

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION
TUTORIAL****STUDY PERIOD 2010-2013****English only
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STUDY GROUP SPECIAL G – CONTRIBUTION 42**Source:** Russian Federation**Title:** GTO operational locations should be decentralized and use physical and virtual meetings**Abstract**

The decentralize operation of GTO has its own advantages & disadvantages. The proposal provides a solution on how decentralization can be done without compromising the benefits of having a centralized operation by using both physical and virtual meetings.

1. Introduction

The new GTO structure needs to address the issue below:

- a) The majority of members are from all around the world;
- b) Different regions have different needs and issues, therefore it is not effective to have a centralized operational location which many members cannot afford to use;
- c) Frequent travelling by members in order to meet and resolve issues prevents those members from focusing on their core business;
- d) High travelling costs for members from different parts of the world to attend meetings
- e) Some issues require more public and private discussion than is possible only through the exchange of electronic messages.

2. Discussion**Advantages of decentralization**

- Virtual, or all-electronic, meetings will enable issues to be discussed in a more effective way, where more members may share their views based on their experience.
- Members will save travelling cost and time, therefore more time can be spent on their core business.

Disadvantages of only allowing e-meetings

- Lack of interaction with members from the same and from different regions provides less opportunity to learn and share experiences.
- More regional centers may need to be developed to replace the interactions currently possible but which would be lost if only e-meetings were allowed, resulting in additional costs to members and the regional organizations.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that the greatest benefit to the members and for the GTO outputs can be realized with a combination of e-meetings and physical meetings when required. Holding only e-meetings would deprive the membership of important opportunities to resolve difficult issues and to learn and share experiences with each other.