Member States;
- b) Equal contributions for all GTO member States; and
- c) Funding from Government and Industry.

3.0 Members present

Paul Odoi-New Zealand, Taos Benmimoune-Columbia, Mohamed El Amine - France, China, Cheikkh Tijani Ould Oudaa - Mali, Serge Fundi Etelebongo - Poland, Rym Nouha Boutekedjiret - Malaysia and Observers from ITU and various countries.

4.0 Conclusion and recommendation

Through general consensus the Working Party 3 reached the following conclusion and recommendations:

- a) Working Party 3 recognizes that not all countries are at equal levels of development;
- b) Working Party 3 recognizes that currently not all countries can afford to contribute equal amounts to GTO;
- c) Working Party 3 recommends that developing countries should pay a minimum of 50% of the CHF 368,000 with the rest being paid equally by the other countries;
- d) Working Party 3 recommends that contributions to the GTO will be decided in-house by the country. The decision of taxing private operators, increasing license fees or government paying should be left to the country;
- e) Working Party 3 recommends that the payment by developing countries should be increased gradually and after a period of not more than 10 years all countries should pay the same fee to GTO.
- f) Increments in contributions to GTO should be on a case by case basis depending on ability to contribute.

Paul Odoi
Chairman, Working Party 3

Taous BENMIMOUNE
Vice Chairperson, Working Party 3

SPECIAL STUDY GROUP G – TEMPORARY DOCUMENT 10

Source: Working Party 5 – Work Methods

Title: Report of WP5

Working Party (5) Report

Decisions of WP5

After series of meeting of the WP5, a consensus has been reached on the following:

1. The GTO meetings may be organized
 - a. To be attended physically in line with the existing norm
 - b. To be attended only virtually where it become absolutely necessary, and
 - c. If MS demands, GTO can arrange for simultaneous physical and virtual attendance

2. Where virtual attendance is so arranged,
 - a. That the date of meetings should be published 4 weeks in advance
 - b. The Agenda of such meetings should be published at least 2 weeks in advance
 - c. The meeting should allow un-hindered participation for those attending virtually

3. All decisions should be based on Consensus

4. Any proposal to meetings which requires a resolution must be notified to MS at least 2 weeks in advance.
