

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION
TUTORIAL**

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Title: Support decentralization, but with some flexibility

Abstract

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. This contribution supports decentralization and presents thoughts on flexibility to implement that proposal.

Introduction

As a majority of GTO members are located outside of Geneva, moving its operational locations outside of Geneva will offer several benefits for decision-making, for participation of members and for economic benefits that can be reached because operations will not be controlled by a centralized control structure but distributed to several locations around the globe. The proposal, however, does not address how or where to locate the operational organizations. Some ideas are presented to implement this concept.

Advantages of decentralization

Decentralization of GTO into the regions where its membership is located will present the most benefits and would be the best option to move forward.

Firstly, by moving the operations of GTO from a centralized location to multiple physical locations GTO will present an opportunity of growth for developing nations in the specific regions. Moving in this direction will empower regional locations to have a greater sense of responsibility and control on the operations of GTO.

Secondly, each region would have a different growth model, requirements & needs. It would be hard for a central control structure in Geneva, or one single virtual location, to address each and every single issue faced by each region. GTO has to be relevant to every region in the globe. Decentralizing would be the best option as its operations would enable each region to focus into these areas and work out a solution or plan for it.

Thirdly, countries in each region would be able to play a more active role in GTO's initiatives as the regional hubs will be more accessible and is a more economical option. As travel would be mostly within its region, cost and time would be saved in meeting up for any GTO regional meetings.

If decisions are required to be made urgently and if global issues need to be discussed and decided, additional flexibility can be put in place to allow for tele/video conferencing and e-signature for documents to speed up the process.

Conclusion

GTO can move its operations into a decentralized structure as by doing so GTO would play a more relevant and active role in developing the telecommunications industry for each region. By using both a virtual and physical structure, it will promote growth in participating developing countries.