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As per JTC 1 Rio Resolution 32, JTC 1 requests its National Bodies and Subcommittees to provide contributions as early as possible during the next Plenary cycle regarding future strategic orientation for JTC 1. Topics may include any changes to working methods, however radical or provocative.

The Irish National Body welcomes the opportunity to provide its input on future JTC 1 work methods, procedures and structure.

1. Responsibility of Maintenance Teams

A five year interval between review cycles is not adequate for most JTC 1 standards. JTC 1 should investigate adoption of the approach introduced by IEC. Maintenance teams, which are working groups of experts designated by the Participating members of their committee, have replaced the old IEC system of systematic review for standards. They are designed to ensure that standards are kept up-to-date according to market requirements, and not revised simply according to an arbitrary time schedule. This approach is more flexible and would add an additional set of inputs to any new NP process.

2. New deliverables: Living Standards

The fit of JTC 1 deliverables with the fast moving requirements and changes which occur in ICT industries has been raised several times. One particular contribution worthy of detailed reconsideration is the concept of a "Living Standard". The proposal envisaged the introduction of a new standards deliverable which is issued electronically and is updated as required, possibly to a predetermined frequency. At the same time this new 'document' will contain or provide pointers to work in progress. The intent is to somehow link existing standards and work in progress for the reader and user community. The challenges represented by this proposed approach are substantial and would need careful study. Elements of the approach are evident in the way some Consortia deliverables are presented today.

3. Leveraging Technical Directions

There is a need to better understand and establish a process to meet user requirements for the systems integration aspects of groups of standards and specifications working together in given technical areas. The synergies established between experts within the JTC 1 Technical Directions should be increased and the opportunity taken to leverage this talent to hwlp meet user requirements for standards integration.