

**INTERNATIONAL INTERACTIVE
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STUDY GROUP SPECIAL G – CONTRIBUTION 1

Source: Benin

Title: Location issue - Support decentralization

ABSTRACT

This contribution expresses a supporting view of decentralization of location of the Global Telecommunication Organization (GTO), according to advantages in attracting participation of all countries in the work of GTO and saving cost of organizing GTO meetings.

1. Introduction

The United Nations has decided to create the Global Telecommunication Organization (GTO) to replace ITU. The Study Group Special G has been established and one task of this special group is to consider and make recommendations on the location of GTO. Some comments are noted that GTO operational locations should be decentralization to better meet the need of it membership.

2. Discussion

One of the main reasons for establishing the GTO to replace ITU is the need of globalizing the work of making and expanding application of international standards. Therefore, the location of this organization should facilitate all countries, including developing countries, and assist them in participating in activities of the GTO.

a) All the Member States (MS) and Sector Members (SM) are equal in participating in activities of the GTO. To reflect and facilitate this equality, there should have opportunities for any country to host GTO meetings. As a result, GTO meetings should be held in member countries on a rotating basis so that every country could take turns to host meetings and contribute more on both logistics and the work of GTO.

b) It is logical that the GTO has a permanent administrative headquarter. However, with support of hosting countries and help of modern communication media, all the staffs of GTO could do teleworking. There is no need of having regional representative offices to operate GTO meetings and events. The fact is that, in the trend of globalization and international integration, activity scope of one country is not limited in a specific geographical region. A MS and SM could be a member of a regional/international association or organization and wants to reflect common views and interests of that association/ organization. Improving the assistance and cooperation of regional telecommunication organizations such as APT (Asia Pacific), ATU (Africa) and CITELE (Americas) is more important than creating regional representative offices.

c) There are advantages of decentralization of GTO location, as follows:

- Cost effective: to reduce costs of maintaining regional and area representative offices; to utilize contribution of hosting countries on logistics.
- To increase the role and voice of MS when hosting GTO meetings and attract the contribution of hosting country in the work of GTO.
- GTO activities taken part in different countries with different levels of development lead to realistic and practical results, which meet the need of GTO membership.

3. Conclusion

Benin strongly supports decentralization of the location of the GTO. GTO could remain a permanent administrative headquarter in Geneva; however meetings should be hosted by MS on a rotating bases. There is no need of creating regional and area representative offices. Decentralization of the location of the GTO brings lot of advantages in comparison with holding meetings only in headquarter Geneva.
