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Liaison Statement from SC32 to TC211

JTC1/SC32 appreciates the liaison statement and documentation from TC211 [TC211 Ref Doc. No. nnnnnn and JTC1/SC32 Ref. Doc. N0573]]. JTC1/SC32 notes that the TC211 liaison statement has as specific focus and basis the development work of ISO TC211 on new ISO 19115 "Geographic information- metadata.

SC32 also notes that this liaison statement references several SC32 standards, i.e. 11179-3, 11179-6, 18022, and 18038 which are the responsibility of its working groups, WG1 and WG2. SC32 welcomes close cooperation with TC211 in its development work on these SC32 four standards. The objective here is maximum harmonization and interoperability of these standards with TC211 work on ISO 19115 as well as other TC211 standards where applicable.

SC32 WG1 and WG2 supports the three strategic directions of JTC1 which its ISO/IEC standardization work must support, as applicable, namely “interoperability” and “cultural adaptability”. SC32 has taken note of the requirement of TC211 work on ISO/IEC 19115 “Geographic information metadata” in that it must be able to support legal requirements for multi-lingual equivalency of natural languages and their use in order for its standard to be able to be used in many countries and well as by key national, regional and international organizations. Work on standards of SC32/WG1 and SC32/WG2 has similar objectives and its standardization work must ensure that such key requirements are addressed.

As the four standards referenced have different scope and objectives, the SC32 response has been organized in this manner.

A. Re: ISO/IEC 11179-3

ISO/IEC 11179-3 is an established standard which is currently undergoing its five-year cyclical revision. It is anticipated that, in addition to needed improvement in clarity to the existing “Basic Attributes”, there will be significant enhancement of this standard.

With respect to handling of multi-languages in free text metadata elements, 11179-3 has similar requirements and possible solutions offered by TC211 here will be taken into account and incorporated into a general/generic approach which may have more than one solution.

B. RE: ISO/IEC 11179-6

With respect to the TC211 requirements for multi-language support, WG2 recognizes that its standardization work must be able to support this. It is likely that the revised 11179-3 standard will require changes to 11179-6. Further the example provided by TC211 will likely be addressed through development work on 18022 (see below) and incorporated into any future revisions to 11179-6.

C. RE: ISO/IEC 18028

SC32/WG2 appreciates the detailed requirements received from TC211 as input to this standardization work. SC32/WG2 agrees that these requirements of TC211 are not unique to TC211 and generic solutions should be pursued. Through this liaison statement WG2 requests the Project Editor for 18022 to incorporate these TC211 requirements into 18022 standards development work and report back to both SC32/WG2 and TC 211 should there be difficulties in accommodating these TC 211 requirements.

D. RE: ISO/IEC 18038

SC32/WG1 appreciates the cooperation and support of TC211 to work on development of ISO/IEC 18038 and recognizes that this standard must address requirements from a jurisdictional perspective which are not addressed by ISO 3166. ISO/IEC JTC1/SC32 N535 document notes that ISO 3166 explicitly states that

“The three parts of ISO 3166 do not express any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, dependency or other area named herein, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries”.

Unfortunately, most users of ISO 3166 do not know of or recognize this limitation of the scope and purpose of ISO 3166.

SC32/WG1 agrees with TC211 that it would be useful for ISO/IEC 18038 to include provisions for inclusion or support of geospatial information of the nature identified by TC211 and the example provided in Annex D. Through this liaison statement WG2 requests the Project Editor for 18038 to incorporate these TC211 requirements into 18038 standards development work and report back to both SC32/WG1 and TC 211 should there be difficulties in accommodating these TC 211 requirements.