REPORT OF BREAKOUT SESSION 2(c)

Tools for Public Policy

June 25, 2009

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm


June 25–26, 2009
Public Policy
Key Discussion/Consensus Points

- View of ISO communications & suggested improvements?
  
  - ISO scope/mission does not include public policy role
    - Appropriate to support public policy, but not make policy
    - SR process of segmented approach unsuccessful
      - Need to use existing NSB process with broad stakeholder involvement, including government representatives
  
  - Danger: standards driving policy instead of vice versa
    - Unelected officials should not create public policy
    - Playing field uneven (EU/US imbalance)
    - Repercussions are “game-changing” and tarnish Brand
  
  - Education needed (Boundaries, Best Practices, Process, Principles)
    - Rob Steele, “Explain why you’re upset.”
  
  - PARTICIPATE! EARLY!
Public Policy
Key Discussion/Consensus Points

- View of ISO’s current policy to promote standards as tools in technical regulations?
  - Concern: ISO taking advantage of WTO TBT observer status
  - Need to enhance discussion with regulators/trade officials as well as other government representatives
  - ISO needs to better prepare NSBs (guidance)
  - Be aware of prerogatives of governments & regulators to determine what tools best meet their needs
  - Importance of Definition of Scope & Convener responsibilities