

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION
TUTORIAL****STUDY PERIOD 2010-2013****English only
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SPECIAL STUDY GROUP G – CONTRIBUTION 10**Source:** The Kingdom of Bhutan (Mohamed Haji)**Title:** Support for decentralization of GTO operations**1. Introduction**

The United Nations has decided to restructure the International Telecomm Union (ITU) and replace it with the proposed with Global Telecommunication Organization (GTO). Bhutan is a member state of the ITU currently and have faced a number challenges in participating in the work of ITU. This is largely due the vast distance to travel to attend meetings of ITU which are centralized.

2. Decentralization of operations of GTO

Following the decision by the United Nations High Commission of Structure (UNHCS) to replace the International Telecomm Union (ITU) with Global Telecommunication Organization (GTO), the Kingdom of Bhutan have the following points to make:

The needs and character of the ITU member states differ and therefore the operations of the new GTO should reflect this.

We support the headquarters of GTO be retained at Geneva but suggest establishment of regional centres where regional GTO meetings can be held and issues can be discussed. This is because regions have similar needs and environment and can move at similar pace among members from such region. We however note the existence of regional offices already. These existing offices may be enhanced with facilities and resources to support the proposed decentralization of GTO.

The advantage of establishing new and/or enhancing existing such regional offices support the initiative by ITU to establish as many regional study groups e.g. for study groups 12, 3 and 5. The role of this regional groups will be enhanced and more output expected.

Locating operational centres in regions reduce the cost of travel for member states like ourselves. This will obviously reduce the warming of climate as travels may be limited to regional, shorter flights rather than inter-continental flights.

In the past and currently, obtaining a visa to Geneva is an involving exercise for a number of member states. Visa issuance among countries in the same region is easier, faster or even not required. This will reduce travel arrangement burden.

In locating an operational centre in the regions GTO should consider the capacity and reachability of such centre by best available transport means including air travel and meeting facilities among other mandatory requirements for fruitful deliberations.

Considering all the above factors and issues, The Kingdom of Bhutan supports the decentralization of the GTO as discussed.