

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

---

**STUDY GROUP SPECIAL G – CONTRIBUTION 2****Source:** Italy**Title:** Oppose Decentralization of the new GTO

---

**ABSTRACT**

The argument that a global organization must be dispersed among multiple regions around the globe is not a valid assumption and should not be the rationale used to force decentralization of GTO.

**Introduction**

It has been proposed to decentralize the Global Telecommunication Organization in order to reflect the global nature of telecommunications. This appears to be a highly theoretical approach which would cause many practical problems and which does not, in fact, even conform to the existing reality of many global organizations which have fixed headquarters locations, whether located in Geneva or elsewhere.

**Discussion**

One of the arguments for dismantling the physical location of GTO currently in Geneva, leaving perhaps only a small, central core organization to handle administrative functions, is that telecommunications has become global. However, in fact, telecommunications has been global for many years, and there is no convincing argument that shows any radical change that requires such a radical solution.

Looking at the current situation, GTO should continue to be located in its current location as are many other truly global organizations – some located even within sight of the GTO buildings. These other global organizations include the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Red Cross/Red Crescent, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations itself. In the field of standardization, it should also be recognized that the sister “Big I” International bodies, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), with which GTO has close ties, are located in Geneva just a few blocks from the GTO.

The premise that an organization must be decentralized and disbursed in a virtual form around the world is not a valid assumption, and doing so would cause a significant loss of support to the GTO membership.

**Proposal**

The GTO should maintain its centralized structure and continue to be located in Geneva.