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Information Technology

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**DRAFT GUIDELINES
TO ADDRESS CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC
ASPECTS IN INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS**

1. PURPOSES AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The action aims at obtaining that requirements for plurilingualism and cultural adaptability be addressed at the ISO/JTC 1 level using the existing structure and current modes of decision of ISO :

- 1-1 Member countries are responsible for decisions taken on programs of work (N.W.I.) and documents that are prepared (CDs, DISs votes, etc.). Therefore their support should be used to validate the adequacy between the project (or the document proposed) and the requirements for plurilingualism and cultural adaptability. Yet, it should be advisable that member countries be guided to correctly manage these assessment procedures (including cases such as fast track procedures or PAS).
- 1-2 Since the technical committees are responsible for the contents of the programs of work and the establishment of documents, they must themselves systematically give consideration to the plurilinguism and cultural adaptability issue.
- 1-3 Since the Plenary committee of JTC 1 defines the standardization policy in the field of Information Technologies, it must be provided with the tools necessary to validate the adequacy between the needs required by user communities and the standardization programs that have been established.

According to the experience gained on other subjects, and considering the extent and cross nature of fields concerned, the various aspects of the dossier together with the limit of resources allocated for the subject, it is recommended to avoid traps such as:

- the dispersion and scattering of resources
- exhaustion in front of a gigantic task if there is to directly interfere in each technical committee concerned
- bureaucracy if there is to make heavier the existing structure of the mechanism and create an additional decision-making body

2. MEASURES PROPOSED

- 2-1 To reach goal 1-1, it is proposed to insert, in questionnaires and documents (exploratory reports, etc.) which are sent to member countries for voting, questions to assess whether the project submitted satisfies the requirements for plurilinguism and cultural adaptability. Questions and items to be included should be prepared by JTC 1 (ad hoc group?).

- 2-2 To help technical committees (and PAS submitters or liaison A bodies) to address the plurilingualism and cultural adaptability issue since the development stage of the document, it is proposed to prepare a guidebook (work to be done by an ad hoc group?)
- 2-3 To help JTC 1 to assess the relevance of its policy regarding plurilingualism and cultural adaptability, two measures are proposed:
- 2-3-1 To organize a workshop on this issue every two or three years with the aim to specify user needs
- 2-3-2 During the JTC 1 plenary session, to make a common presentation of “business plans” that would be organized by responsible people of sub-committees placed under the cultural direction in order JTC 1 can validate the adequacy between the programs of work and needs expressed during the workshops.

3. MODE OF OPERATION

For all these various reasons and due to the extent of the subject and the evolutionary aspect of its geometry, mode of operation C of JTC 1 reengineering is proposed.
