THIRTY-FIRST ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 14-16 October 2008

Grand Hyatt Dubai (UAE), Baniyas Ballroom

Beginning of the first session: 10:30[1]

DRAFT AGENDA

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[1] An official opening ceremony will take place from 09:30 to 10:30.

[2] Not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

ame/14937319

AGENDA ITEM 3   **TABLING OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The unconfirmed minutes of the 30th General Assembly, which was held in Geneva in September 2007, were circulated to the members on 14 November 2007. Comments were received from QS (Qatar).

The confirmed minutes of the 2007 General Assembly, including the above comments, were circulated on 19 December 2007. No member body submitted comments on the confirmed minutes.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The following draft resolution is submitted for adoption:

The General Assembly approves the minutes of the 30th General Assembly held in Geneva in 2007, as circulated to the members of the Organization on 19 December 2007.

AGENDA ITEM 4   REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Under this agenda item, the **Secretary-General will present a report** to the General Assembly commenting on the achievements and current status, as well as the perspectives for the Organization. His report will also be circulated to the membership in writing before the General Assembly.

Members' attention is drawn to the information given in the annexes as follows:

– Developments in ISO's membership since the 2007 General Assembly (Annex 1).
– Summary of developments in the past year regarding ISO's cooperative relationship with regional standards organizations (Annex 2).
– Main highlights of ISO's cooperation with international organizations in the past year (incl. the UN and its specialized agencies) (Annex 3).

In accordance with the *Statutes and Rules of Procedure*, an **Annual Report** is produced each year for endorsement by the General Assembly.

The Annual Report covering the year 2007 was circulated in mid-June 2008 and has been posted on *ISO Online* (see contents of the Report at Annex 4)*.* The Report, entitled "The ISO system. The trusted partner", points out that the ISO system, comprising its governance, technical committees, national members and network of collaborations, has become a trusted partner of the world community for the development of globally relevant International Standards. Organizations from business, government and civil society are increasingly participating in the ISO system or using ISO standards because they are based on a wide consensus and provide practical tools and good practices to access world markets and to address global challenges facing the world community, such as climate change, the rational use of energy, water and other natural resources, the improvement of healthcare or the threats to security.

This evolution is illustrated in the Report by examples of the ISO system's partnerships in action, plus a selection of emblematic International Standards and related documents among the 1 105 published in 2007.

The ISO Annual Report is intended to be a communication tool, easy to read and attractive in appearance, for use by ISO and its members to enhance knowledge of and support for ISO's work among its stakeholders. The Secretary-General would appreciate receiving comments from the members on both the content and presentation of the Annual Report, to ensure that the next issue (covering the year 2008) meets the needs of the ISO members and other readers (such as high-level industrialists, business leaders, government officials and academics) to the fullest possible extent.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited:

a) to comment on the report of the Secretary-General;

b) to comment on the Annual Report covering the 2007 calendar year, with regard to both its substance and its presentation.

AGENDA ITEM 4

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

TO THE ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Dubai,

OCTOBER 2008

Excellency,
Distinguished guests,
ISO Officers,
ISO members,
Friends and colleagues,

First of all, I would like to welcome you and thank our host, the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology, for the excellent and friendly collaboration between our teams to make this 2008 ISO General Assembly a great success and a landmark in the history of ISO. Indeed, this is the first time we meet in this part of the world, in a country which has demonstrated its dynamism and great ambitions for the 21st century, as we can all witness, even after just a few hours in Dubai.

This is my sixth and last annual report to the General Assembly. As you all know, I proposed to Council last March that the process to select my successor be initiated so that a smooth and serene transition may be organized at the beginning of 2009. I considered that it was my duty to the Organization that my successor be in place in time to be involved in the consultations and development of the next ISO Strategic Plan which will begin next year. This plan will be submitted for approval to the General Assembly in September 2010 and will cover the period 2011-2015, as we will elaborate later in the agenda. Your Council should appoint my successor on 17 October 2008 and he, or she, should be in office at the beginning of 2009. I am committed, of course, to assisting, as needed, in the transition.

Naturally, my report will therefore focus first on what we have achieved together since I took office in March 2003 and then on the major challenges I see for our Organization, which might be addressed in its future strategic planning.

1 2003-2008: a change of scale and a growing exposure for consensus-based International Standards and for ISO

1.1 Globalization expands its influence…

Globalization has expanded its reach in the economic and social spheres. This expansion relates of course to the cross-border trade in goods which has increased by a yearly average of 7,6% in volume over the period. It is also about the need for a global approach to issues such as security, climate change, environmental protection or healthcare. Also, the pervasiveness and exponential growth of information and communication technologies have revolutionized the way business is conducted worldwide, the production and distribution of goods and services, as well as our daily lives. Energy, water and nutrition have reached the top of the world agenda. Major economies have emerged in the developing world, with unprecedented growth rates such as +140% for China and +115% for India[1] over the period 2003-2008, whilst the urgency has grown for international action to alleviate poverty, eradicate pandemics and respond to natural disasters. The geopolitical state of the planet is of course affected, as was recognized at the G8 meeting in Japan last July.

In this context, the contribution of, and need for, International Standards of the type developed by ISO, based on a double level of consensus, amongst stakeholders and across countries, have never been so great. I believe we have successfully engineered the ISO system to meet the challenge, as may be illustrated by looking back at some major achievements since the beginning of 2003.

1.2 …and ISO expands its membership…

The ISO total membership has grown from 143 to 157 (+10%) and now serves countries representing 98% of the world economy and 97% of its population. Full membership has increased by 13% and we currently have several upgrading and new memberships under consideration. I take this opportunity to congratulate our members from Cameroon (CNDQ) and from Lithuania (LST) for their recent upgrade to full membership and to welcome CNTT (Gabon) and ISME (Montenegro) who have joined us this year as correspondent members.

1.3 … and its collection of standards

The collection of valid ISO standards has increased by 23% to reach more than 17 300 standards at the end of last June, with an average monthly production of around 100 new or revised ISO standards. This increase is due both to the expansion of our scope, materialized by the creation of 40 new TC/SC/PCs, and to the improvement of our processing times, which have, on average, decreased from 43 to 34 months, a reduction by 21%. This reduction results from a number of actions: the increased efficiency of all the actors in the ISO standards development chain, based on enhanced training and information of the secretariats of our committees, on ever more vigilant monitoring by our Technical Management Board, on improvements in the IT

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[1] Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Outlook Database, April 2008

tools which support our collective work and, finally, on our ability to process documents initiated elsewhere, in particular through the liaisons and partnerships that our committees have developed. In 2002, more than half of the standards we published had gone through the full process, from working document to publication. Only one third had done so in 2007. This acceleration in our production has first resulted in a depletion of our stock of work items, with a low of 3 400 in 2007. But it should be noted that, since then, the stock has started growing again, to reach 3 700 today, whilst processing times are still improving.

Considering the diversity and size of our production, it is difficult to establish a "hit parade" of the most emblematic standards over the period, all the more so as there are several criteria for assessing the importance of a given standard. The level of sales is one of course, but the impact on technology, trade, environmental protection or society at large is also to be considered. Important new standards have been published on issues as diverse as food safety, GHG emissions accountability and verification, information security, security management in the supply chains, water services or information processing. The prestigious Emmy Award has been attributed in 2008 to the Joint Video Team, an ISO-IEC-ITU collaboration which developed the MPEG series.

We have opened some important new frontiers, from risk management, societal security and social responsibility to nanotechnologies, biofuels, water services, tourism or aquaculture and fishery. The concept of Project Committees (12 to date) has been created by the TMB, to take on more diligently topical and targeted new work items.

1.4   Major policy decisions have been taken

Major policy decisions have been taken which contribute to adjusting the ISO system to the evolution of technology and the global scene, to improving its global relevance and to securing, as well as to promoting, its resulting standards production. Key decisions related to:

- the ISO Code of Ethics;
- the complete revision of our commercial and copyright protection policies to adapt them to the electronic distribution of standards (cf. POCOSA and related documents and actions);
- our regional policy which will be addressed later in the agenda;
- our policies for partnerships and liaisons;
- our patent policy, now common with IEC and ITU;
- our policy to monitor the global relevance of our standards;
- our revised ISO/IEC Guide 21 to promote and facilitate national adoptions of ISO standards;
- the Action Plan for developing countries which has resulted in the doubling of the services provided by the Central Secretariat and a significant increase in participation of developing countries in ISO's governance and technical work;
- the recently adopted Action Plan to promote the involvement of consumer interests in standardization.

1.5   The visibility of the ISO system has been enhanced…

All these actions and achievements have resulted in a higher visibility and influence of ISO standardization on the world scene. This translates first in the level of sales of ISO standards. In spite of the fact that national adoption has increased, and therefore also the corresponding revenue for our members, free of royalties paid back to the Central secretariat, the sales of ISO standards either through the Central Secretariat or through our members and trans-national distributors have increased by 50%. So has, consequently, the total calculated gross margin made by our members which now surpasses their total of membership fees. Another illustration is the increase in notoriety of ISO and of the ISO brand, on which we will focus later. The number of sessions on ISO Online has tripled and our Web site is, by far, the most visited for a Standards Development Organization worldwide. The extensive networking which we have developed with more than 700 international and regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations also contributes to feeding and promoting our production. Our association with world events adds to our exposure, such as, since our last meeting, the UNFCCC[2] meeting in Bali, the World Economic Forum, the World Energy Congress or the preparation of the last G8 meeting for which we provided background documents on the contribution of International Standards to energy efficiency, in collaboration with the International Energy Agency.

1.6   …and the Central Secretariat has been made more sustainable

Finally, over the period, we have significantly consolidated the sustainability of the Central Secretariat, through a combination of lean management and increased revenue from sales and services, while reducing the value of the membership financial unit in constant Swiss Francs. We have thus refurbished its financial situation, moving from a deficit to significant and sustained positive results. All this has allowed both the reconstitution of our General Fund, now standing at kCHF 15 389, 75% more than five years ago, and the grouping of operations in new and modern premises at the heart of the Geneva international district. The fiscal agreement we have concluded with the Swiss authorities brings substantial and permanent savings. We have changed the scale of the IT and e-services we provide to our governance, membership and committees and have invested in the security of our information systems, which now serve almost 30 000 users registered in the ISO Global Directory.

2   The challenges ahead for the ISO system and family

Having driven ISO through the current Strategic Plan from its inception, I would now like to share what I see as some of the major challenges the ISO system is facing and which might be addressed in the next five-year strategic plan.

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[2]   UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

2.1 Addressing the expanding scope of ISO standardization

The core domain of ISO remains technical standards, but new dimensions have appeared which expand our scope, the nature of our standards and, consequently, our stakeholder base.

Clearly, the inter-related challenges of climate change, energy efficiency, water supply and nutrition call for the development of International Standards. We have recently published key standards in these areas. More are needed to provide internationally agreed metrics and to promote good practices for energy or water consumption, for carbon footprints and other environmental impacts or for assessing confidence in food and related processing. The technologies called upon in these areas need to be deployed on global markets in order to bring their benefits worldwide, thus also improving their economic viability. Good management practices must also be promoted. Our future standard on energy management, to be consistent with the successful ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 series, may eventually be at least as popular as its elder brothers. Our ISO 22000 series needs to be complemented and promoted to become a toolbox of solutions for all the actors in the food chain and be recognized both by regulators and by retailers.

ISO's notoriety in recent years has indeed benefited from the massive take-up of our management system standards (MSS). But we still have to optimize the way in which sector or thematic MSS are developed and coordinated. The Strategic Advisory Group under the TMB should soon come up with recommendations and we are already planning a major conference to broaden communication and consultation. The success of our MSS has important links with certification, even if our MSS do not specifically call for or require it. We have, wisely, decided that ISO, as such, would not be involved in assessing compliance to its standards, as this should be left to the market to follow up. We must therefore collaborate with those who can take action to avoid that the name of ISO be misused. IAF and ILAC, as well as the certification bodies themselves, some of them connected to ISO members, need to be involved to fight against malpractices which are detrimental to the ISO brand.

Time-to-market of new technologies has shortened, and their markets are global. International Standards must therefore be conceived in parallel with R&D and without waiting for a multiplication of possibly diverging national and regional standards. This is already the case for information and communication technologies. It is also the case in the areas of nano- and bio-technologies in which we have entered or for supporting the emergence of green technologies and renewable sources of energy. Our patent policy should assist in attracting new work and we must reinforce our connections with the world of research and development. Our connections with the OECD are particularly relevant to this aim, and so are the initiatives we take to amplify the interest of academics.

Safety and security are traditional areas for standards, but here again globalization has given more topicality to the international dimension, and new risks have emerged, related to technology (nuclear, chemical, biological) or society (terrorism, pandemics, natural disasters). Their relation to legislation

and the commitment made by the signatories of the WTO not to create unnecessary technical barriers result in increased connections of our standards with matters involving public policies, including for conformity assessment. The publication of the ISO/IEC information document on the use of our standards in regulations provides a tool for dialogue, in order that the support we can provide be seen by regulators not as an usurpation but, on the contrary, as a complement and a contributor to good public governance.

Finally, the area of services has the potential to grow significantly, at the pace of the increase in world trade in services (some +10% yearly in the past five years) and the growing weight of services in most economies. This poses a double challenge: adapting our development process and reaching out to new categories of stakeholders. Our members often come essentially from industrial standards and have to broaden their own stakeholder base. We also need to make the appropriate international connections. The recent publication of our ISO/IEC Guide 76:2008 *Development of service standards – Recommendations for addressing consumer issues*, developed by COPOLCO comes at a timely moment.

2.2 Adjusting to the new geopolitical context of standardization…

Another set of challenges comes from the geopolitical evolution of the international framework in which we operate. The emergence of leading economies in Asia, in Latin America and in Africa, as well as the economic growth of the countries of the Community of Independent States supported by their considerable natural resources, require that they all be encouraged to invest in ISO. Most of them have already undertaken to do so and room has been made for them to participate effectively, i.a. through adequate information and training. Alleviation of poverty, especially in least developed countries, is high on the world agenda. International Standards facilitate investment in infrastructures, the transfer of technology and good business practices. They provide access to world markets for these countries and facilitate partnerships with the more developed world. Our actions for assisting our members to make the best of being members of ISO must be pursued with determination. This evolution in the membership of ISO should also be reflected in our governance: the proposal submitted to you unanimously by Council concerning its composition and the composition of the TMB gives you the opportunity to demonstrate concretely that ISO is indeed adjusting to the evolution towards a multi-polar world economy.

Attention should also be given to supporting the continuous involvement in and commitment to ISO both from the countries of the European Economic Area and from the USA. As open economies, it is in their interest to have globally relevant standards to support their trade, investment and procurement. They, together, currently hold 80% of the secretariats of our committees and, at the same time, are becoming increasingly involved in twinning arrangements with other parts of the world. It is encouraging to note that, in a recent communication to the Council of the European Union on standards and innovation[3], the European Commission advocates a greater

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[3] COM(2008) 133 final, March 2008, entitled "Towards an increased contribution from standardisation to innovation in Europe".

use of and involvement in international standardization. It is also a good sign that we recently signed a partnership agreement with IEEE, enabling our respective members and users to make the best of two worlds. Even if the normal way of working in ISO should be the rule, and we have a lot of flexibility for that, other partnerships of this type might be fostered with US-based standards development organizations with a multinational participation and global reach.

Finally, the trend for regional trade agreements to support economic areas is prospering: we must increase our connections with these regional economic communities in order to promote the use of our standards for supporting the construction of their internal markets while, at the same time, consolidating their collective competitiveness on world markets.

2.3   …and to the sociology of our stakeholders

Standards are made by people, acting as experts or representatives of national members or organizations in liaison. The more the consensus on which standards are built involve the relevant stakeholders, the more they will be taken up worldwide. Even if the majority of experts continues to come from industry and scientific institutions, we will need to improve our reach towards governmental authorities and societal interests. We also need to maintain the motivation for taking part in and for using ISO's work. This requires vigilance on adjusting our directives and supporting functions, in the "user-friendliness" of our standards as well as the recognition of personal and collective achievements. We also need to communicate better with those who employ these experts, so that participation in our work is seen as a good investment. Since the formulation of ballots on standards is the responsibility of our national members, it is important to encourage them to reach out to the relevant actors in industry, government, academia and society, so that their ballots are indeed representative of their community and the ISO system is not exposed to criticism or accused of partiality. Direct involvement of industry in ISO is a recurrent issue. But, as addressed later in the agenda, industry representativity and participation may be achieved by a correct approach at the national level and greater attention paid to liaisons with international or regional organizations.

Increasingly, we will be challenged to optimize the time the experts dedicate to our work, and the contributions of our members to our operations. This will require further progress in our synergies with IEC, all the more so as the convergence of technologies progressively blurs the frontiers between us, and possibly with other global standards development organizations.

2.4   Explaining and reviewing the ISO business model…

At all levels where the ISO business model might be considered, revenue from sales is a major component. This business model has successfully supported the ISO system for 60 years (and IEC's for 100 years) and its delivery of a collection of more than 17 000 globally relevant standards. It ensures a wide access to standards and standardization through both centralized and decentralized outlets. National members are able to organize national input in the standardization process and to promote the implementation of standards in their country, dealing with the language issue,

reaching out to all stakeholders, including SMEs and societal interests, and enabling national adoption and adaptation as needed.

Having sales as a significant source of revenue is a diffuse and effective mechanism for funding standardization. It avoids the dominance of public funding, which in any case would be difficult to increase in the current global context, or of funding by multinational companies, which could be detrimental to the consensus-based nature of ISO standards, a key factor in their success. End users contribute to the process through their purchase of standards, at nominal prices considering their content and their economic and technical importance. It should also be underlined that very few standards are high sellers (less than 5% of the production) and that the level of sales is often not representative of the economic or social importance of standards. The current system delivers a wide range of standards, independently of their selling potential.

There is some confusion in the emerging debate on "free availability" or "open access" to standards, and to the standardization process. But since the debate is open, it is important that ISO, the world leader for the production of consensus-based International Standards, defines its position and perspectives. Expectations are indeed high from the world community for ISO to continue to contribute to the facilitation of trade and to sustainable development. The topic of ISO's "business model" is on the agenda of Council this week and should be further addressed in the next strategic plan.

2.5   …and securing sustainable logistics for the ISO system

ISO offers a unique multi-sector and multi-national platform for the development of International Standards. This platform is supported by directives and IT tools which we have significantly modernized and constantly maintained. We need to bring all ISO members and the secretariats of our committees up to speed, all the more so as a broader number of members are becoming involved, either as P-members or as chairs and secretaries of committees. We must keep our advance in the provision of these tools for supporting and speeding up our collective work, with no compromise on the quality of content and consensus of our publications, in a fast moving context for information technologies. The emergence of the Extensible Mark-up Language (XML) format for standards authoring and production opens the possibility to diversify the electronic delivery of our standards and to create new opportunities for reaching out to users.

Finally, we must maintain an efficient and financially sound Central Secretariat, with an optimal sharing of tasks with the ISO members and the committee secretariats.

3   Conclusion: 70 months of active service

After serving for some 70 months the ISO community, those who develop its standards and their numerous users, I will, in a few weeks, hand over the helm of our flagship to a successor selected by your Council. I wish him or her the best of success and as rewarding a professional and human experience as I have had. After more than 100 visits to ISO members, including contacts

with key political and economic actors, active participation in numerous international and regional meetings and the delivery of some 200 conferences across the planet, I have developed an optimistic vision for ISO, even if I realize that a number of challenges are yet to be addressed. The ISO system is indeed geared to serve well the world community in this complex 21st century, where the global and the local dimensions need to be addressed consistently. More than ever, ISO is called upon to produce the standards needed to support the sustainability of the planet and the well and safe being of its inhabitants. Next year, I will carry on with new professional challenges where, hopefully, my experience and network will still be useful, and which will allow me to maintain the many friendships I have nurtured during my tenure. My last word for this report will be for the successive ISO Presidents, Officers and Council members, and for the staff of the Central Secretariat, who have accommodated and supported my natural inclination for constructive action and continuous improvement.

Alan Bryden

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ISO MEMBERSHIP SINCE THE 2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (situation at 1 July)

At 1 July 2007, the **total ISO membership** stands at 157 (comprising 106 member bodies, 40 correspondent members, and 11 subscriber members).

Since the last General Assembly in September 2007, the following changes have taken place in the membership:

a)   Member bodies

- **Change in membership status**

  — CDNQ (Cameroon) and LST (Lithuania) have been upgraded from correspondent members to member bodies.

- **Transfer of membership**

  — The ISO membership for Luxembourg has been transferred[1] from the *Service de l'Énergie de l'État – Organisme Luxembourgois de Normalisation (SEE)* to the *Institut luxembourgeois de la normalisation, de l'accréditation, de la sécurité et qualité des produits et services (ILNAS).*

- **Reinstatement after suspension**

  — AZSTAND (Azerbaijan), suspended for non-payment of its dues in arrears, was reinstated in May 2008 after payment.

b)   Correspondent members

- **New correspondent members**

  — CNTT (Gabon) and ISME (Montenegro) have been admitted as correspondent members.

- **Transfers of membership**

  — The ISO membership for Namibia has been transferred from the Namibia Standards Information and Quality Office (NSIQO) to the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI);

  — The ISO membership for Swaziland has been transferred from the Standardization and Quality Assurance Section (SQAS) to the Swaziland Standards Authority (SWASA).

- **Reinstatement after withdrawal**

  — IGNM (Guinea) – former INNM, withdrawn for non payment of its dues in arrears in 2007, was reinstated in May 2008 after payment.

- **Withdrawal from membership**

  — DTNM (Nicaragua) has been withdrawn from membership for non-payment of its dues in arreas

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[1] Subject to Council's approval by correspondence by 15 July 2008.

c)   Subscriber members

- **New member**

  — SSB (Suriname) has been admitted as a subscriber member.

- **Change in membership status**

  — ESI (Eritrea) has changed its membership status from correspondent to subscriber member.

d)   Negotiations on new memberships

Membership negotiations have been resumed or initiated with the following four countries:

Congo, Rep. of,
Gambia,
Mauritania
Tonga.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF ISO RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS/ ASSOCIATIONS

Recognizing that the regional level is particularly well suited for exchanging information and experience, encouraging the dissemination and implementation of International Standards, organizing training and awareness-raising workshops and seminars, and ensuring an optimal use of technical resources and expertise, ISO has established organized links with seven regional standards organizations. The existing relationship with these regional organizations has been confirmed and consolidated by Council at its March 2008 meeting (cf. document General Assembly 15/2008 on ISO's regional policy).

The current membership of each of these bodies is set out in Appendix 1. This report gives the highlights of ISO's relations with these bodies since the 2007 General Assembly.

1   ACCSQ (ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality)

The Secretary-General attended and made opening remarks at the 30th ACCSQ meeting on 6-8 August in Manila (Philippines), and delivered an update on ISO's activities, focusing on sustainable development and developing countries.

He also participated in the regional workshop on social responsibility held in conjunction with the above meeting. The workshop was sponsored by ISO to address progress of ISO 26000 *Guidance on social responsibility* and attended by representatives from nine ACCSQ member countries, plus Fiji, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The President will represent ISO at the 32nd ACCSQ meeting in Hanoi (Viet Nam) on 26-28 August 2008, where he will address the meeting on ISO's latest developments. In conjunction with this ACCSQ meeting a workshop is being organized by ISO on the theme "ISO/IEC 27001 – Information Security Management Systems". All ISO members in the East and South East Asia region, of which 10 are from ACCSQ member countries, have been invited.

The report submitted by ACCSQ is attached at Appendix 2.

2   AIDMO (Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization)

ISO's training and awareness programmes have been active and increasing in the region.

3   ARSO (African Regional Organization for Standardization)

Collaboration is being pursued at the level of the two central secretariats with, *inter alia,* the objective to increase the use of International Standards in the region.

The report submitted by ARSO is attached at Appendix 3.

4   CEN (European Committee for Standardization)

At the 34th CEN General Assembly held in Bucharest (Romania) on 24 June 2008, ISO was represented by its Vice-President (policy) who addressed the audience on the latest developments within ISO which are of particular interest to the region (e.g. global relevance, new technologies, market for innovation, access to standardization).

At the technical level, over the last year, particular attention has been focused on communications related to the Vienna Agreement, one example being the observance that some European

member bodies do not make a distinction in their annual reports between European Standards (ENs) and those resulting from the adoption of ISO standards by CEN or which have been developed under the Vienna Agreement (EN ISOs). More generally, recognizing that the information technology sector in Europe has requested CEN not to transpose International Standards into European Standards, it has been concluded that past communications concerning the Vienna Agreement do not give a true picture of the use of ISO standards within Europe. It is consequently anticipated that the new systematic review procedure will allow a better picture to be elaborated over the next few years.

The report submitted by CEN is attached at Appendix 4.

5   COPANT (Panamerican Standards Commission)

The Secretary-General participated in COPANT's annual General Assembly held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) on 5-8 May 2008, where he updated the participants on ISO's activities.

Two IRAM[1]-COPANT Workshops were held in conjunction with the above event, one focusing on *Quality Management in the Public Administration* and the other on *Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies*, where the Secretary-General made presentations on "International Standards and public policies" and "ISO Standards for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies" respectively.

In November 2007, a Pan-American Seminar on *Standardization and Certification of Food Products* took place at IRAM's headquarters with ISO's support for COPANT members. On this occasion, food specialists from IRAM's standardization and certification departments elaborated on the standardization of food products at the national, regional and international levels. The Seminar was attended by participants from eight countries in the region.

The report submitted by COPANT is attached at Apppendix 5.

6   EASC (Euro-Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification)

The Secretary-General represented ISO at the 33rd EASC meeting in Baku (Azerbaijan) on 3-6 June 2008. On this occasion, he presented an update on ISO and key issues for EASC members.

Harmonization of EASC Standards with ISO International Standards and their promotion nationally have gone a step further with the availability of an increasing number of Russian versions of ISO standards on the ISOSTD[2] server.

The report submitted by EASC is attached at Appendix 6.

7   PASC (Pacific Area Standards Congress)

The President attended PASC 31 in Shanghai (China) on 21-25 April 2008. His message to PASC representatives highlighted both the importance of the PASC region in the world economy in general, and in ISO's standardization work in particular, and those areas in which ISO is active and which are of particular interest to the region.

The report submitted by PASC is attached at Appendix 7.

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[1] Instituto Argentino de Normalización y Certificación (IRAM)

[2] ISOSTD: ISO standards and publications server

MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS formally recognized by the ISO Council under Resolution 26/1992

ACCSQ (ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality)

Brunei Darussalam	Malaysia	Singapore
Cambodia	Myanmar	Thailand
Indonesia	Philippines	Viet Nam
Lao People's Democratic Republic		

AIDMO (Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization)

Algeria	Lebanon	Saudi Arabia
Bahrain	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Somalia
Egypt	Mauritania	Sudan
Djibouti	Morocco	Syria
Iraq	Oman	Tunisia
Jordan	Palestine	United Arab Emirates
Kuwait	Qatar	Yemen

ARSO (African Organization for Standardization)

Burkina Faso	Ghana	Rwanda
Cameroon	Guinea	Senegal
Congo, The Democratic Rep. of the	Kenya	South Africa
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Sudan
Congo, Rep. of	Madagascar	Tanzania
Egypt	Malawi	Tunisia
Ethiopia	Mauritius	Uganda
Gabon	Nigeria	Zimbabwe

CEN (European Committee for Standardization)

Members

Austria	Hungary	Poland
Belgium	Iceland	Portugal
Bulgaria	Ireland	Romania
Cyprus	Italy	Slovakia
Czech Republic	Latvia	Slovenia
Denmark	Lithuania	Spain
Estonia	Luxembourg	Sweden
Finland	Malta	Switzerland
France	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Germany	Norway	
Greece		

Affiliates

Albania	Georgia	Serbia
Armenia	Israel	The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Jordan	
Croatia	Moldova	Tunisia
Egypt	Russian Federation	Turkey
		Ukraine

COPANT (Panamerican Standards Commission)

Argentina	Dominican Republic	Nicaragua
Barbados	Ecuador	Panama
Bolivia	El Salvador	Paraguay
Brazil	Grenada	Peru
Canada	Guatemala	Saint Lucia
Chile	Guyana	Trinidad and Tobago
Colombia	Honduras	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Jamaica	USA
Cuba	Mexico	Venezuela

EASC (Euro-Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification)

Armenia	Kazakhstan	Tajikistan
Azerbaijan	Kyrgyztan	Turkmenistan
Belarus	Moldova, Republic of	Uzbekistan
Georgia	Russian Federation	Ukraine

PASC (Pacific Area Standards Congress)

Australia	Indonesia	Peru
Brunei Darussalam	Japan	Philippines
Canada	Korea, Rep. of	Russian Federation
Chile	Malaysia	Singapore
China	Mexico	South Africa
Colombia	Mongolia	Thailand
Fiji	New Zealand	USA
Hong Kong, China	Papua New Guinea	Viet Nam

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REPORT OF
ASEAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND QUALITY (ACCSQ)
AT ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
14-16 October 2008, Dubai

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1.   Overview of ASEAN

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 and comprises today 10 members.

The realization of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 will see ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian nations aiming to create a stable, prosperous and highly competitive ASEAN economic region in which there is a free flow of goods, services, investment and a freer flow of capital, equitable economic development and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities.

2.   Trade facilitation in ASEAN through removal of Technical Barriers to Trade

In line with the ASEAN vision to create a single market and production base, a region of equitable economic development and a highly competitive region which is fully integrated into the global economy, the ASEAN economic integration agenda includes trade facilitation as one of the main thrusts towards this goal.

One of the trade facilitation initiatives in ASEAN is the simplification and harmonization of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. The related standards and conformance activities in ASEAN are monitored by the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) which was formed in 1992 to address the technical barriers to trade and formulate related policies in ASEAN towards realizing the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) as well as to facilitate the implementation of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff Agreement (CEPT).

The ACCSQ is the main focal point in ASEAN on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures and is responsible for the formulation of policies for the harmonization of standards, technical regulations

and conformity assessment procedures in line with international standards and internationally accepted practices to attract the confidence of interested parties both within ASEAN and globally.

The ACCSQ has been given the mandate to facilitate the economic integration initiatives in ASEAN by removing technical barriers to trade posed by standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures among ASEAN Member States. The ACCSQ also serves as a consultative platform for relevant stakeholders to discuss issues related to standards, technical regulation, and conformity assessment.

3. Standards and conformance activities in ASEAN

The standards and conformance activities in ASEAN encompass the simplification and harmonisation of these barriers to trade such that they are no more trade restrictive more than necessary. Harmonisation of standards and technical regulations in ASEAN is governed by the common policy of harmonizing national standards with relevant international standards using the ISO/IEC Guide 21 Parts 1 and 2 (Regional or national adoption of International Standards and other International Deliverables) as one of the guiding principles. As far as possible this is also the general principle for the development of technical regulations in ASEAN based on internationals standards.

To further achieve free movement of goods in ASEAN, the ACCSQ also looks into the mutual recognition of test methods and test certificates among Member States which not only simplifies procedures but also reduces transaction costs. This is in recognition that more than standards themselves, it is often the duplicative testing procedures arising from different systems of conformity assessment in various Member States that may pose as barriers to trade.

This common approach of "One Standard, One Test, Accepted Everywhere" is one of the trade facilitation measures adopted in ASEAN to create a single market and production base as well as free movement of goods in the region.

The current achievements and developments in the standards and conformance activities are based on three core activities, that is, harmonisation of standards with relevant international standards and practices, development of mutual recognition arrangements for conformity assessment procedures and development of single regulatory regimes for priority sectors which account for more that 50% of intra-ASEAN trade.

The priority sectors being currently addressed are agro-based products (prepared foodstuff), automotive sector, electrical and electronic equipment sector, healthcare sector (subdivided to cosmetics, medical devices, pharmaceutical, traditional medicine and health supplement), rubber-based products sector and wood-based products sector.

The three core standards and conformance activities are inter-related to ensure that the entirety of technical barriers to trade for each sector is addressed thus

leading towards a more coordinated and integrated approach in the removal of these technical barriers to trade.

Harmonisation of standards and technical requirements

- Harmonisation of 20 priority products covering electrical and electronic equipment and rubber gloves and condoms have been aligned with the relevant international standards.
- Harmonisation of standards for automotives, prepared foodstuff and wood-based products with relevant international standards are on-going.
- Harmonisation of technical requirements for the pharmaceutical sector through the development and use of the ASEAN Common Technical Requirements and ASEAN Common Technical Dossier for regional implementation by 1 January 2009.
- Harmonisation of technical requirements for medical devices through the development and use of the ASEAN Common Submission Dossier Template.
- Harmonization of technical requirements for food safety through the development and implementation of the ASEAN Common Food Control Systems which also includes common requirements for labeling of prepackaged food and food hygiene.

Mutual Recognition Arrangements

- ASEAN Framework Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangements has been developed to be used for development of further sectoral MRAs.
- ASEAN Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Electrical and Electronic Equipment was signed on 5 April 2002 and is currently being implemented by all Member States. Thirteen testing laboratories and two certification bodies from various Members States have been listed under this MRA. Under this MRA, all Member States have notified participation in acceptance of test reports.
- ASEAN MRA for GMP Inspection of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products Inspection is expected to be finalised by July 2008 and subsequently signed by the ASEAN Economic Ministers in 2008.

Development of single regulatory regimes

- ASEAN Cosmetic Directives entered into force on 1 January 2008.
- ASEAN Harmonized Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulatory regime will enter into force on 1 January 2011.
- ASEAN Medical Device Directive is under development.

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**STATEMENT
TO
31ST ISO GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
ISO DUBAI 2008**

ARSO ASHAM: OVERCOMING STANDARDS-DIVERSITY FOR STANDARDISATION ROADMAP IN AFRICA BY DAMIAN UDENNA AGBANELO, ARSO SECRETARY GENERAL.

1. Introduction

ARSO is appreciative of the privilege to participate in the events of the 31st ISO General Assembly tagged ISO Dubai 2008. The ARSO-ISO partnership, especially in the areas of ISO Action Plan for Developing Countries and exchange of technical documents, is positively impacting on standardisation awareness, perception, management and benefits in Africa.

2. The Re-engineering ARSO Process 2003 – 2005

The Re-engineering ARSO Process (REAP), sponsored by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), was completed in 2005. REAP was a strategy development initiative to re-align ARSO with stakeholder-motivated Standardisation Activities Model (SAM) for effective and sustained participation in the transformation of the Productive Philosophy of African Union (AU) into economic reality.

The ARSO "Tree-growth-strategy" Approach to Standardisation (TREAS) coordination in Africa was, for instance, reaped from REAP. TREAS is already contributing to, inspiring and improving in Africa, the following "benefits-optimisation" factors (BOFs), among others:

- Complementariness of standardisation
- Cost-effectiveness of standardisation

- Standardisation ownership

- African standardisation Roadmap and Transparency

- Utilisation of principles of frog leap, collaboration, cooperation, coordination, mutual recognition for collective good

- Political support for standardisation

- Technical partnership and donor support

- Stakeholder perception of and attitude to ARSO standardisation coordination.

