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US National Body Contribution in Response to JTC 1 N 7136 - the Meeting on the Cooperation and Coordination of Cross Cultural and Linguistic Matters, June 2003 in Geneva

The US National Body supports the objectives set forth in Recommendation #1 of J1N7136 - Recommendations of the Meeting on the Cooperation and Coordination of Cross Cultural and Linguistic Matters, June 2003 in Geneva.

Recommendation #1:

CCCCLM notes that:

- it is desirable to achieve better coordination and harmonization of JTC 1 projects with committees external to JTC 1; and

- it is desirable to share standardization efforts and reduce duplication of work.

CCCCLM recommends that the JTC 1 Secretariat will:

(1) Establish a program of sharing announcements of NP ballots, project subdivisions, PAS submissions, fast-track ballots, and IWAs with committees external to JTC 1.

(2) Establish reciprocal relationships with the following "starter" list of committees and organizations:
ISO: TC37, TC46, TC68, TC154, TC159, TC184, TC204, TC215, IEC: TC100
Other: IETF, W3C, Unicode Consortium, DCMI (Dublin Core Metadata Initiative), CEN/ISSS, IEEE CS SAB, TOG (The Open Group), OASIS.

(3) Upon receipt of a JTC 1 NP ballot, project subdivision, fast-track ballot, or IWA distribute the document to the list of external committees with the action ID "ACT" and the comment "Please return any comments to the JTC 1 Secretariat by YYYY-MM-DD".

(4) Upon receipt from an external committee of an NP ballot, project subdivision, PAS submission, fast-track ballot, IWA, or their equivalents, distribute the document to JTC 1 subcommittees as a JTC 1 N document with the action ID "ACT" and the comment "Please return any comments to the JTC 1 Secretariat by YYYY-MM-DD".

Furthermore, once coordination, collaboration, and harmonization opportunities are recognized, subcommittees are encouraged to proactively communicate and liaise directly with the external committees.

While supporting these objectives, the US believes there are issues that need to be discussed at the upcoming Plenary Meeting to determine how to implement the proposal without requiring impractical resource requirements on the part of the Secretariat.

For example, the JTC 1 Secretariat could establish a reflector for posting the documents outlined in the recommendation. In posting such documents it is possible that the Secretariat could be required to filter and route specific input and output documents to specific organizations. To be effective, this would require a technical resource allocation that is not currently contemplated. Similarly, the JTC 1 Secretariat while attempting to establish relationships with external organizations in "(2)" could be required to work with each individual organization on a one-on-one basis also necessitating unallocated technical resources.

Therefore, to address the technical resource issues, the US suggests that alternative approaches be discussed in Singapore to fulfill the objectives of this recommendation. Some solutions might include specific SC's taking the lead for each external organization and assuming the responsibility for the bi-directional flow of information. Similarly, specific individuals could also assume such a role with the external organizations. Even with additional resources, it is unlikely that the JTC 1 Secretariat would be able to provide the necessary expertise in the wide range of topics and technologies that the proposal anticipates will be covered