

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION  
TUTORIAL****STUDY PERIOD 2010-2013****English only  
Original: English**

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**SPECIAL STUDY GROUP G – CONTRIBUTION # 37****Source:** Estonia**Title:** GTO Operations location to be decentralized.

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**ABSTRACT**

To better accommodate and reflect the composition of the GTO, the UNHCS has decided that the GTO Operations should be decentralized to better meet the needs of its members. The view of this contribution sides strongly with the idea of decentralizing GTO operation as it will be more beneficial to developing countries.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Decentralization is the idea of delegating decision making authority down to the lower levels in an organization, away from the central authority. The reason being that the decentralized office can manage its own affairs locally while still taking commands from the head office. The GTO considers that there is need to decentralize the GTO operations because a great majority of its membership is located outside of Geneva and they could be better served.

**2. DISCUSSION**

The intention to move towards decentralization of GTO operations did not occur overnight, but from many years of ITU operational experience, particularly in area of service provision where not enough services were provided to its Member States especially in the developing countries. The following points support decentralization.

- a) That decentralized locations in the region will enable more participation by Member States in that region due to low cost involved.
- b) That there will be better recognition of the need for technical assistance when staff of a regional office visits the Member States.
- c) That Member States will be better aware of the roles and function of GTO and may seek assistance from a regional office whenever needed.

**3. CONCLUSION**

Having no regional operational offices would be an injustice done to the poor developing countries or Member States who would like to participate in GTO meetings but cannot due to huge cost related to travelling and hotels. This disadvantages them from benefits offered by GTO to other Member States. It is therefore recommended to decentralize GTO operational offices so that poor developing nations can benefit from GTO.