3. Evolution and Ratification of ASHAM

These BOFs, above mentioned, facilitated the evolution of draft ARSO ASHAM and its ratification, respectively, by ARSO constituted Standardisation Experts Work Group and the 16th ARSO General Assembly 2007.

ASHAM is acronym for African Standards Harmonisation Model.

3.1 What ASHAM is:

Built on the principles of shared ownership and coordinated by "REAP-strategised" ARSO, ASHAM is "shared-responsibilities-convergent" system for enhancing African market integration based on competitiveness. ASHAM, thus acknowledged, is to ARSO the empowerment of wealth creation through conversion of standards-and regulatory-diversity inherent in economies. This, for instance, means for:

- National Standards Bodies (NSBs) of AU Member States the recognition of intra-Country Quality Marks and personnel competences;

- Regional Economic Communities (RECs) the improvement in intra-REC trade;

- AU the transformation of lack of common quality level to common quality level;

- Statutory Regulators and Standardisers the building of "standards-regulations-technical regulations" convergence/interplay for meeting the fierce challenges of WTO/TBT, SPS Agreements.

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In essence, ASHAM is, to all "collective-good" stakeholders one of the critical "Must-inputs" for sustainable economic growth. It is ARSO's stakeholder-driven mechanism for overcoming "standards-diversity" inherent in the economies of AU Member States as well as creating African Standardisation-Regulation Convergence Roadmap for prosperity of the continent.

3.2   ASHAM Implementation and Promotion: The Critical Success factors

ASHAM is an economic improvement step in the right direction for evolving standards-led trade in Africa. The implementation and promotion of ASHAM will be facilitated by the following:

√   ARSO African Advisory Committee on Competitive Tools (AACCTs);

√   ARSO Technical Management Committee (ATMCo)

√   ARSO Project Steering Committee (APSCo);

√   prompt issuance of recommendations on African Standards (ARS);

√   encouragement by ARSO of adoption of international standards (e.g. ISO Standards) by NSBs in Africa;

√   advocacy by ARSO for adoption of African Standards (ARS) on unique African products of economic interest as international standards;

√   formalisation of MoUs between ARSO and relevant stakeholders;

√   implementation of Reference to Standards Principles and International Model for Technical Harmonisation;

√   developed capacity of African standardisation.

ARSO ASHAM starts a new dawn in ARSO SAM which with our continued partnership will blossom into a noonday sun of economic growth springboard contributing, through standardisation, for instance, to poverty management and alleviation in Africa - key components of United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UNMDGs).

Thank you for the opportunity and kind audience.

Intervention of the CEN President, Mr. Juan Carlos López Agüí, at the ISO/AG (2008)

It is a pleasure for me to visit Dubai, the place that ISO has chosen this year for its General Assembly. But most of all I am pleased to be with you to-day. CEN and ISO maintain a good and close relationship and it is therefore a privilege to address some words at this ISO General Assembly.

CEN is deeply committed to International standardization in general, and to ISO in particular. To start with, all CEN Members are part of the ISO community. Furthermore, when some 10 years ago CEN adopted around one hundred ISO standards each year, this figure is now three times as high! And this is happening now in 30 CEN Member countries, many more than the 18 members that CEN had ten years ago.

It is especially interesting that the adoption of ISO standards now concerns also the regulated area: CEN now implements yearly around 50 ISO standards as harmonized European Standards. That is 5 times more than ten years ago. The understanding of the need for global references even in regulated area is indeed progressing: we are currently answering a mandate of the European Commission regarding standards to be used in quality management and conformity assessment by putting forward only ISO standards.

Think also of Energy Management and of the Energy Efficiency of buildings, which is one of the world's foremost challenges, and which is the theme of the ISO open session this year. After 8 years of work on these issues, CEN is happy to contribute its results and experience now that ISO is setting forward its own strategy. Last but not least for me – I am coming from the construction industry -, we are very enthusiastic about the perspective that the ISO community could soon be putting together world-class building codes construction that might be known in the future as the "ISO-Codes"!

Together with the fact that no EN can be found contradicting an ISO standard, these encouraging facts and figures are probably the best illustration of the remarkable development of the Vienna Agreement.

We know that the life of businesses – and standardizers -   would be so much easier if the laws and regulations were harmonized all over the world. But such is not the case, and until it happens, we have to live with situations where we have to respond to different regulations. To help us in this, we have the policy of Global Relevance, that ISO has defined, and that CEN has accepted and is applying.

The brotherhood between ISO and CEN is not only in the standards that we are adopting, but also in the tools and methods we are using:

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1. For example, we are extremely conscious of the expectation for timeliness of businesses, but also of our other stakeholders. Time-to-market is critical for standards, and for this we have deployed successfully a 3-year timeframe, in parallel and in coordination with ISO,

2. Another very strong expectation of the market is for clarity and simplicity in the offer of the standards organization. For this, CEN is ready to implement the streamlined range of deliverables that ISO and IEC are discussing,

3. The cooperation between CEN and ISO in the IT field has been further strengthened over the past year.

The level of harmonization of ISO and CEN e-Services to Members that we have in common has increased: the same technologies are used for key services such as TC collaborative tools, e-Balloting, Global Directory and - last but not least -   the National Mirror Committee service, operational at ISO and coming soon at CEN. The core applications of these services use more and more common underlying code with the possibility to accommodate business specificities.

The CEN Management Centre and the ISO Central Secretariat are currently also discussing *IT solutions to better support the cooperation in the framework of the Vienna Agreement*. The current goals are ensuring a better synchronization of the ISO and CEN work programmes and providing mutual access to balloting documents in case of parallel procedure.

The CEN Management Centre and the ISO Central Secretariat participate as observers in their mutual IT strategic groups, ISO/ITSIG and CEN IT Group. The CEN Management Centre also follows closely the developments at ISO in order to keep the pace with technological upgrades of existing systems and propose to CEN Members new services of common interest.

These positive achievements result from a high level of collaboration between the ISO Central Secretariat and the CEN Management Centre teams by regular exchanges and meetings, building on mutual expertise, sharing experiences and participating in relevant mutual project teams.

I would furthermore like to report on the relations between the three European standardization organizations CEN, CENELEC and ETSI, in other words between the various sectors covered by those organizations.

For several years CEN, CENELEC an ETSI have worked in close collaboration. Three years ago the respective General Assemblies of CEN and CENELEC decided to streamline the foundations of the European system, due to major challenges (globalisation, convergence of technologies, emergence of regions) and especially because the majority of CEN and CENELEC members are members in common.

As a result of this, the Future Landscape of European Standardization or in short FLES exercise was launched and we can now report on joint CEN and CENELEC activities, such as

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- Common groups and common principles (Internal regulations, visibility, commercial issues, conformity assessment, arbitrage mechanism).

We are also pleased to report that we are developing and improving synergies between the CEN and CENELEC Secretariats in Brussels (IT structure, communication). CEN and CENELEC took the decision that they will move to common offices.

Now that these first synergies between CEN and CENELEC become reality, we are also asking the involvement of ETSI in the process. Closer collaboration of the three European Standards Organizations would further strengthen the European Standardization System and would make it more visible for the benefit of our stakeholders, the European companies and European citizens.

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COPANT

Comisión Panamericana de Normas Técnicas
Panamerican Standards Commission
Comisào Panamericana de Normas Técnicas

PAN AMERICAN STANDARDS COMMISSION – COPANT

REPORT TO 31st ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY – DUBAI - UAE

PETER CLARK, PRESIDENT

The Principal Objective of COPANT is to promote the development of technical standardization and related activities in its member countries with the aim of promoting their commercial, industrial, scientific and technological development in benefit of the economic and commercial integration and the exchange of goods and services, while facilitating cooperation in the intellectual, scientific, economic and social spheres

COPANT Authorities 2007-2009	- President - Peter Clark, Canada - Vice-president - Pablo Benia, Uruguay - Treasurer - Mario Wittner, Argentina - Executive Secretary - Manuel Díaz Portocarrero

COPANT General Assembly 2008	- Held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on May 06 and 08, 2008 90 delegates, including COPANT Member, the COPANT Authorities, invitees and observers. Establishing the presence of 18 Active Members, 5 Adherent Members (Germany, Spain, France, Australia and IAAC), the COPANT Authorities, and a total of 8 special guests from International and Regional Organizations [AMN, CANENA, CEN, CROSQ, China/SAC, RAN, IEC (the IEC General-Secretary and CEO) and ISO (the ISO Secretary General and the ISO President-Elect)], and Observers.

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COPANT

Comisión Panamericana de Normas Técnicas
Panamerican Standards Commission
Comisão Panamericana de Normas Técnicas

Some Highlights of 2007-2008	• COPANT Board of Directors held 2 meetings: Nº 14 Meeting in San Salvador, El Salvador (November 2007), and Nº 15 Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina (May 5 and May 8, 2008) • Approved two new COPANT standards produced by Technical Committee of Accessibility (TC 143) • Capacity building - ANSI offered to assist with outreach for supporting capacity building. It was proposed that certification of persons could be considered as a first topic. • The COPANT Assembly <u>thanked</u> the Inter American Development Bank (IADB) for its support on the projects to enhance competitiveness of SMEs through standardization, as follows: - ATN/ME 8532 RG UNIT – MERCOSUR - ATN/ME 8533 RG ICONTEC – ANDINO - ATN/ME 8576 RG INTECO – CENTRO AMERICA - ATN/ME 8591 RG CROSQ – CARIBE • Created COPANT/COPOLCO mirror committee. • Reported on standards education and on biofuels • Forum of IEC National Committees of the Americas IEC Workshop in Conjunction with COPANT, organized by USA, Canada, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico (May 8, 2008) • Completed Spanish translation of the document ISO POCOSA 2005, and its new Annexes 7 and 9.

Legal Documents & Standards Approved 2007 - 2008	**COPANT General Assembly 2008** • Approved the New COPANT Statutes and Rules of Procedure presented May 6, 2008. • Approved two COPANT standards produced by the committee of accessibility (TC 143): - **COPANT 1709:2007** Accessibility of the persons to the physical environment. Buildings. Accessible Kitchens - **COPANT 1706:2007 (1st Review)** Accessibility of the persons to the physical environment Buildings. Hygienic accessible services **COPANT Board of Directors** • Approved the revised wording for the Memorandum of Understanding between COPANT and the ESOs (CEN-CENELEC-ETSI), to be sent to the ESOs.

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COPANT

Comisión Panamericana de Normas Técnicas
Panamerican Standards Commission
Comisão Panamericana de Normas Técnicas

Training 2007	• Seminar "Fire Codes and First meeting of the COPANT Fire Protection Working Group", celebrated in Mexico City, on November 06-08, 2007.
	• Regional Workshop about Social Responsibility. Celebrated in Santa Cruz – Bolivia, October 8 – 10, 2007.
	• COPANT – ICONTEC / V Internship "Towards excellence in the service of national standardization and certification bodies", was held in Bogotá at the ICONTEC headquarters; December 3 – 6, 2007
	• The Pan-American Seminar on "Standardization and certification of food products" in Buenos Aires – Argentina, celebrated on November 29 - 30, 2007.

Participation in International and Regional Initiatives 2007-2008	• Spanish Translation Groups ISO/ TC 207 STTF, ISO/TC 176 STTG and ISO/ CASCO STWG during the different meetings of 2007, that is to say: - Joint Meeting, in Buenos Aires – Argentina, on April 22 - 28, 2007. - Assembly of the ISO/TC 207 and Meeting of the STTF, in Beijing – China, June, 2007.
	• 30th ISO General Assembly 2007 – Switzerland
	• IEC GA 2007 in Paris
	• Participation in the **ISO/TMB/WG SR** Meeting, celebrated in Vienna – Austria, on November 05 - 09, 2007.
	• Participation in PASC 31 meeting, held on 22-23 April 2008 in Shanghai, China
	• COPOLCO 2008 Plenary, in Korea, 28-29, May 2008.

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COPANT
Comisión Panamericana de Normas Técnicas
Panamerican Standards Commission
Comisão Panamericana de Normas Técnicas

Strategic Plan Follow Up 2008	Strategic Objectives
	1. Improve COPANT's leadership as the driving force for the coordination and harmonization of the regional standardization processes and for ensuring the development and use of COPANT standards
	2. Foster COPANT member participation in international standardization
	3. Prioritize human resource training
	4. Make efforts to improve the infrastructure of COPANT member organizations, especially for those that are less developed
	5. Promote conformity assessment activities in the region.
	6. Achieve better visibility for COPANT
	7. To be considered the principal body for reference in the Americas in the areas of Standardization and Conformity Assessment
	8. To improve the value of COPANT to its members and increase their participation in COPANT activities
	Planned activities in 2008:
	• Proposal for the Regional workshop: "Consumer's participation in the standardization processes" IN Buenos Aires
	• Regional training course Introduction to ISO E-services in Montevideo
	• Regional training course on ISO 22000 in Caracas

President's Priorities	• To review the library of COPANT standards and assess the need to withdraw or revise.
	• To continue to build capacity in the region
	• To enhance efficiency and meeting operations

Next General Assembly of COPANT	• Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic - May 4 to 8, 2009

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EURO-ASIAN COUNCIL FOR STANDARDIZATION, METROLOGY AND CERTIFICATION (EASC)

In March 2008, the EASC celebrated its 16th anniversary.

In accordance with the Interstate Agreement, EASC implements an agreed and coordinated policy in the fields of standardization, harmonization of technical regulations, metrology and conformity assessment in the CIS countries. The legal basis comprises the Agreement of 13 March 1992 concerning the implementation of a coordinated policy in the field of standardization, metrology and certification, the Protocol of 25 November 2007 to this Agreement, and some other agreements signed by the Heads of Government of the CIS States, as well as agreements concluded within the framework of EASC between national standardization, metrology and certification bodies.

Six research and technical commissions, three working groups, and over 260 interstate technical committees for standardization carry out regular activities within the EASC, with the participation of more than 3 000 experts.

The EASC is a multidisciplinary regional organization with the following major fields of activity:

♦ development of normative documents on standardization, including interstate standards, regulations, recommendations and classifications;

♦ creation, maintenance, running of a collection of interstate standards and provision of these standards to the EASC member States;

♦ activities aimed at harmonizing the technical regulations of the CIS member States;

♦ maintenance and development of a reference base and a transfer system of units of physical values;

♦ running of the interstate time and frequency service;

♦ maintenance of information collections covering means of measurement, standard samples and standard reference data concerning the properties of substances and materials;

♦ development of regulations and procedures concerning the mutual recognition of the results of State tests, metrological certification, verification and calibration of the means of measurement;

♦ development of regulations and procedures concerning the mutual recognition of accredited laboratories (centers) responsible for testing, verifying, calibrating and measuring, as well as certification bodies, product certificates and quality management systems;

♦ international cooperation in the field of regional standardization, metrology, certification and quality;

♦ development of the mechanism to assess the application of the interstate standards in force and bring them into line with international standards.

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Representatives of international and regional organizations for standardization, metrology and conformity assessment, as well as many national organizations concerned take part in the EASC activities. The ISO principal officers - Mr. Håkan Murby, President, Dr. George Arnold, Vice-President, and Mr. Alan Bryden, Secretary-General - regularly participate in the EASC sessions. This proves that ISO continuously pays attention to our Council, which is greatly beneficial to the development of international cooperation.

The decision to complement the ISO server with Russian versions of International Standards is an example of such cooperation. This step facilitates their application as EASC regional standards and as national standards in Russian-speaking States. Keeping in mind that Russian is one of the three ISO official languages, we hope that in future the ISO site will be in Russian as well, together with its English and French versions. This should help further promotion of the ISO ideas and activities.

The EASC activities are aimed at improving the quality and competitiveness of products produced in the CIS member States, at ensuring their security for citizens' life and health, at protecting the environment, as well as protecting markets against low quality and unsafe products, ensuring their compatibility and interchangeability, and preventing misleading actions. In order to promptly provide States with information concerning dangerous products that appear on the markets, a "Dangerous Products" automated system was established which is similar to the system applied in the European Union. In order to provide solutions to problems of mutual interest, it might be useful to establish the continuous exchange of information placed in these systems.

In the field of standardization, EASC cooperates with such international and regional standardization organizations as ISO, IEC, CEN, CENELEC.

Standardization activities are carried out on the basis of the priorities in the interstate standardization and take into consideration the economic interests of the CIS member States to ensure the free movement of goods and services. These priorities constitute the basis for the development of activities in the interstate standardization and are adopted for a five-year period. They are implemented within the framework of the interstate standardization programmes formulated for a three-year period.

Interstate standards are developed in accordance with procedures adopted in the international practice. Standards are adopted at the EASC sessions or by correspondence.

Since 1992, more than 5 000 interstate standards have been developed and adopted and 1 400 amendments have been introduced into existing interstate standards.

The average level of harmonization of the adopted interstate standards with International Standards exceeds 55 %.

The existing collection of interstate standards comprises 20 526 standards, including by sectors:

Mechanical engineering	5 894
Metallurgy	1 698
Agriculture and food industry	1 748
Building materials and products	459
Chemical industry	2 870
Electrical engineering, radio electronics, communication	3 053
Forest and woodworking industry	603
Light industry products	1 233
Other	2 948

In order to improve information flows for the EASC member States concerning standardization, metrology and conformity assessment, «The CIS Standard» information retrieval system has been developed and launched, covering bibliographical databases that include international, interstate and national standards of the CIS States.

Computerizing processes of elaboration and application of normative documents fostered cooperation between national bodies.

The system of electronic voting of draft interstate normative documents introduced in EASC in 2002 substantially accelerated the process of their consideration, submission, adoption and promulgation. At present, considerable work is underway to develop the existing information technologies.

The Council's site (http://www.easc.org.by) presents information in Russian and English concerning legal and normative bases in the field of standardization, metrology and conformity assessment, as well as information concerning organization and planned and completed activities.

The priority tasks for EASC in the field of standardization in the near future are:
− to create a normative and technical base meeting modern requirements for the assessment of the conformity of products and services to technical regulations;
− to stimulate the application of newly adopted International and European standards as interstate standards;
− to increase the participation of interstate technical committees in the work of appropriate technical committees of international organizations to ensure that the interests of the CIS member States are fully taken into account in the Draft International Standards development process.

With the transition towards the principles of technical regulation adopted in the international practice, EASC considers the search of mutually acceptable decisions on the harmonization of national technical regulations as one of its key tasks.

For this purpose, the following documents were developed and adopted:
• strategy for the harmonization of the CIS member States technical regulations;
• working program for the development of priority interstate technical regulation models.

Draft agreements were prepared concerning the basics of harmonization of the conformity assessment technical regulations and modules.

EASC aims its policy in the field of conformity assessment at ensuring adoption by the CIS States of a common approach to the recognition of conformity assessment results, the free movement of goods between them and the elimination of technical barriers to trade. In order to ensure that providers of products promptly receive the latest information on products liable to compulsory conformity assessment, the CIS States have developed and included in the EASC site a system of prompt information concerning products that are subject to compulsory certification in the CIS member States.

Improvement of product quality and competitiveness is one of the key tasks of the EASC member States. The important tool to its solution is the development and certification of quality management systems in accordance with the ISO 9000 series of International Standards. Mutual confidence in the EASC certification results is ensured by the Agreement on mutual recognition of the quality management systems certification results. With a view to adopting the new version of the ISO 9000 standards in 2008, it is envisaged to hold an interstate seminar aimed at

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accelerating the introduction of these standards into our practical work. In this connection, we request the ISO administration to assist in holding such seminar in the Republic of Belarus with the participation of leading ISO experts. For our part, we will ensure the organizational side of this seminar. The CIS countries also closely watch and participate in the development of the ISO 26000 project "Guidance on social responsibility", and are very interested in holding, jointly with ISO, a seminar on the subject matter aimed at achieving fuller introduction in the everyday practical work of our organizations, of examples of best practices in the application of principles in the field of social responsibility.

In November 2005, the CIS Heads of Government Council decided to establish the CIS Prize for Quality aimed at fostering quality and competitiveness of products produced in the CIS member States. The competition is carried out every other year. EASC is responsible for the coordination of the preparatory work for this competition.

In 2007, the results of the first competitors contest for the Commonwealth of Independent States Prize in the field of quality were summed up, and the procedure for rewarding the prize-winners (6) and diploma-winners (12) of the competition took place in early 2008. These were organizations from six CIS member States.

In order to improve activities in the field of conformity assessment, measures are being taken to develop cooperation with IAF and ILAC.

Efforts by national standardization, metrology and conformity assessment bodies to harmonize technical regulations, update and harmonize the existing body of interstate standards with International and European Standards, to apply coherent means of measurement and modern information technologies will facilitate the development of trade within the CIS and the integration of the CIS member States economies in the global economy.

It is envisaged that the EASC 35th session will take place in May-June 2009 in Minsk (Belarus).

I take this opportunity to invite the ISO President, the Heads of the Central Secretariat, the Heads of the international organizations that maintain mutually beneficial business relations with EASC, as well as the Heads of national standards bodies interested in the cooperation with EASC to participate in the 35th session of EASC.

B. N. Koreshkov
EASC Chairman
President, BELST
Belarus

**Pacific Area Standards Congress ("PASC") report to ISO General Assembly
– Dubai, UAE**

Objective	This report provides a summary of activities carried out by PASC in last 12 months. The key activities have been: - • Establishment of the agreement on cooperation between IEC and PASC on 18 September 2007. (The agreement on cooperation between ISO and PASC already in place in 2006.) • Cooperation with APEC Standards and Conformance Sub-Committee ("SCSC") meeting • PASC Standing Committee ("SC") meeting held in Geneva on 16 September 2007 and in Lima, Peru February 27, 2008 • PASC 31 and PASC Executive Committee ("EC") held in Shanghai, China on 22-25 April 2008. (PASC SC renamed to PASC EC at PASC 31)
PASC themes and issues	Key themes that PASC is working on are: 1. the importance of involving regulators in standardization and of meeting regulators' needs. 2. the need to clearly explain the value of a robust standards and conformance infrastructure in an economy to assist in economic growth and provide appropriate safety for citizens of that economy. 3. the development of case studies which can be used for guidance and communication with governments on standardization activities. PASC also supports the development of guidance documents on best practices. 4. consideration as to how PASC and other Specialist

Regional Bodies ("SRB's") in the Pacific region might work more effectively with APEC SCSC. This initiative led to an activity in the APEC SCSC in which a strategy to paper to improve and coordinate capacity-building and awareness of standards and conformance in the APEC region was finalised in June 2007. PASC supports the ongoing and planned SRB activities in cooperation with the APEC/SCSC and ABAC. PASC members to consider participation in upcoming SRB seminars, workshops and/or training courses, as appropriate. PASC members also seek and promote stakeholders' participation in the 7th Conference on Standards and Conformance to be held in Cusco, Peru on 10 and 11 August 2008.

5. encouragement of closer working between ISO and IEC. To this end, PASC and ISO signed an Agreement on Cooperation that will assist the already close relationship between the two organisations and foster the region's views in the development of international (ISO) standards. Similarly, PASC and IEC signed a Co-operation Agreement in September 2007. PASC also looks for further cooperation between ISO and IEC and suggests them to consider establishing a standing annual joint ISO/Technical Management Board and IEC/Standardization Management Board meeting as well as a mechanism between ISO/TMB and IEC/SMB which can anticipate resolving issues of converging technologies. PASC would like to bring to the ISO/TMB's attention the concern expressed by members of PASC about inactive or poorly performing TCs, and the interest amongst PASC members to revive these committees and actively participate and lead the works. To this end, PASC sent letters to ISO and IEC, in August 2007, to bring these to their attentions.

6. establishment of a mechanism to further facilitate cooperation among PASC members in developing international standards to reflect regional views in standards which will be the basis for free trade in the region.

7. enhancement of collaboration with business people. PASC 31 discussed the following number of action points with regard to the cooperation with APEC Business Advisory Council ("ABAC"):

	· PASC will work with ABAC to maximize the value of reference to standards in the annual ABAC Report to APEC Leaders. · PASC encourages ABAC to highlight in its Annual Report to APEC Leaders the value that international standards can have in achieving the APEC Bogor Goals of free and open trade in the region. All of the above are incorporated in a PASC Action Plan which records agreed projects and which is monitored by the PASC EC. An updated Action Plan and progress on the actions is presented at each PASC annual meeting and PASC EC meeting.
Regional Liaison	As already noted, PASC led the development of a strategic plan for APEC/SCSC to improve and coordinate capacity-building and awareness programmes of standards and conformance in the APEC region in which SRB's are expected to coordinate their efforts to improve the standards and conformance infrastructure of these countries.
Conclusion	PASC appreciates the opportunity to report to ISO and would appreciate any feedback you may have with respect to issues and ideas in this report. We take this opportunity to wish ISO and its members every success at the ISO General Assembly in Dubai, UAE in October, 2008. Juichi Nagano For PASC Secretary June 2008

AIDMO's Report to the
Thirty-First ISO General Assembly
Dubai, 14-16 October 2008.

It is a great honor for us to be addressed to the General assembly meeting on behalf of the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) member states, where most of them are members in your regardful organization.

Our organization works in three major sectors, namely: Industrial development, Mining and Standardization. Also, it is the only legal agency authorized to issue unified Arab standards for the region.

AIDMO and its Member States developed and updated the Arab Standardization Strategy to be more active in the development of standardization and related activities in the world with a view of facilitating international exchange of goods and services and to develop cooperation in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological and economical activity. Also, working on raising awareness of the importance of standardization to economy and to meet the needs of business, industry, government, and consumers in our region is of paramount importance. Thus we share with others, the celebration of the World Standards Day on the 14th of October every year. The Arab standards Day is also celebrated in our region on the 25th of March each year (The last theme for this Day was: "Standards supporting GAFTA* ").* The Greater Arab Free Trade Area.

We all appreciate your support for our region by the acceptance of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to host the thirty first ISO General Assembly 2008 and all the associated meetings. Also, we appreciate the decision of the ISO Technical Management Board (ISO/TMB) of establishing a Working Group responsible for the supervision of translating ISO standards to the Arabic language; we would like to take this opportunity to commend the achievements realized by the working group.

Our new strategy for issuing unified Arab standards is based on the adoption of the International ones in its original language, AIDMO issued so far 6700 standards in both, original and Arabic language, (In addition to 1837 standards to be ratified within the next meeting of the AIDMO's High Consultative Committee for Standardization next November).

New Developments in AIDMO's Activities

- Many achievements and developments have been made in the fields of standardization in our region. We have reengineered our process to speed up the development of AIDMO standards. We appreciate the efforts of our member bodies, who take the effort of preparing, translating or updating AIDMO standards.
- AIDMO's High Consultative Committee for Standardization (HCCS) has issued approved Arabic translations for ISO and ISO/IEC Standards and Guides related to Conformity Assessment, Quality Management Systems and Environmental Management Systems.

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- The Ministerial Council for AIDMO issued a decision, which confirms the importance of establishing an Arab Regional Cooperation for Accreditation. We are now preparing a study for establishing an Arab Regional Accreditation Body and to be approved and ratified by the related authorities in August 2008. Also, for the same purpose and with cooperation and coordination with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC), conducted a training course on the "World Trade, Conformity Assessment and Quality Infrastructure Development" for the benefit of several Arab Countries and AIDMO.

- AIDMO'S High consultative Committee for Standardization (HCCS) has formed a committee consisting of certain Arab countries and AIDMO to prepare a study to establish an Arab Quality Award to be presented in the next (HCCS) meeting.

- AIDMO initiates an interactive Standards Database in order to speed up the Arab Standards project proposal, preparation and electronic publishing process.

- Starting the creation of AIDMO's Standardization and Metrology Center Website which will include issues related to Standards, Metrology, Quality, Conformity Assessment and Accreditation.

We look forward to enhance and strengthen our fruitful cooperation with ISO, by activating the cooperation convention signed in September 1994, and with all International and Regional Organizations for the benefit of our shared mission in standardization and its related activities at Regional and International level.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ISO has liaison relations with some 680 international organizations, including the UN and its specialized agencies. Since the last General Assembly, a substantial number of developments have taken place regarding ISO's cooperation with international organizations. A summary highlighting the main developments is given in the report below.

For the sake of clarity, the international organizations in liaison with ISO mentioned in this document have been divided into two groups:

– the UN and its specialized agencies and bodies (section 1), and

– other international organizations (section 2).

NOTE – The cooperation with IEC and ITU is covered under agenda item 5 and with the WTO under agenda item 6.

1   The UN and its specialized agencies and bodies

The UN system is a key "partner" for ISO, since most UN specialized agencies and bodies working in fields related to technical harmonization or technical assistance have liaison status with ISO. Moreover, ISO has general consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and equivalent status with nearly all other bodies and specialized agencies of the UN system.

The Secretary-General met with the UN Secretary-General on 29 April 2008 on the occasion of "The Geneva Lecture Series", a joint UNOG/UNITAR[1] initiative to address global challenges. In addition, he meets regularly with the Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

On 3 March 2008, the Secretary-General paid a visit to the UN Headquarters in New York (USA), where he met with the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to discuss matters of common interest and further collaboration.

1.1   CAC (FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission)

The 31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was held in Geneva on 30 June-4 July 2008. An informative paper (attached at Appendix 1) was submitted by ISO and circulated as a Codex document for that meeting. As in previous years, the subject of the CAC's relations with ISO was addressed specifically in their agenda. In this context, the Codex working paper regarding the relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other International Organizations contained a section on relations between Codex and ISO. The relevant extract of this document is attached at Appendix 2.

The CAC has liaison relations with 23 ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

1.2   IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)

The IAEA has liaison relations with the ISO Committee on reference materials (REMCO) and 14 ISO technical committees and subcommittees. Of key importance is the reciprocal collaboration

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[1]   UNOG: United Nations Office at Geneva

     UNITAR: United Nations Institute for Training and Research

with ISO/TC 85 *Nuclear energy*, which is assured by four liaison officers assigned to participate actively in IAEA commissions dealing with the validation of IAEA safety standards and guides (safety, radiological protection, transport, waste management). Further support is ensured by the attendance of ISO expert representatives at the IAEA's annual general meeting and specific IAEA technical and working group meetings.

Since May 2007, when the ISO/TC 85 Chair met with the IAEA Deputy Director General, the implementation of the existing Memorandum of Understanding between IAEA and ISO has been improved through the designation by each organisation of focus points (or persons) in charge of coordinating the liaisons and organising periodic information and meetings on respective work programmes (to avoid duplication and contradictions). Work is progressing to develop a common catalogue of international standards (IAEA+ISO+IEC) relevant to the nuclear industry; this catalogue will be used as a communication tool to promote the use of international standards, and will make possible gap- analysis on support of the future standard productions of each organisation.

1.3   ILO (International Labour Organization)

The Secretary-General met with the ILO Director General at the ILO headquarters in Geneva on 16 May 2008 to review the collaboration between the two organizations in particular in relation to standards for social responsibility and occupational health and safety.

The ILO and its tri-partite constituency (governments, employers and workers) continue to be active contributors to the ISO Working Group on Social Responsibility (SR) and it is recalled that a Memorandum of Understanding between ISO and ILO was signed in March 2005 to secure cooperation with ISO in that field.

Cooperation between ISO and ILO is active in several technical areas, for example biometrics, ergonomics, and protective clothing and equipment.

The ILO has liaison relations with 35 ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

1.4   IMO (International Maritime Organization)

The IMO has liaison relations with 30 technical committees and subcommittees. In particular, the IMO continues to be a strong supporter and client of ISO/TC 8, *Ships and marine technology*. The ISO 28000 series related to security in the supply chain has been published upon IMO's request. The ISO 30000 series related to specifications for ships recycling management systems is being developed with IMO's active support.

1.5   ITC (International Trade Centre UNCTAD-WTO)

The Secretary-General participated in the ITC World Export Development Forum 2007 in Montreux, Switzerland and spoke about "Meeting Technical Regulations and Standards for Export Success". ISO also took part in the round table discussions on "Aid for Trade - Quality Management and Standards for Trade Development" during the same event.

The following joint ISO/ITC reference documents have been published:
- ISO 9001 for Small Businesses (2002);
- ISO 9001:2000 - A workbook for service organizations (2006);
- ISO 22000 Food Safety Management Systems – An easy-to-use checklist for small business. Are you ready? (2007).

The last publication is aimed at small businesses in particular, both in developed and developing countries, for which a food safety management system meeting the requirements of the International Standard ISO 22000:2005 could be the entry ticket to increased business in the global market and participation in cross-border food supply chains.

The ITC has liaison relations with four ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

1.6 UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)

The Secretary-General met with UNCTAD Secretary-General in September 2007 with a view to identifying areas of common interest to the two Organizations which deserved closer cooperation. During the meeting, the following areas were identified:

- social responsibility and the current development of the ISO 26000 standard;
- energy efficiency and renewable sources, in particular energy management and biofuels;
- food safety management and the ISO 22000 series of standards;
- environmental management, GHG emissions credit trading and the ISO 14000 series of standards;
- trade facilitation in general, particularly in transportation, and the ISO 28000 series on security management in the supply chain;
- quality management in SMEs and the ISO 9000 series of standards.

ISO participated in various preparatory meetings leading to the UNCTAD XII conference in Accra, Ghana, from 20 to 25 April 2008 where it was represented by the Director General of the Ghana Standards Board.

UNCTAD has liaison relations with 11 ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

1.7 UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

ISO has been active in further strengthening the liaisons with UNECE, especially in the following areas: construction of road vehicles; transport of dangerous goods; intermodal transport and logistics; border crossing and customs; road traffic safety; inland navigation vessels; and security for the supply chain.

ISO was represented at the UNECE Symposium on "Trade Rules, Regulations, and Standards: Different levels of rulemaking and their impact" held in October 2007, and at the annual session of the Working Party 6[2] (WP 6) in November 2007. At the latter meeting, it was agreed "to explore the interest of ISO/CASCO in possible joint activities in Market Surveillance"[3]. Following this WP 6 Decision, ISO has been invited to participate in the UNECE project on "Guidelines and Models on Market Surveillance". On ISO's side, UNECE has been invited to provide a speaker at the ISO/CASCO workshop on "Conformity Assessment Standards in support of Market Surveillance" to be held in Geneva on 29 October 2008.

ISO was further represented at the meeting of the WP 6 Rapporteurs/Coordinators and "START" team[4] held in Geneva on 17 March 2008. The main purpose of this meeting was to follow-up on the WP 6 annual session in November 2007, to prepare for the 2008 annual session and forum, to review current projects, and to consider the priorities and strategy for 2008. It is expected that the annual session of the WP 6 on 3-4 November 2008 will address, *inter alia*, the question of private standards.

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[2]   UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

[3]   WP.6 Decision 18a under agenda item 7(a) Review of recent developments (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/8)

[4] "START" team: Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques

The Secretary-General was invited to speak on the role of standardization at the UNECE Round Table held in Geneva on 26 June 2008 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Agreement on Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Vehicles (1958 Agreement). On this occasion, he highlighted the good collaboration between ISO and UNECE that was fully in line with world trends for public policies and with *ISO Strategic Plan,* which, under the general heading "international standards for a sustainable world", set, i.e., the objective of promoting the use of ISO standards as a support to technical regulations.

