

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION
TUTORIAL****STUDY PERIOD 2010-2013****English only
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STUDY GROUP SPECIAL G – CONTRIBUTION 11**Source:** Norway**Title:** Oppose that all GTO meetings must be e-meetings

ABSTRACT

It is not practical for some meetings, because of their size or the sensitive nature of the subjects being discussed, to require they be held only by electronic means. Norway therefore strongly opposes requiring all meeting to be e-meetings.

Introduction

It has been proposed, for efficiency, energy conservation and openness reasons, to require all meetings of the Global Telecommunication Organization (GTO) to be held electronically. New technologies, such as high-speed access services, web-based collaborative software and mobile technologies are proposed as the mechanisms to provide the all-electronic working methods of the GTO. These reasons are valid for some meetings but they are not sufficient to require all meetings to be e-meetings.

Discussion

If all meetings of the GTO are to be electronic meetings, one must examine the kinds of meetings that have to be accommodated. It will be clear that some meetings, such as routine technical consultations among experts, making proposals and exchanging their analyses of results, have been taking advantage of electronic capabilities for a long time, and these present no problem to continue. Some meetings, such as the Regional Workshops on Bridging the Standardization Gap, can be originated from multiple locations where the session moderators and speakers are located, and viewed at multiple locations by accessing the broadcasts over high-speed connections to the GTO's website. VoIP can provide interactive voice communication over the same Internet connections in real-time if desired, or the Workshops can be archived and accessed at any time in a one-way, learning mode.

However, other types of GTO meetings can involve discussion of issues by hundreds and even thousands of participants. Study Group meetings have routinely included hundreds of participants, and it is not at all unusual for the higher level Conferences, Assemblies and Policy Forums to include thousands of participants – many of whom take the microphone to make statements, offer proposals and respond to proposals of others. Despite great advances in technology, there is no way an effective, interactive meeting of hundreds or thousands of active participants can be accommodated. This does not even consider the need for sometimes very sensitive negotiation sessions to take place among groups of a few to groups of a hundred or more participants. Such sessions are by their nature not held in the public sessions and the Member States would not agree to electronic distribution of such meetings without knowing if it was being recorded or accessed by unauthorized persons.

Proposal

We propose use of electronic capabilities only when useful and practical, but strongly opposes the exclusive use of e-meetings for the GTO.