

**INTERNATIONAL INTERACTIVE  
TRAINING SEMINAR**

**STUDY PERIOD 2010-2013**

**English only  
Original: English**

Kuala Lumpur, 1 July 2010

**STUDY GROUP SPECIAL G – CONTRIBUTION # 17**

**Source:** Republic of Mali (Khong-Neng Choong)

**Title:** Funding Issues on the Establishment of Global Telecommunication Organization

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**ABSTRACT**

Creation of the Global Telecommunication Organization (GTO) to replace ITU raises issues regarding GTO structure, working methods and funding. This proposal studies and provides recommendations particularly on the funding mechanisms.

**1. Issues identified**

There have been issues regarding the collection of dues as to fund the GTO operations as follows:

- Members do not participate in equal amounts;
- Members enjoy different levels of economic development;
- Approximately 30% of the budget is derived from other sources such as sale of publications, development grants and SM dues, with a MS balance of 70 Million CHF;
- Outputs and services of GTO are available equally to all Members;

**2. Comments on New Funding Mechanisms**

- To continue the existing two level of fees structures on membership – Sector Member and Associate. However, suggest imposing minimum attendance so as to force active participation from members. Active members should be given accumulated/earned discounts on subsequent membership fees based on their contributions to the standards development.
- Output and services of GTO should be differentiated at various levels. For example, to classify final standard documents into 2 versions – Basic and Full, with Basic as the free version while Full as a paid version. The Basic version provides the basic ideas on the topic and touches only high-level issues identified with no detailed descriptions on implementation, whereas the Full version comes with completion descriptions.
- Whoever sending the most participants should pay a proportionally larger share of the budget seems to be a straight-forward suggestion. However, these participants from the same organization should be given discount for group memberships and in subsequent renewal fees.
- Whoever adopted or incorporated the standards into their commercial products will need to pay certain amount of money (tax) back to the GTO.
- Having done all the above, the remaining budget shortage should then be equally collected from all members.

**3. Proposal**

It is proposed that in order to be equal to all members, while not ignoring the uneven contributions from different members, GTO should adopt some rewarding scheme as to track the contributions of members for consideration in subsequent membership fees. Also, GTO meeting should be held on rotational basis across different members' country to at least minimize average individual travelling.