In addition to the above meetings, ISO was represented at the *Working Party on Gas* meeting and at the *Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas* meeting held in Geneva in January 2008 in the framework of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

The UNECE has liaison relations with 90 ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

1.8   UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

An ISO delegation participated in events of the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) organized by the UNFCCC secretariat and held in Bali (Indonesia) on 3-14 December 2007. This Conference culminated in the adoption of the Bali Road Map, which consists of a number of forward-looking decisions that represent the various tracks that are considered essential by the UNFCCC to reaching a secure climate future.

1.9   UNGCO (United Nations Global Compact Office)

The Secretary-General met with UNGC Executive Director, Mr. Georg Kell, on 3 March 2008 at the UNGC office in New-York (USA) to discuss matters of common interest including the on-going cooperation under a MoU with UNGC signed in 2006 concerning social responsibility (SR).

1.10 UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)

A detailed report on the collaboration between ISO and UNIDO is given in document General Assembly 08/2008 under agenda item 7.1 "Address by the UNIDO Director General".

1.11 UPU (Universal Postal Union)

Following the Secretary-General's visit to the UPU Director-General in March 2006, and his participation in UPU's Strategic Conference in Dubai in November 2006, a cooperation agreement (attached at Appendix 3) was signed in January 2008 in order to strengthen cooperation and complementarity between ISO and UPU, considering the evolution of the postal services.

It is underlined that this agreement is fully in line with Council Resolution 5/2007, d), asking the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of entering into overarching MoUs with UN agencies having a role in the harmonization of public policies and technical regulations. This was further emphasized following the open session held in the context of the 2007 General Assembly on "International Standards and Public Policies".

UPU has liaison relations with 13 ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

1.12 WHO (World Health Organization)

Good cooperation between ISO and WHO continues and has increased in some areas, thanks certainly to the WSC Workshop on medical technologies of February 2004. ISO continues to be represented at WHO World Health Assemblies and Executive Board meetings, at certain specialised meetings such as the Regulatory Meeting for Healthcare Professionals.

WHO has shown increased interest in the activities of several ISO Technical Committees, markedly including ISO/TC 126 *Tobacco and tobacco products* (in which it maintains its category A liaison). Some five WHO experts attend those meetings and make active and forceful contributions.

ISO was invited by WHO to consider writing Guidelines on drug procurement but this has been put on hold.

The WHO has liaison relations with REMCO and over 50 ISO technical committees and subcommittees. Some interest in ISO/PC 241 on Road Safety may develop.

1.13 WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization)

Since the last General Assembly, various forms of collaboration with WIPO have been sought; one staff member from the ISO Central Secretariat took part in a WIPO advanced workshop on domain name dispute resolution in October 2007; the ISO Central Secretariat extended international registration of ISO trademarks to Madagascar via the WIPO International Register in May 2008; the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center processed the complaints of the ISO Central Secretariat in 2007 and 2008 related to a number of domain names infringing ISO trademarks; and ISO has been invited to provide a speaker for delivering a presentation on "ISO's patent policy in relation to International Standards" at the workshop to be held in Costa Rica on 18-19 August 2008 which is organized by WIPO.

It should be noted that staff members of the ISO Central Secretariat had regular informal consultations on IPR issues with their colleagues from WIPO in 2007-2008.

The WIPO has liaison relations with 10 ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

1.14 WMO (World Meteorological Organization)

At the end of 2007, Council recognized WMO as an international standardizing body under the terms of its Resolution 43/2007. Working arrangements have been finalized in order to implement the above Council Resolution; their aim is to strengthen cooperation in the development of International Standards and to avoid duplication of work on standards related to meteorological, climatological, hydrological, marine and related environmental data, products and services.

The WMO has liaison relations with 40 ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

2 Other international organizations

2.1 ICC (International Chamber of Commerce)

The ICC takes part in the work of the TMB Working Group on SR and has liaison relations with six ISO technical committees and subcommittees. The ICC has recently opened a liaison office in Geneva aiming at securing a better exchange of views and of information between the ICC headquarters in Paris (France) and a number of Geneva-based international organizations, including ISO, sharing common interests. The Secretary-General met with ICC Secretary-General in Geneva on 26 March 2008.

2.2 OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

It is recalled that ISO and OECD signed in 2005 a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the development of standards associated with agricultural tractor testing. This MoU was signed for an initial period of three years (i.e. until the end of August 2008), subject to review and confirmation for further three-year periods. Cooperation between the two organizations in the framework of this MoU has been effective and continues to build on and improve existing work,

including the development of technical harmonisation standards. In the light of the above, both ISO and OECD have agreed to renew the MoU for a further three-year period (August 2008 – August 2011).

OECD also takes part in the work of the TMB Working Group on SR. ISO and OECD have signed in May 2008 a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of SR along the same lines as the one signed with UNGCO. Related to this work, ISO attended on 23-24 June 2008 in Paris, France, a conference jointly organized by OECD and the International Labour Organization (ILO); every year, in conjunction with their Annual Meeting for National Contact Points, the OECD holds a conference on corporate responsibility addressing emerging issues and new developments.

Cooperation with the International Energy Agency (IEA), an inter-governmental organization within the OECD family, is increasing. The common ISO/IEA position paper developed in 2007 has been published in support of the G8 Plan of Action, and the two organizations are cooperating on the development of a workshop on the role of International Standards to support energy efficiency and lower carbon emissions, to be held in the first half of 2009.

ISO participated in the first International Transport Forum (ITF) held on 28-30 May in Leipzig, Germany. The ITF is an inter-governmental organisation within the OECD family and a new global platform at ministerial level for transport, logistics and mobility.   Key figures from government, industry, research and civil society will now be meeting in Leipzig every year to debate a transport topic of worldwide strategic importance. The 2008 topic was "Transport and Energy: The Challenge of Climate Change". The Forum is an evolution of the recently transformed European Conference of Ministers of Transport.

2.3   WCO (World Customs Organization)

Cooperation is maintained concerning the use of the ISO 28000 series related to security in the supply chain, electronic port clearance, containers (specifications, seals, etc.), and data exchange. Increased cooperation between the WCO and ISO is expected in the area of anti-counterfeiting.

The WCO has liaison relations with 132 ISO technical committees and subcommittees, including ISO/TC 8, *Ships and marine technology,* and ISO/TC 104, *Freight containers.*

2.4   WEF (World Economic Forum)

The Secretary-General attended the following two WEF events since the last General Assembly, which allowed him to make numerous high-level contacts (persons to whom he was able to introduce ISO, its achievements and initiatives):
  – India Economic Summit 2007, New Delhi (India), 2-4 December 2007;
  – World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2008, Davos (Switzerland), 23-27 January 2008.

Regarding the WEF Annual meeting 2008, devoted to "collaborative innovation", the Secretary-General took part in the various sessions and workshops during the meeting. He first outlined how voluntary standards of the type developed by ISO could pave the way for the dissemination of technology through the creation of world markets and through good management and organizational practices. The Secretary-General further outlined some recent
ISO developments relating to the major global challenges for which collaborative innovation is particularly needed (e.g. climate change, water supply and security, or nutrition).

3   Regional organizations[5]

3.1   EC (European Commission)

The Secretary-General paid a visit to the headquarters of the European Commission in Brussels (Belgium) and met with the Director of Directorate I - New Approach Industries, Tourism and CSR and his team. The matters discussed included ongoing developments in the European Union relating to standardization and conformity assessment and their relation to international developments.

The EC has liaison relations with 197 ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

3.2   NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

It is recalled that ISO and the NATO Standardisation Agency (NSA) signed in 2006 a Technical Cooperation Agreement. Under the terms of the Agreement, besides work on standards, cooperation between ISO and NSA could also include other forms of cooperation as agreed by the parties, including the organization of and participation in conferences.

In line with the above agreement, ISO has been invited to speak at the NATO Standardization Conference on "Interoperability through Standardization" to be held in Virginia (USA) on 16-18 September 2008. The ISO representative will make a presentation on ISO's support of global interoperability, providing background information on ISO, future initiatives, and plans to further cooperate with NATO.

The NATO has liaison relations with two ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

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[5]   Other than regional standards organizations which are covered in Annex 2 to General Assembly 05/2008.

May 2008

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirty-first Session
International Conference Centre, Geneva (Switzerland), 30 June - 4 July 2008

COMMUNICATION FROM ISO*
(REPORT ON ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO CODEX WORK)

1.   The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has prepared this information paper as part of ongoing updates and communication between the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) Secretariat and the ISO Central Secretariat. It provides a summary of current work undertaken by ISO that may be of interest to the CAC and is intended to support and enhance dialogue and coordination between the two organizations.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

2.   ISO is the International Organization for Standardization (http://www.iso.org/). ISO is a non-governmental organization established in 1947 with members consisting of the leading and recognized national standards organizations of 157 countries, on the basis of one member per country.

3.   ISO has a Central Secretariat, based in Geneva, Switzerland, that employs 154 staff. However, most of the work in developing and maintaining the portfolio of some 17 000 technical International Standards is shared amongst the membership, with individual national members providing and financing the Chairmanships and Secretariats for one or more of the 193 technical committees and 540 subcommittees managing some 2 200 working groups.

4.   Two ISO policy committees, DEVCO and COPOLCO, identify and monitor actions and programmes to encourage and facilitate the participation, respectively of developing countries and consumer interests, in standardization. A third ISO policy committee, CASCO, deals with conformity assessment matters; its work is discussed in greater detail further on in this document.

International Standards

5.   While the most well known standard in the ISO portfolio is ISO 9001:2000, *Quality management systems — Requirements*, the great majority of ISO standards do not relate to management system requirements. Rather they include terminology, sampling, test and analytical methods, interoperability as well as specifications and performance requirements for industrial and agricultural products, equipment, processes and, to a growing extent, services.

6.   The application of the International Standards that ISO produces starts out as being voluntary. In the majority of cases, these standards are needed and used voluntarily as references within commercial contracts between market players, for example in procurement contracts or as a basis for companies to develop, test and market their products.

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* Document prepared by and under the responsibility of ISO

7.   However, more and more standards are cited by regulators as a means to assist compliance with relevant governmental principles and/or technical regulations. This is recommended in the WTO TBT agreement and the SPS agreement (with regards specifically to CAC, OIE and IPPC) so as to reduce technical barriers to trade, and, for example, by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Subcommittee on Standards and Conformance (APEC SCSC), in the context of implementing good regulatory practices. In 2007, ISO published a new informative brochure entitled "*Using and referencing ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations*" to describe certain advantages in using and referencing ISO and IEC standards. It provides examples in different sectors, and national and regional regulatory texts that refer to standards.

ISO's international status

8.   ISO has a specific status with many UN agencies, including the WHO and FAO, and is an observer to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). It is also an observer at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO TBT) and the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). In the area of technical assistance, ISO regularly cooperates with the WTO and ITC, and has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with UNIDO.

9.   In June 2007, ISO was invited to make a presentation during the informal session on private standards at WTO SPS. ISO also regularly participates in WTO SPS meetings and mentions its basic principles.

ISO status in CODEX

10.   ISO's observer status to the CAC provides an opportunity for the coordination of issues related to a variety of ISO standards that are adopted and used by Codex in its work. According to document "*Recommended methods of analysis and sampling*" (*CODEX STAN 234-1999*), approximately 310 methods refer to ISO/TC 34 standards (*Food products)* (representing approximately 60 different ISO/TC 34 standards); 19 methods refer to ISO/TC 147 standards (*Water quality*); 5 methods refer to ISO/TC 47 standards (*Chemistry*), and 1 standard each refers to ISO/TC 24, *Sieves and other sizing methods*, ISO/TC 61, *Plastics* and ISO/TC 93, *Starch.* This list is also complemented by Codex's adoption of the CASCO standard ISO/IEC 17025 for testing and calibration laboratories.

11.   The priority areas of mutual interest on which ISO would like to maintain and nurture dialogue with the CAC are the work of ISO/TC 34 on food products and the generic work of the ISO Committee on conformity assessment (ISO/CASCO). It should however be noted that other ISO Technical Committees are working in fields that could be of interest for CAC:

-    ISO/TC 54, *Essential oils* for which CAC has a liaison;

-    ISO/TC 93, *Starch (including derivatives and by-products)* for which CAC has a liaison (more details in point 42) (see Annex 5 for the structure of ISO/TC 93);

-    ISO/TC 134, *Fertilizers and soil conditioners* (see Annex 6 for the scope and list of standards developed in ISO/TC 134);

-    ISO/TC 147, *Water quality* for which CAC has a liaison with its SC 2 and SC 4 (more details in point 41) (see Annex 4 for the structure of ISO/TC 147);

-    ISO/TC 234, *Fisheries and aquaculture* (which is a new committee created in February 2007) for which CAC has a liaison (more details in point 38) (see Annex 3 for the structure of ISO/TC 234).

Codex and ISO/TC 34 Cooperation

12.   There is a long history of collaboration between the Codex Committees and ISO/TC 34, *Food products*. ISO/TC 34 supports the establishment of an ongoing and sustainable framework for collaboration between Codex and ISO, in order to enhance the mutual coordination of work and the elimination of duplication and contradictions.

13.   Codex and ISO activities are complementary. Codex, as a governmental organization, prepares documents to assist governments in their statutory and regulatory work to protect their citizens from health hazards caused by food consumption. ISO, as a non-governmental organization, prepares standards on test methods to assist stakeholders along the whole food chain to fulfil both the statutory and regulatory requirements, as well as the requirements of consumers of these products.

14.   Since its creation in 1947, ISO/TC 34 has published 720 ISO deliverables (International Standards, Technical Specifications and Technical Reports). 65 % of these documents are test methods. See Annex 1 for the structure of ISO/TC 34.

15.   A dedicated Subcommittee on biomarkers, SC 16, was set up in March 2008 (see Annex 1).

16.   Concerning its publications, ISO/TC 34 has already developed with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) an entire set of standards on genetically modified organisms:

-     ISO 24276:2006, *Foodstuffs — Nucleic acid based methods of analysis for the detection of genetically modified organisms and derived products — General requirements and definitions*

-     ISO 21571:2005, *Foodstuffs — Methods of analysis for the detection of genetically modified organisms and derived products — Nucleic acid extraction*

-     ISO 21569:2005, *Foodstuffs — Methods of analysis for the detection of genetically modified organisms and derived products — Qualitative nucleic acid based methods*

-     ISO 21570:2005, *Foodstuffs — Methods of analysis for the detection of genetically modified organisms and derived products — Quantitative nucleic acid based methods*

-     ISO 21572:2004, *Foodstuffs – Methods for the detection of genetically modified organisms and derived products – Protein based methods*

and an ISO Technical Specification (not developed with CEN):

-     ISO/TS 21098:2005, *Foodstuffs — Nucleic acid based methods of analysis of genetically modified organisms and derived products — Information to be supplied and procedure for the addition of methods to ISO 21569, ISO 21570 or ISO 21571*

17.   Concerning the current work programme of ISO/TC 34, in addition to dedicated work programmes dealing, for example, with *Fruit and vegetable products* (ISO/TC 34/SC 3), *Cereals and pulses* (ISO/TC 34/SC 4), *Milk and milk products* (ISO/TC 34/SC 5), *Animal and vegetable fats and oils* (ISO/TC 34/SC 11) and *Fresh, dry and dried fruits and vegetables* (ISO/TC 34/SC 14), several work items developed under the direct responsibility of ISO/TC 34 may also be of interest to Codex:

-     ISO 22000:2005, *Food safety management systems — Requirements for any organization in the food chain*

-     ISO/TS 22003:2007, *Food safety management systems — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems*

-     ISO/TS 22004:2005, *Food safety management systems — Guidance on the application of ISO 22000:2005*

-     ISO 22005:2007, *Traceability in the feed and food chain — General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation*

-     ISO/DIS 22006, *Guidelines on the application of ISO 9001:2000 for crop production* (under development)

-     ISO/AWI 22008, *Food irradiation — Good processing practices for the irradiation of foods intended for human consumption* (under development)

-     ISO/DIS 26642, *Food products — Determination of the glycemic index (GI) and relevant classification* (under development)

18.   WG 8 prepared ISO 22000 and ISO/TS 22004, both published in 2005. The adoption of a food safety management system by an organization involved in the food chain is a useful tool for ensuring compliance with requirements specified by law, statute, regulation and/or customers. The design and implementation of an organization's food safety management system are influenced by varying factors, in particular food safety hazards, the products provided, the processes employed and the size and structure of the organization. ISO/TS 22004 gives generic guidance to small and large enterprises on the use of ISO 22000, which is based on the principles of HACCP as described by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and is designed to be applied together with relevant standards published by that organization.

19.   The publication of ISO/TS 22004 followed that of ISO 22000:2005, which is based on a management systems approach (as in ISO 9001:2000), as well as on the Codex hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) system. The need for a new ISO International Standard arose from the fact that several national standards (Danish, Dutch, Australian, Irish, etc.) have been developed and from the fact that retailer organizations have prepared documents (BRC, EFSIS, IFS, etc.) for the establishment and auditing of food safety systems, possibly including HACCP requirements. In that context, ISO 22000 should help clarify and harmonize the present situation. ISO/TC 34 is currently working on its organization in order to ensure the long term management of this International Standard.

20.   According to a recent survey, more than 70 countries have adopted ISO 22000 [including all the countries in the European Union as ISO 22000 was prepared in parallel with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN)]. More than 1 100 companies worldwide have now been certified to ISO 22000, including companies in the European Union, Australia, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia and the USA. ISO 22000, and its associated conformity assessment, should have a positive impact on the harmonization and proper implementation of voluntary and mandatory food import and export requirements, inspection and certification systems.

21.   The need for an international document containing requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems against ISO 22000 arose. However, to develop such a standard, the assistance of ISO/CASCO (Committee on conformity assessment) was needed. A Joint Working Group with ISO/CASCO (JWG 11) was established for the elaboration of ISO/TS 22003:2007, *Food safety management systems — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems*.

22.   ISO/TS 22003:2007 is based on the generic standard that covers the area of certification and auditing of management systems, namely, ISO/IEC 17021:2006, *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems*, and includes specific guidance on certification to ISO 22000. The final version was published in February 2007.

23.   WG 9 has finished its work on ISO 22005, *Traceability in the feed and food chain – General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation*. This document was developed in cooperation with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN). WG 9 also collaborated closely with Codex; this International Standard is intended to complement the Codex work on traceability as it explains the design of a suitable system to enable organizations to comply with the regulations set by Codex.

A traceability system is a useful tool to assist an organization operating within the feed and food chain to achieve defined objectives in a management system. However, the choice of a traceability system is influenced by regulations, the characteristics of the product and customer expectations.

ISO 22005 will assist feed and food organizations to document the history, application and location of a product or components.

24.   WG 10 was established in 2005 and is working on ISO 22008, *Food irradiation — Good processing practices for the irradiation of foods intended for human consumption*.

This International Standard will specify requirements for good processing practices for the irradiation of foods intended for human consumption. It will apply to food products processed by gamma rays, X-rays or electron beam for the purpose of, among others, inhibition of the germination of bulbs, tubers and roots crops, phytosanitary treatment, delay of ripening and senescence of fruits and vegetables, reduction of microbial load and insect infestation, control of foodborne pathogens, sterilization of foodstuffs, e.g. for immunocompromised patients, and shelf life extension of perishable foods in general. It will also specify elements of a quality management system that are the minimum necessary to control the food irradiation process.

This project should be submitted to the DIS vote in June 2009.

25.   To conclude on the work programme of the Working Groups directly reporting to ISO/TC 34, it should be noted that a new Working Group was established in 2005 (WG 12) to develop ISO 22006, *Guidelines on the application of ISO 9001:2000 for crop production*. This International Standard contains the text of ISO 9001 and adds additional requirements for agricultural production operators and for documents associated with a Farm Plan. It is currently at the Draft International Standard (DIS) stage.

26.   Finally, ISO/TC 34 is developing ISO 26642, *Food products — Determination of the glycemic index (GI) and relevant Classification.* The development of this International Standard originated from a recognized need to standardize the determination of the glycemic index (GI) of foods for practice and research purposes, particularly with its increasing use as a nutrition claim. This document sets out a method for the determination of the glycemic index of carbohydrates in foods and the classification of foods into low, medium and high GI. The document will soon be voted on as a Draft International Standard (DIS).

27.   In order to increase the coordination of the work done within all its structures, ISO/TC 34 decided to establish a Chairman Advisory Group (CAG) that first met in 2007. It has the task of assisting the Chairs and Secretaries of the Technical Committee and Subcommittees in the coordination, consistency, planning and steering of the ISO/TC 34 work or other specific tasks of an advisory nature. It also has the task of advising the Chairs and Secretaries of the Technical Committee and Subcommittees of ISO/TC 34 on: strategic and critical issues; newly identified development activities that may impact the topics of interest within the subject area; gaps between those developments and Committee's outcome.

ISO/TC 34 plans to hold a plenary meeting during the second semester of 2008 in France.

Concerning the work undertaken at the SC level, ISO/TC 34/SCs are currently working on the following main topics.

28.   ISO/TC 34/SC 4, *Cereals and pulses*

The field of activity of ISO/TC 34/SC 4 covers standardization of cereals, pulses and their products in particular terminology, sampling, methods of test and analysis, product specifications and requirements for packaging, storage and transportation. There are 65 members in the Subcommittee: 17 Participating countries, 36 Observing countries and 12 international liaisons. Among these, CAC is the liaison that has most common interests with SC 4.

SC 4 has published 57 International Standards and has 17 ongoing projects.

The following projects might be of interest for CAC:

-   ISO/DIS 24333, *Cereals and cereal products — Sampling*

-   Revision of ISO 7301:2002, *Rice — Specification*

-   ISO 6644:2002, *Flowing cereals and milled cereal products — Automatic sampling by mechanical means*

-   ISO 16002:2004, *Stored cereal grains and pulses — Guidance on the detection of infestation by live invertebrates by trapping*

By developing closer relations and increasing cooperation with CAC, SC 4 members sincerely hope to promote the level of International standards of cereals and pulses.

29.   ISO/TC 34/SC 5, *Milk and milk products*

The field of activity of ISO/TC 34/SC 5 covers standardization of methods of sampling and analysis in the field of milk and milk products.

With regard to analytical and test methods, ISO/TC 34/SC 5 and the International Dairy Federation (IDF) work together to prepare analysis methods that are published jointly. Most of these analysis methods are taken into account by the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products and are endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

An important document is ISO/TS 22964:2006, *Milk and milk products — Detection of Enterobacter sakazakii.* This bacterium has been found to exist in some infant formulations. The bacterium is thermotolerant and can remain after sterilization. After publication of the TS in 2006, the project was handed over to ISO/TC 34/SC 9 to prepare a horizontal International Standard for food products for the detection of *Enterobacter sakazakii.*

30.   ISO/TC 34/SC 9, *Microbiology*

The field of activity of ISO/TC 34/SC 9 covers standardization of horizontal microbiological analysis methods for all food and animal feeding stuffs.

ISO/TC 34/SC 9 develops horizontal methods, applicable to all foods, feeds, samples from primary production and from processing environment, for the detection and/or enumeration of such food-borne pathogens as *Salmonella*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, thermotolerant *Campylobacter* and pathogenic *Vibrio*. A set of standards also deals with the use of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for the detection of food-borne pathogens. Another set of standards is being developed on the validation of microbiological methods. AOAC International is in liaison with SC 9 and, in particular, has formally recognized the ISO *Salmonella* test method as being equivalent to the corresponding AOAC Official Method of Analysis.

31.   ISO/TC 34/SC 11, *Animal and vegetable fats and oils*

The field of activity of ISO/TC 34/SC 11 covers standardization of methods of sampling and analysis of animal, marine and vegetable fats and oils.

ISO/TC 34/SC 11 has had a most satisfactory relationship with the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO) for many years. ISO has observer status at the meetings and has usually been represented by the Chairman and the Secretary of SC 11, generally in dual capacities as their national delegates. This attendance is useful as there is usually a meeting on methods of analysis held during the meeting.

We are pleased to report that ISO Standards are the first choice for methodology within the CCFO Specifications. Participation also helps to keep the focus of methodology development on the requirements of international trade.

In particular, SC 11 is working on some of the key analytical parameters for the analysis of environmental food contaminants. Some of these, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), can be reduced by changing the agricultural procedures which are used to dry the product. Others, such as dioxins, are almost entirely absorbed from industrial waste products which have not been disposed of to a satisfactory level. In summary, the relationship between Codex and SC 11 is both fruitful and complementary.

32.   ISO/TC 34 will continue to offer its full support and cooperation to the Commission with a view to avoiding duplication of work and it will adopt, for its own documents, the conclusions of the Commission on all matters concerning food hygiene requirements.

Food safety — ISO publication

33.   ISO and ITC have jointly published "*ISO 22000, Food safety management system, An easy-to-use checklist for small business, Are you ready?*". This handbook on ISO 22000 will be of benefit to small businesses, especially in developing countries and transition economies, in their effort to improve their market share of food and agricultural products in the global market. A French version of the publication is also available. ISO has used this publication in various workshops it has conducted for developing countries.

34.   This publication is a checklist consisting of questions covering various aspects of the setting-up, implementation and certification of a food safety management system according to ISO 22000:2005. It is aimed at small and medium enterprises both in developed and developing countries, and gives an overview of the requirements of ISO 22000. Working through the questions in a step-by-step manner will enable managers of an enterprise to determine the present status of their business and will help them identify main areas for improvement. It will therefore be of value even if the ultimate aim is not full certification of that enterprise.

ISO/DEVCO and food safety

35.   Since 1960, ISO has had a policy development committee – DEVCO – that deals specifically with the needs of developing countries in standardization. Developing countries need to focus both on acquiring world-class technological competence and on achieving a good understanding of the technical requirements underlying global trade. For over 40 years, ISO has been assisting in both these areas through ISO/DEVCO, the ISO Committee on developing country matters. DEVCO's membership comprises over 120 national standards institutes from industrialized as well as developing countries.

36.   The committee has four main objectives:

  ▪ to identify the needs and requirements of developing countries in the fields of standardization and related activities (i.e. conformity assessment including accreditation, quality and metrology) and to assist the developing countries, as necessary, in defining these needs and requirements;

- having established these needs and requirements, to recommend actions to assist the developing countries in meeting them;

- to monitor the implementation of *the ISO Action Plan for developing countries*;

- to provide a forum for the discussion of all aspects of standardization and related activities, and for the exchange of experience among develped and developing countries.

37.   In 2007, ISO/DEVCO carried out 7 projects in relation to ISO 22000 technical assistance and has already planned 10 for 2008 (see Annex 2). The main objective is to improve awareness of key stakeholders in developing countries of the role of such standards in economic growth, world trade and their contribution to sustainable development.

Codex and ISO/TC 234 (see structure in Annex 3)

38.   The increasing importance of seafood as a protein source for the world population, and the increasing internationalization of both seafood production and trade, have led to a need for international standards to enable sustainable development and environmental compatibility of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The main objective of ISO/TC 234 is the development of standards to:

- improve the international surveillance and management of marine resources;

- provide exact specifications for technical equipment so that it fits local conditions and farmed species;

- improve the health and welfare of aquacultured species;

- reduce the impact of aquaculture and fisheries activities on sensible habitats;

- enable traceability of technical equipment with respect to production, trade and use;

- enable traceability of seafood from fjord to fork;

- provide the industries with tools for efficient registration, exchange and use of production data;

- ensure international agreement on methods for sampling and analyses;

- improve the safety for employees;

- ensure a precise multilingual terminology.

39.   In the process leading to the establishment of ISO/TC 234, it was stressed that the work of the committee should be complementary to and not in competition with ongoing standardization under the auspices of other non-governmental or governmental organizations.

40.   ISO/TC 234 held its first plenary meeting in Bergen, Norway in October 2007. Among the topics that were discussed were proposals from Norway and USA to develop standards within four areas:

1) Aquaculture technology

The increasing internationalization of aquaculture activities and related industry such as production and trading of aquaculture equipment has prompted the need for a global standard to ensure that equipment and aquaculture installations fit the requirements set by the different farmed organisms and the environmental conditions under which the equipment is used.

2) Aquaculture production data

All aquaculture activities, small scale or industrial, require the registration and monitoring of a number of physical, chemical and biological parameters. Today, there are few national and no global standards which describe the requirements for physical, chemical and biological registration in aquaculture. One potential standard could be a standard for biomass control to facilitate comparison, benchmarking and monitoring.

3) Traceability

As a result of the EU-funded TraceFish project ending in 2002, two documents, so-called workshop agreements (CWA's), were published by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN): CWA 14659 and CWA 14660, traceability of farmed fish products and wild fish products, respectively. It has been proposed that these CWAs provide background material for the development of an ISO standard on traceability of fish and other seafood products. The expected benefits of such an ISO standard include:

- improved food safety;

- improved documentation and transparency;

- reduced costs;

- improved chain communication and facilitation of trade;

- competitive advantage for seafood products.

4) Chemical use in aquaculture

There has been a proposal to develop ISO standards within this field; however, no detailed information has yet been distributed by the proposer (ANSI, USA). In aquaculture, chemicals are used as disinfectants (biological material, dams and equipment), as antifouling agents, for antiparasitic treatments, as feed additives and in other operations. International consensus regarding chemical use is needed to address the potential effects of these treatments and of the chemical residues on farmed organisms and surrounding ecosystems.

Codex and ISO/TC 147 (See structure in Annex 4)

41.   As water plays an important role in food processing (for all kinds of cleaning purposes, preparation of half-finished food products, production of beverages like beer and lemonades), many International Standards elaborated in ISO/TC 147/SC 2 and SC 4 are, or should be, taken into account.

Topics covered by ISO/TC 147/SC 2 range from metal determinations (single or multicomponent methods), anions, cations, to methods for organic substances such as plant treatment agents, or methods for ubiquitary pollutants like phthalates or polycyclic hydrocarbons, PAH.

In the investigations on the quality of food products, International Standards from ISO/TC 147 may be used as basic standards because water is – compared with all food products – the less difficult matrix to be investigated.

It should be stressed as well that all methods from ISO/TC 147/SC 2 have been validated by interlaboratory trials and are only accepted as standards if the results have been found satisfactory.

In addition, standards on analytical quality control are available.

In respect to microbiological methods (ISO/TC 147/SC 4), special importance is given to existing standards on the determination of *salmonella*, *coliforms* (*E.coli* and other substances), or e.g. methods on the investigation of microorganisms by culture. Special emphasis is laid on the preparatory work for a standard on the estimation of uncertainty in microbiological analysis.

Codex and ISO/TC 93 (See structure in Annex 5)

42.   Discussions at the 12th Plenary Meeting (held 18-19 March 2008 in Kingston Jamaica) proved that standards development was required for

- the terminology and definitions of starch,

- the sample/grain size, fineness, whiteness and brightness of starch,

- modification of test methods in existing standards,

- the viscosity of starch,

- health benefits gained from resistant starches which will be incorporated into the business plan (work plan) of the committee.

All of the above are deemed critical to the trade of starch and need to be reviewed within ISO/TC 93.

ISO's conformity assessment standards and their use in food safety

43.   ISO is an International Standards developer and does not itself undertake assessments of conformity of products, management systems, processes or services against the requirements of the standards it produces.

44.   ISO does however produce International Standards and Guides on how assessment of conformity should take place – this is the role of the ISO Policy Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO). It is this body within ISO that is closest to covering the same subject matter as the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS).

45.   As a consequence, ISO can be viewed as providing both International Standards that relate to the characteristics of specific products, as well as providing generic horizontal standards that document agreed procedures for the assessment of conformity (e.g. testing, inspection and certification) of products and processes.

46.   In relation to ISO/CASCO, most of the conformity assessment Guides have been, or are in the process of being, turned into International Standards. Annex 6 gives a list of documents and ongoing work. It is worth noting the work on ISO/IEC 17021-2, *Conformity assessment — Requirements for third party auditing of management systems*, and on ISO/IEC 17065, *Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems.*

Conclusion

47.   It is recognized that the Commission's members, as governments, have the authority to regulate at the national level and that ISO, as a producer of voluntary International Standards, does not. In the framework of good regulatory practice, as promoted at international and regional levels, International Standards and Guides may be considered useful by regulators as effective and efficient tools to achieve important regulatory mandates, manage risk and address market confidence.

48.   ISO considers that by using its International Standards, regulatory authorities will achieve their aims in public health and safety at less cost to manufacturers and consumers. Using International Standards also assists countries to meet their WTO TBT and SPS Agreement obligations.

49.   For any further information on technical developments within ISO that have been reported in this paper, please do not hesitate to contact the following individuals:

For matters related to ISO/TC 34, *Food products*:	For matters related to certification, inspection and conformity assessment:
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Structure of ISO/TC 34, *Food products*

ISO/TC 34 comprises 53 Participating countries and 54 Observing countries. ISO/TC 34 has established several substructures [14 Subcommittees (SC) and 5 Working Groups (WG)]; the development of important horizontal standards being under the responsibility of Working Groups directly reporting to ISO/TC 34. These substructures are the following:

- WG 8, *Food safety management systems (FSMS)* [with DS (Denmark) having the convenorship]

- WG 9, *Traceability system in the agriculture food chain* [with UNI (Italy) having the convenorship]

- WG 10, *Food irradiation* [with IRAM (Argentina) having the convenorship]

- JWG 11, *Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of FSMS* [with DS (Denmark) having the convenorship] (Joint CASCO – TC 34 Working Group)

- WG 12, *Application of ISO 9001:2000 in the agriculture* [with ANSI (USA) having the convenorship]

- ISO/TC 34/SC 2, *Oleaginous seeds and fruits and oilseed meals* (secretariat held by France)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 3, *Fruit and vegetable products* (secretariat held by Poland)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 4, *Cereals and pulses* (secretariat held by China)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 5, *Milk and milk products* (secretariat held by The Netherlands)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 6, *Meat, poultry, fish, eggs and their products* (secretariat held by Botswana)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 7, *Spices, culinary herbs and condiments* (secretariat held by India)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 8, *Tea* (secretariat held by UK)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 9, *Microbiology* (secretariat held by France)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 10, *Animal feeding stuffs* (secretariat held by The Netherlands)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 11, *Animal and vegetable fats and oils* (secretariat held by UK)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 12, *Sensory analysis* (secretariat held by France and Argentina)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 14, *Fresh, dry and dried fruits and vegetables* (secretariat held by Turkey)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 15, *Coffee* (secretariat held by Brazil)

- ISO/TC 34/SC 16, *Horizontal methods for the detection of molecular biomarkers in: foods; seeds and propagules of food crops; commodity food crops; fruits; vegetables and derived foods* (which is a **new** Subcommittee created in March 2008, secretariat held by USA)

It can be noted that out of these 14 Subcommittees, only 3 are horizontal in scope (ISO/TC 34/SC 9, ISO/TC 34/SC 12 and ISO/TC 34/SC 16).

