México and Latin America
US influencing the Standards
Related CBS & TS

Options for Action Summit
Gaithersburg, Maryland
July 18-19, 2006

Presented by
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México and Latin America US influencing the Standards Related CBS & TS

- Agenda
  - The Standardization and Conformity Assessment procedures in México and Latin America
  - US supporting and influencing activities
  - How the US activities are perceived
  - US opportunities to improve success influencing in the Region
Standardization and Conformity Assessment Procedures

Current Situation in the Region

- Very poor development of “National” Standards (Mandatory and Voluntary)
- Extensive use of International Standards and recommendations
- Those in WTO are afraid to “try” other standards from “new” international bodies
- Existing of Conformity Assessment Procedures according to International guides
- Lack of Test labs
- Lack of MRAs
- Lack of Standards-Related Capacity Building and Technical Support from international / regional agencies
- Countries “forced” to just follow what is done in developed countries without national infrastructure and know-how
US Supporting and Influencing activities

US Supporting and Influencing Activities
- Largest investment in Trade Capacity Building (TCB) in Latin America
  - Total Funding: $1.34 BILLION USD
  - LA & C = 39 %
  - Middle East and North Africa = 18.28 %
  - Sub-Saharan Africa = 14.81 %
  - Asia = 10.7 %
  - Former Soviet Republics = 5.97 %
  - Central & Eastern Europe = 5.46 %

- US active role in efforts to provide TCB to LDCs and Free Trade Agreements implementation

- BUT VERY LITTLE TO STANDARDS-RELATED CAPACITY BUILDING and TECHNICAL SUPPORT
How the US activities are perceived

- Current Situation in the Region
  - Main interest on TCB but very little in Standards-Related
  - Standards-Related capacity building mainly made by / or through private companies
  - Perceived “suspicious” the interest from Private companies
  - Perception of “imposing” technical standards instead to build capacity to develop and “technically understand” needs and benefits of standards
US opportunities to improve success influencing in the Region

- Closer cooperation with Standards development bodies and Authorities to train them to “develop their own National / Regional standards”
- Creation of permanent programs in coordination with local Universities, Technological Institutions, Chambers and Associations
- Adapt to local technical environment. Do not “force” introduction or adoption of new standards
- Further use of WTO and other international institutions (ISO, IEC, Codex Alimentarius, COPANT, etc) to “indirect” influence in the region
- Closer and better use of Regional and Sub regional Trade and Standardization bodies (i.e: CITEL, MERCOSUR, NAFTA, Andean Pact, COMTELCA, etc) Government to Government
THANK YOU / GRACIAS

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