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France National Body contribution on documents N 9786, Report – Web Services Study Group and N 9762, US National Body Offer to Provide the Secretariat and Convener for a New JTC 1 Working Group on Web Services and SOA

The FNB notes the recent creation of WG 6, as well as several new requests for creation of permanent Working Groups reporting directly to JTC 1. The rationale used to motivate such requests is that these WGs were or would be created in order to develop specific standards that do not fit within the scope of an existing SC.

New work is a welcomed sign of health. In response, one of JTC 1 responsibility is to identify the best home for this new work, either within its existing SCs (which continuously bring about new work items) or by creation of a new structure. When needed, JTC 1 may also review the scope of its SCs and make the necessary adjustments. For instance, a few years ago, JTC 1 restructured several of its SCs and transferred the maintenance of standards under JTC 1 direct responsibility to appropriates SCs. We witness now a flux in the opposite direction.

In our view, the SC structure has many merits. An experienced Secretariat performs many of the tasks needed for progression of the work, without the need to duplicate it among WGs. This frees the WGs from the more administrative part of the work and provides for flexibility in the WG structure.

In our view thus, a WG reporting directly to JTC 1 should be an exceptional situation, when an interim step is needed during which JTC 1 would act as an "incubator". Once the work area has matured or evolved to a more permanent state, one of the following becomes more adapted:

- revision of the scope of an existing SC to allow the transfer of the WG standardization work
- creation of a new SC with a dedicated scope to take care of the standardization work program of one or several WGs previously reporting to JTC 1
- disbanding the WG if the standardization work is not progressing as promised

The FNB would like to make sure that all the options are considered when dealing with the creation or continuation of a WG reporting to JTC 1.

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