Selected ISO/TC 34 work items and publications of interest to Codex

(as of March 2008)

Project number	Title	Status
ISO 22000:2005	*Food safety management systems – Requirements for any organization in the food chain*	Published in September 2005.
ISO/TS 22003:2007	*Food safety management systems – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems*	Published in February 2007.
ISO/TS 22004:2005	*Food safety management systems – Guidance on the application of ISO 22000:2005*	Published in November 2005.
ISO 22005:2007	*Traceability in the feed and food chain – General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation*	Published in July 2007.
ISO/DIS 22006	*Guidelines on the application of ISO 9001:2000 for crop production*	Draft International Standard under DIS vote in 2008.
ISO/AWI 22008	*Food irradiation – Good processing practices for the irradiation of foods intended for human consumption*	Work Item reregistered in 2007.
ISO/DIS 26642	*Food products – Determination of the glycemic index (GI) and relevant classification*	Draft International Standard to be sent to DIS vote in 2008.
ISO/TS 22964:2006	*Milk and milk products — Detection of* Enterobacter sakazakii	Published in January 2006. Note that a horizontal International Standard for food products for the detection of *Enterobacter sakazakii* is presently under development in ISO/TC 34/SC 9.

Overview of ISO 22000 technical assistance projects carried out in 2007 and those planned for 2008

ISO 22000 events carried out in 2007

Objective 1: Improve awareness of key stakeholders in developing countries of the role of standardization in economic growth, world trade and sustainable development					
Title	Venue/Host	Dates	Total participants	Sponsored participants	Beneficiary countries
Awareness raising national seminar on ISO 22000 — Food safety management system	Tripoli, Libya	25-27 February 2007	45	0	Libya
Awareness raising regional seminar on ISO 22000 — Food safety management system	Maputo, Mozambique	13-15 March 2007	68	0	Mozambique
Awareness raising regional seminar on ISO 22000 — Food safety management system	Astana, Kazakhstan	29-31 May 2007	45	4	Azerbaijan (1), Kyrgyzstan (2) and Uzbekistan (1)
National seminar on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000	Sana'a, Yemen	5-7 August 2007	70	0	Yemen
EAC Regional Seminar on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000	Kampala, Uganda	1-2 October 2007	32	0	Uganda
	Nairobi, Kenya	4-5 October 2007	27	0	Kenya
	Bujumbura, Burundi	8-9 October 2007	34	0	Burundi
	Kigali, Rwanda	11-12 October 2007	36	0	Rwanda
Regional workshop on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000	Buenos Aires, Argentina	29-30 November 2007	20	**7**	Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela
ISO/GSO Seminar on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	09-11 December 2007	124	0	Saudi Arabia

ISO 22000 events planned for 2008

Title	Region	Country
ISO 22000 Workshop	Arab and Mediterranean	**Yemen**
ISO 22000 Seminar	Africa, excluding the Arab countries	**Ghana**
ISO 22000 Regional Seminar	Arab and Mediterranean	**Jordan**
ISO 22000 Workshop	Africa, excluding the Arab countries	**Zimbabwe**
ISO 22000 Regional Seminar	Central and Eastern Europe	**Armenia**
ISO 22000 National Seminar	Central Asia	**Uzbekistan**
ISO 22000 Regional Seminar	South America	**Venezuela**
ISO 22000 Seminar with Training of Trainers (ToT)	East and South-East Asia	**Philippines**
ISO 22000 Seminar	East and South-East Asia	**Vietnam**
ISO 22000 Workshop	Caribbean and Central America	**Guatemala**

Structure of ISO/TC 234, *Fisheries and aquaculture*

ISO/TC 234, *Fisheries and aquaculture*, was established in 2007. The current list of member countries comprises 14 participating members and 18 observing members.

Participating members

Norway, (SN), secretariat	India (BIS)	Thailand (TISI)
Canada (SCC)	Malaysia (DSM)	USA (ANSI)
Fiji (FTSQCO)	New Zealand (SNZ)	United Kingdom (BSI)
France (AFNOR)	South Africa (SABS)	Viet Nam (TCVN
Iceland (IST)	Spain (AENOR)	

Observing members

Argentina (IRAM)	Finland (SFS)	Montenegro (ISME)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BAS)	Germany (DIN)	Netherlands (NEN)
Brazil (ABNT)	Israel (SII)	Poland (PKN)
Croatia (HZN)	Italy (UNI)	Sweden (SIS)
Cyprus (CYS)	Japan (JISC)	Switzerland (SNV)
Denmark (DS)	Malta (MSA)	Ukraine (DSSU)

Scope of the work of ISO/TC 234:

Standardization in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, including, but not limited to, terminology, technical specifications for equipment and for their operation, characterization of aquaculture sites and maintenance of appropriate physical, chemical and biological conditions, environmental monitoring, data reporting, traceability and waste disposal.

Excluded:
- methods of analysis of food products and traceability covered by ISO/TC 34;
- personal protective clothing covered by ISO/TC 94;
- environmental monitoring covered by ISO/TC 207.

The work of this committee should be complementary to and not in competition with ongoing standardization under the auspices of other non-governmental or governmental organizations.

Structure of ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*

ISO/TC 147 comprises 32 Participating countries and 52 Observing countries

ISO/TC 147 consists of the following:

- WG 4, *Radiological measurements* [with AFNOR (France) having the convenorship]
- SC 1, *Terminology* (secretariat held by South Africa)
- <u>SC 2, *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods*</u> (secretariat held by Germany)
    - WG 17 *Phenols* [with DIN (Germany) having the convenorship]
    - WG 19 *Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)* [with NEN (The Netherlands) having the convenorship]
    - WG 33 *Ion chromatography methods* [with DIN (Germany) having the convenorship]
    - WG 38 *Flow analysis methods* [with DIN (Germany) having the convenorship]
    - WG 47 *Microcystins* [with DIN (Germany) having the convenorship]
    - WG 48 *Precision and accuracy* [with DIN (Germany) having the convenorship]
    - WG 52 *Antimony, arsenic and selenium* [with BSI (UK) having the convenorship]
    - WG 53 *GC-MS for groups of non-polar substances* [with NEN (The Netherlands) having the convenorship]
    - WG 54 *Alkalinity in marine water* [with JISC (Japan) having the convenorship]
    - WG 55 *Glyphosate and AMPA* [with AFNOR (France) having the convenorship]
    - WG 56 *PFOS and PFOA* [with JISC (Japan) having the convenorship]
    - WG 57 *SPME* [with DIN (Germany) having the convenorship]
    - WG 58 *pH measurement* [with DIN (Germany) having the convenorship]
- <u>SC 4, *Microbiological methods*</u> (secretariat held by Germany)
    - WG 2 *Coliforms (E.* coli *and other coliforms)* [with DIN (Germany) having the convenorship]
    - WG 7 *Salmonella* [with BSI (UK) having the convenorship]
    - WG 10 *Legionella* [with NEN (The Netherlands) having the convenorship]
    - WG 12 *Analytical quality control of microbiological media* [with AFNOR (France) having the convenorship)
    - WG 13 *Cryptosporidium/Giardia* [with BSI (UK) having the convenorship)
    - WG 15 *Uncertainity of measurement* [with SFS (Finland) having the convenorship)
    - WG 16 *Sampling for microbiological analysis* [with AFNOR (France) having the convenorship]
- SC 5, *Biological methods* (secretariat held by Germany)
- SC 6, *Sampling* (general methods) (secretariat held by UK)

<div align="right">**Annex 5**</div>

Structure of ISO/TC 93, *Starch, derivatives and by-products*

The Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) has hosted the Secretariat for ISO/TC 93 since 2004.

Scope of ISO/TC 93

Standardization of terminology, methods of sampling, and methods of analysis and examination of starch. The field of activity covers native starch extracted from agricultural products (raw materials), starch which has been chemically or physically modified, starch derivatives such as sorbitol, dextrins, isoglucose and glucose syrups and starch by-products including glutens.

Main objectives of ISO/TC 93

- Harmonization of international standards for starch, derivatives and by-products in order to facilitate trade of these products

- To encourage research, development and further interest in starch production, processing, use and trade

- To facilitate discussion between member countries on the necessity for international standards within the scope of the committee

- To ensure that standards which have been published by the committee are up-to-date

- To provide internationally accepted methods of examination and sampling of starch, starch derivatives and starch by-products and also to investigate any added benefits and new use of the same

- To provide and promote the use of standard terminology for starch, derivatives and by-products

- Co-operation with the international organizations in liaison with the technical committee

- To develop a work programme which ensures that market needs are met

Members

The committee comprises 9 Participating countries (P-Members) and 30 Observer countries (O-Members).

P-Members: China, Cuba, France, Jamaica, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Spain and Trinidad and Tobago

O-Members: Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, China, Croatia, Côte-d'Ivoire, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan , Lebanon, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia , Serbia, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia , Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Liaison groups

The groups which are in liaison with ISO/TC 93 include:

ISO/TC 34 (*Food products*), Association of Cereal Starch Producers in the EU, AOAC International, Codex Alimentarius Commission, European Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Association for Cereal Science and Technology, International Commission for Uniform Methods of Sugar Analysis, International Office of Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery, International Organization of Legal Metrology, Union of Potato Starch Factories of the European Union, World Customs Organization.

Annex 6

Structure of ISO/TC 134, *Fertilizers and soil conditioners*

The main objective of this technical committee is the development of globally relevant International Standards, in order to promote the quality and safety of fertilizers and soil conditioners and facilitate world trade.

ISO/TC 134 will hold a meeting in Barcelona on 3 July 2008.

Scope of ISO/TC 134

Standardization in the field of fertilizers and soil conditioners, that is, materials whose addition is intended to ensure or improve the nourishment of cultivated plants and / or to improve the properties of soils.

List of standards developed by ISO/TC 134

ISO 3944:1992, *Fertilizers — Determination of bulk density (loose)*
ISO 3963:1977, *Fertilizers — Sampling from a conveyor by stopping the bel*t
ISO 5306:1983, *Fertilizers — Presentation of sampling reports*
ISO/TR 5307:1991, *Solid fertilizers — Derivation of a sampling plan for the evaluation of a large delivery*
ISO 5308:1992, *Solid fertilizers — Method of checking the performance of mechanical devices for sampling of product moving in bul*k
ISO 5311:1992, *Fertilizers — Determination of bulk density (tapped)*
ISO 5313:1986, *High nitrogen content, straight ammonium nitrate fertilizers — Determination or oil retention*
ISO 5314:1981, *Fertilizers — Determination of ammoniacal nitrogen content — Titrimetric method after distillation*
ISO 5315:1984, *Fertilizers — Determination of total nitrogen content — Titrimetric method after distillation*
ISO 5316:1977, *Fertilizers — Extraction of water-soluble phosphates*
ISO 5317:1983, *Fertilizers — Determination of water-soluble potassium content — Preparation of the test solution*
ISO 6598:1985, *Fertilizers — Determination of phosphorus content — Quinoline phosphomolybdate gravimetric method*
ISO 7407:1983, *Fertilizers — Determination of acid-soluble potassium content — Preparation of the test solution*
ISO 7408:1983, *Fertilizers — Determination of ammoniacal nitrogen content in the presence of other substances which release ammonia when treated with sodium hydroxide — Titrimetric method*
ISO 7409:1984, *Fertilizers — Marking — Presentation and declarations*
ISO 7410:1983, *Fertilizers and soil conditioners — Final samples — Practical arrangements*
ISO 7497:1984, *Fertilizers — Extraction of phosphates soluble in mineral acids*
ISO/TR 7553:1987, *Fertilizers — Sampling — Minimum mass of increment to be taken to be representative of the total sampling unit*
ISO 7742:1988, *Solid fertilizers — Reduction of samples*
ISO 7837:1992, *Fertilizers — Determination of bulk density (loose) of fine-grained fertilizers*
ISO 7851:1983, *Fertilizers and soil conditioners — Classification*
ISO 8157:1984, *Fertilizers and soil conditioners — Vocabulary*
ISO 8358:1991, *Solid fertilizers — Preparation of samples for chemical and physical analysis*
ISO 8397:1988, *Solid fertilizers and soil conditioners — Test sieving*
ISO 8398:1989, *Solid fertilizers — Measurement of static angle of repose*
ISO 8633:1992, *Solid fertilizers — Simple sampling method for small lots*
ISO 8634:1991, *Solid fertilizers — Sampling plan for the evaluation of a large delivery*
ISO 10084:1992, *Solid fertilizers — Determination of mineral-acid-soluble sulfate content — Gravimetric method*
ISO 10248:1996, *Fluid fertilizers — De-aeration of suspension samples by film disentrainment*
ISO 10249:1996, *Fluid fertilizers — Preliminary visual examination and preparation of samples for physical testing*

<div align="right">**Annex 7**</div>

List of CASCO Guides and Standards by field of application

Vocabulary, principles and common elements of conformity assessment	**ISO/IEC 17000: 2004**	*Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles*
	ISO PAS 17001: 2005	*Conformity assessment — Impartiality — Principles and requirements*
	ISO PAS 17002: 2004	*Conformity assessment — Confidentiality — Principles and requirements*
	ISO PAS 17003: 2004	*Conformity assessment — Complaints and appeals — Principles and requirements*
	ISO PAS 17004: 2005	*Conformity assessment — Disclosure of information — Principles and requirements*
Writing specifications for use in conformity assessment	**ISO/IEC Guide 7: 1994**	*Guidelines for drafting of standards suitable for use for conformity assessment*
Product certification	**ISO/IEC Guide 23: 1982** Reconfirmed in 2003	*Methods of indicating conformity with standards for third-party certification systems*
	ISO/IEC Guide 28: 2004	*Conformity assessment — Guidance on a third-party certification system for products*
	ISO/IEC Guide 53: 2005	*Conformity assessment — Guidance on the use of an organization's quality management system in product certification*
	ISO/IEC Guide 65: 1996	*General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems*
	ISO/IEC Guide 67: 2004	*Conformity assessment — Fundamentals of product certification*
Code of good practice for conformity assessment	**ISO/IEC Guide 60: 2004**	*Conformity assessment — Code of good practice*
Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs)	**ISO/IEC Guide 68: 2002**	*Arrangements for the recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results*
Accreditation	**ISO/IEC 17011: 2004**	*Conformity assessment — General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*
Inspection	**ISO/IEC 17020: 1998** Reconfirmed in 2002	*General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection*
System certification	**ISO/IEC 17021:2006**	*Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems*
Certification of persons	**ISO/IEC 17024: 2003**	*Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*
Testing/calibration	**ISO/IEC 17025: 2005**	*General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*
	ISO/IEC Guide 43-1: 1997	*Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons – Part 1: Development and operation of proficiency testing schemes*
	ISO/IEC Guide 43-2: 1997	*Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons – Part 2: Selection and use of proficiency testing schemes by laboratory accreditation bodies*
Marks of conformity	**ISO Guide 27: 1983** Reconfirmed in 2003	*Guidelines for corrective action to be taken by a certification body in the event of misuse of its mark of conformity*
	ISO/IEC 17030: 2003	*Conformity assessment — General requirements for third-party marks of conformity*

Peer assessment	**ISO/IEC 17040: 2005**	*Conformity assessment — General requirements for peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies*
Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC)	**ISO/IEC 17050-1: 2004**	*Conformity assessment — Supplier's declaration of conformity - Part 1: General requirements*
	ISO/IEC 17050-2: 2004	*Conformity assessment — Supplier's declaration of conformity - Part 2: Supporting documentation*

List of CASCO projects underway

Common elements of conformity assessment	**ISO PAS 17005** [CASCO WG 23] FDPAS in progress.	Conformity assessment - Use of management systems in conformity assessment - Principles and requirements
Writing specifications for use in conformity assessment	**ISO/IEC 17007** [CASCO WG 27] Revision of ISO/IEC Guide 7:1994 Committee Draft launched for consultation, closing on 2008-02-26.	Conformity assessment - Guidelines for drafting standards and specified requirements suitable for use for conformity assessment
Auditing competence	**ISO/IEC 17021 Part 2** [CASCO WG 21] Working Draft in progress.	Conformity assessment – Requirements for third party auditing of management systems
Proficiency testing	**ISO/IEC 17043** [CASCO WG 28] Revision of ISO/IEC Guide 43:1997 Working Draft in progress.	Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing
Product certification	**ISO/IEC 17065** [CASCO WG 29] Revision of ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 Working Draft in progress.	Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems

EXTRACT OF THE CAC DOCUMENT *RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS*[*]

...

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

22.   At its 30th Session the Commission supported continued cooperation and coordination with ISO and agreed that the Codex Secretariat should maintain its contacts with ISO and continue to report regularly to the Commission on ISO activities of relevance to Codex work. The Commission also supported increased coordination and cooperation between the focal points of Codex and ISO at the national level[7].

23.   The Codex Secretariat participated in the 30th ISO General Assembly, and representatives of ISO participated in selected Codex meetings. Liaison status has been granted to the Codex Alimentarius Commission by the newly established ISO Technical Committee (ISO/TC) 234 "Fisheries and Aquaculture". Information provided by the ISO Central Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is contained in CAC/31 INF/7.

24.   The Commission is **invited** to note the information provided, identify those areas where coordination of work between Codex and ISO should be maintained or strengthened and make proposals on practical modalities for implementing such coordination, as appropriate.

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[*] Reference ALINORM 08/31/9E

[7] ALINORM 07/30/REP, para.234

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

(Hereinafter the "Cooperation Agreement")

between

the *International Organization for Standardization* (ISO)[1] and
the *Universal Postal Union* (UPU)[2]

The UPU and ISO may also be individually referred to as "Party", or collectively as "Parties".

INTRODUCTION

The Parties, recognising:

1. the scope of the Universal Postal Union to secure the organization and improvement of the postal services;
2. the mission of the Universal Postal Union to facilitate communication by guaranteeing the free circulation of postal items over a single postal territory composed of interconnected networks and encouraging the adoption of fair common standards and the use of technology, ensuring the cooperation and interaction among stakeholders and ensuring the satisfaction of customers' changing needs;
3. the role of ISO in developing and promulgating voluntary international standards in all fields except the electrical, electronic engineering and telecommunications fields, wherein these fields are addressed by, or in collaboration with, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Telecommunication Union, respectively;
4. the need for mutual cooperation between UPU and ISO according to their respective missions and powers in technical standardization activities related to the postal sector;
5. the involvement of both Parties in common areas as well as in distinct areas of technical standardization activities;
6. the growing need for common international standards within the postal world, which should, wherever possible and appropriate, be adopted within both the UPU and ISO;
7. the need to closely monitor and control the timely development and approval of international postal standards;
8. the need to engage and involve all concerned stakeholders in the development of international postal standards, including postal operators, governmental authorities, relevant industry players and consumers;
9. the standards approval processes that are in place within the respective Parties and which facilitate the development of international standards;

have agreed to strengthen information exchange and cooperation on standardization activities between the Parties as follows:

1 Information through Liaison Status

Each Party shall be invited to participate in the meetings of the relevant bodies of the other Party, in compliance with the respective rules of procedure of such body, and without voting rights.

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[1] ISO is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies represented by its Secretary-General, having its registered office at 1, Chemin de la Voie-Creuse, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland (hereinafter "ISO").

[2] UPU is a specialized agency of the United Nations represented by the Director General of its International Bureau, having its headquarters at Weltpoststrasse 4, 3000 Berne 15, Switzerland (hereinafter the "UPU").

1.1 Upon request of the other Party, each Party will make all reasonable endeavours to secure the participation of the other Party in any postal standardization activities which the Party concerned may conduct in cooperation with a third party.

1.2 Each Party shall keep the other Party informed of its work in the field of postal standardization through due communication of the relevant documentation, in particular all proposals for allocation of work item status and all standards proposals which are circulated by the Party concerned for comment and/or approval.

1.3 Each Party shall provide the other Party with reasonable opportunity to comment on drafts and proposed standards, formally review such comments as sent by the other Party, as well as advise the other Party of their disposition.

1.4 The establishment and maintenance of such liaison is the responsibility of the respective ISO committee and the UPU Programme for Standards and Certification. A list of the contact persons of each Party is attached to the present agreement.

2 Cooperation on Standards Development

2.1. Modes of cooperative development

Where both Parties express an interest in a particular area of work within the field of postal standardization, the Parties shall mutually agree on the mode of cooperation to be applied in the area of work concerned.

Such modes of cooperative development may be as follows:
- Developments led by ISO with UPU participation (see clause 2.2);
- Developments led by the UPU with ISO participation (see clause 2.2);
- Independent developments under which the Parties independently develop standardization proposals in the area concerned (see clause 2.3).

2.2 Developments led by one Party with participation of the other Party

2.2(a) Developments led by one Party shall be conducted in accordance with that Party's rules and procedures, taking into account, to the maximum possible extent, the requirements of the other Party. The other Party shall be entitled to appoint a reasonable number of experts to participate fully in the development work, subject to such experts' agreement to the lead Party's relevant rules and procedures regarding such participation.

2.2(b) The lead Party shall draw up plans and timetables for due execution of the development work, taking into account, to the maximum possible extent, the time needed for participation by the other Party, and shall submit such plans and timetables for consideration by a "Contact Committee" to be set up in accordance with clause 5 below.

2.2(c) In addition to the provisions of clause 1 above, the lead Party shall make regular reports on the progress of the development work. In case of non-observance of the target plans and timetables, the other Party shall be entitled to revert to independent development after due consultation with the Contact Committee.

2.2(d) For any resulting standard, the lead Party shall include an explicit reference to the contribution made by the other Party, together with a stipulation that any proposal for changes should be communicated to the other Party in accordance with clause 1 above.

2.2(e) Any resulting standards produced in accordance with the lead Party's rules and procedures shall be submitted to the other Party for it to consider their adoption in accordance with clause 3 below.

2.3 Independent developments

2.3(a) Independent development shall apply in cases in which, after due consideration in the Contact Committee, the Parties are unable to agree on the allocation of a leadership role to one of the Parties.

2.3(b) Notwithstanding the independent nature of the development process, the provisions of clause 1 shall apply, and the Parties shall make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that the resulting standards are fully compatible with each other.

2.3(c) Either Party may decide, at any time, to abandon its independent approach and participate in the development work under the other Party's leadership, subject to the provisions of clause 2.2 above.

2.4 In any case, nothing in this Cooperation Agreement shall limit the right of either Party, acting in accordance with its own rules and procedures, to adopt or reject any standardization proposal put before it.

3 Adoption by one Party of standards developed by the other Party

3.1 International postal standards developed by one Party may, and in the cases described in clause 2.2 above shall, be considered for adoption by the other Party. Such consideration shall nevertheless be subject to the prospective adopting Party's rules and procedures.

3.2 To facilitate such adoption, each Party is hereby granted the right to reference or incorporate, in its standards publications, in the original language(s) or in translated form, part of or the entire content of the other Party's international postal standards, as jointly agreed upon and determined by the Parties based on the recommendations of the Contact Committee. Except as otherwise agreed on a case-by-case basis, such right is granted free of charge and any income from publications shall accrue to the Party and/or publisher concerned.

3.3 The use of such right by one Party shall be subject to prior written consent of the other Party, and shall be subject to appropriate acknowledgement and clear documentation of any deviation from the source text of the standard concerned.

3.4 Each Party shall retain all copyrights and related intellectual property rights in its own publications.

3.5 Wherever reasonably possible, the Parties shall give preference to the use of normative referencing, under which an adopted standard is only referred to or has its content published in its entirety without modifications.

3.6 Any translation made in accordance with clause 3.2 above shall be prepared at the cost of and under the responsibility of the translating Party. Except as otherwise agreed on a case-by-case basis, such translation shall be provided free of charge to the other Party.

3.7 Where one Party decides not to adopt one of the other Party's standards after considering such adoption under this clause, the reasons for such non-adoption shall be communicated to the other Party together, if appropriate, with recommendations for revision of the standard concerned.

4 Maintenance of standards

4.1 Where a standard published by one Party is adopted by the other Party, the Party responsible for the original development of the standard shall retain responsibility for review and maintenance of such standard's specifications. The other Party may request the initiation of a review of a standard's specifications; such request for review shall not be unreasonably rejected by the Party responsible for the original development of the standard.

4.2 Prior to the conduct of a review, the reviewing Party shall inform the other Party and invite the latter to participate in the review process.

4.3 Modified versions of standards prepared by one Party in accordance with this clause, shall be submitted to the other Party for consideration of their adoption in accordance with clause 3 above.

5 Contact Committee

5.1 A Contact Committee consisting of 6 (six) members shall be charged with overseeing the proper implementation and execution of this Cooperation Agreement. Each Party shall respectively appoint 3 (three) members for the Contact Committee.

5.2 The Contact Committee shall consider and make recommendations to both Parties on the following matters:
   (a) progress in postal services standardization;
   (b) new areas in which postal standardization work is needed;
   (c) potential common areas of work;
   (d) the scope of application of this Cooperation Agreement and, in particular, the areas of work and standards falling under the provisions of the Cooperation Agreement;

(e) any issue or dispute which may arise at a working level, in particular with regard to the allocation or timely execution of leadership roles, and the number of experts appointed in accordance with clause 2.2(a) above;

(f) any additional measure needed to ensure efficient and proper coordination and planning between the Parties;

(g) any necessary modification to the "free of charge" basis referred to in clauses 3.2 and 3.6 above;

(h) the implementation of the present Cooperation Agreement and any recommendations for improvement or revisions thereof.

5.3 The Contact Committee shall, as far as reasonably possible, conduct its business by electronic mail or other remote means, but shall meet at least once per year alternatively in Berne and in Geneva. The first such meeting shall take place within 3 (three) months after the signature by both Parties of this Cooperation Agreement. Additional meetings may be called and organized at the initiative of either of the two Parties.

5.4 Each Party's Secretariat shall ensure that its decisions and actions based on the recommendations of the Contact Committee, taken in conformity with each concerned Party's legal framework, are communicated to the other Party in a timely manner.

6 Entry into force, duration and termination

6.1 This Cooperation Agreement shall come into effect on the last date of its signature by the Parties as indicated below and remain valid for a period of 3 (three) years (hereinafter the "Initial Term"), and then automatically renewed for consecutive periods of 1 (one) year.

6.2 This Cooperation Agreement may be terminated by mutual consent of the Parties, or by either Party giving 3 (three) months prior written notice to the other Party, in the case of termination notices sent during the Initial Term, or 30 (thirty) days prior written notice to the other Party, in the case of termination notices sent during each renewal period following the Initial Term.
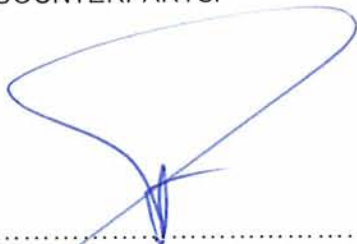
6.3 The relevant provisions of this Cooperation Agreement shall remain in force beyond the date of such termination as described above to the extent necessary to permit an orderly settlement of all arrangements made with respect to ongoing cooperation activities. In particular, termination shall not affect the right of either Party to continue to make use of the other Party's standards as provided in clause 3 above, when such use precedes the sending of a written notice of termination by either Party.

7 Amendment

7.1 This Cooperation Agreement may be amended at any time by written mutual agreement signed by both Parties.

7.2 This Cooperation Agreement and any amendments thereof shall supersede any previous cooperation agreements or memorandums of understanding signed by the Parties and related to the standardization activities as described in this Cooperation Agreement.

SIGNED BY THE AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTIES IN 2 (TWO) ORIGINAL COUNTERPARTS:

For ISO
Mr. Alan Bryden
Secretary-General

Date: 2008.01.30

Place: Bern (CH)

For UPU
Mr. Edouard Dayan
Director General

Date: Berne

Place: 30/01/08

Annex to
Cooperation Agreement
between

the *International Organization for Standardization* (ISO) and
the *Universal Postal Union* (UPU)

Listing of contact persons of each Party

Clause 1.4 of this agreement envisages a listing of the contact persons of each Party as an annex to the present agreement. This list, which should be updated as necessary, is as follows:

For ISO

Mr. Michael Smith
Senior Advisor Technical Policy
Standards Department

For UPU

Mr. Akhilesh Mathur
Programme Manager, Standards and Certification

IFAN REPORT TO THE ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2008

IFAN (the International Federation of Standards Users) was founded 34 years ago by a group of standards users who found that they had similar issues to consider at the international level. IFAN membership is currently composed of 12 national members which are associations of standards users from countries covering North America, Europe and Asia and 10 corporate members which are industrial and commercial companies dealing with the use of standards.

IFAN has Memoranda of Understanding with ISO, IEC, CEN and CENELEC. It also cooperates with UNECE WP.6[1] and NORMAPME (European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises for Standardisation). More information on IFAN can be found on its website: www.ifan.org.

IFAN holds an annual Members' Assembly and every three years an International Conference. The last such Conference was held in San Francisco in partnership with the Standards Engineering Society (SES), the North American national standards users' organization, which is a member of IFAN. The Conference was very successful with participants enjoying presentations on subjects such as:
- Innovation and standardization,
- Interaction between the legal framework and standardization,
- Electrotechnical standardization – the European track,
- Internet technology – Connecting standards users, etc.

Members continue to find great value in being involved and active within IFAN. Under the Presidency of Neil Reeve, the manager of standardization at Shell, IFAN has increasingly been putting its views to ISO and IEC in the form of position statements on various issues relevant to standards users.

IFAN supports an increasing cooperation between IEC, ISO and ITU in the framework of the World Standards Cooperation (WSC). In this respect, IFAN proposed to IEC, ISO and ITU to create a single source for search and delivery of the standards of these organizations, i.e. a common online catalogue of IEC, ISO and ITU International Standards and a Web store based on this catalogue. Standards users would welcome such a tool. Taking this into account, the idea of conducting a feasibility study concerning the creation of a search mechanism which could index information on predefined Web sites related to standardization and standards-related issues and retrieval of this information for standards users was put forward at the 2007 IFAN Members' Assembly.

This year, ISO has announced that it has created a search mechanism which provides options to search for information simultaneously on standards across the ISO, IEC and ITU Web sites or international/regional standardizing bodies or the Web sites of ISO and IEC members or across all of them. This mechanism is situated on the WSSN Web site (www.wssn.net). While this innovation is a step forward and a great response to the standards users' needs, it does not cover the expectation of standards users regarding a single source of distribution of standards. ISO and IEC replied last year that this would require a degree of integration of IT tools, as well as

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[1] UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

financial and commercial operations which, clearly, were not envisaged. IFAN understands that the time has not yet come to deal with this task but we believe that one day this question should be on the agenda of international standards developing organizations.

IFAN also supports the initiative of ISO aimed at simplifying the range of ISO deliverables. However, the effectiveness of this initiative from the standards user's point of view will largely depend on the modalities of its implementation. In this respect, IFAN suggested, *inter alia,* to implement the initiative together with IEC, CEN and CENELEC. Otherwise, for the standards user, there would be more deliverables and designations than now if these organizations do not join the initiative.

IFAN is traditionally invited to comment on ISO and IEC strategies. At its annual meeting held in Geneva in September this year, the IFAN Members' Assembly, among other things, started the process of preparation of IFAN proposals for the next editions of ISO and IEC strategic plans. During brain-storming sessions, the participants have identified a number of issues which could be proposed to ISO and other international and regional standards developing organizations for implementation.

For example, some IFAN members would welcome the introduction of direct industry participation in the development process of ISO and IEC standards in addition to the national representation, as is being done in ITU. Many standards users would like to see the introduction, the scope, the contents and the references of standards in online catalogues before they buy standards. Ideas were put forward regarding: better coordination of ISO, IEC and ITU standards work programmes, where there is overlap; increased focus on clear, simple language use in the text of standards (to help in the global use of standards); technical committees should take responsibility for promoting the use of their standards; harmonization of the data on standards' cover pages among international and regional standards developing organizations; promotion of inclusion of the awareness of standards in the curriculum of education systems, from kindergarten to university; harmonized preferential pricing model for standards used by academia and education; etc.

These, and other, suggestions will be further developed, submitted to the IFAN membership and communicated in due course to ISO and other standards developing organizations.

AGENDA ITEM 5 ISO/IEC/ITU COOPERATION

Under this agenda item, the IEC President, Mr. Jacques Régis, and the ITU-T[1] Director,
Mr. Malcolm Johnson, will be addressing the General Assembly. The report below highlights the
main developments in ISO/IEC/ITU cooperation since the last General Assembly.

1 Developments in ISO/IEC/ITU cooperation (World Standards Cooperation)

The tripartite cooperation between ISO, the IEC and the ITU takes place through the World
Standards Cooperation (WSC), as well as through regular contacts between the CEOs and staff of
the three organizations.

The World Standards Cooperation (WSC), established in 2001, held its seventh meeting in
Geneva on 6 June 2008. On this occasion, the WSC agreed on an amendment to its terms of
reference to include conformity assessment to be submitted for approval by the appropriate bodies
in the three member organizations (on the ISO side, the proposed amendment is currently being
voted by Council for decision by correspondence). The membership list in 2008 and the current
terms of reference[2] of the WSC are attached at Annex for ease of reference.

An update on some of the initiatives undertaken by ISO, IEC and ITU under the aegis of the WSC
is given below:

– Workshop on *The Fully Networked Car*

The third edition of the Fully Networked Car workshop was held on 5-7 March 2008 at the Geneva
International Motor Show 2008. The main purpose of the workshop was to establish a constructive
dialogue among market stakeholders and identify how standards help the motor industry to make
vehicles more efficient and safer, with lower impact on the environment.

As in previous years, the event brought together key specialists in the field, from top
decision-makers to engineers, designers, planners, government officials, regulators, standards
experts and others. Stakeholders agreed that standardization was key to the development of new
technologies and that coordination between the traditionally remote vehicle manufacturing and ICT
industries was crucial.

At its meeting in June 2008, the WSC endorsed the proposal for a new edition of the event on
4-5 March 2009 with ITU-T in the lead. In addition the WSC endorsed that IEC, ISO and ITU
collaborate on an ITS standardization roadmap for information transport systems.

– Cooperation on security (Tripartite strategic advisory group) and workshops on security

The ISO/IEC/ITU-T Strategic Advisory Group on Security (SAG-S) held its fifth meeting on
23-24 January 2008 in Geneva and plans to hold its next one in January 2009 also in Geneva.

A WSC workshop on "Transit Security" was held on 4-5 October 2007 hosted by ANSI/HSSP[3],
with 130 participants. The SAG-S requested that a team review the report's findings and

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[1] ITU-T: ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector
[2] still unchanged at the time of dispatching the working documents

[3] ANSI/HSS : ANSI Homeland Security Standards Panel

recommendations and produce a short list of specific areas for potential standards development that shall be directed to targeted technical committees of the three organizations (via the applicable bodies) for their consideration and action as appropriate.

Concerning possible workshops in 2008-2009, the issue is under discussion in the SAG-S.

– Patent policy

It is recalled that the three WSC member organizations approved a Common Patent Policy for ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC, the associated declaration forms and implementation guidelines.

