

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION
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SPECIAL STUDY GROUP G –CONTRIBUTION 9**Source:** Zambia**Title:** Private Sector support for the GTO

ABSTRACT

Creation of the Global Telecommunication Organization (GTO) to replace the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) raises issues regarding GTO structure, working methods and funding. This contribution proposes that, since the outputs of the GTO enable growth of international telecommunication services to the benefit of the private sector, those engaged in the provision of such services should contribute to the support of the GTO.

1. Introduction

In response to changing conditions, the United National High Commission on Structure (UNHCS) has proposed that a new, globally-oriented GTO replace the existing International Telecommunication Union. Even with a substantially reduced budget as compared to the ITU, the UNHCS has recognized that reliance on only the Member States of the GTO to fund its activities does not reflect the current marketplace for international telecommunication services and applications.

2. Discussion

Many entities which are not members of the GTO derive benefit from the standards and other activities of the GTO, yet they have not helped support those activities which enable their own commercial activities. Since telecommunications has been privatized around the world, their revenues no longer go to support their Member State, and they are less likely to participate in the intergovernmental GTO. To enable the continuation of benefits they derive from the work of the GTO, private sector companies engaged in international telecommunications, regardless of their membership status, and regardless of whether they are network operators, service providers or vendors of the equipment supporting those services, should pay a tax which supports the GTO.

3. Proposal

Private sector entities engaged in international telecommunications should pay a tax to support the GTO based on the revenues they derive from international telecommunications services and applications.
