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Study Group on IT Governance Interim Report

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Convener**

Terms of Reference

- Provide a definition of ICT Governance (*TOR 1*)
- Assess the current state of affairs of ICT governance within JTC1 and its SCs and other relevant SDOs (*TOR 2*)
- Consider the work undertaken by the SC7 SG on ICT Governance which has focused on aspects of the issue relating to SC7 scope (*TOR 3*)
- Review: (*TOR 4*)
 - related International standards (*TOR 4.1*);
 - elements of ICT governance in those standards (*TOR 4.2*);
 - national and regional governance activities (*TOR 4.3*);
 - existing organizations dealing with or involved in ICT Governance (*TOR 4.4*).
- Assess market requirements for the need and level of standardization in this area (*TOR 5*)
- Identify a set of guiding principles for the development of ICT Governance standardization to meet market requirements (*TOR 6*)
- Deliver a recommendation to JTC 1 on actions to be taken- (*TOR 7*)

Before we start IT or ICT?

The Study Group noted that:

- General usage in JTC1 and SC7 is IT.
- Scope of JTC1 is IT.

IT is used in the report, rather than ICT.

TOR 1 - Definition

From the Concise Oxford Dictionary:

- Govern - conduct the policy and affairs of a (state, organization or people).
- Governance - the action or method of governing.

Hence it is reasonable to define IT Governance as:

- IT Governance - the action or method of governing IT.

TOR 1 - Definition (continued)

- To focus on the organizational context we have adopted, as a preferred term, the Corporate Governance of IT.
- The definition used is derived from the Cadbury report definition of Corporate Governance:
Corporate Governance - The system by which organizations are directed and controlled.
- Hence the definition in ISO/IEC 38500:2008 which the Study Group has accepted:

Corporate Governance of IT: The system by which the current and future use of IT is directed and controlled.

TOR 1 - Definition - Recommendation

- The Study Group recommends that JTC1 assign responsibility for standardisation and harmonisation of the corporate governance and management terminology to a suitably constituted body.
- This body could be an Other Working Group under the recommended Working Group on the Corporate Governance of IT.

TOR 2 - Current state of affairs

- Information source - business plans and submissions.
- The only SC doing specific work on the Corporate Governance of IT is SC7.
- SC27 is doing highly relevant work in the domains of Information Security and Risk Management.
- SC6, 17, 23, 31 and 37 are doing relevant work as part of their work in their respective domains.
- TC215 and TC68 are doing work within their market sectors which may well impose some context on work within JTC1.

TOR 3 - SC7 SG

- This requirement is very specific.
- The TOR for the SC7 Study Group includes: “This scope is contained in the area of software and systems engineering.”
- The issue of SC7 scope was not addressed in the report of the SC7 Study Group.

TOR 4 - Review

- First two sections were combined.
- A great deal of work relating to the Corporate Governance of IT was identified.
- Only a small amount of work specifically addressing the Corporate Governance of IT as defined.
- A possible model for analysis has been outlined.
- National and regional activity statements have been drawn from the SC7 report with appropriate minor updating.
- The two most significant existing organizations identified were ISACA/ITGI and itSMF. The information was drawn from the SC7 report.

TOR 5 - Assessment of Market Requirements

- Study Group agreed that a full survey was not warranted.
- Several significant documents point to the Corporate Governance of IT being seen as both a major and often misunderstood issue.
- Lack of involvement, and possibly recognition, by directors seen as a particular concern.
- The contribution of Bill Powell (US) in Annex B of the SC7 report eloquently covered the need for standardisation.
- The King Report from South Africa gave a telling and concise statement on the need for that work to be international
- Standards would complement rather than replace existing frameworks.

TOR 6 - Identify a Set of Guiding Principles

- A set of guiding principles has been established by the Study Group.
- These principles are a departure point. There is significant work to be done in this area.

TOR 7 - Recommendations

- **The Study Group resolved to recommend the formation of a Working Group for the Governance of IT, directly under JTC1.**
- The Study Group foreshadowed, in prior discussion, the possibility of eventual evolution to an SC, should it be deemed beneficial or required.
- The initial scope would be to produce standards and other documents relating to the Corporate Governance of IT, which has been defined as the system by which the current and future use of IT is directed and controlled.

Unresolved and Consequential Issues

While the Corporate Governance of IT Working Group is being formed the Study Group requests a transition period so that the following unresolved and consequential issues may be dealt with:

- How the new Working Group is formed, in particular, its relationship to the existing WG1a of SC7.
- Schedule and possible co-location of meetings.
- Establishment of liaison relationships.
- Refining of scope.
- Issues arising from the consideration of the report by JTC1.

Thank you for your attention