At its meeting in June 2008, the WSC pointed out that the strength of the common patent policy was in being a joint policy and in its stability. With this in mind, it was agreed that these documents should be reviewed as relevant.

The WSC further agreed that other organizations be encouraged to use the common patent policy but that ISO, IEC and ITU should stay the owners.

– WSC standardization community management course

The third WSC standardization community management course will be delivered to 35 participants from the three member organizations on 22-26 September 2008 in Geneva. The initial programme has been agreed and speakers for most of the topics in the programme have been aligned. The CEOs/Director of IEC, ISO and ITU-T have all agreed to make presentations. The course will open the door for national bodies to better understand the international arena of standards making, not just the daily operation.

– World Standards Day (WSD)

As decided by the WSC in 2007, the theme of the **2008** World Standards Day (14 October) will be **Intelligent and sustainable buildings.** A joint message by the ISO and IEC Presidents and the ITU Secretary-General as well as a common poster will be sent to the ISO membership at the end of July. It is underlined that the 2008 WSD will coincide with the opening of this year's ISO General Assembly in Dubai.

The theme chosen by the WSC for the **2009** World Standards Day will be **Climate Change**. This theme will cover, *inter alia,* the practical tools offered by International Standards to address climate change; and how International Standards can help to ensure that industry and government work towards common and global solutions, so that voluntary initiatives align with the imperatives of public policies and society at large.

– Promotion of International Standards to academic institutions and their students

It is recalled that in 2007 the WSC agreed to improve coordination in joint efforts to promote the values of international standardization to academia, to help encourage the use of International Standards and Recommendations, and to stimulate active participation in all standards-setting and related activities within the three WSC partner organizations. The three CEOs subsequently developed more detailed proposals for such a WSC Academia Initiative. At its meeting in June 2008, the WSC agreed with the proposal for IEC, ISO and ITU to host the 2010 ICES[4] conference in Geneva and suggested that the CEOs/Director further discuss the prospective audience of the conference.

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[4] ICES: International Cooperation for Education about Standardization

2   Developments in ISO/IEC cooperation

- **Policy level**

Contacts with the IEC at policy level have taken place in the framework of the WSC (see item 1 above) and through regular meetings between the two Chief Executive Officers.

- **Technical level**

The technical collaboration between ISO and IEC continues to be good, although there continue to be some areas of overlap and duplication which are being reviewed and monitored by the TMB and the IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB). The TMB and SMB Secretaries each regularly attend the meetings of the other management board to assure coordination and cooperation. Good cooperation is also maintained between the ISO and IEC Directives Maintenance Teams through mutual representation at meetings and document exchange. It was decided in June 2007 that an annual meeting of the Joint ISO/IEC Directives Maintenance Team would be held in conjunction with the June meetings of the TMB and IEC/SMB and that a new edition of Part 1 of the Directives would be issued annually.

Annual meetings are now also held in June between representatives of the TMB and SMB, at which views are exchanged on strategic/policy issues and on technical cooperation issues. In particular, at the June 2008 meeting, there was a discussion on the need for ISO and IEC to review how they should address converging technologies to avoid overlap and duplication of work and to improve the process for exchange of information about proposed new work so that potential problems can be identified early.

Since the last General Assembly, the TMB and SMB have established a number of joint groups, to address such questions as the market relevance of ISO and IEC technical work, timeframes in the ISO/IEC Directives and the possible simplification of the range of ISO and IEC technical deliverables, while at their June meetings the management boards decided, in reponse to a request from the ISO Council and following the General Assembly Open Session in September 2007, to establish a joint group to develop a guidance document for committee whose standards will be or could be used to support public policy.

- Participation in meetings

IEC participates in the work of ISO's policy development committees (mainly CASCO and COPOLCO).

Where relevant, there is joint ISO/IEC representation (through a single representative) at certain meetings. The ISO participant at the ETSI[5] General Assembly in March 2008 in Nice (France) also represented IEC; and ISO and IEC were similarly represented by a single speaker at the ITU-T Workshop on intellectual property rights/patents and standards held in Geneva on 1 July 2008.

- Communication

The ISO and IEC communication teams consult each other and cooperate on media and public relations initiatives relating to both organizations. In addition to the regular cooperation (with ITU) on the joint World Standards Day message, poster and press release, examples of this cooperation include consultation on statements in response to media enquiries and planning for the joint ISO/IEC Marketing and Communication conference in 2009.

- Second ISO and IEC Marketing and Communication Forum

Building on the success of the first ISO and IEC Marketing and Communication Forum held in Geneva in December 2006, ISO and IEC are currently working on the preparation of such a Forum

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[5] ETSI : European Telecommunications Standards Institute

to take place in Geneva around May June 2009. The main objective of the forum is to help the audience to produce business results in terms of increased sales and use of International Standards and raised awareness of standards. It is envisaged to organize in conjunction with this second ISO and IEC Marketing and Communication Forum a one-day ISO/IEC workshop on the subject of trademarks.

- ISO/IEC Information Centre

The ISO/IEC Information Centre, accessible on the Web since 2004, provides a focal point for enquiries on the two organizations, in particular in relation to WTO issues. The modification of the site concerning the development of a common enquiry channelling section was reported last year. Since then, two new sections *Economic and social benefits of standardization* (an inventory of studies in this field) and *Standards and regulations* (including using and referencing ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations) have been introduced. The site has been transferred to a new IT platform which provides a space with controlled access open only to ISO and IEC members, e.g. for Marketing and Communication Forum presentations.

3 Developments in ISO/ITU cooperation

As reported in previous years, ISO's collaboration with ITU principally falls in the area of ISO/IEC JTC 1 *Information technology,* where there is strong collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) as a result of the convergence of IT and telecommunication technologies, and this results in the publication of common texts as ISO/IEC Standards and ITU Recommendations. In recent years, the collaboration has expanded into new areas, especially IT security (JTC 1/SC 27) and radio-frequency identification (RFID) (JTC 1/SC 31). Collaboration continues to develop in the areas of intelligent transport systems (ISO/TC 204) and e-health (ISO/TC 215).

Recently, collaboration with ITU has also begun in the area of Accessibility through ISO/IEC JTC1 *Information technology* and ISO/TC159 *Ergonomics*; representatives of both bodies participated in the ITU-T workshop on accessibility on 21 April 2008.

ISO also continues to actively support the implementation of the common ISO/IEC/ITU-T patent policy as well as the common implementation guidelines and the common patent statement and licensing agreement.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION	The General Assembly is invited to comment on the above and other matters arising from this report and from the addresses made under this item at the meeting.

jnb/14959914

GOALS, MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE IEC, ISO, AND ITU WORLD STANDARDS COOPERATION (WSC)

1   Goals

The primary functions of the WSC are:

- to strengthen and advance the voluntary consensus-based international standards system of IEC, ISO, and ITU through specific policies and cooperation, and by the sharing of information on experiences;

- to promote and increase the visibility of international consensus-based standardization worldwide;

- to resolve expeditiously any issue regarding cooperation in the technical work of the three organizations, if the matter has failed to be resolved in a timely manner at all lower levels of coordination.

2   WSC membership in 2008

For IEC	For ISO	For ITU
President *Mr. Jacques Régis*	President *Mr. Håkan Murby*	Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau *Mr. Malcolm Johnson*
Immediate Past President *Mr. Renzo Tani*	Vice-President (policy) *Dr. George Arnold*	Deputy to the Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau *Mr. Reinhard Scholl*
Vice-President and Standardization Management Board (SMB) Chairman *Mr. Frank K. Kitzantides*	Vice-President (technical management) and TMB Chairman *Mr. Jacob Holmblad*	Chairman, Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) *Mr. Gary Fishman*
General Secretary *Mr. Aharon Amit*	Secretary-General *Mr. Alan Bryden*	Deputy to the Director, Radiocommunication Bureau *Mr. Fabio Leite*

3   Terms of reference

The WSC shall seek:

- to develop policy and strategy on the promotion of international consensus-based standards to industry, the business community, governments, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international organizations, users, including consumers;

- to develop a promotion and orientation programme aimed at educational institutions, in particular engineering schools and management schools;

- to guide the Joint Technical Advisory Board (JTAB), when needed, on technical issues of work delineation – the ITU-T[1] will be invited to attend JTAB meetings;

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[1] ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

- to address issues of common interest;

- to set up, when needed, ad hoc task forces with participation as required.

The chairmanship and the secretariat will be from the same WSC member organization, and will rotate annually.

The WSC members will report to their respective bodies on agreements reached. Approval of executive actions on such agreements and recommendations remain at the discretion of each organization.

AGENDA ITEM 6   COOPERATION WITH WTO

Under this agenda item, the Director of the WTO Trade and Environment Division, Mrs. Vesile Kulaçoğlu, will address the General Assembly. New developments in the WTO that are of specific relevance to ISO are carefully analysed on a continuing basis by the ISO Central Secretariat. The report given below highlights the cooperative work carried out by the WTO and ISO since the last ISO General Assembly in Geneva in 2007.

1   High level contacts between the WTO and ISO

Since the last General Assembly, the Secretary-General has been in regular contact with the Director of the Trade and Environment Division.

2   Cooperation with specific WTO committees and Working parties

2.1   WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT Committee)

2.1.1   Operation of the WTO Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards

The *WTO Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards* (Annex 3 to the *Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade*) designates the ISO/IEC Information Centre in Geneva as the channel for notifications by standardizing bodies of their acceptance of the WTO TBT Standards Code. In accordance with the "ISO/WTO Memorandum of Understanding on a WTO Standards Information Service Operated by ISO", information on standardizing bodies accepting the WTO TBT Standards Code is published annually in the *WTO TBT Standards Code Directory* and is updated monthly in the magazine *ISO Focus* on a cost recovery basis. The 13th edition of the *WTO TBT Standards Code Directory* was issued in January 2008. During the publication of this edition, an electronic system of updating its data was introduced. The WTO/TBT Committee appreciates the fact that the Directory is also regularly updated in the *WTO, ISO and World Trade* section of the *ISO/IEC Information Centre* Web site.

At 1 July 2008, 164 standardizing bodies from 123 countries/customs territories and three regional standards organizations had accepted the Code, of which 117 ISO members (88 member bodies, 24 correspondent members and five subscriber members). ISO members not having yet accepted the Code are encouraged to join in line with the *ISO Code of Ethics*.

2.1.2   Cooperation with the WTO/TBT Committee

ISO has the status of permanent observer on the WTO/TBT Committee and is allowed to provide information to the Committee on matters regarding international standardization and conformity assessment. The TBT Committee has been regularly updated on ISO programmes relevant to its activities.

ISO was represented at the three regular meetings of the TBT Committee held since the 2007 General Assembly:

– on 9 November 2007. This regular meeting of the TBT Committee was preceded by the Fifth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange on 7-8 November 2007, which was also attended by an ISO representative;

– on 20 March 2008, at which a proposal was presented by a national delegation to organize a "Workshop on the role of international standards in Economic Development". This regular meeting was preceded by a workshop on good regulatory practice on 18-19 March 2008, which was also attended by an ISO representative and during which the ISO/IEC information document "Using and referencing ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations" was made available;

- on 1-2 July 2008 where the question of the organization of a workshop on international standards was mentioned again; following discussions the Secretary-General had on the subject, ISO should be consulted on the draft programme.

The next meeting of the TBT Committee is scheduled for 5-6 November 2008.

In regard to technical assistance, ISO participated in the following three WTO Regional Workshops on technical barriers to trade and made presentations on ISO's activities in general, on conformity assessment and on capacity building:

- for Asia and Pacific Economies, in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), 20-22 November 2007;
- for Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, in Vienna (Austria), 28-30 April 2008;
- for the French-speaking countries of Africa in Rabat (Morocco), 7-9 July 2008.

and has been invited to participate in three other workshops by the end of the year (one regional in the Caribbean and two national in Cuba and the Philippines).

Also, the WTO secretariat has accepted to make a presentation on the role of International Standards in support of international trade at the third WSC Standardization Management Course on 22-26 September in Geneva.

2.2 Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE)

ISO has the status of permanent observer on the Committee on Trade and Environment for items related to standardization. The CTE is closely following the work of ISO/TC 207/SC 3 *Environmental labelling*. International Standards in this field are of particular importance to the WTO since, if inappropriately practiced, any form of environmental labelling could have the potential to create unnecessary barriers to trade.

ISO is represented at CTE sessions as appropriate and contacts are maintained at secretariat level.

2.3 Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS Committee)

The SPS Committee is specifically mandated to monitor the use of international standards in its field. The Committee brings any identified problems to the attention of the standards organization concerned. To date, no problems with ISO standards have been identified. The ISO Central Secretariat informs the SPS secretariat regularly of the progress of the ISO standardization programme relevant to their activities.

In 2007, the SPS Committee started including a standing agenda item on the subject of "private standards". The main concerns expressed by members on this issue relate to requirements and standards set by food retailers (so-called "private standards"). ISO Standards, although based on a double level of consensus, are so far considered as "private standards" by the SPS Committee, since ISO is non-governmental and not one of the three intergovernmental organizations specifically indicated in the WTO SPS Agreement (i.e., IPPC, OIE and CAC[1]). ISO is represented at all WTO SPS Committee meetings to ensure that relevant information, necessary clarification and replies to questions are provided on this subject, as well as to promote the complementary role that ISO Standards play in the marketplace and in support of the work of the CAC.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited to comment on the address of the WTO representative and on the above report.

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1   IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention
    OIE: Office International des Epizooties
    CAC: Codex Alimentarius Commission

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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

AGENDA ITEM 7.1   ADDRESS BY THE UNIDO DIRECTOR GENERAL

Under this agenda item, Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will address the General Assembly on UNIDO's actions towards improving quality infrastructure in developing countries, in particular in relation to standardization. Having been appointed by the UN Secretary General Chair of UN-Energy[1] for the biennium 2008-2009, Dr. Yumkella will therefore also address the Assembly on UN's initiatives in the field of energy.

A report on the cooperation between ISO and UNIDO since the 2007 General Assembly is attached at Annex.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General assembly will be invited to comment on Dr. Yumkella's presentation.

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[1]   UN-Energy: interagency mechanism that brings together all the UN organizations dealing with energy issues.

ISO/UNIDO COOPERATION SINCE THE 2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ISO and UNIDO continue to work closely for the delivery of training seminars and workshops on standardization to developing countries. At another level, discussions are under way between the two organizations to determine how consultants working for UNIDO projects in the field of standardization can be updated on the ISO process so as to ensure that delivery of project outputs conform to best practices. A major step towards this objective has been the preparation of a joint ISO/UNIDO publication entitled *Fast Forward – National Standards Bodies in developing countries*. This publication, to be available towards the end of July 2008, provides guidelines for the operation and management of standards bodies in developing countries and will be a very useful tool for all parties working in the field. A similar effort has been initiated to prepare another joint publication on conformity assessment with extensive reference to the ISO standards covering this area – conformity assessment has indeed been identified as being crucial for developing countries.

UNIDO and ISO, in collaboration with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), organized a Regional Workshop on "Good Standardization and Conformity Assessment Practice" on 10-12 December 2007 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. ISO was represented by its Secretary General, Mr. Alan Bryden, and UNIDO by its Director of the Trade Capacity Building Branch. This sub-region is at a critical step in its approach to standardization as the establishment of the new South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) was announced for May 2008.

ISO participated in the Working Group Meeting convened by UNIDO and the Standardization Administration of China (SAC) from 9 to 11 April 2008 for the purpose of contributing to the process of developing an international Management System Standard for Energy. UNIDO initiated a dialogue on the development of an international energy management standard at an expert group meeting on Industrial System Optimization and Energy Management Standards in Industry in March 2007, which included representation from the ISO Central Secretariat. In February 2008, the Technical Management Board approved the establishment of a project committee (PC 242 – Energy Management) to develop the new ISO Management System Standard for Energy (MSE). UNIDO has filed an application for A-liaison with PC 242 which is currently being voted within the PC. UNIDO is in the process of launching a survey covering industry in developing countries and countries with economies in transition regarding energy management practices. The results of the survey are expected to provide valuable input to the work of PC 242. One of the discussion groups to take place during the DEVCO meeting in Dubai is co-organized by ISO and UNIDO on the topic "Standards for energy efficiency, water and climate change, and their management".

ISO participated in the UNIDO Expert Group Meeting on 8-9 May 2008 in Vienna aiming at developing a guidebook for developing country suppliers and exporters on private standards and good practices required by international buyers. Private standards are posing a serious challenge for developing countries and such a tool could alleviate the difficulties faced by exporters.

UNIDO, jointly with ON, the Austrian Standards body, hosted the fifth plenary meeting of the TMB Working Group on Social Responsibility in Vienna on 5-9 November 2007.

UNIDO is in liaison with four ISO technical committees and takes part in the ISO Working Group on Social Responsibility.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

AGENDA ITEM 7.2   ISO ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Some 75% of ISO's 157 members are from developing countries. They face a number of challenges in response to which a set of actions has been defined in order to improve national standardization infrastructures, to build capacity and to increase their involvement in international standardization. Aligned with the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010*, the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries* sets the direction for the support to be provided to members in developing countries.

Endorsed by Council in September 2004, the *ISO Action plan* is in its fourth year of implementation and well on track, as the General Assembly already noted with satisfaction in its Resolution 7/2007 adopted in Geneva in September 2007.

Since then, further progress has been made in meeting the five objectives defined in the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries*, namely to raise awareness, build capacity, foster regional cooperation, develop expertise in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and enhance the participation of developing countries in ISO technical work. Also, a significant expansion of the activities has taken place, with a considerable increase in the donor funding obtained and therefore the volume of assistance provided to members.

Information is given below on actions carried out since the 2007 General Assembly.

1   Implementation of the ISO Action Plan for developing countries

1.1   Improve awareness of the role of standardization

Awareness workshops and seminars in topical areas of interest for developing countries were:
– maintained (e.g., ISO 22000 on food safety, ISO 14040 on Life cycle assessment, ISO 10015 on Quality management in training, ISO 14064 on greenhouse gases),
– increased (e.g., future ISO 26000 on social responsibility) or
– introduced (e.g., ISO 27001 on Information security management systems).

In view of the importance of conformity assessment and related issues in developing countries, the seventh and eighth in a series of regional workshops on *Conformity Assessment for Sustainable Development and Trade* were organized in co-operation with CASCO in Tunis (Tunisia) for French-speaking countries in November 2007 and in Kiev (Ukraine) in June 2008.

Training materials on the CASCO Toolbox comprising the conformity assessment standards are being prepared with contents designed for regional as well as national events. This area is in high demand by developing countries since most of them face problems in their export sector. Three (one regional and two national) awareness and training workshops in conformity assessment have been planned for late 2008 in Africa.

Joint activities with COPOLCO led to the successful design and delivery of the first "Train-the-trainer" workshop on consumer participation in Accra (Ghana) in February 2008 and the roll-out of a new distance learning tool to aid understanding of the role of consumers in standardization.

1.2   Develop capacity

The next step after raising awareness of the importance of standards is developing the capacity of ISO members in developing countries to facilitate the implementation of International Standards and to participate more effectively in ISO's technical work.

Capacity-building activities for the staff of national standards bodies (NSB) in developing countries are directed at two levels, firstly to provide guidance as to good practices in standardization that the NSB applies in its own structure, and secondly to provide the skills and knowledge to participate in the international standardization process.

In the first category, good standardization practice workshops were carried out in three regions, among which the South Asian region where it is expected that regional cooperation should be enhanced through the announced creation of a future South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO).

In the second category, 10 regional and national workshops were held to provide the skills to stakeholders to be more actively involved in the process for the formulation of ISO 26000 which is unique in the sense that around 40-50 experts from developing countries are sponsored by ISO to participate in the Working Group. These experts are chosen from six stakeholder categories in order to provide the proper balance of interests. At the fifth plenary meeting of the Working Group on Social Responsibility (WG SR), held in Vienna (Austria) on 5-9 November 2007, the number of developing country members had almost doubled since the beginning of the process and exceeded the number of developed country members. More than 50 experts from developing countries will be sponsored by ISO to attend the sixth plenary meeting of the Working Group on SR to be held in Santiago (Chile) in August-September 2008.

Two workshops on Enhanced Participation in International Standardization took place for Central and Eastern European countries (in August 2007 in Vienna) and for French-speaking African countries, the latter in cooperation with AFNOR in Paris in December 2007. The course gives an overview of ISO's structure and major policy issues. It covers the process of producing an International Standard and discusses the various roles that ISO members and delegated organizations play in the process. It also gives an introduction to the e-services developed by ISO in support of international standardization.

1.3   Increase regional cooperation

Experience has shown that regional and subregional cooperation in standardization and related matters is one of the most effective channels for sharing experience, organizing training and optimizing participation in international standardization (see document General Assembly 15/2008 on ISO's regional policy).

The Secretary-General of ISO participated in December 2007 in a regional event organized jointly with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), UNIDO and the Sri Lanka Standards Institution. On this occasion he also contributed to defining the scope of the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) which is being considered by SAARC.

A number of events were run jointly with regional/subregional organizations, such as the Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO), the Organization of American States (OAS), the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Besides, ISO also conducted events for groups of countries forming part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC), the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) and the Economic and Monetary Community in Central Africa (CEMAC).

1.4   Develop electronic communications and expertise in IT tools

Under the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries,* assistance and training is provided in the acquisition, implementation and maintenance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The expertise in the use of ICT tools developed by ISO in support of the standards development and dissemination processes is strongly encouraged to enable national standards bodies to engage fully in ISO's technical work.

Through the ISO ICT Programme, support was provided to three countries to strengthen their computer infrastructure, including training on the effective use of the standards development tools and Web technologies.

Geneva-based regular training courses were provided on ISOTC Server and e-balloting, while training on introduction to ISO e-services were conducted in some countries. E-learning courses were also run from Geneva for trainees based in their home country.

The publication "Standards work on the Web: the ISO solutions" – formerly Manual 11 –, which is a key element in the ISO ICT Programme for ISO members in developing countries, is being revised. The current situation with respect to ICT capabilities of ISO members in developing countries has been assessed on the basis of information available; and revised and diversified ICT packages combining equipment, software and technical assistance have been identified for four groups of countries depending on their level of development in the ICT field.

In order to accelerate the deployment of the above packages to a significant number of ISO members in the next three years, it is proposed to employ a dedicated Project Manager funded by an ISO Project. A proposal is being submitted to Council in this respect.

1.5   Increase participation in ISO technical work

The fifth objective of the *ISO Action Plan* is to support the involvement of developing countries in the technical work performed by ISO's technical committees, subcommittees and working groups. By participating at these three levels, developing countries ensure that their interests are taken into account and, in so doing, contribute to strengthening ISO's global relevance.

Sponsorships continued to be provided to delegates from developing countries to participate in ISO technical committee meetings, such as ISO/TC 34, 37, 71, 197, 207, 223[1], according to selection criteria defined by the DEVCO Chair's Advisory Group. Sponsorships are also being specifically provided to encourage developing country members to participate in the work of the new PC 242 – Energy Management.

Following the joint session between DEVCO and the TMB held during the DEVCO meeting in 2006, a guidance document on partnership and twinning arrangements has been developed and made publicly available. Over the last year, the TMB has also adopted a general policy of preferentially allocating and reallocating secretariats to twinned partners as a way of increasing developing country involvement in ISO's technical work. There are currently 33 recorded twinning arrangements compared to 26 in September 2007.

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[1] ISO/TC 34 *Food products*
  ISO/TC 37 *Terminology and other language and content resources*
  ISO/TC 71 *Concrete, reinforced concrete and pre-stressed concrete*
  ISO/TC 197 *Hydrogen technologies*
  ISO/TC 207 *Environmental management*
  ISO/TC 223 *Societal Security*

2   Governance related matters

The technical assistance activities carried out in support of the objectives set in the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries* are monitored by DEVCO with the support of the DEVCO CAG.

It is recalled that, for the past years, discussion groups have been organized as part of the annual DEVCO meeting and that they are considered an important contribution to the on-going process of identification of needs and requirements for standardization and related matters in developing countries. The topics of this year's discussion groups are:

- Standards for energy efficiency, water, climate change, and their management

- National standardization policies: stakeholder participation through mirror committees

- International Standards as a tool to enhance market access and exports

3   Partnerships with development agencies

Partnerships have been established with international organizations and development agencies at the multilateral and bilateral levels for the implementation of technical assistance projects under the *ISO Action plan for developing countries* in particular, collaboration with UNIDO has been enhanced, as will be illustrated by the presentation by the UNIDO Director General, Mr. Yumkella, at the 2008 General Assembly (cf. agenda item 7.1). Financial support is achieved either through member contributions to the Funds-in-trust, the ISO/DIN Endowment or through funding agreements with national development agencies, such as NORAD (Norway), SECO (Switzerland), SIDA (Sweden) and the Finnish government.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited to note/comment on the above report.

jnb/14995016

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

AGENDA ITEM 7.3   PRESENTATION OF THE 2008 HELMUT REIHLEN AWARD

The Helmut Reihlen Award was created in 1999 in the form of a contest for young standardizers in developing countries and economies in transition, focusing attention on standardization and related matters. The contest is held every two years under the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries 2005-2010*. It is financed by the DIN/ISO Endowment bestowed on ISO by DIN (Germany). It is named after Professor Helmut Reihlen, director of DIN from 1977 to 1999, in recognition of his significant contribution to technical assistance activities in support of ISO members in developing countries

The contest is open to permanent employees of standards bodies that are members of ISO in developing countries and economies in transition, as well as to delegates and experts involved in ISO technical work. The age limit for candidates is 35 years.

An independent jury selects the winners and grants a prize for the three best essays written on an important subject of international standardization or related matters.

An invitation to participate in the contest was sent to ISO members in developing countries and economies in transition, by circular letter dated 14 March 2008, with a closing date for participation of 23 June 2008. The theme selected for the 2008 Helmut Reihlen Award is *International Standards supporting public policies*. The three members of the jury are:

- Dr. Torsten Bahke, Director, Deutsches Institut für Normung (DIN);

- Mr. Lalith Goonatilake, Director, Trade Capacity Building Branch, UNIDO;

- Mr Jacob Holmblad (ISO Vice-President (technical management).

The 2008 Helmut Reihlen Award will be presented to its recipient under this agenda item at the General Assembly.

It is recalled that the previous editions of the award were presented to:

- *Mrs. Adiya Ariunaa (2000)*, Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology (MASM) for her paper on "The role of Standards in promoting Peace and Prosperity";

- *Mrs. Puntsag Baigalmaa (2002)*, Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology (MASM) for her paper on "Standards for the Environment";

- *Mr. Constant Assa (2004),* Côte d'Ivoire Normalisation (CODINORM), for his paper on "International Standards to Access World Markets";

- *Mr Cannald Madungwe (2006)*, Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) for his paper on "Stakeholder involvement for effective participation in international standardization".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly will be invited to express its congratulations to the recipient of the award.

MANAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL WORK

AGENDA ITEM 8.1   TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT BOARD INITIATIVES IN 2008

Since the last General Assembly, the TMB has continued to address a broad range of strategic, technical and management issues.

1   *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010*/TMB business plan

The TMB has completed many of the priority items it had identified as support for implementation of ISO's strategic plan, but the TMB's business plan continues to be the tool by which the TMB manages its contribution to the implementation of the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010*.

Over the last year, it has started a dialogue with the IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB) on the possible need to simplify the range of ISO and IEC technical deliverables and the TMB and SMB decided at their June 2008 meetings to establish a joint group to further the deliberations.

It is recalled that last year, the TMB and SMB approved the informative publication *Using and referencing ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations* which was distributed to participants during the General Assembly Open Session on International Standards and Public Policies. Following a request by the ISO Council, the TMB and the SMB, again at their June 2008 meetings, decided to establish a joint group to develop a guidance document for committees whose standards will be or could be used to support public policy.

Following a useful joint session between TMB members and DEVCO in 2006, a meeting was held with representatives of CASCO during the TMB's September 2007 meeting. The meeting offered a good opportunity for the CASCO representatives to explain their ongoing work and, in particular, some of the problems they encounter with ISO committees wishing to address conformity assessment issues within their standards. As a consequence, CASCO is currently elaborating some clarifications to the relevant sections of the ISO/IEC Directives.

Further to Council's request, the TMB is also investigating the need to retain category B liaison (for organizations which do not intend to participate actively in ISO technical work, but simply wish to be kept informed) given the amount of information about ISO's technical work that is now available on ISO Online.

Finally, the TMB was actively engaged in the planning and organization of the fourth TC/SC Chairs' conference which was held in conjunction with the TMB's June 2008 meeting. The event brought together some 160 individuals for one and a half days of discussion on topics ranging from sustainability, conformity assessment, ISO standards in regulations and public policy, managing and organizing standards development, and communicating and networking and was widely recognized as having been very successful.

2   Sustainability

At the request of the leadership of the working group on social responsibility, ISO/TC 176 *Quality management and quality assurance* and ISO/TC 207 *Environmental management,* an exploratory meeting on sustainability issues was held in February 2007. In particular the meeting approved a

recommendation to the TMB recognizing that sustainability and sustainable development was not the exclusive domain of any one technical committee, but that all of the ISO work programme contributes in some manner to the pillars (economic, environmental and social) of sustainable development, and proposing that the TMB establish a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) on Sustainable development.

As a result, the TMB established a task force of TMB members with a mandate to develop a communication to the ISO technical committees on sustainability, to compile an inventory of ISO work relevant to sustainability and to consider possible terms of reference for a SAG.

The first responses from the committees were considered by the TMB at its meeting in September 2007 when the TMB decided not to establish a SAG for the immediate future but to continue its own deliberations within the task force. The subject has consequently become a standing agenda item for TMB meetings and more recently contacts have been taken with other organizations particularly relevant to sustainable development, including the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

As noted above, sustainability was one of the topics at the chairs' conference in June 2008 and further communications to the committees will now be developed to assist them in their work.

3   Energy efficiency and new and renewable energy resources

Energy efficiency and new and renewable energy resources are increasingly recognized as important factors in sustainable development and it is therefore no coincidence that the TMB has spent some time addressing such issues over the last year following up on the orientations adopted by Council. In particular, recognizing the international attention that was being focused on the need for International Standards for liquid biofuels, the TMB requested ISO/TC 28, *Petroleum products and lubricants*, to establish a new subcommittee to undertake such work while a new technical committee has been established (ISO/TC 238), following a proposal from SIS (Sweden), for the field of solid biofuels.

A proposal from ANSI (USA) and ABNT (Brazil) has also resulted in the establishment of a project committee (ISO/PC 242) to prepare a standard on energy management systems although there is a possibility that it may be converted into a full technical committee at some stage in the future. The TMB has also established a Strategic Advisory Group to monitor ISO work in the energy sector and to provide advice concerning new standardization opportunities. The SAG held a very successful first meeting in May 2008.

4   Social responsibility

The TMB continues to monitor the work of its working group on social responsibility and there is some optimism that the work will progress to the committee stage after the next meeting of the working group scheduled in early September 2008 in Santiago de Chile. This new phase will require that the member bodies that have appointed experts to the working group start developing national consensus positions as part of the process that will lead to an international consensus, among countries and across stakeholders, which will be the prerequisite for the publication of an International Standard.

5   ISO/IEC collaboration

Details concerning the technical cooperation between ISO and IEC are given under item 1 above as well as in document General Assembly 06/2008 and are accordingly not repeated here. Nevertheless it is worth noting that coordination and cooperation between the TMB and the

IEC/SMB are being further enhanced and that there are strong and close interactions in the Joint ISO/IEC Directives Maintenance Team which now also includes the officers of ISO/IEC JTC 1 *Information technology*. The endeavours in this respect are very important for standardization in general but also for cooperation in specific fields such as JTC 1.

One particular item of note is that following approval of a proposal from DIN (Germany) to establish a new technical committee to prepare standards for non-electrotechnical equipment for use in explosive atmospheres, the TMB and SMB agreed instead to create a special "joint" subcommittee in IEC/TC 31 to accommodate this work, DIN providing the secretariat of the subcommittee which will consequently potentially develop ISO, IEC and possibly ISO/IEC standards in this field.

6   ISO/CEN cooperation

An annual meeting of the ISO/CEN Joint Coordination Group of the Technical (Management) Boards is held in conjunction with the TMB's June meeting to review the implementation of the Vienna Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN. More information is given in Annex 2 to document General Assembly 05/2008.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited to note/comment on the above report.

MANAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL WORK

AGENDA ITEM 8.2   PRESENTATION OF THE LAWRENCE D. EICHER LEADERSHIP AWARD

By its resolution 21/2002, Council expressed the wish that an event be organized on a regular basis in remembrance of the late Secretary-General, Dr. Lawrence D. Eicher, and it decided to create the "Lawrence D. Eicher award for excellence in creative and innovative ISO/TC/SC services and initiatives", to be presented by the President at the General Assembly.

The TMB has defined a broad range of criteria against which committees could qualify for consideration for this award, the key factors being demonstrable outstanding performance and innovative and efficient approaches to management of the technical work, which also contribute to the dissemination of practices of excellence to other committees.

In accordance with the procedure established by the TMB, a call for nominations was issued to all member bodies; and nominations received were reviewed and decided upon by the TMB. The award will be presented to a representative of the recipient committee under this agenda item.

It is recalled that the award was presented:

– in 2003, to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 29 *Information technology/Coding of audio, picture, multimedia and hypermedia information;*

– in 2004, to ISO/TC 176/SC 2 *Quality management and quality assurance/Quality systems;*

– in 2005, to ISO/TC 8 *Ships and marine technology:*

– in 2006, to ISO/TC 67 *Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries;*

– in 2007, to ISO/TC 184/SC 4 *Industrial automation systems and integration/Industrial data.*

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION	The General Assembly will be invited to express its congratulations to the recipient of the award.

AGENDA ITEM 9   THE ISO BRAND: A SHARED ASSET

The ISO brand is an asset shared between ISO and its members. It has considerably gained in notoriety in the past decade and has a high level of recognition. As a shared and valuable asset, it should be protected and promoted. This note addresses the various aspects of this issue.

1   The notoriety of the ISO brand

The ISO name has gained positive exposure and recognition in recent years for a number of reasons, in particular:

– the globalization of trade and other issues such as environmental protection, security, food safety, information and communication technologies or healthcare, for which ISO has developed globally relevant and largely used International Standards,

– the incitement to use and reference consensus based international standards in the context of the World Trade Organization and of good regulatory practice, with the ISO system being recognized as the leader for their production,

– the increase of the membership of ISO, with now 157 countries involved, representing 98% of the world economy and 97% of its population,

– the increased recognition of the role of standards and of national standards bodies in support of economic and social development,

– the success of the ISO management systems standards and associated certification, starting with the ISO 9000 series,

– the success of the "toolbox" of ISO standards relating to conformity assessment which enhances the reference to ISO standards,

– the extensive networking materialized by collaborations with over 700 international and regional governmental and non governmental organizations,

– the pro-active communication on ISO's activities in the context of world events (e.g. G8, World Economic Forum, OECD Forum, International Conference on Climate Change, World Energy Congress…) and through various media (ISO online, ISO magazines, press releases,…).

