

**INTERNATIONAL INTERACTIVE  
TRAINING SEMINAR**

**STUDY PERIOD 2010-2013**

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**Source:** Malta

**Title:** GTO should not move from Geneva

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**ABSTRACT**

Malta opposes the decentralization proposal of the UNHCS and supports keeping the GTO located in Geneva.

**Introduction**

The United Nations High Commission on Structure has proposed, in order to reflect the global nature of the international telecommunications market, it is no longer appropriate for GTO to remain located in Geneva, but should adopt a decentralized structure with only a small administrative headquarters supplemented by a virtual organization distributed around the world.

**Discussion**

Malta has examined the proposal from the UNHCS and finds that it ignores many factors in the long and successful history of the Geneva-based organization. The effectiveness of the GTO, as in any organization, will depend on the quality of its supporting staff and infrastructure. If the majority of the GTO staff is eliminated without any clear replacements, wherever located, the effectiveness with which GTO can serve its members will be severely restricted. The proposal to locate new staff in remote locations, whether fixed or rotating among multiple countries, will create disruptions as well as inter-regional and inter-national conflicts rather than providing a harmonious organization with common goals, common operating procedures, uniform labor agreements and the like. It is also well-known that the source of highly skilled technical and clerical workers, and the proximity to world-class universities and research centers within some hundreds of kilometers of Geneva provides a source of potential staff members not easily replaced at this point by dispersing the operating departments of GTO around the world.

The GTO, as the successor to the ITU, would also have well-established buildings which provide a mature infrastructure to support membership meetings, staff offices and the extensive physical archives of the organization going back more than 100 years.

**Proposal**

Malta proposes that this Study Group report conclude that for the continuing efficiency and high-quality service of the GTO to its members, its administrative and operational headquarters remain in Geneva.