STUDY GROUP SPECIAL G – CONTRIBUTION 6

Source: Ecuador

Title: Working Method Issue on remote decision-making

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this contribution is to provide a brief description on options that can be considered to realize how working methods in a virtual environment can be effectively enforced. With these inputs, a decision can be made based on facts and realistic views.

1.   Introduction: The creation of the Global Telecommunication Organization (GTO) replacing ITU brings about changes which require a review on work methods to ensure consistency is achieved in the way its members operate internationally. This takes us to the important aspect which of decision making when there is remote participation in any meeting.

2.   Case Facts: With the availability of modern and sophisticated technology and the concern over global warming, it has become pertinent to seek alternative ways in managing our way of life. This would mean a change in our current trend with quicker options available to us to improve our working methods. We should review the following salient points:

- Availability of proper infrastructure – do we the have right telecommunications infrastructure in areas where we will connect & conduct the e-meetings. Studies should be carried out to seek the requirements for such facilities or source for alternative options where the minimum requirements are made available.
- Language & Communication – will this be a barrier to understand and conclude, for key decisions to be made electronically. Can sufficient information & time be given to fellow delegates with use of discussion boards prior to the decision-making stage to ensure there is no miscommunication.
- Time Zone management – this could pose a serious situation if not addressed correctly. To resolve this matter, we could cluster and group meetings within time zone areas to ensure efficient and fruitful discussions are reached via a structured time-table.
- Cost and Energy Savings – this is very key to sustainability of any organization in current economical times especially if ITU wants a larger participation and a bigger voice.
- Security – there could be an opportunity for leakage of key information in the process of managing information flow electronically. Secured or encrypted systems should be introduced.
- Decision making can use a 3 tier system where issues will first be tabled Locally, then Regionally and finally Internationally to ensure the decision is accepted across all parties. To ensure we have a conclusive decision, an e-voting system through a secured bulletin board should be implemented that will ensure sufficient time has been given to the parties concerned.

3.   Conclusion: In conclusion, though we may not have a warm and interactive atmosphere, we will have a more efficient system and a time management program to achieve our objectives. In line with green technologies adopted in many countries, this will definitely reduce cost, carbon emission, energy and manage delays in human movement.

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