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**SPECIAL STUDY GROUP G –CONTRIBUTION 38****Source:** Switzerland**Title:** Considerations for GTO to remain in Geneva

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**ABSTRACT**

Creation of the Global Telecommunication Organization (GTO) to replace the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) raises issues regarding the future GTO structure, location and staffing. This contribution proposes that both the administrative headquarters and operational headquarters of GTO remain in Geneva.

**1. Introduction**

After studying the situation of the current ITU, the United National High Commission on Structure (UNHCS) has proposed that a new, globally-oriented GTO replace the existing International Telecommunication Union. It also recommends that the operational aspects of the new GTO be decentralized and cease to be headquartered in Geneva. A decentralized GTO would relate better to the growing numbers of participants from developing countries and also to the majority of Member States, the developing countries themselves.

**2. Discussion**

We firstly should recognize that the effectiveness of the GTO, as in any organization, depends on the quality of its supporting staff and infrastructure. If the majority of the GTO staff is eliminated without any clear replacements, the effectiveness with which GTO can serve its members will be severely restricted. The proposal to locate new staff in remote locations, whether fixed or rotating among multiple countries, will create disruptions as well as inter-regional and inter-national conflicts rather than providing a harmonious organization with common goals, common operating procedures, uniform labor agreements and the like.

There are also the considerations of the Member States interests. Even though other countries in their own region are not as far away as Geneva, travel to a developed area, such as Switzerland, is much simpler for the overall membership than travel to less developed areas, and the presence of well-managed and well-maintained operational facilities provides the membership with a meeting environment conducive to getting the work done.

For these reasons, the effectiveness and value of GTO to its members can best be continued if the main GTO location, serving both administrative and operational roles, is maintained in the buildings already owned and operated in Geneva.

**3. Proposal**

It is proposed that the Special Study Group G recommend to the UNHCS that a decentralized structure should not be implemented for the new GTO.