This notoriety has a positive effect on directing standardization activities and experts towards the ISO processes and therefore creates a "virtuous circle" for developing ISO related activities.

Objective quantifications can be found in the significant increase of visits to the ISO Online websites, the media coverage as measured through the evolution of articles in the electronic press or through the evolution of the sales of ISO standards and national adoptions thereof.

ISO has become a globally well known name, conveying the concept of quality, environmental protection and safety, as well as of good management practices. A good reputation and notoriety is long to acquire, but it is fragile. Therefore, it is the collective interest and solidarity of the ISO members to maintain the confidence which is placed in the name of ISO, monitor its use and protect its integrity. Corresponding actions relate to four levels addressed below:

– the legal protection of the ISO mark,

– the protection of the copyright on ISO publications,

– the use of the ISO name in relation to conformity assessment in particular for certification of compliance to ISO management systems standards,

– the use of the ISO name and trademark for communication and promotion purposes

2 The legal protection of the ISO mark

The basis for the protection and promotion of the ISO brand is to ensure the correct legal protection worldwide of the ISO name and logo. It is indispensable to undertake any effective surveillance activities or legal action.

Council adopted in 2003 "Guidelines for the protection of ISO trademarks" (under Council resolution 25/2003) which have been largely implemented by the ISO Central Secretariat and members since. The commitment of ISO and its members in this respect is also embedded in the "ISO Code of Ethics" adopted in 2004.

In 2003, only some 40 ISO members had some form of protection of the ISO name in their countries. In 1 July 2008, the ISO name and/or logo had been registered in 108 countries. The process of registration is underway in 20 more countries. 26 other ISO members have informed ISO/CS that the process will be initiated before the 2008 General Assembly. The process is on hold in only 3 countries. So, by the end of 2008, the coverage of the protection should be almost comprehensive.

The protection of the ISO mark has proved to be a useful resort to stop copyright infringement – especially in the Internet age – since all ISO publications bear the ISO name and logo.

Another aspect relates to the domain names for use in Internet addresses. The ISO/CS is responsible for the generic top level domains (gTLDs) and the ISO members are responsible for the country code top level domains (ccTLDs). Through the active involvement of ISO/CS, at 1 July 2008, 294 gTLD names containing "iso" are registered not necessarily for actual use by ISO but also to prevent their possible use by unscrupulous third parties. This figure indeed results mainly from the preventive actions adopted by ISO/CS, the direct negotiation with domain name registrants (over 50 domain names recovered/neutralized) and the use of the domain name dispute resolution mechanism implemented by the World Intellectual Property Organization, with 12 favorable decisions, five cases settled in ISO's favour without consideration by the WIPO panel and only two denied. Constant vigilance is necessary in this fast moving universe.

3 The protection of the copyright on ISO publications

The sales of standards and related publications remain a significant source of revenue for the financing of the standards development process. The current business model is indeed based on a substantial contribution of the sales of standards to finance their development and dissemination, which are not free of charge. This is a diffuse way of securing resources, resulting in prices for individual standards which may be described as nominal if one considers their technical content and commercial implications. It also avoids the dominance of public funding or of the influence of multinational companies. In addition, the eminent role played in this distribution by the ISO national members allows appropriate customization and ease of access.

So, controlling the distribution of ISO publications through an appropriate protection of the copyright is a clear financial obligation for the ISO System. But this protection is also necessary to

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ascertain the integrity and avoid misuse and mishandling of the content of ISO publications, as they are increasingly distributed in electronic format and through the Internet.

The rights and obligations of ISO members in relation to the protection and exploitation of the ISO copyright are clearly defined in:

− The ISO Policies and Procedures for Copyright, Copyright Exploitation Rights and Sales of ISO Publications (POCOSA) and its annexes, significantly updated by Council in 2005, in particular to adapt the document to the electronic distribution, and

− the ISO policy for the protection of ISO's intellectual property (ISO/GEN 9:2007) which covers in particular the distribution of ISO standards and drafts in the context of the standards development and national consultation processes.

In addition, Council adopted an action plan in 2007 to enhance the protection of copyright on ISO standards and national adoptions. This plan was communicated to the ISO members on 30 March 2007. It consists in the following actions:

− inclusion of more visible copyright notice and warning signs in standards and on web sites,

− publication and wide dissemination of an ISO/IEC explanatory brochure on copyright,

− generalization of watermarking on electronic versions of standards sold.

The implementation of this plan is underway, but ISO members who have not yet taken adequate measures are urged to do so. In particular, the watermarking of electronic copies of documents made available through Webstores or through other mechanisms like attachments to e-mails needs to be completed. Watermarking tools are provided online to ISO members by ISO/CS, and will be improved shortly based on the feed back received from the users.

The issue of open access to standards is becoming a topical issue, especially for standards used in the context of regulations and public policies. The ISO Council will address this at its meeting in Dubai and it will certainly need to be further addressed in the context of the next ISO Strategic Plan.

4   The use of the ISO name in relation to conformity assessment, in particular for certification of compliance to ISO management systems standards

The combined successes of ISO management system standards and of ISO standards relating to accreditation and certification have resulted in a high exposure of the ISO name on global markets. The ISO annual survey on certificates shows a regular increase in the number of certificates, in the geographic outreach of certification and in the take up of sector (e.g. ISO 16949 for the automobile sector) or thematic (e.g. ISO 14001 for environmental management) applications. It is therefore important to ensure that the name of ISO is not at risk due to the possible poor performance of some certification bodies or to the misuse of reference to compliance to ISO standards by organizations.

Concurrent with its strategic options, ISO itself does not get involved in the assessment of conformity to its standards, and is neutral towards first, second or third party intervention. Some ISO members may be involved directly or through subsidiaries in conformity assessment services and, if they are, they are committed to implement the relevant ISO conformity assessment standards and guides, as part of the ISO Code of Ethics. Collaboration with accreditation bodies is therefore necessary to support serious certification practices. In addition, the protection of the ISO trademarks, as indicated above, allows more effective market surveillance by public authorities in this area.

Even if, overall, the situation is satisfactory, some indications coming from the market, through complaints or validation surveys, point to the need to reinforce the vigilance in order that certification bodies operating seriously and organizations implementing ISO management standards effectively not be negatively affected because of the misconduct of a few. It is in this context that an action plan on monitoring the effectiveness of accredited certification to ISO management system standards is being developed in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by ISO in March 2004 with the international accreditation organizations IAF and ILAC. The major organizations of certification bodies are being consulted and are generally supportive of such an action plan, which should be presented to the ISO Council and at the IAF General Meeting in October.

5   The use of the ISO name for communication and promotion purposes

A number of actions contribute to increasing further the notoriety of the ISO brand for the benefit of its members and to support the global relevance and take up of ISO standards:

- encouraging the ISO members to put forward their membership in ISO in their own communication, such as including it in their web site home page and promotional publications, on their building and in their premises,

- the celebration of World Standards Day,

- the ISO Award on Higher Education in Standardization, which enables better communication to the academic world,

- the selective use of the ISO name associated to world initiatives, for which Council has adopted special guidelines in 2003 (approved by resolution 8/2003),

- the use of the ISO magazines as promotional tools

In addition, Council has decided to launch an ISO project to develop a communication package on the benefits and modalities of ISO standardization directed at Board Rooms, executives and public leaders. This package should be available in 2009.

6   Conclusion: the ISO brand: a shared asset that we must protect and promote

The good and wide reputation of the ISO brand has been built over more than 60 years of appreciated service to the world community, materialized by a current collection of more than 17000 ISO standards and publications. It is a shared asset of the ISO members and their active involvement in its protection and promotion is therefore indispensable. Adequate tools and actions have been put in place to assist them in so doing, which may be improved and expanded on the basis of actual use and experience. This issue is followed closely by the ISO Council, which has addressed the various aspects referred to above.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited:

- **a)**   to comment on the above report;

- **b)**   to note the progress of actions devolving upon the members.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIONS IN 2008

AGENDA ITEM 10.1   INVOLVEMENT OF SPECIFIC GROUPS OF STAKEHOLDERS: INDUSTRY AND SOCIETAL INTERESTS

1   Background

The development and use of International Standards involves a broad variety of stakeholders that may be classified into four main categories: *Industry* (in the broadest meaning of the word, i.e. covering all types of economic activities), *Public Authorities*, *Societal interests* (again, in the broadest sense) and *Academia*.

Several actions have been undertaken by ISO to promote international standardization in relation to these four categories of stakeholders, in line with the objectives of the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010.*

Pursuant to Objective 2 ("ensuring the involvement of stakeholders") of the *Plan*, Council decided to review the actions taken and those that could be enhanced as well as those that could be initiated to promote and support involvement, in the development and implementation of ISO standards, of organizations representing industry interests on the one hand and non-governmental organizations representing societal interests on the other hand.

This question was considered by Council at its meeting in March 2008 and the decisions taken are set out in sections 2 and 3 below.

2   Involvement of industry interests in ISO standardization

Having reviewed the activities and initiatives undertaken so far to engage industry and related organizations in standardization (attached at Annex 1 for ease of reference), Council decided to ask the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps for[1]:

a) **monitoring the actual industry involvement in ISO's technical work:** this could be done through the monitoring by TMB of the existence and content of TC Business Plans, as well as through simple tools to assess representativeness of industry participation, e.g. percentage of participating leading multinational companies through national mirror committees or national delegates and experts in ISO committees, actual liaisons of committees with the most representative and relevant regional and international industry associations, use of TC plenary meetings to organize contacts and prospective interaction with the relevant stakeholders;

b) **promoting existing modalities of industry participation:** Council had already addressed the possibility of direct industry participation when developing the current *ISO Strategic Plan*, but had considered that the possibility of direct participation already exists at the national level, and that direct industry participation in ISO committees may weaken other national members interests, such as the representation of SMEs and other stakeholder categories that national members provide. It should also be noted that "direct participation" in ISO technical bodies effectively may occur through the existing liaisons mechanism with relevant regional

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[1] Council Resolution 5/2008

and international industry associations. The ability to contribute to all aspects of the technical work (from proposal to development, providing input and formulating ballot comments) could be better promoted as a way to enhance relevant industry representation and involvement in ISO's work. In addition, the *ISO Strategic Plan* calls for the review of International Workshop Agreements as an effective means for enabling alternative modes of stakeholder participation in ISO, appropriate action was taken by the TMB which confirmed the validity of the mechanism;

c) **ensuring that industry is associated to ISO's strategic planning:** when developing the current *ISO Strategic Plan*, Council had considered, but discarded, the concept of setting up an "Industry Policy Development Committee" on the model of COPOLCO for consumers' interests. It appeared indeed that a sector approach was preferable and that, to this aim, the Committee level is best suited to organize involvement of industry both in the orientation and in the development of technical work. More recently, the concept of sector or thematic workshops has been successfully implemented, i.a. in collaboration with partner organizations (e.g. WSC workshops with IEC and ITU, partnership with OECD on nanotechnologies). This approach seems well suited to attract active and responsive industry participation, in particular in innovative fields, together with involving ISO and its members in major professional gatherings;

d) making use of ISO development and promotion projects to **undertake market studies** in industry and service sectors having a potential for International Standards.

3   Involvement of societal interests in ISO standardization

Having reviewed the activities and initiatives undertaken so far to engage societal non-governmental organizations and related interests; and the rationale for further involvement of ISO in societal issues (attached at Annex 2 for ease of reference), Council decided on the following[2]:

a) to request COPOLCO to consider how the enlargement of consumer interest may affect its scope, as well as its work programme and focus and whether some adjustments should be considered in **COPOLCO's scope**, networking and participation, both at the level of national delegations and at the level of liaisons. This would imply associating societal NGOs to its work and expanding accordingly the *Action Plan to promote the involvement of consumers' interests in standardization* adopted by Council at its September 2007 meeting (cf. Council Resolution 30/2007). Concerning labour interests and trade unions, this particular civil society community may best be dealt with at the national level, provided that adequate collaboration, liaisons and networking are maintained, as relevant, at the international level, essentially with the International Trade Union Council (ITUC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO);

b) to encourage ISO members to **monitor** how relevant **societal interests** are involved in related standardization activities, e.g. in committee delegations and in national mirror committees;

c) to request the Secretary-General to continue the **networking and communication** towards those international NGOs which have an interest in the ISO system and ISO members to do the same with their national counterparts. The emergence of influential NGOs involved in social responsibility, environmental issues and sustainable development requires that adequate communication and networking with the corresponding NGOs and initiatives also be established at the institutional and international levels. This would include developing appropriate contacts and relations, as well as appropriate communication material, in

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[2] Council Resolution 6/2008

particular towards those organizations involved in social and environmental assessment, labelling and certification (e.g., members of the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling (ISEAL) Alliance) and following on the initiative taken by COPOLCO in direction of the fair trade movement.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited to note/comment on the above report.

INVOLVEMENT OF INDUSTRY INTERESTS – CURRENT SITUATION

(Extract from the relevant document prepared for the March 2008 Council meeting)

Industry, ranging from manufacturers to retailers and service providers, is the main contributor to and beneficiary of ISO standards and national adoptions thereof. A primary channel for the involvement of industry in ISO's technical work is through the national standards bodies (NSBs) that are members of ISO and, in most cases, through their associated national mirror committees. NSBs therefore have an important responsibility to ensure that relevant industry interests are engaged in the national consultation process, deployed and nominated to assist in the international standards-setting process and made aware of the benefits of these standards for their operations and competitiveness.

Business also participates in the ISO process through the "liaison" mechanism with ISO technical bodies (technical committees, subcommitees, project committees and working groups) established with regional and international sectoral industry associations relevant to the subject of an ISO technical body. This liaison mechanism provides international/regional industry associations with the opportunity to propose new work, submit input *inter alia* through the fast track, designate experts to participate in standards drafting and development, and to receive all related committee or working group documents. In this engagement mechanism, ISO committees have a major responsibility in making sure that the most representative and relevant international and regional industry associations are satisfactorily engaged in ISO's development work, from the initiation of new work to the promotion of final adoption of ISO standards and their implementation.

The adequate association of industry through both the NSB process and the ISO committee liaison process is key to the quality of the consensus on which ISO standards are based and their actual implementation and take-up by the relevant markets.

A further modality for involving industry in ISO is through the workshop mechanism resulting in the publication of international workshop agreements (IWA). It should be recalled that the original terminology was "Industry Technical Agreements", reflecting the original intent to offer this mechanism principally to industry, as a way of facilitating direct participation by industry in ISO's technical work.

Apart from the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010,* two important documents were adopted by ISO (in 2004 and 2005 respectively), which address the involvement of industry and the market relevance of ISO Standards:

– the *ISO Code of Ethics*, which explicitly commits the members of ISO to take into account "all relevant interests at national level";

– the *ISO policy on the global relevance* of its standards, which aims at making sure that global market needs are the driver for the development of ISO standards and that they may eventually be applied anywhere in the world.

In addition, ISO committees in recent years have been encouraged to develop *Business Plans* for their work, involving the relevant stakeholders, and most committees have recently updated them to reflect, *inter alia,* the trends and market needs in their scope of work.

Communication has been developed towards industry and economic actors, and deployed both at the central level and at the national level. Corresponding initiatives and actions include:

–   ISO becoming an institutional member of the World Economic Forum;

–   networking with major associations and organizations dealing with leading industry and economic issues, such as the OECD, the UN Global Compact, the International Organization of Employers (OIE), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD);

–   participating in major sector industry gatherings, such as the World Petroleum Congress or the World Energy Congress;

–   opening *ISO Focus* to the views of major industry leaders and collating associated senior industry perspectives into an influential publication entitled *"Views from the top";*

–   taking advantage of ISO General Assemblies to feature topical business themes, through the General Assemby programme or associated "Open Sessions", engaging with business leaders and related decision-makers;

–   using visits of ISO Officers and senior ISO/CS staff to members to promote voluntary standardization and ISO standards to industry leaders;

–   opening a *Marketing and Communication Web site* to support ISO members in their own promotion of ISO standards and products.

Finally, at its September 2007 meeting, Council approved three ISO development and promotion projects which will eventually complement these actions:

–   the development of a *Methodology to assess and communicate the benefits of consensus based standards*, which will add to the existing compendium of such studies, now posted on the ISO/IEC Information Centre Web site;

–   the development of a *communication package for industry and political leaders;*

–   the concept of *market surveys* in collaboration between the ISO Central Secretariat and the ISO members to better capture market trends and expectations, starting with a first study to be launched in 2008 on food safety management.

INVOLVEMENT OF SOCIETAL INTERESTS – CURRENT SITUATION AND RATIONALE FOR FURTHER INVOLVEMENT OF ISO IN SOCIETAL ISSUES

(Extract from the relevant document prepared for the March 2008 Council meeting)

1   Current situation

With ISO standards increasingly addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development, their development and implementation are attracting greater attention from organizations representing societal interests at the national, regional and international levels. The Open Session of the 2007 General Assembly on "Standards and Public Policies" highlighted the challenge facing ISO as international standards become more integrated into policy-makers' toolbox to address such issues as good regulatory practice, communication and consultation approaches for their jurisdictions, and as a basis for use and reference in technical regulations. Especially in situations where public policy is concerned, there is increasing demand for the development process and associated consultations to reflect, not only concerned parties such as industry and consumers, but also broader public interests. The *ISO Strategic Plan* and the *ISO Code of Ethics* both address the importance of making sure that these interests are adequately associated to ISO's work and standardization activities where relevant.

Societal interests are already engaged actively in those ISO subjects having broad societal impact and interest (e.g. ISO/TC 207 on environmental management, TMB Working Group on social responsibility – SR).   In the latter, societal non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are explicitly identified as one of six categories of stakeholders invited to participate from each ISO national standards body (NSB). In addition, international societal NGOs have been specifically included as liaisons able to designate experts and participate in the technical work. Currently eight of the 39 organizations in liaison with the Working Group on SR are regional or international societal NGOs.

At its September 2007 meeting, the TMB reviewed ISO's current engagement on the broad, public policy issue of sustainability. The review included an analysis of the aspects of sustainability already addressed by existing ISO committees as well as the need to consider whether a new Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) should be formed to engage in a more focussed manner with stakeholders, especially societal-oriented NGOs. The TMB decided not to form a SAG at this point in time but to address itself the proposed duties of such a group, including "*to consider consulting with external organizations involved in sustainability to support the achievement of [its] tasks"*. This external consultation is progressing and may include the establishment of communication and advice from relevant international societal NGOs on issues of sustainability in ISO's work programme.

Regarding related initiatives in COPOLCO, the latter, at its meeting in May 2007, held a workshop on fair trade labelling claims and identified a need to better understand the potential for problems associated with inaccurate and unreliable claims concerning the ethical dimensions of consumer products and services. COPOLCO established a joint fact-finding process with traditional partners such as Consumers International and the ISO member bodies AFNOR (France) and ABNT (Brazil), but also including the societal-oriented organizations of the international Fair Trade Association (IFAT), the Fair Trade Labelling Organization (FLO) and The International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling (ISEAL) Alliance. The fact-finding effort with these organizations will be reported at the next COPOLCO plenary in 2008 and may require some support by ISO.

For almost 30 years, COPOLCO has provided an organized and efficient interface with consumer interests. At its September 2007 meeting, Council approved an *Action Plan to promote the involvement of consumers' interest in standardization,* which consolidates actions already taken and launches new initiatives. In this span of time, the focus of consumers' interest in standards has expanded from the technical performance and safety of products to their social and environmental impacts and to the area of services, all of which are increasingly subject to global trade. Consumer associations have therefore extended their own actions in these directions. The representation, activism and influence of non-governmental organizations and initiatives representing or involving societal interests have also prospered at the local, national and international levels.

2   Rationale for further involvement of ISO in societal issues

Some concerns have been expressed, particularly by industrial stakeholders, that ISO could appear to be paying increased attention to the contribution of its standards to societal issues, and would thus be drifting from its core business of developing technical standards, mainly for the use of industry.

The following arguments should be considered when discussing the extent to which ISO should become further involved in societal issues:

– globalization concerns not only trade, but many other issues such as the environment, security and health. As a result, market and regulatory requirements for products and services specify both technical characteristics as well as aspects related to management of their production and distribution. Impact on the environment, energy consumption, health and safety risks, security, traceability, ethical behaviour and methods of production are issues which require global standards to avoid a proliferation of referentials and national measures that constitute technical barriers to trade and to the dissemination of technology;

– ISO offers a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, multi-national platform for the development of consensus-based standards. It is a context in which industry has a major influence both on the agenda and on the content. It is thus better for Industry to work with other stakeholder groups within ISO, rather than have international standards developed in contexts where industry is less established and influential;

– consistency between technical standards, and standards addressing other aspects that impact production, is necessary to optimize business constraints and management challenges. The ISO platform deals with all of these aspects, from technical standards to management systems, conformity assessment and labelling, together with making the appropriate connections with societal interests for the development of the corresponding standards;

– technical standardization remains the vast majority of ISO's work, as can be demonstrated by the scope of the current output of ISO standards, even if involvement in environmental and social aspects are gaining more public attention.

Concern has also been expressed that ISO could be seen as trying to take over rules-setting that falls under the responsibility of regulators. Heightened regulatory involvement is indeed often the case when societal interests are at stake. Ambiguity should thus be avoided and ISO's possible contribution to public policies, covering not only technical regulations but also issues such as public procurement, infrastructures and services, should be better explained, as was done at the 2008 General Assembly Open Session. The main elements to consider are that:

– increasingly, reference to consensus-based standards, developed with the involvement of all relevant interests, is recognized as a component of good public governance,

–   signatories of the WTO Agreement on technical barriers to trade are committed to make reference to international standards of the type developed by ISO in order to avoid unnecessary obstacles through regulatory specifications and conformity assessment requirements for products,

–   connections are made between the ISO system and inter-governmental organizations, both at the international level and at the national level, so that complementarity is ensured. The recent reinforcement of collaboration with organizations such as the Codex Alimentarius, GHTF (Global Harmonization Task Force), ILO (International Labour Organization), IMO (International Maritime Organization), UPU (Universal Postal Union), WCO (World Customs Organization) or WMO (World Meteorological Organization) are important examples. They are fully in line with both Objective 5 of *ISO Strategic Plan* and Council Resolution 5/2007 on ISO's liaisons policy.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIONS IN 2008

AGENDA ITEM 10.2   ISO's REGIONAL POLICY

1   Background

In 2006, the General Assembly recognized the increasing importance of the regional/subregional dimension in relation to cooperation in the field of standards for trade facilitation and development, and asked Council to review ISO's relations with such regional and subregional organizations (General Assembly Resolution 7/2006). As a result, STRATPLAN 2008 calls for a review by Council of ISO's regional policy, i.e., ISO's policy in relation to the promotion of the use and adoption of ISO standards and the involvement in ISO work through regional organizations and networking.

Council therefore considered this question at its meeting in March 2008 and took decisions which are set out in section 3 below.

It is recalled that one of the DEVCO break-out sessions in September 2007 was dedicated to the issue of regional cooperation, which is also one of the objectives of the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries*. Among the points emanating from the discussions, it is worth noting that there was general agreement that regional and subregional organizations had an important role to play in the process of international standardization but that their role and extent of involvement should be further clarified.

2   Rationale and topicality for reviewing ISO's regional policy

– Multiplication of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, all containing some elements on the elimination of technical barriers to trade within the geographical scope of application of the agreement (more than 200 Free Trade Agreements registered by WTO).

– Corresponding emergence of regional and subregional cooperation for the harmonization of technical regulations and standards that may go so far as to develop "regional standards", and for awareness-raising and capacity-building in order to develop and support the "quality" infrastructure (standardization-metrology-conformity assessment).

– Increasing support by donors to actions at regional and subregional level, e.g. the European Union and regional development banks (IADB, ADB[1], etc.) as well as the increasing number of projects executed by development agencies such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

– Need to optimize the deployment of the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries* with more training and awareness-raising events at a regional level.

– Distortion between the current geographic scope of the RLOs and the economic realities of regional relations which has an impact on the clarity and efficiency of their actions.

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[1]   IADB: Inter-American Development Bank
       ADB: Asian Development Bank

3   Council decision

Having reviewed the current ISO's regional policy (attached at Annex for ease of reference), Council decided on the following[2]:

a)   *Relations with broad regional standards organizations*

The relation and nature of the collaboration with these organizations need to be updated. ISO has established formal agreements with five of them. These agreements are heterogeneous and, therefore, a generic cooperation agreement with regional standards organizations, which takes into account the differences between them, should be developed.

The existing cooperation agreements should be reviewed to secure that they address the following:

– the involvement of regional standards organizations formally recognized by Council in the implementation of the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries*;

– promoting the regional adoption of International Standards in accordance with ISO/IEC Guide 21 *Regional or national adoption of International Standards and other International Deliverables*;

– training and technical assistance in relation to international standardization and to conformity assessment;

– informing ISO on the expectations of the region regarding international standardization and training;

– the contribution of International Standards to the elimination of technical barriers to trade (TBT) both within the region and between regions in relation to the implementation of the WTO/TBT Agreement.

b)   *Relations with subregional organizations involved in standardization or standards-related activities*

In addition to the formal relations with the above regional standards organizations, ISO should collaborate informally (without establishing formal agreements) in the field of technical assistance (training, awareness-raising, capacity building) with subregional organizations involved in standardization or standards-related activities. These relations should focus on those subregional organizations connected to regional economic agreements and having at least 50% of their members being ISO members.

c)   *Adoption of ISO standards through regional/subregional cooperation*

It is important to promote the actual use of International Standards, in particular through their adoption as regional or national standards. Indeed, International Standards generally reflect the best experience of industry, researchers, consumers and regulators worldwide, and cover common needs in a variety of countries; therefore, they constitute one of the important bases for the removal of technical barriers to trade, which has been explicitly acknowledged in WTO TBT Agreement.

Consequently, Council has entrusted the Secretary-General with the task of looking into ways to further facilitate the adoption of ISO standards as either regional standards (in the broad sense, i.e. covering subregional standards), when the concept exists, in accordance with ISO/IEC Guide 21 *Regional or national adoption of International Standards and other International Deliverables;* or by using the regional cooperation to promote the use of ISO standards and harmonize national adoptions. Such regional cooperation could also assist in capturing needs for International Standards.

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[2] Council Resolution 7/2008

d) *ISO Regional Liaison Officers (RLOs)*

  The regional scope of the ISO RLOs should be redefined to better correspond to the current economic reality of the world and the support provided to the RLOs to exercise their mission should be reviewed. The Secretary-General, in consultation with the DEVCO Chair, is entrusted with this task and asked to submit a proposal to Council.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited to note/comment on the above report.

ISO's REGIONAL POLICY – DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT SITUATION

(Extract from the relevant document prepared for the March 2008 Council meeting)

1   Relations with regional standards organizations

In 1992, Council adopted the following guidelines for cooperation and coordination between the work of ISO and that of regional organizations consisting of national standards bodies, on the understanding that such organizations should not be involved in the governance of ISO:

> *"...*
>
> *1   ISO, on the basis of a decision by Council, will establish regular working relations with regional organizations or associations, the members of which are standards bodies, on condition that:*
>
> > *1.1   at least 50 % of the constituent members of the regional organization or association are members of ISO (full members or correspondent members);*
> >
> > *1.2   the regional organization or association endeavours as a matter of principle to fully rely on and support international standardization, and to use International Standards whenever possible as the basis for its own standards work.*
>
> *2   ISO is invited to be represented at general meetings of the regional organization or association, and the latter is invited to be represented at the ISO General Assemblies as an observer.*
>
> *3   Individual agreements, where relevant, catering for the specific needs of particular organizations or associations may be prepared for approval by Council."*

(Extract of Council Resolution 26/1992)

So far, ISO has established formal relations with the following seven regional standards organizations/associations in accordance with Council Resolution 26/1992:

– African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO);
– Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO);
– ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ);
– European Committee for Standardization (CEN);
– Euro-Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC);
– Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC);
– Panamerican Standards Commission (COPANT).

It should be noted that, in 2008, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is expected to establish a standards organization called SARSO (South Asian Regional Standards Organization) that would be eligible to become a Regional Standards Organization in accordance with the above resolution.

2 Relations with subregional organizations involved in standardization or standards-related activities

Currently, there are working relations with a small number of such subregional organizations.

3 ISO Regional Liaison Officers (RLOs)

The concept of Regional Liaison Officers was introduced by Council in 1977. The conditions for the appointment and terms of reference of RLOs were reviewed by Council in 2004 as follows:

> *"...*
>
> *1 Regional Liaison Officers shall be persons with high responsibilities in the field of standardization in their respective regions and with confirmed experience in regional cooperation and interaction with international standardization.*
>
> *2 They shall be appointed by Council for renewable three-year terms, on the basis of a recommendation by the Secretary-General in consultation with the DEVCO Chair.*
>
> *3 They shall be appointed in an honorary capacity and shall not be financed by ISO. Subject to prior agreement, however, some travel expenses may be funded by ISO.*
>
> *4 Their terms of reference shall be:*
> - *to assist the Secretary-General in representing ISO in the region;*
> - *to help maintain and upgrade existing memberships in ISO, to promote the establishment of new memberships in ISO and to actively contribute to initiatives for raising awareness of international standardization and related activities in their geographic region;*
> - *to identify and analyse the needs and requirements of countries in their region in terms of international standardization and related activities, and to strengthen their involvement in international standardization;*
> - *to follow regional standardization activities, including sub-regional, and foster collaboration between ISO and regional standardization organisations.*
>
> *5 They shall submit an activity report to the Secretary-General and the Chair of DEVCO at their annual meeting.*
> *..."*

(Extract of Council Resolution 13/2004)

In addition, under the terms of its Resolution 14/2004, Council reviewed the geographical distribution of the regions assigned to the RLOs and decided on the following eight ISO liaison regions:

African region, excluding Arab countries	Central and Eastern Europe
Arab and Mediterranean	East and South-East Asia
Caribbean and Central America	South America
Central Asia	South Asia

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIONS IN 2008

AGENDA ITEM 10.3.1   IMPLEMENTATION OF *ISO STRATEGIC PLAN 2005-2010*

Introduction

The *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010*, unanimously approved by the General Assembly in September 2004, sets out a global vision for ISO in 2010, outlining seven objectives with expected results and actions required for their achievement, and describing ISO's added value.

By Council decision, an annual implementation plan (STRATPLAN) for the *Strategic Plan*, defining the intermediate objectives and actions required to move forward, is developed by Council on a yearly basis. The annual implementation plan is also used as input for the preparation of the Central Secretariat's budget assumptions (business plan) and budget proposals for the year under consideration.

The final report on the Strategy Implementation Plan for 2007 (STRATPLAN 2007) was noted by Council at its meeting in March 2008 and circulated to the ISO member bodies and correspondent members through the Secretary-General's circular letter dated 19 March 2008 in accordance with Council Resolution 12/2008.

STRATPLAN 2008 was approved by Council at its March 2007 meeting, together with the ISO/CS business plan and budget for 2008. STRATPLAN 2008 was conveyed to the ISO membership by circular letter dated 22 March 2007. STRATPLAN 2009 was approved by Council at its March 2008 meeting and conveyed to the ISO membership by circular letter dated 25 March 2008.

To assist the ISO members in identifying the actions devolving upon them, these are summarized, per key strategic objective, in the Annex to the circular letters conveying the yearly STRATPLAN (for ease of reference, the Annexes referring to STRATPLAN 2008 and STRATPLAN 2009 are attached hereto as Annexes 1 and 2 respectively).

Implementation of STRATPLAN 2008

A brief report on the implementation of STRATPLAN 2008 at 1 July 2008 is given below per key strategic objective. It is intended to have a full report prepared in due course for review by Council at its March 2009 meeting.

1   Developing a consistent and multi-sector collection of globally relevant International Standards

Several developments have taken place in 2008 under this strategic objective, particularly to "*Increase and monitor the effectiveness of ISO procedures and initiatives for identifying market needs and opening new work areas*".

As a follow-up to General Assembly Resolution 5/2005 regarding *inter alia* **standardization in innovative fields**, relating in particular to new technologies, Council approved a pilot process to complement the existing approaches used for identifying and prioritizing innovative fields of work[1]. The implementation of the process has been initiated in the field of biotechnology and, regarding **the field of energy**, the latest developments include the set-up of a TMB Strategic Advisory Group

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[1]   Council Resolution 35/2006

(SAG) on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, and of an ISO project committee (PC 242) on "Energy Management" (see item 3 of document General Assembly 11/2008).

In this connection, the Secretary-General has continued to promote the role of International Standards through the ISO system and through partnerships with international organizations such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the World Energy Council.

In February 2008 an "International workshop on documentary standards for measurement and characterization in **nanotechnologies**" has been organized in the USA in partnership with IEC, OECD and NIST. About 70 participants with top-level expertise in the field, representing all the key organizations involved worldwide in standardization for nanotechnologies (including chairs and convenors from nine ISO technical committees), had the opportunity to discuss the matter in detail and to agree on a number of actions to be collectively undertaken to enhance the development, efficacy, harmonization and uptake of documentary standards broadly relevant to field of measurement and characterization for nanotechnologies.

An international conference on "Advancing public-private partnerships for **e-business** standards" will take place in Geneva in September 2008, organized in partnership with IEC, ITU-T, OASIS, UNECE-UN/CEFACT and UPU[2]. The conference is designed to provide a unique opportunity for high-level representatives of the major players involved in e-business (industry leaders, administrations, regulators, key industry associations and standards developing organizations from all regions of the world) to interact with the aim of reviewing the present situation, highlighting the main trends for the future, providing input on their needs and expectations and exploring the possibilities for further collaboration.

Regarding additional **new areas of activity**, the field of services is considered the most suitable candidate for the future implementation of the process. In addition, the 2008 open session on "Buildings for a sustainable future" would most probably provide input on standardization initiatives to be taken in that domain.

2   Ensuring the involvement of stakeholders

Several initiatives aiming to achieve this key strategic objective are underway, including steps to optimize liaisons with and involvement of **representative international organizations of stakeholders**; to optimize relations with regional/subregional organizations; to develop mechanisms to better capture the expectations and feedback of industry; and to foster the development and dissemination of information services, educational material and training services.

Communication toward the corporate and political spheres has been enhanced, as illustrated by the compilation of interviews in the recently published *Views from the top*, volume II, which offers insights into the attitudes of some of the world's top CEOs towards International Standards; it is also illustrated by the regular high-level interviews in *ISO Focus*, and by the visits made to national members by the ISO Officers, which usually include high-level contacts with governmental authorities, industry, the media and other stakeholders.

The ISO Web site, *ISO Online*, revamped in 2007, has been well received by the ISO members, experts participating in standards development, customers of ISO publications and services, and the general public. A significant indicator of the positive impact of the new version of *ISO Online* is the increased traffic, which has been steadily growing since September 2007, to reach a 100% increase in the number of sessions (over 1.6 million in May 2008, compared to 0.8 million in May 2007).

