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Subject : French National body Contribution to JTC 1 on Strategic Planning

The position of the French National Body regarding JTC 1 N 5757 is the following :

1-. Making International standards with an high level of consensus is an essential requirement shared by user's, vendor's and manufacturers, administrations and other organisations.

2- ISO and IEC have just finished to clean up their procedures introducing a maximum of flexibility at each stage of the standardisation process for covering expressed needs. On the other hand, the JTC 1 procedures have been rewritten last year including new features, like Web based documents distribution, resulting from JTC 1 experience to speed up the process. A cross analysis of these two sets of new procedures by JTC 1 and by ISO EIC would be of utmost benefit to all.

3- There is a general need to ensure all interested parties including users' representation at each level including JTC 1 plenary meetings. The new recently voted ISO CEI procedures introduce a new kind of liaison called Category D liaison which could be suitable for any international organisations (i.e. UNESCO). It is then proposed to adapt JTC 1 procedures by introducing such Category D liaison.

4- The new ISO CEI procedures framework have given a possibility to achieve different kinds of consensus through the establishment of new types of documents i.e. ITA. The current TMB known standpoint was that official International standards require a national based consensus making process.

The new kinds of documents (e.g. ITA) defined by these new procedures would not bring added value to JTC1 community with regard to the deliverables offered by consortia.

5- P-members of JTC 1 and/or JTC 1 SCs must assume the responsibility to participate effectively in the Work once they have chosen to do so. The application of this principle should be analysed with regards to the Rules of participation as P-members.

6- For efficiency reasons and to avoid a waste of expertise and resources in the middle of a project, It should be made clear that experts designated by national bodies for participating in a Working Group are entitled to keep they responsibility until their parent national body or liaison decide otherwise and notify the SC secretariat accordingly.

7- The members of JTC 1 could sometimes benefit from more direct inputs from experts performing the standardisation work in WGs. Considering that many decisions often address specific technical aspects, direct presentation of normative texts and informational input by the concerned experts at SC and JTC 1 level should be favoured, without giving them voting rights and without authorising their direct participation in the voting discussion.

8- Technical works in Working Groups needs in most cases support and feed back from a large community including users, lobbies, implementers, etc, which is normally much wider than the circle of experts directly involved. Accordingly, Working Groups should be given the opportunity to experiment the use of open email exploders.