

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION
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SPECIAL STUDY GROUP G –CONTRIBUTION 28**Source:** Tonga**Title:** Support for a decentralized GTO structure

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 decentralization of the GTO operational locations provides the most appropriate structure to serve the needs of all its Member States.

1. Introduction

In response to changing conditions, the United National High Commission on Structure has proposed that a new, globally-oriented GTO replace the existing International Telecommunication Union, and that the operations of the GTO no longer need to remain fixed in a centralized location.

2. Discussion

Recognizing that the membership of the GTO is distributed across the globe, and that any fixed location will favor one set of countries over all other countries, and that modern technology enables active participation from anywhere to anywhere, it is most appropriate to abandon the concept of a single, centralized operational location for the new organization.

Although there currently seems to be no controversy that the administrative headquarters of the GTO, as the successor organization to the ITU, could remain in Geneva at this time, there is no reason to require Members from all over the world to come, in nearly every case, to the same central location in Geneva for working meetings. The great majority of the membership is located outside the Geneva area, causing a distinct disadvantage to the great majority of the membership who incur the high costs in time and money to travel to Geneva. It is particularly burdensome for developing countries, nearly all of whom are at a significant distance away.

The GTO can also reduce its costs, and thereby also reduce costs for its Members, if it no longer has to host hundreds of meetings every year as the ITU has been doing.

3. Proposal

The Special Study Group G should recommend support for the UNHCS proposal to convert the GTO to a decentralized operational structure, while maintaining the administrative headquarters in Geneva.