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[2]   OASIS: Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards
    UN/CEFACT: United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
    UPU: Universal Postal Union

The existing ISO/IEC inventory of studies on the economic and social benefits of standardization, accessible on the ISO/IEC information centre (http://www.standardsinfo.net/), has been strengthened with ITU's decision to participate. An analysis of these studies have shown that there was no common methodology to approach an economic assessment and quantification of benefits being used, thus preventing any comparisons between studies. As a result, Council decided at its meeting in September 2007 to launch a project on a common methodology to assess and communicate the economic benefits of consensus-based standards[3].

The **e-Learning Course** "ISO Expert in International Standardization Management", finalized in 2007 and comprising three modules, has been well received by the member bodies and correspondent members that have participated in the sessions held so far.

Following approval by Council[4] at its September 2007 meeting, the Secretary-General has started to take the necessary steps for the implementation of the "2007-2010 Action Plan to promote the involvement of **consumers' interests in standardization**".

3   Raising the awareness and capacity of developing countries

The main objective is to progress with the implementation of the *ISO Action Plan for Developing Countries 2005-2010* endorsed by Council at its September 2004 meeting. Section 1 of the Action Plan for Developing Countries identifies the needs, objectives and actions, while section 2 sets out the administration, funding and monitoring of actions supported by the ISO Central Secretariat.

Upgrades of membership from developing countries are increasing, and specific actions are taken to assist those upgrading their status to correspondent or full membership.

Relations with international and national donor agencies are being strengthened and expanded.

Detailed information is given in document General Assembly 9/2008 under agenda item 7.2.

4   Being open to partnerships for the efficient development of International Standards

The collaboration with IEC and ITU is being actively pursued, in particular in the framework of the WSC. Detailed information is given in document General Assembly 06/2008 under agenda item 5.

The ISO/IEEE Partner Standards Development Organization (PSDO) cooperation agreement, approved by Council under the terms of its Resolution 49/2007, was signed in February 2008 and is being implemented.

The network of collaboration between the ISO System and major international organizations has been expanded, both with governmental organizations such as Universal Postal Union (UPU), and with the private sector, such as the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

5   Promoting the use of voluntary standards as an alternative or a support to technical regulations

The ISO Central Secretariat is actively working to strengthen institutional relationships and collaboration with a number of intergovernmental organizations involved in the harmonization of technical regulations and international trade, in particular the corresponding UN Agencies and the WTO (detailed information is given in annex 3 to document General Assembly 05/2008 and 07/2008 under agenda items 4 and 6, respectively).

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[3] Council Resolution 29/2007
[4] Council Resolution 30/2007

jnb/14963074

The information document "Using and referencing ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations", jointly developed by ISO and IEC, is being widely distributed and promoted.

6 Being the recognized provider of International Standards and guides relating to conformity assessment

The CASCO "toolbox" developed by the ISO Policy Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO) is being intensively promoted in accordance with the specific strategic initiatives devolving upon the ISO Central Secretariat, in particular among regulators and industry sectors.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2004 with IAF and ILAC has enabled more extensive steps to be taken with regard to the handling of complaints and action to protect ISO's image when its name is used in relation to conformity assessment.

As for ISO/IEC 17021, *Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems,* the migration period started on 15 September 2006 and will end on 15 September 2008. According to IAF, no problem has been identified so far that would affect the migration.

7 Providing efficient procedures and tools for the development of a coherent and complete range of deliverables

Several initiatives have been taken to move forward on this key strategic objective. A significant effort is in progress to monitor the implementation of the TMB measures aimed at improving the efficiency of the standards development process.

A major effort is also underway to further the widespread use of advanced IT solutions supporting the ISO standardization and standards dissemination processes, including in particular the deployment of the ISO National Mirror Committee server and, *inter alia,* the finalization of the ISO electronic committee environment and further enhancement of the use of the ISO Global Directory.

As a further step forward, the needs of standards users and of the standards development process have been reviewed on the occasion of the workshop organized by the IT Strategies Implementation Group (ITSIG) on "ISO IT Strategy 2010 and beyond". This workshop, held on 7 May 2008 in Milan (Italy), was attended by 61 participants from 21 ISO member bodies, along with invited representatives from IEC and CEN. The presentations and discussions among the speakers and the audience provided a good insight into the key areas to be covered in the future by ISO.

The move to new premises has continued to contribute to increased efficiency, through the grouping of the operations of the ISO Central Secretariat in modern facilities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General assembly is invited to note/comment on the above report.

jnb/14963074

ISO STRATPLAN 2008 – SUMMARY, PER KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE, OF THE ACTIONS DEVOLVING UPON THE ISO MEMBERS

1   Developing a consistent and multi-sector collection of globally relevant International Standards

ISO members are urged to:

–   consolidate successful examples and continue to experiment new approaches to promote work in new fields – including fields already covered by ISO/TCs but not performing fully in line with market dynamics;

–   strengthen the application of principles of global relevance on the initiation of technical work;

–   promote the concept and principles of global relevance.

2   Ensuring the involvement of stakeholders

ISO members are urged to:

–   contribute documentation, statistics and analysis on stakeholder participation in standardization in targeted areas as indicated by Council in 2007;

–   enhance communication and dissemination of information to stakeholders, taking actions to encourage and support their participation, starting at the early stages of the development process;

–   extend to other areas the study undertaken in 2007 on the engagement in the SR field of consumers and other stakeholders;

–   enhance education and training activities and related communications;

–   support the promotion of the ISO Award on higher education in standardization;

–   expand cooperation with academic institutions;

–   effectively promote studies (and support new ones) on the economic and social benefits of standardization;

–   structure the exchange of information and studies highlighting the benefits of standardization in different sectors.

3   Raising the awareness and capacity of developing countries

ISO members are urged to:

–   enhance and support participation of developing countries in ISO technical work through twinning arrangements and technical assistance;

–   strengthen support for using ICT and ISO e-Services in standardization and relations with ISO;

–   cooperate with ISO/CS on assistance projects.

4 Being open to partnerships for the efficient development of International Standards

ISO members are urged to pursue and support the collaboration with IEC and ITU-T, in particular in the context of the World Standards Cooperation (WSC).

5 Promoting the use of voluntary standards as an alternative or as a support to technical regulations

ISO members are urged to:

– enhance communication and dissemination of information to national members of IGOs and public authorities concerning ISO's work programmes, starting at the early stages of the development process;

– develop and disseminate guidance and information material concerning use of and reference to International Standards in regulations;

– consolidate and develop relations between ISO members and national members or delegations of international organizations in liaison with ISO.

6 Being the recognized provider of International Standards and guides relating to conformity assessment

ISO members are urged to:

– promote the use of the CASCO "toolbox" in all applicable contexts including notably the field of services;

– strengthen the liaison with ITU aiming at promoting the CASCO "toolbox" in the telecommunication industry;

– progress with the adoption of and ensure consistency with the CASCO approach concerning sectorial implementations;

– disseminate to ISO TCs the CASCO policy on sector approaches;

– monitor the use of ISO's name and logo;

– monitor the implementation of ISO 17021:2006, *Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems.*

7 Providing efficient procedures and tools for the development of a coherent and complete range of deliverables

ISO members are urged to:

– support the implementation of Council decisions concerning ISO's distribution policy;

– support the implementation of Council decisions concerning ISO's medium-term financial perspectives;

– monitor the application of the new edition of POCOSA and of ISO/GEN 9, and the deployment of DRM by ISO members;

– organize the second ISO/IEC common marketing and communication forum;

– support the dissemination and effective use of ISO's eServices and collect users' feed-back.

ISO STRATPLAN 2009 – SUMMARY, PER KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE, OF THE ACTIONS DEVOLVING UPON THE ISO MEMBERS

1   Developing a consistent and multi-sector collection of globally relevant International Standards

ISO members are urged to:

–   consolidate successful examples and continue to experiment new approaches to promote work in new fields – including fields already covered by ISO/TCs but not performing fully in line with market dynamics;

–   apply consistently the principles of global relevance on the initiation of technical work;

–   promote the concept and principles of global relevance;

–   monitor the application of the ISO policy on global relevance;

–   monitor the application of the new procedure for production of official ISO deliverables in non-official ISO languages.

2   Ensuring the involvement of stakeholders

ISO members are urged to:

–   develop and promote good practices concerning stakeholder participation in standardization;

–   progress with the implementation of the 2007-2010 Action Plan (approved by Council in 2007) to promote the involvement of consumers' interests in standardization;

–   enhance communication and dissemination of information to stakeholders, taking actions to encourage and support their participation, starting at the early stages of the development process;

–   evaluate the potential applicability to other areas of the model of engagement of consumers and other stakeholders followed in the SR field;

–   based on 2007 decisions, progress with implementation of:
     • the policy for organizations in liaison with TCs and PDCs, and of
     • ISO regional policy;

–   enhance education and training activities and related communications;

–   support the promotion of the ISO Award on higher education in standardization;

–   expand cooperation with academic institutions;

–   effectively promote studies (and support new ones) on the economic and social benefits of standardization;

–   structure the exchange of information and studies highlighting the benefits of standardization in different sectors;

–   make use of the ISO communication package for industry and political leaders.

3   Raising the awareness and capacity of developing countries

ISO members are urged to:

– enhance and support participation of developing countries in ISO technical work through twinning arrangements and technical assistance;

– strengthen support for using ICT and ISO e-Services in standardization and relations with ISO;

– cooperate with ISO/CS on assistance projects.

4   Being open to partnerships for the efficient development of International Standards

ISO members are urged to:

– pursue and support the collaboration with IEC and ITU, in particular in the context of the World Standards Cooperation (WSC);

– pursuant with objective 5 of the *ISO Strategic Plan,* continue the network of collaboration between the ISO System and major international organizations also involved in standards development (UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations such as the OECD, IEA, WCO and many others), with a view to ensure complementarity and collaboration.

5   Promoting the use of voluntary standards as an alternative or as a support to technical regulations

ISO members are urged to:

– enhance communication and dissemination of information to national members of IGOs and public authorities concerning ISO's work programmes, starting at the early stages of the development process;

– disseminate guidance and information material concerning use of and reference to International Standards in regulations;

– consolidate and develop relations between ISO members and national members or delegations of international organizations in liaison with ISO.

6   Being the recognized provider of International Standards and guides relating to conformity assessment

ISO members are urged to:

– promote the use of the CASCO "toolbox" in all applicable contexts including notably the field of services;

– strengthen the liaison with ITU aiming at promoting the CASCO "toolbox" in the telecommunication industry;

– progress with the adoption of and ensure consistency with the CASCO approach concerning sectorial implementations;

– disseminate to ISO TCs the CASCO policy on sector approaches;

– monitor the use of ISO's name and logo;

– monitor the implementation of ISO 17021:2006, Part 1, *Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems.*

7 **Providing efficient procedures and tools for the development of a coherent and complete range of deliverables**

ISO members are urged to:

– follow-up to the decisions taken in 2008 concerning the simplification of ISO and IEC deliverables;

– support the implementation of Council decisions concerning ISO's distribution policy;

– support the implementation of Council decisions concerning ISO's medium-term financial perspectives;

– monitor the application of the new edition of POCOSA and of ISO/GEN 9, and the deployment of DRM by ISO members;

– organize the second ISO/IEC common marketing and communication forum;

– support the dissemination and effective use of ISO's eServices and collect users' feedback.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIONS IN 2008

AGENDA ITEM 10.3.2   THE NEXT *ISO STRATEGIC PLAN:* 2011-2015

The current *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010* was adopted by the General Assembly at its meeting in September 2004. The implementation of this Plan is well underway and most of the objectives and actions should be realized by 2010.

The timeframe and procedure for the next *Strategic Plan* was discussed by Council at its meeting in March 2008, where it was decided that the **timeframe would be 2011-2015 inclusively**[1]. The main stages of the procedure approved by Council are summarized below:

- broad consultation between March and September 2009 at the level of the ISO members as well as with key regional and international partners, key stakeholder organizations and ISO governance committees (CASCO, COPOLCO, DEVCO, TMB);

- special session of Council in March 2010 to deliberate on the *Strategic Plan*, and associated actions, financial assumptions and key performance indicators (KPIs), to be subsequently finalized by correspondence before May 2010;

- submission in July 2010 of the *Strategic Plan* to the ISO members for approval at the General Assembly in Norway in September 2010.

More detailed information is attached at Annex.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited to note/comment on the above report.

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[1] Council Resolution 4/2008

DETAILED INFORMATION* ON TIMEFRAME AND PROCEDURE FOR *ISO STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2015*

- the timeframe would be 2011-2015 inclusively.

- **March 2008**: approval by Council of the timeframe and procedure.

- **October 2008**: approval by Council of the principles for the consultation of ISO members, key regional and international partners, key stakeholders organizations and ISO governance committees (CASCO, COPOLCO, DEVCO, TMB).

- **December 2008**: development by the Secretary-General of a draft questionnaire adapted to the various interlocutors, giving an introduction of the challenges facing international standardization - and ISO in particular -, including questions to trigger and stimulate debates and consultations.

- **January 2009**: review by CSC/STRAT at its usual January meeting of the draft questionnaire capturing the comments received from Council members.

- **February 2009**: finalization of the questionnaire by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Vice-President (policy), in the light of the CSC/STRAT discussion.

- **Between March and September 2009**: consultations.

- **December 2009**: preparation a first draft of the *Strategic Plan* by the Secretary-General, associated with actions, financial assumptions and KPIs, to be circulated to Council members for comments, and reviewed by CSC/STRAT (*Strategic Plan* and KPIs) at its meeting in **January 2010** and by CSC/FIN (financial assumptions) at a special meeting in **February 2010**.

- **March 2010**: special one-day session of Council to brainstorm on the *Strategic Plan*, and associated actions, financial assumptions and KPIs, to be subsequently finalized by correspondence before May 2010.

- **July 2010**: submission of the Strategic Plan to the ISO members for approval at the General Assembly in Norway in September 2010.

- **January 2011**: examination by CSC/STRAT of the first two annual implementations (STRATPLANS 2011 and 2012) to be prepared by the Secretary-General.

- **March 2011**: approval by Council of STRATPLAN 2011 and STRATPLAN 2012, together with a revision of the 2011 Budget, as needed, and a 2012 budget and business plan.

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* Extracted from the Council working document prepared for the March meeting and approved by Council.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIONS IN 2008

**AGENDA ITEM 10.4   ISO CENTRAL SECRETARIAT BUSINESS PLAN AND
BUDGET FOR 2009 – REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Under this agenda item, the Treasurer will present a report to the General Assembly taking into account General Assembly Resolution 9/2003 which asked for more detailed information, as and when appropriate, on certain of the financial items.

The Treasurer will concentrate on the evolution of the main financial parameters including the funds-in-trust. He will also present the Central Secretariat revenue and expenditure in perspective. This report will be circulated in writing before the General Assembly, together with the report of the Secretary-General.

Meanwhile, the following document is attached as background information:

- An overview of the ISO Central Secretariat business plan and budget for the year 2009 (see Annex) with:
  - at Appendix 1, the ISO Central Secretariat business plan and budget assumptions for 2009, which are in line with the decisions taken by Council under its Resolution 15/2007 in relation to the mid-term financial perspectives and,
  - at Appendix 2, the budget, as approved under Council Resolution 17/2008 and sent to the members by circular letter dated 19 March 2008.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited to note/comment on the Treasurer's report.

AGENDA ITEM 10.4

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

TO THE ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Dubai,

OCTOBER 2008

Distinguished Guests,
ISO Officers,
ISO Members,

1   Introduction

This is the first report I have the honour of presenting to you as ISO Treasurer at the beginning of the mandate entrusted to me by Council. I have the privilege of joining the Organization at a time when ISO is in a sound financial situation after having recovered from three consecutive years of deficit from 2001 to 2003 and consolidated its financial strength during the last four years (2004 to 2007). This has not happened by chance. This is the result of the combination of increased membership, improved production of standards, efficient promotion of the ISO system, members and products resulting in increased revenue from sales and, of course, good and lean management. In addition, 2007 was the first full year of implementation of the fiscal agreement we have concluded with the Swiss Authorities, and 2008 will be the first full year in our new and modern premises, both having a positive impact on our operations.

In my report this year, apart from commenting briefly on the results for 2007, the forecast for 2008 and the budget for 2009, I would like to concentrate on the following three important challenges for our finances:

 – the implementation of medium-term financial orientations;
 – the management of the General Fund;
 – the evolution of the financing of our training and technical assistance programmes.

2   Results for 2007, forecast for 2008 and 2009 budget

The 2007 accounts were closed with a positive result before contributions to, or use of, provisions of +kCHF 4 301, compared to +kCHF 3 747 in 2006.

Membership fees remained stable as the value of the financial unit was not increased for the fourth consecutive year. With the exception of the continued decrease in mail-order sales (which was foreseen), all the other sources of revenue have contributed to this positive result to various degrees: +4,5% for sales via the ISO/CS Webstore, +6% for copyright revenue, +18% for IT services delivered by the Central Secretariat, +6% for the training and technical assistance programmes, +8% for financial revenue due to the higher level of our reserve funds in addition to an exceptional one-time net gain of kCHF 866 realized on the timely sale of the portfolio. Expenditure was contained and only increased by 4%. It benefited from the implementation for the first full year of the fiscal agreement (signed in July 2006), amounting to a net gain of kCHF 870 incorporating some of the gain related to 2006.

The 2008 revised budget approved by your Council takes into account the reduction by 3% of the unit value for subscriptions and its decisions relating to ISO development and promotion projects to be financed by the use of related provisions, so that the net budgeted result is again quite positive (+kCHF 2 310). The forecast made on the basis of the results at 1 July 2008 shows that we should achieve this target.

The 2009 budget takes into account the triennial revision of the number of subscription units allocated to the member bodies as well as the further reduction by 1% of the monetary value of the subscription unit decided by Council in consideration of the sustained positive results. We have also taken into account a slowdown in the increase of direct sales by the Central Secretariat, essentially due to the development and performances of the Webstores of ISO members and their increasing adoption of ISO standards as national standards. The budgeted result before contribution to, or use of, provisions is +kCHF 1 185.

3   The implementation of the medium-term financial orientations

Considering the positive results achieved since 2004 and the structural improvements indicated above, your Council decided to review and update the medium-term financial perspectives associated with the implementation of the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010*. This was done in March 2007, on the basis of a risk analysis, of the positive results achieved in 2005 and 2006 and of the development of various scenarios leading to projections of the financial results until 2010. Council concluded that there was sufficient visibility to expect, if no fundamental parameter was changed, a recurrent overall positive result in the order of +kCHF 2 500 with a possible variation of + or − kCHF 2 000, at least until 2010. Council therefore decided that this perspective enabled the implementation of the following orientations:

- to reach a level for the General Fund of six months of yearly operation expenditure (which in fact has been nearly achieved with the closing of the 2007 accounts);

- to invest in projects for the development and promotion of the ISO system, for which Council has adopted a formal procedure;

- to reduce by 3% the monetary value of the membership subscription unit in 2008 and consider an additional reduction by 1% in 2009.

These orientations aim to achieve a good balance between the financial sustainability of the Organization through the consolidation of the General Fund, the investment in the development and promotion of the ISO System and the sharing of the positive results of the Organization with the members.

"ISO development and promotion projects" have since been adopted by Council for the following topics:

- online directory and networking for consumers' interests in standardization;

- methodology to assess and communicate the economic benefits of consensus-based standards;

- communication package to promote standardization among industry and political leaders;

- market study on standards relating to food quality and safety, and the related positioning of ISO standards;

- amplification of technical assistance to developing country members concerning the implementation and use of IT tools and ISO e-services.

4 The improvement of the management of the General Fund

Whilst we were constituting provisions which have covered most of the one-time costs of the move to new premises in 2007, our positive results were sufficient to enable us, in addition, to increase our General Fund. We have been able to bring it significantly above the minimum set by Council of four months of operation expenditure. The level of the General Fund has indeed been increased from kCHF 8 815 on 1 January 2003, representing 3,7 months of operation expenditure, to kCHF 15 389 on 1 January 2008, representing close to six months of operation expenditure and an increase in value of 75% since 1 January 2003.

This increase in the reserves has had a positive impact on the financial revenue despite the turbulences encountered by the financial markets, which have become a source of concern since last year. Unfortunately, the situation of financial markets is not evolving favourably in 2008 and a loss in market value is to be expected at 31 December. It should be recalled, however, that a gain of kCHF 866 was realized in 2007 when we reorganized our portfolio just before the deterioration in financial markets. These perspectives have prompted the Council Standing Committee on Finance to consider proposals to Council for reviewing the principles for the management of our General Fund, in particular with a view to revising the level of provisions for the fluctuations in financial rates.

5 The evolution of the financing of training and technical assistance programmes

The external revenue for financing our technical assistance programmes increased to kCHF 967 in 2007, compared to kCHF 928 in 2006 and kCHF 546 in 2005, an overall increase of +77% in two years. This is

essentially due to donor contracts related to training and awareness raising in developing countries in relation to our developments in social responsibility, food safety, conformity assessment and consumer involvement, and to the accelerated use of the DIN Endowment, which is scheduled to be fully utilized by 2010. Unfortunately, the level of contributions to the Funds-in-trust by our membership has not followed this trend, and I therefore reinforce once more the message of my predecessor exhorting the ISO members to raise the level of their contribution. Maybe the reduction by 3% of the monetary value of the subscription unit in 2008 and the additional 1% in 2009 will encourage, and facilitate, generosity. The Funds-in-trust are vital as seed money for new training and awareness raising initiatives and projects.

Concerning training services, most of them are delivered in Geneva or on a regional basis. They are therefore financed by the ISO/CS budget, the Funds-in-trust, the DIN Endowment or donor contracts. However, the ISO/CS maintains a stream of on-site customized training sessions for individual ISO members on a cost recovery basis. The yearly revenue in 2007 reached kCHF 83 or +32% compared to 2006.

As indicated above, an ISO project has been launched to accelerate capacity building of ISO members in developing countries to implement and effectively use the ISO IT tools and e-services.

6   Conclusion

In concluding this report, I would like to indicate that I will make every effort to continue the outstanding contribution made by my predecessor Antoine Fatio to consolidate even more the financial fundamentals of the Organization, bearing in mind the uncertainties of world financial markets which impact the management and value of our General Fund. This, together with the perspectives for our business model supporting our standardization process, will have to be taken into account when considering the medium-term financial perspectives associated with our next five-year Strategic Plan.

Julien Pitton

ISO CENTRAL SECRETARIAT BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2009 – OVERVIEW

1   Main features of the 2009 budget

The Central Secretariat budget, as adopted by Council for 2009, foresees:

- a total **revenue** of **kCHF 36 365** based, inter alia, on a 2009 unit value of CHF 5 546, i.e. a decrease by 1% compared to 2008, decided by Council following the good financial results of 2007;

- a total **expenditure** of **kCHF 35 180,** i.e. 2% above the revised 2008 budget and 8% above the 2008 budget approved by Council in March 2007;

- a "**result before contributions / provisions**" showing a positive balance for operations of **+kCHF 1 185**, i.e. a decrease of -kCHF 100 over the revised 2008 budget;

- a **"net result",** after the use of provisions to cover the amortization of capital investments related to the new premises and part of the provision constituted for the assessment of the information security study, showing a positive balance of **kCHF 2 120**; the latter, if achieved, will be allocated according to the decisions taken by Council in the context of the review of the medium-term financial perspectives for the ISO Central Secretariat[1], e.g.

  – to target a level of the General Fund of six months of yearly operation expenditure by 2010;

  – to invest in projects aiming to contribute to the sustained development of ISO and the promotion of the ISO system.

NOTE – It should be noted that uncertainty remains for budget items which might be affected by the financial tensions worldwide i.e. management of the General Fund and the level of sales.

The budget supports the business plan developed in line with the 2009 implementation of the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010* (STRAPLAN 2009) approved by Council at its March meeting (Council Resolution 3/2008).

2   Structure of the ISO/CS programmes

The structure of the ISO/CS programmes for which budget assumptions are presented reflects the organization put in place in 2003 and relates them closely to the Strategic Plan.

All ISO/CS activities are grouped under five programme areas:

- Membership services and support to governance

- Standards development and production

- Stakeholder programmes

- Development and training programmes

- Communication, information and promotion

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[1] Council Resolution 15/2007

For each programme area, the basic and recurrent tasks are recalled as well as the main activities; and the budget assumptions are based on targets and actions scheduled to take place in 2009 which have an impact on the budget. Supporting functions for administration, resources and IT support services are sized to serve these five programmes and their costs are distributed proportionally to determine the full cost of each programme.

3   Council Resolution

Council,

noting the ISO Central Secretariat business plan and budget assumptions for 2009 as set out in Annex 1 to document Council 19/2008,

decides

a) *to adopt the ISO Central Secretariat revenue and expenditure budget for 2009 as set out in Table 4 of Annex 2 to document Council 19/2008, subject to decreasing the monetary value of the 2009 subscription unit by 1%, i.e. to CHF 5 546, and asking the Secretary-General to make the resulting adjustments in Table 4 before submitting it to the members;*

b) *to approve the capital investment and amortization plan for 2009 as presented in Table 3 of Annex 2 to document Council 19/2008.*

(Council Resolution 17/2008)

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Appendix 1 to ANNEX to
Appendice 1 à ANNEXE à
General Assembly 18/2008
[ANNEX 1 to
Council 19/2008]

ISO CENTRAL SECRETARIAT BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2009

The ISO Central Secretariat business plan and budget assumptions for 2009 are presented according to the same programme structure as those used since 2005. They correspond to the implementation of the ISO Strategic plan for 2009, as submitted in Annex 2 to document Council 04/2008, where explicit reference is made to the programme areas.

The budget assumptions continue to follow the middle scenario presented in connection with the medium-term financial perspectives submitted to Council in document Council 15/2007. They do not pre-empt any decision that Council might take relating to the use in 2009 of the possible recurrent surplus in relation to the unit value for membership subscriptions or the rates of retrocession and royalties between ISO/CS and the members on the sales of ISO publications.

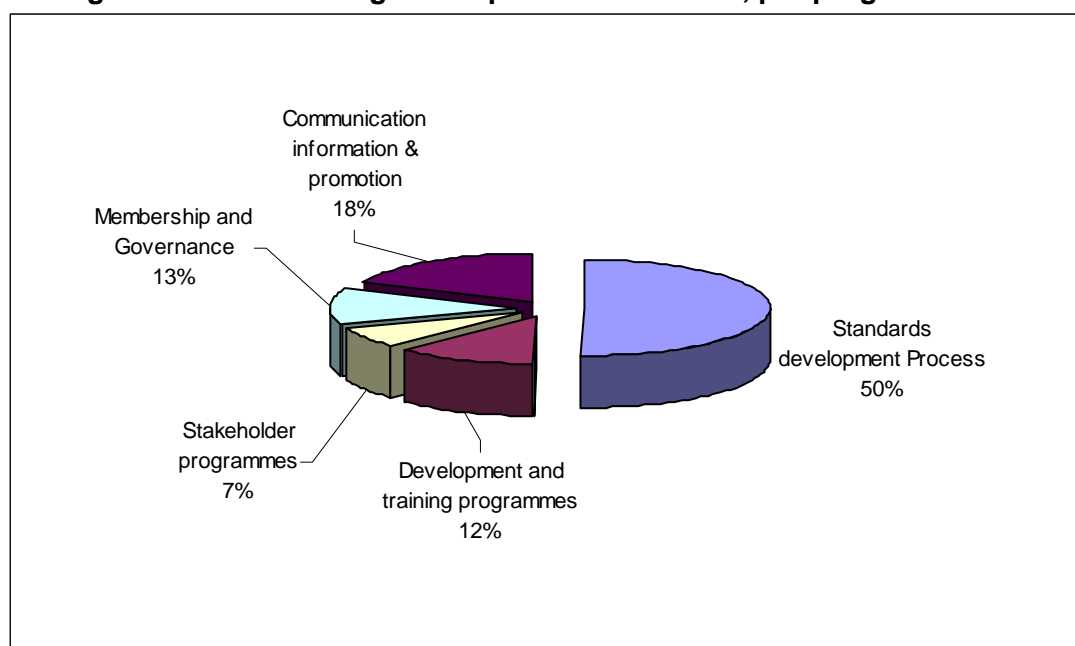## 1   Structure of ISO/CS programmes and corresponding resources and costs

All ISO/CS activities are grouped under five programme areas:

- Membership services and support to governance
- Standards development and production
- Stakeholder programmes
- Development and training programmes
- Communication, information and promotion

For each programme area, the basic and recurrent tasks are recalled, as well as the main activities, and the budget assumptions are based on targets and actions to be taken in 2009 which impact the budget.

The full cost-breakdown of these five streams is determined by adding their direct analytical cost and their share of support functions, corresponding to general administration, logistics and IT infrastructure and services, as shown in figure 1 below.

Figure 1 – ISO/CS budgeted expenditure for 2009, per programme area

2 Programme descriptions, with 2009 budget assumptions

2.1 Membership services and support to governance

Basic tasks

− General interface with ISO members and potential members
− Institutional interface with international and regional organizations, including the World Standards Cooperation (WSC), the UN System and the World Trade Organization
− Maintenance of information on members and international organizations
− Support to governance: General Assembly, Council and associated committees

Main actions and assumptions for the 2009 Budget

Electronic distribution of documents has reduced distribution costs, but the volume of activity will remain high with the membership number and status upgrades, the stronger interactions with international and regional organizations and the continued implementation of the strategic plan. No increase in staff is foreseen.

The budgeted figure for revenue from membership subscriptions is based on the membership position established in 2008 and the triennial revision of allocation of units to member bodies (cf. Treasurer's letter "Adjustment of the number of subscription units allocated to the member bodies" dated 5 February 2007). Several requests for new memberships are currently under discussion, hence the objective of 158 members in 2009.

Concerning the ISO projects contributing to the development and the promotion of the ISO system, Council will update the proposals at its March 2008 and October 2008 meetings. The follow-up may imply specific actions by the Central Secretariat to systematically review and formalize these projects. The budget does not include the financing of projects from the provision proposed on the 2007 result, as this has yet to be approved by Council. Since such projects should be entirely financed by provisions made from the results of previous years, they have no impact on the "net result".

The budget takes into account the Cape Town venue (South Africa) for the 2009 General Assembly.

2.2 Standards development and production

Basic tasks

− Secretariat and support services to the Technical Management Board and its Strategic Advisory Groups
− Maintenance of directives and procedures for the drafting, preparation and adoption of ISO deliverables
− Monitoring, policy communication, procedural guidance and programme management support to ISO committees and associated working groups
− Supporting technical relations with organizations in liaison with ISO committees
− Support services in preparation of ISO deliverables for electronic publication including editing, drawings review, composition, proof-reading and electronic publishing
− Maintenance of collaborative agreements for the development of standards (e.g. Vienna Agreement with CEN, MoUs with UN agencies and OECD)
− With support of ITSIG and ISO/CS IT resources, define and develop electronic tools, templates, databases and e-services supporting ISO's standards development activities
− Statistics and analysis of ISO standards development performance.

Main actions and assumptions for the 2009 Budget

The target production of ISO deliverables for 2008 is 1200 ± 50, based on the current status of the stock of work items, DIS and FDIS. No change in staffing is planned, but redeployment may be used on the occasion of departures. Qualitative and quantitative improvements continue to occur in line with the reorganisation that took place in 2004 to redistribute the standards development activities into four technical groups, as well as the use of minimal editing and new direct publishing procedures introduced in 2005 and 2006. Introduced in 2007, enhanced proof-reader functions will be further deployed to perform Assistant Editing functions. Information sharing and training with Technical Programme Managers (TPMs) will continue to be conducted (e.g., patents and copyright, IT tools for committees). Further improvements to ISO/CS document treatment and processes will continue in 2008 with IT automations being developed throughout the year, in coordination with major planned improvements in the project database for all ISO standards development activities.

These measures, along with measures adopted by the TMB in relation to development tracks and the reduction of processing times, increased monitoring and follow-up by TPMs, reinforcement of service agreements with secretariat holders, and improved notification and tracking mechanism for committees, should continue to produce their effects on delivery times and on the quality of the documents produced. The objective in 2008 and 2009 is to improve the total average development and production time achieved in 2007 to reach 35 months (2006 with an average of 33,4 months was exceptional because of the publication of 196 STEP[1] standards having a short development time).

In 2008, the ISO Global Directory is effectively fully deployed, with final and punctual training programmes for ISO members being completed, in addition to training materials available for member use and reference; maintenance will, however, have to be provided in 2009, including through training.

The travel budget is slightly increased to reflect greater TPM involvement in a number of new and emerging Technical Committee and Project Committee activities. Concerning new work areas, 2008 should see renewed activity in the building/construction sector (following a redeployment of existing resources and renewed activation of key stakeholder groups) and continued development in new activities initiated in the areas of security, nanotechnologies, as well as solid and liquid fuels, energy management systems, services (tourism, cleaning services, rating services, educational services, brand and patent valuation), fisheries and aquaculture and the monitoring and evaluation of the contribution of standardization to societal and sustainability.

A new Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) on energy efficiency and renewable sources will be operational in 2008 and should assist in identifying new opportunities for energy-related standardization. A fourth edition of the ISO Chairs Conference will be held in June 2008.
In 2009, a possible thematic workshop and/or roundtable on topical subjects may be held, following advice from the TMB.

2.3   Stakeholder programmes

These programmes relate to consumer interests, conformity assessment and, more generally, relations with economic partners.

2.3.1   Consumer interests

Basic tasks

− Support to COPOLCO
− Provide appropriate feedback, from the consumer perspective, on current ISO standardization and conformity assessment activities

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[1] STEP: Standard for the Exchange of Product Model Data

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− Propose new areas of standardization activities and advise ISO on policy directions in relation to consumers
− Help consumers benefit world-wide from standardization, through awareness-raising and enhanced participation in standards development
− Promote networking and exchange of information among consumer representatives and interested parties, on development and implementation of standards

Main actions and assumptions for the 2009 Budget

This programme provides high-level policy support for concerted and coordinated action by member bodies so that consumer interests are represented in international standardization. It is now based on an *Action Plan for the involvement of consumers in standardization* approved by Council (Council Resolution 30/2007) which will continue to be deployed in 2009, including the finalization of the corresponding ISO Project.

Events and activities with a tangible impact on the budget, apart from the secretariat reinforced in 2007 and 2008, are promotional publications, training activities and the annual COPOLCO meeting and workshop.

The annual workshop provides an opportunity to address a subject of particular concern to consumers, who can thus make their views heard before an international audience composed of representatives from consumer groups, government, industry, national interest groups and standardization experts. The outcome of these workshops regularly spurs new areas of standardization work within ISO.

In order to promote better consumer representation in technical work and raise awareness among both consumers and national standards bodies, a cycle of training seminars for representatives from consumers associations and standard bodies have been organized during the last years.

Based on this experience and with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), COPOLCO launches in 2008 a programme to train instructors in consumer representation (a "train-the-trainers" approach), and a pilot training session of this type takes place in Accra, Ghana in February 2008. Furthermore, a basic toolkit of resources including a distance-learning module on CD-ROM, will be finalized in 2008 for deployment in 2009.

