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**STUDY GROUP SPECIAL G – CONTRIBUTION 51****Source:** Bahamas (Usman Sarwar)**Title:** Decision-making when there is remote participation in any meeting**Abstract**

GTO's working method recommends the electronic means of virtual meetings for participants joining from remote location due to various advantages such as time and cost. There is a concern for accomplishing effective decision making in the virtual meeting rooms. This proposal suggests several steps which will help for decision making in the virtual meeting environment.

**Discussion**

Video conferencing has been quite common in usage in recent year especially due to the Internet and enhancement of communication technologies. It is an effective tool for avoiding travel costs and time constraints for meetings especially between different geographical locations. The major issue is to use it as interactively as a real meeting especially for taking live feedback from different participants. Furthermore, another concern is the time difference between different locations. Following are the concerns for arranging virtual meetings:

- 1- Attendance and authenticity of participants in the meeting
- 2- Remote voting for decision making for chairman.
- 3- Off-line discussion between the delegates or meeting participant for resolving issues.
- 4- Judging the mood of the meeting room.

For arranging effective virtual meetings, this proposal suggests to customize existing video conference system according to concerns for virtual meetings. Following are the suggestions:

- 1- A secure authentication mechanism for the participants attending virtual meetings. This procedure can be achieved by employing various secure systems with the video conferencing system.
- 2- An Integration of an application module with the video conferencing system for various types of options such as real time voting system. This voting system can be triggered by the meeting chairman to instigate in-meeting opinion of the participants.
- 3- Customized application can also provide an option by which there can be sub-session of video conference between the delegations for resolving issues. By this method, participants can interact more freely with other participants.
- 4- Judging the mood of audience can be accomplished by giving an option to the chairman to view all the participants visually. This experience can also make the whole virtual meeting interactive and realistic.

**Conclusion**

This proposal concludes with the suggestion of using customized existing video conferencing solution which can resolve concerns with the virtual meetings such as consensus. By this approach, a global interactive communication system will help to share more ideas among the different members easily without any boundaries.

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