The budget includes appropriate funding of travel to meet the corresponding training and representation needs.

2.3.2   Conformity assessment

Basic tasks

− Studying means of assessing the conformity of products , processes, services and management systems to appropriate standards or other technical specifications
− Support to CASCO and to ISO/TCs requiring assistance for developing conformity assessment requirements
− Development, maintenance and promotion of a portfolio of International Standards and Guides relating to good practices, evaluation and recognition of conformity assessment activities
− Communications and representations of ISO and ISO/CASCO with many internal and external liaisons on conformity assessment matters
− Promotion of ISO/CASCO deliverables among regulators, sectors and users at large

Main actions and assumptions for the 2009 Budget

Priority will continue to be given to responding to market feedback on the implementation of ISO International Standards and to the promotion of the CASCO "tool box", in particular in the context of the WTO, as well as among regulators, sectors and developing countries.

The revised 2008 budget includes an additional part time staff position (80%) to allow for the more efficient operation of the expanding working groups and attendance to critical TC meetings in order to ensure a consistent approach to conformity assessment as well planning for a possible workshop to be held in conjunction with the 2008 plenary. It will also allow for the unit to perform the additional responsibilities allocated to it in 2007 which become effective in 2008 and 2009 (ISO annual survey on certification, market surveillance and compliance management issues, relations with regional organizations involved in conformity assessment).

CASCO will implement the new governance structure as agreed at its 2007 Plenary Meeting. This will allow for a more effective promotion of conformity assessment to sectors and regulators, as well as better capturing market feedback on the use of the "CASCO toolbox". The new structure will also assist in early identification and handling of conformity assessment issues in ISO/TCs. This process will involve TPMs, TC secretaries and editors. A new Knowledge Management Group will record all decisions taken in the past and their reasons. A new interpretation process will also be implemented for answering all interpretation queries on all CASCO standards.

For 2009 no additional resources will be needed with respect to staffing levels. Allocation of existing resources will continue with regard to promotion of conformity assessment to the developing economies in line with WTO.

2.3.3   Relations with other economic players

Basic tasks

In addition to the programmes described above directed towards the consumers and the conformity assessment communities, increased focus is given to relations with industry and regulators. They are conducted mainly through ISO TC/SCs and international intergovernmental or professional organizations in liaison with them, but also through the generic ISO communication tools and activities. Council has reviewed ISO's policy for organizations in liaison at its March 2007 meeting (cf. Council Resolution 5/2007) and the corresponding orientations are being implemented.

Main actions and assumptions for the 2009 Budget

The *Strategic Plan* indeed called for more initiatives in this area. Concerning relations with professional groups, ISO/CS participation in important meetings of professional groups will be increased, based on the positive experiences of ISO interactions with the World Economic Forum (WEF), the World Petroleum Congress, the World Energy Council and the professional organizations in the area of health technologies or the automobile industry. It is foreseen in the budget that specific workshops might be organized.

The Strategic Advisory Group set up to review ISO's strategy for Management Systems Standards is likely to propose the holding in 2009 of an international conference on this issue, which has been taken into account in the budget.

The Open Session at the 2008 General Assembly to be held in Dubai will be dedicated to "International Standards for intelligent and sustainable buildings" and will be the occasion for a major communication effort towards the construction sector. In addition, Council has initiated actions for ISO to become more proactive in new areas for standardization, so that some budget adjustments might subsequently be necessary, possibly by using the provision for ISO development and promotion projects..

Regular relations with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the International Federation of Standards Users (IFAN) or the International Organization of Employers (IOE) will be enhanced. Current developments in the area of social responsibility, together with ISO's possible involvement in fair trade issues, will lead to a new evaluation of our interactions with non-governmental organizations and societal interests, to be debated by Council at its March 2008 meeting.

Concerning regulators, relations with the UN and its agencies involved in the harmonization of technical regulations and with other intergovernmental organizations such as the WTO and OECD will be maintained. The information document *Using and referencing ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations* has been published in 2007 and will continue to be extensively promoted.

Finally, the ISO repository of studies on macro- and micro-economic surveys on the benefits of standardization, including case studies and value propositions, is being consolidated and promoted, now jointly with IEC and possibly with ITU in the future.

No additional staff is foreseen, as the corresponding actions fall within the remit of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and other senior and communication staff. The budget implications are essentially related to travel, meetings (including the 2009 General Assembly and its Open Session) and membership in the WEF. The consultations related to the next ISO Strategic Plan should take place in 2009 and will require specific communication initiatives included in the Budget.

2.4   Development and training programmes

Consistent with General Assembly and Council decisions, these areas are being significantly expanded in the context of the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries 2005-2010.*

Basic tasks

−   Implementation of the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries 2005-2010*
−   Secretariat of the ISO Committee on developing country matters (DEVCO) and its Chair's Advisory Group (DEVCO CAG)
−   Coordination of the activities of the Regional Liaison Officers (RLOs) who assist the Secretary-General in representing ISO in the various ISO liaison regions in the developing world
−   Technical assistance to build capacity in developing countries and enhance developing country participation in international standardization and related activities. ISO members eligible for developing country services are those appearing on the ISO List of developing countries, i.e. those cited on the UN list of developing countries, plus those ISO members from countries with formally planned economies who applied for these services under the terms of Council Resolution 29/1992
−   Development of training materials and provision of training services to ISO members, including for developed countries

Main actions and assumptions for the 2009 Budget

Resources for technical assistance and training services have substantially increased with the signing of a major technical assistance funding programme with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for three years (2008-2010). Thus, the level of 85 training and awareness activities planned for 2008 should be maintained in 2009, compared to 60 implemented in 2007.

−   **Technical assistance to developing countries**

The 2009 Budget takes into account the external expenses relating to workshops and seminars, fellowships, procurement of IT equipment and publication of educational and promotional material. Active promotion for additional funds-in-trust and donor contracts will be pursued.

The reinforcement of the Unit in 2008 should allow an increase of approx. 50% in volume of the following planned project activities:

•   Workshops on the role of standardization in economic development
•   Regional and national seminars and workshops on food safety, information security management systems and conformity assessment standards
•   Courses and sponsorships to enhance developing country participation in standardization

- Awareness seminars on ISO greenhouse gas quantification and environmental management standards (the ISO 14000 series)

- Awareness-raising in regard to good regulatory practices and the use of standards

- Workshops on consumer confidence and the role of standards

- Awareness-raising and workshops on social responsibility and societal security

- Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in support of standardization activities

– Training services

The main assumptions for the training services are: to hold the regular sessions programmed in Geneva or organized on site, to provide continued training in line with the gradual evolution of the ISO Global Directory and other ISO development and participation tools, and six to ten customised courses. The e-Learning modules will be fully deployed in 2008, and in 2009 they will be evaluated and fine-tuned as relevant.

2.5 Communication, information and promotion

Communication and promotion are high in the priorities of the *ISO Strategic plan 2005-2010.* The role of the Marketing and Communication unit is to assist members in communicating on ISO activities and in marketing ISO standards and other products and services based thereon, with the objectives to ensure the broadest coverage in term of promotion of ISO activities coupled with the largest possible dissemination of ISO standards and promotional publications outside the ISO community.

2.5.1 Marketing and Communication

Basic tasks

– Planning, designing and publishing institutional, promotional and commercial publications and communication material, and preparing the publication plan of the ISO Central Secretariat for commercial publications, electronic products and services, for approval by the CPSG

– Publishing and marketing of ISO magazines (ISO Focus and ISO Management Systems)

– Providing central services and organizational support to ISO member bodies' communications, public relations, marketing and sales managers for the promotion of ISO and its activities, and for the promotion and distribution of ISO Publications

– Developing relations with the media and handling of corresponding enquiries

– Ensuring public relations support to and coverage of ISO events, ISO Annual Report, brochures, support for presentations

– Administering, within the ISO framework, the policies and rules governing copyright exploitation rights related to commercial exploitation of ISO's intellectual property

– Handling queries regarding copyright linked to commercial exploitation of ISO's intellectual property and assisting ISO members in protecting it

– Processing orders for ISO publications and subscriptions to standards, other publications and magazines, including printing, dispatching, and invoicing

– Managing distribution of ISO publications and products through the ISO Webstore

– Administering royalties paid by ISO members and retro-cessions paid to ISO members

– Negotiating and administering agreements with third-party distributors of ISO publications

– Writing and maintaining dedicated sections in *ISO Online*, including the Marketing and Communication Web site

This programme is responsible, furthermore, for the Secretariat of the Commercial Policies Steering Group (CPSG), the provision of material for the World Standards Day, and on the ISO side the ISO/IEC Marketing and Communication Forum.

Main actions and assumptions for the 2009 Budget

In 2009, Marketing and Communication will focus in particular on:

− Improving distribution of the ISO magazines coupled with the possibility offered to ISO members to receive more copies of ISO Focus for their own promotion activities

− The review of the concept for ISO Management Systems magazine

− Increasing communication efforts (press releases, press interviews, articles, etc.)

− Developing ISO/CS communication to ISO members concerning the promotion of ISO and its activities, in particular the dissemination of ISO publications of potential best selling standards

− The implementation of the plan for the protection of ISO's copyright and the assistance to members in the watermarking of ISO publications and national adoptions thereof

− Implementing the distribution strategy decided by Council for ISO Publications through new trans-national distributors selected

− Optimizing the offering of packages, handbooks and other products

In addition, further initiatives will be taken in terms of contacts with the press and media with the objective to better targeting communication and outreach to the international economic press.

Marketing and Communication will continue to improve the processes currently in place. In particular, the role and responsibilities of the distribution services will be reviewed in order to optimize the use of resources, including Print On Demand (POD). In that respect, a decrease of one person is foreseen by mid 2008 (one staff member going on retirement will not be replaced). Related with the decrease of staff in distribution services, the distribution of the ISO magazines will be outsourced, with overall savings,

The second ISO and IEC Marketing and Communication Forum will take place in 2009 and is included in the Budget.

2.5.2   Information and related support services

Basic tasks

− General coordination of *ISO Online* and of the ISO/IEC Information Centre

− Handling and dispatching of enquiries and complaints, including those related to Management System Standards (MSS) certification

− ISO Information Network (ISONET), World Standards Services Network (WSSN)

− Administration of the International Classification for Standards (ICS) coding of ISO standards; secretariat of the Information Retrieval Tools Group (IRTG)

− Support to the development of Web-based and electronic information products and services

− ISO catalogue (paper, CD-ROM, on-line)

− Directories (e.g. WTO Directory)

− Information service to WTO according to the MoU between WTO and ISO

− Secretariat support to IFAN

− Legal assistance on IPR issues, including maintenance of the IPR Web site

− Translation (the translation services are included under this heading)

Main actions and assumptions for the 2009 Budget

The above services are well appreciated by the ISO membership and the public. It is foreseen to maintain the resources at the same level in 2009. Further improvements will be sought in the maintenance, coverage, content and user-friendliness of ISO's various Web sites including *ISO Online*. The ISO/IEC Information Centre will continue to be the subject of cooperation with IEC. Increased legal assistance to ISO members will be provided on copyright, trademark protection and patent issues.

2.6   Supporting functions

2.6.1   Administration and resources

Basic tasks

These functions include financial services, human resources management, logistics (support to Processes and Organization /SPO), and quality.

Assumptions for the 2009 Budget

Following the resettlement in the new premises in 2007, with the related temporary disturbances affecting operations during the first months, the move to the new premises has now started to produce its positive effects in 2008 in terms of optimization of logistics related to meetings, reception and internal distribution.

This streamlining and optimization process will continue in 2009.

2.6.2   IT support services

Basic tasks

−   Development and maintenance of the ISO/CS IT infrastructure and its integrity
−   Assistance to ISO/CS staff for the development and implementation of IT management, office and production tools
−   Assistance to ISO members and TC/SC secretariats in relation to the standards development process and delivery
−   Helpdesk for all users

Assumptions for the 2009 Budget

In connection with the move into the new premises, 2007 has seen the completion of the enhancement programme for improving IT security and back-up capabilities to ensure delivery of service to the ISO/CS and to the members. The revamping of *ISO Online* has been completed in 2007. The replacement of the SAP sales system will be undertaken in 2008 and implemented at the beginning of 2009. Migration of the PC pool to Microsoft Vista and Microsoft Office 2007 will be prepared in 2008 for implementation in 2009, and has been included in the budget.

In addition to the above projects, the major projects in 2009 will relate to standards as databases and tools supporting the standards development process, the automation of the production chain for the submission and verification of documents, the consolidation of the electronic balloting system, the improvement and promotion of the TC Server and assistance to members in developing consistent national electronic committee solutions.

A study on the risks related to information security in the ISO System will be initiated in 2008 and finalized in 2009, with the aim to analyze and rank the risks related to ISO's information assets and to consider and implement appropriate measures to reduce them.

ISO/CS budget for 2009
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS (FUNCTIONAL PRESENTATION)

(as approved under Council Resolution 17/2008)

FUNCTIONAL PRESENTATION (kCHF)	2009 BUDGET	%	2008 BUDGET REVISED	%	2008 BUDGET [1] Council March 2007	%	2007 ACTUAL non audited	%
REVENUE								
1. Membership subscriptions	20 000	55,0	20 230	56,5	20 190	59,0	19 991	55,5
2. Sales and copyright								
2.1 Mail order sales	850	2,3	850	2,4	800	2,3	922	2,6
2.2 Sales via ISO/CS Webstore	2 700	7,4	2 600	7,3	2 900	8,5	2 560	7,1
2.3 Copyright	8 600	23,6	8 400	23,5	7 650	22,4	8 571	23,8
3. ISO Magazines	250	0,7	250	0,7	250	0,7	238	0,7
Sub-total	12 400	34,1	12 100	33,8	11 600	33,9	12 291	34,1
4. Services invoiced :								
4.1 - to other international organizations	110	0,3	110	0,3	90	0,3	105	0,3
4.2 - for services to members + CEN	525	1,4	500	1,4	450	1,3	545	1,5
4.3 - for training services	100	0,3	100	0,3	60	0,2	83	0,2
4.4 - for CPA [2] with Open Text and Oracle	750	2,1	740	2,1	605	1,8	754	2,1
5. Contributions for Developing Countries	1 980	5,4	1 555	4,3	850	2,5	967	2,7
6. Financial revenue	500	1,4	450	1,3	350	1,0	1 309	3,6
TOTAL REVENUE	36 365	100	35 785	100	34 195	100	36 045	100
EXPENDITURE								
1. Membership and governance	4 441	12,6	4 747	13,8	3 969	12,2	3 908	12,3
2. Standards development process								
2.1. Coordination	4 270	12,1	4 193	12,2	4 470	13,7	4 335	13,7
2.2. Technical programmes	7 992	22,7	7 819	22,7	7 700	23,6	7 263	22,9
2.3. Production	5 404	15,4	5 286	15,3	5 648	17,3	5 222	16,5
Sub-total	17 666	50,2	17 298	50,1	17 818	54,7	16 820	53,0
3. Stakeholder programmes	2 458	7,0	2 637	7,6	1 524	4,7	1 624	5,1
4. Develement and training programmes	4 281	12,2	3 592	10,4	3 051	9,4	2 993	9,4
5. Communication, information and promotion	6 334	18,0	6 226	18,0	6 198	19,0	6 399	20,2
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	35 180	100	34 500	100	32 560	100	31 744	100
NET RESULT	1 185		1 285		1 635		4 301	

1) As per Council Resolution 16/2007, adopted during the March 2007 meeting

2) CPA : Central Procurement Agreement

AMENDMENTS TO THE ISO STATUTES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

AGENDA ITEM 11.1   VENUES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

1   Background

The current provision of the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure* dealing with the venues of General Assemblies[1] stipulates that, "as a general aim, one in three meetings of the General Assembly should be held in the city of the seat of the Organization".

Experience has shown that General Assemblies are an important event for all ISO members in general, and for the ISO member body hosting the event in particular. It is a great opportunity to raise awareness of standardization in the country, and also in the corresponding region, at the highest levels. The number of invitations received lately for future General Assemblies indeed shows a great interest among member bodies in hosting a General Assembly.

Following a case where a member body invited the General Assembly for a year when, in principle, it should have taken place in Geneva in accordance with Clause 2.2 above, Council, expressing the opinion that members should be able to invite for any given year that suits them without being limited by a provision of the *Statutes and Rules of Procedure*, considered the possibility to amend this provision.

2   Council's recommendation

In the light of the above, Council adopted the following resolution at its meeting in September 2007:

> *Council, referring to venues of General Assemblies,*
> *<u>expresses</u> the opinion that invitations from member bodies should prevail over holding the meetings of the General Assembly in Geneva, and*
>
> *<u>underlining</u> however that, when deemed important, Council may decide that the General Assembly be held in Geneva,*
>
> *<u>recommends</u> to the General Assembly that Clause 2.2 of the ISO Rules of Procedure should be amended to read as follows:*
>
> > *"Clause 2.2:*
> >
> > *Dates and places of meetings shall be fixed by the Council and notices thereof shall be sent to all members by registered post by the Secretary-General at least six months prior to the meeting".* ~~As a general aim, one in three meetings of, the General Assembly should be held in the city of the seat of the Organization as defined in Article 17.1."~~

(Council Resolution 24/2007)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

The General Assembly is invited to consider the amendment of Clause 2.2 of the *Rules of Procedure,* as recommended by Council, with a view to its approval.

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[1] Clause 2.2 of the *ISO Rules of Procedure*

AMENDMENTS TO THE ISO STATUTES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

AGENDA ITEM 11.2   INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SEATS ON COUNCIL AND THE TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Under the terms of its Resolutions 8/2008 (for Council) and 32/2007 (for the TMB), attached at Annex, Council decided to submit to the General Assembly for approval proposed amendments to the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure* regarding the increase in the number of seats on Council and the Technical Management Board (TMB). Council considered that it was appropriate for the General Assembly to take a decision simultaneously regarding Council and the TMB because the main rationale lying behind the two proposals is the same, i.e., the increase in the number of eligible member bodies since the last amendments.

It is recalled that for the adoption of an amendment:
- to the *Statutes*, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the member bodies voting is required (Article 20 of the *Statutes*);
- to the *Rules of Procedure*, an affirmative vote of the majority of the member bodies voting is required (Article 21 of the *Statutes*).

The rationale and proposed amendments are submitted below in section 1 for Council and in section 2 for the TMB.

1   Membership in Council

1.1   Background

It is recalled that the membership of Council is structured according to the notion that Council should operate in a way similar to a "Board of Trustees", representative of the entire ISO membership, and that there should be a satisfactory level of rotation enabling member bodies to have the opportunity to sit on Council.

In accordance with the current policy, all member bodies are eligible for appointment/election to Council; out of the 18 Council members, five member bodies considered to be the largest contributors to ISO's operations are automatically appointed to consecutive terms; and 13 member bodies are elected by the General Assembly, with five members in group 2, five in group 3 and three in group 4.

The last increase in the number of seats on Council dates back to 1977. Since then, no further changes have been decided regarding the number of seats on Council even though the number of member bodies has increased by 60%. As a result, Council's representativeness of the member bodies has decreased to a level of 17% compared to 28% in 1977.

1.2   Council recommendation

In the light of the above, Council reviewed the various options regarding the increase in membership on Council (cf. document Council 08/2008 prepared for the March 2008 Council meeting). Council based its recommendation on the following considerations, in order to take into account the increase in ISO membership without moving away from the basic principles which led to the current balance that has proved its fairness and effectiveness:
- recognize the increase in the ISO membership in Group 4,
- return to having the countries of the members in Group 1 representing more than 50% of the world economy,

- maintain the fees by the members in Group 1 under 50% of total fees,
- keep the composition of Council to a manageable size,
- provide a clear rationale for the changes.

Based on these considerations, Council unanimously decided[1] to recommend to the General Assembly that the number of seats on Council be increased **from 18 to 20** with the following implementation:

a) **One more member in group 4:** in view of the fact that, since the 1993 revision of the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure,* the total number of member bodies has considerably increased (+39%), all falling in group 4 while the number of seats in group 4 has remained unchanged (three Council seats for member bodies ranking from 51 onwards). This increase would ensure a higher representation of developing countries in Council, fully in line with the *ISO Strategic Plan* and *Action Plan for developing countries.*

b) **One more member in group 1:** until 1979, there were four "permanent" members sitting on Council. By a General Assembly decision taken that year, the number of "permanent" members was increased to six to maintain a ratio of one third.

   Consistent with the idea that there should be a satisfactory level of rotation to enable as many member bodies as possible to have the opportunity to sit on Council, the General Assembly decided, in the framework of the 1993 revision of the *Statutes,* to reduce to five the number of seats on Council for the main contributors to the operations of the Organization that shall be automatically appointed to consecutive terms on Council.

   Since the 1993 revision of the *Statutes*, the level of economic importance of the five member bodies considered to be the largest contributors to the operations of the Organization, in terms of the total member bodies' economic importance, has constantly decreased to reach less than 50% in 2007.

   If the level of economic importance of the sixth member appearing in the table prepared in the framework of the adjustment of the units for 2008-2010 were to be added to that of the five largest contributors, the economic importance of the top six member bodies would represent 54,59% of the total.

NOTE – Since the creation of groups for Council election (i.e. ranking scheme) in the framework of the 1993 revision of the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure,* the number of members in groups 2 and 3 has remained fix despite the considerable increase in the overall ISO membership; hence, no proposal presented to increase the number of seats in groups 2 and 3.

Consequently, the following proposed amendments to the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure[2]* are submitted for approval by the General Assembly:

Article 7	Clause 3
	.....
7.1 The operations of the Organization shall be governed, in accordance with the policy laid down by the member bodies, by a Council consisting of the ISO Officers and ~~eighteen~~ **twenty** member bodies appointed or elected in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. In no event may the ISO Officers represent any member body on the Council.	**3.1.1** ~~Five~~ **Six** member bodies which are considered to be the largest contributors to the operations of the Organization shall be automatically appointed to consecutive terms on the Council, in accordance with the criteria established by the Council and endorsed by the General Assembly. Such criteria shall be reviewed and confirmed or revised at intervals of no less than three years.

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[1] Council Resolution 8/2008, attached at Annex.

[2] The relevant modifications to the Annex (informative) to the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure* would be made in the light of the decision taken by the General Assembly under this agenda item.

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	3.1.2 ~~Thirteen~~ **Fourteen** member bodies shall be elected to the Council by the General Assembly for two-year terms. In this category member bodies retiring from Council shall not be eligible for re-election at the end of their term.
	3.1.2.1 For election of the ~~thirteen~~ **fourteen** member bodies serving non-consecutive terms on the Council, the criteria used in relation to Clause 3.1.1 shall also be used. In this respect, five Council seats shall be reserved for member bodies ranking from ~~six~~ **seven** to twenty-**one**; five for those ranking from twenty-~~one~~**two** to fifty-**one**; and ~~three~~ **four** for those ranking from fifty-~~one~~**two** onwards.
	3.1.2.2 The election of the ~~thirteen~~ **fourteen** member bodies to be represented on the Council shall take place in the General Assembly or, in a year in which no General Assembly is to be held, by letter ballot. **.....**

NOTE – Under the terms of its Resolution 8/2008, Council decided, subject to the approval by the General Assembly of the above proposed increase in the number of seats from group 1, to reduce the cap from 9% to 8% in order to avoid that the financial contribution of the six member bodies from group 1 be over 50% of the total membership fees. It is recalled that the capping practice exists for two principle reasons. It provides a safeguard against undue disruption of the central operations of ISO by a single member; but of equal importance or perhaps greater importance the "capping" principle has been associated with the "one country, one vote" policy in ISO. If the capping principle were to be abandoned or if the cap were to become too high there would be much greater pressure to introduce proportional (or weighted) voting privileges within ISO.

Subject to the approval by the member bodies of the amendments to the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure* proposed above, it is intended that the General Assembly instruct Council to take the necessary steps for the implementation of the amended provisions to take place in 2010.

2   Membership in the Technical Management Board (TMB)

2.1   Background

It is recalled that the membership of the TMB is structured according to the notion that the TMB shall be responsible, on behalf of Council, for the general management of the ISO standards development process and thereby should be composed of member bodies having responsibilities in the operation of technical committees, subcommittees and now project committees[3] (TC/SC/PC).

In accordance with the current policy, eligibility to the TMB is restricted to member bodies fulfilling certain criteria (contrary to the case for the election to Council, not all member bodies are eligible). However, these criteria have been broadened in 2004 to enable eligibility for members from developing countries involved in twinning arrangements, resulting in an increased number of members eligible for TMB[4].

Out of the 12 TMB members, four member bodies reflecting the most significant responsibility and productivity within the technical committee structure are currently automatically appointed to

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[3]   As decided by Council at its March 2007 meeting under Council Resolution 8/2007

[4]   The current eligibility to the TMB is restricted either to member bodies holding at least one TC/SC/PC secretariat or, as introduced in 2003 to broaden the eligibility of developing countries, to member bodies providing an individual with chairmanship responsibilities within at least one TC/SC/PC [Chairs and Vice-Chairs ("twin" Chairs)], or jointly holding the secretariat of at least one TC/SC/PC ("twin" secretariats).

consecutive terms; and eight members are elected by Council, with four in group 2, and four in group 3.

The last increase in the number of seats on the TMB took place in the framework of the 1993 revision of the *Statutes* when it was decided to increase the number of seats on the TMB from 10 to 12.

2.2   Council recommendation

In the light of the increase in eligible members and to keep TMB to a manageable size, Council decided[5], at its meeting in September 2007, to recommend to the General Assembly that the number of seats on the TMB be increased **from 12 to 14** with the following implementation:

> **One more member from group 1** and **one more from group 2**: consistent with the concept that members holding the most responsibilities in the operation of TC/SC/PC should be favoured.

Consequently, the following proposed amendments to the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure*[6] are submitted for approval by the General Assembly:

Article 8	Clause 4
8.1 The Technical Management Board shall consist of a chairman and ~~twelve~~ **fourteen** member bodies appointed or elected by the Council in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. **.....**	**4.1** ~~Four~~ **Five** member bodies reflecting the most significant responsibility and productivity within the technical committee structure shall be automatically appointed for consecutive terms on the Technical Management Board in accordance with criteria established by the Council. Such criteria shall be reviewed, and confirmed or revised, at intervals of no less than three years. **4.2** ~~Eight~~ **Nine** members of the Technical Management Board shall be elected by the Council for three-year terms. They shall be eligible for consecutive terms. To be eligible for appointment a member body must either hold at least one technical committee or subcommittee secretariat or be providing an individual with chairmanship responsibilities within at least one technical committee or subcommittee, or jointly hold the secretariat of at least one technical committee or subcommittee. **4.2.1** For election of the ~~eight~~ **nine** members not automatically appointed to the Technical Management Board, the criteria used in relation to Clause 4.1 shall also be used. In this respect ~~four~~ **five** Technical Management Board seats shall be reserved for member bodies ranking from ~~five~~ **six** to ~~twelve~~ **fifteen**; and four for those ranking from ~~thirteen~~ **sixteen** onwards. **.....**

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5   Council Resolution 32/2007, attached at Annex.

6   The relevant modifications to the Annex (informative) to the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure* would be made in the light of the decision taken by the General Assembly under this agenda item.

jnb/14987201

Subject to the approval by the member bodies of the amendments to the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure* proposed above, it is intended that the General Assembly instruct Council to take the necessary steps for the implementation of the amended provisions to take place in 2010.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited to consider the amendments to the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure* proposed under item 1.2 for Council and 2.2 for the TMB, with a view to their joint approval.

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 8/2008 AND 32/2007

Council Resolution 8/2008

Council,

<u>recalling</u> that, under the terms of its Resolution 31/2007, Council agreed in principle that the number of seats on Council be increased, in particular the number of members in group 1,

<u>having considered</u> the comments made by Council members at the September 2007 meeting and the Officers' review of those comments, as set out in item 1.1 of document Council 08/2008,

<u>decides</u> unanimously to recommend to the General Assembly the following amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure:

– that the number of seats on Council be increased from 18 to 20;

– that the number of seats from group 1 and from group 4 be increased by one each, with group 1 reserved for member bodies ranking from one to six, group 2 reserved for those ranking from seven to twenty-one, group 3 reserved for those from twenty-two to fifty-one, and group 4 for those ranking from fifty-two onwards;

<u>decides</u> that the relevant amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval at the same time as those regarding the TMB, as contained in Council Resolution 32/2007,

<u>further decides</u>, subject to the approval by the General Assembly of such an increase in the number of seats from group 1, to reduce the cap from 9% to 8% in order to avoid that the financial contribution of the six member bodies from group 1 be over 50% of the total membership fees.

Council Resolution 32/2007

Council,

<u>recalling</u> that, under the terms of its Resolution 18/2007, Council asked the Secretary-General to prepare for deliberation at its meeting in September 2007 an analysis to consider, *inter alia,* a possible increase in the number of seats on the Technical Management Board (TMB) to take into account the increase of membership in ISO,

<u>recalling</u> furthermore that member bodies are eligible for appointment/election to the TMB in accordance with the eligibility criteria stated in Clause 4.2 of the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure* as amended by the member bodies in 2004*,*

<u>having considered</u> the analysis contained in document Council 26/2007,

<u>decides</u> to recommend to the General Assembly the following amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure:

– that the number of seats on the TMB be increased from 12 to 14;

– that the number of members of TMB from group 1 and from group 2 be increased by one each, with group 1 reserved for member bodies ranking from one to five, group 2 reserved for those ranking from six to fifteen and group 3 reserved for those ranking from sixteen onwards,

<u>decides</u> that the relevant amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval at the same time as those regarding Council.

AGENDA ITEM 12   **OUTCOME OF THE OPEN SESSION HELD ON 15 OCTOBER ON *BUILDINGS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE***

In the framework of the General Assembly, an open session will be held on 15 October (full day) on the theme *Buildings for a sustainable future.* The open session will address the expectations on international standardization in this area, highlight exemplary achievements and foster new avenues for the development of ISO standards to support the incorporation of new technologies and best practices for the construction and operation of the sustainable buildings of the future.

After a keynote speech on "sustainable building for the global village: the vision and standards needs for architects and designers", the open session is being organized around two panels, dealing respectively with:

- Standards for energy efficient and environmental friendly buildings:
    - Sustainability of building materials and components
    - Regulations and standards for energy performant buildings
    - Integrating solar energy in building design
    - "Green cities" – The Masdar example

- Standards for security, safety and accessibility in buildings:
    - Standards for accessibility to buildings and public places
    - Security in high-rise buildings
    - Earthquake resistant buildings
    - IT in support of intelligent buildings

Each panelist will be invited to present introductory remarks for 10 minutes, after which the floor will be open for an exchange of views among the panel members and with the audience.

A text explaining the objectives and purpose of the open session is attached at Annex; the programme in a leaflet format containing the names of all speakers will be circulated during the first half of August.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly will be invited to assess the results of the open session on *Buildings for a sustainable future* and to take any action it deems appropriate.

OPEN SESSION ORGANIZED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ISO 31st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Buildings for a sustainable future

Today, new commercial, governmental or residential buildings need to meet a multiplicity of demands: from resistance to fire and flood, natural disasters and terrorist attack, through energy efficiency and a reduced environmental footprint, to ease of integration with information and communication technology (ITC) networks as well as accessibility for disabled or elderly persons.

Buildings represent a large share of the economic assets of individuals, organizations and nations. The sector is a major provider of employment. Construction materials and processes have an impact on the health and safety of both construction workers and the people who live or work in buildings, and the quality of buildings has a direct influence on the quality of life. From an environmental perspective, construction is both a major consumer of natural resources and a potential generator of large amounts of waste and pollution. In addition, buildings are significant users of energy, with related emissions of greenhouse gases.

With so much at stake, principles for sustainability need to be translated into buildings in order to optimize energy efficiency, safety, security, communication and sheer comfort and convenience, as well as being as accessible as possible to people regardless of age or capacities – a feature that may increasingly be required of the construction industry as a component of social responsibility. Since time immemorial, standards have been indispensable for the construction and operation of buildings. With sustainability becoming a global imperative, the trade in products and services more open and the design and construction of buildings more subject to international competition, International Standards must provide the means by which sustainable technologies and best practices can be disseminated and implemented efficiently and effectively on a global scale.

International Standards, supporting energy efficiency, environmental performance, environmental impact of building products or greenhouse gas emission accounting and verification, provide a firm foundation for designers, architects, engineers, owners, facility managers and government authorities to develop and operate sustainable buildings.

With the globalization of trade, enterprises and professionals from many different countries, accustomed to differing national or regional building codes, must increasingly work together on major construction projects. In such circumstances, globally relevant standards based on international consensus among experts in the relevant field can provide a "red thread" to guide cooperation and harmonize practice, thus promoting efficiency and safety, whilst avoiding creating unnecessary technical barriers to trade.

The open session at the 2008 ISO General Assembly will address the expectations on international standardization in this area, highlight exemplary achievements and foster new avenues for the development of ISO standards to support the incorporation of new technologies and best practices for the construction and operation of the sustainable buildings of the future.

AGENDA ITEM 13   **ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE 2009-2010 TERM**

The terms of office of the following nine Council members expire on 31 December 2008:

AFNOR (France)	MSA (Malta)
ANSI (USA)	SABS (South Africa)
DIN (Germany)	SPRING SG (Singapore)
DS (Denmark)	SUTN (Slovakia)
DSM (Malaysia)	

In accordance with clause 3.1.1 of the *Rules of Procedure* stating that five member bodies which are considered to be the largest contributors to the operations of the Organization are automatically appointed to consecutive terms on Council, **three of the outgoing Council members** appear among the five top-ranking contributors and **are** therefore **automatically appointed** for a consecutive term (2009-2010); these are AFNOR (France), ANSI (USA) and DIN (Germany).

Regarding the six remaining Council seats to be filled, member bodies were invited, by circular letter Council vote 2009 dated 7 April 2008, to submit by 7 July 2008 the names of the member bodies they wish to nominate for election to Council for the 2009-2010 term (four member bodies in group 3 and two member bodies in group 4).

At the end of the nomination period, the Secretary-General will send a letter to all member bodies, listing the ones that have been proposed and supported by at least three member bodies, not including the member body nominated.

The election as such will be held during the General Assembly under this agenda item, by means of a ballot paper that will be distributed at this point of the meeting. In this respect, member bodies' attention is drawn to the following resolution adopted by Council at its February 1996 meeting, and confirmed at its meeting in January 1999:

> *Council,*
>
> *considering that, when electing Council members, the member bodies should express their choice with respect to the Council membership as a whole and not merely in terms of their preference for some members,*
>
> *decides to strongly recommend to all member bodies that they have an obligation to exercise their right to vote for the exact number of seats to be filled within each specific group of eligible members.*
>
> (Council Resolution 08/1996)

NOTE – Any decision taken under agenda item 11.2 regarding the possible increase of the number of seats on Council will not impact this election (cf. document General Assembly 20/2008).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited to elect six Council members for the 2009-2010 term.