OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 1.1   ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

The 2007 General Assembly will be opened by the ISO President, Mr. Håkan Murby, on **Wednesday 19 September at 09:30** at the *International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)*.

A welcome reception is organized for delegates and their accompanying persons on **Tuesday 18 September at 18:30** at the CICG. The formal invitation will be handed out upon registration in Geneva.

OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 1.2   ROLL CALL OF DELEGATES

A provisional attendance list, drawn up on the basis of information provided by the members, will be available just prior to the opening of the General Assembly.

A final attendance list will be prepared following the roll call of delegates which will be made by the Secretary-General under this agenda item.

THIRTIETH ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 19-21 September 2007

Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG)
15, rue de Varembé, 1211 Genève 20 (Switzerland), Room 1
Beginning of the first session: 09:30

Page

DRAFT AGENDA

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[1] Not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

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AGENDA ITEM 3   **TABLING OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The unconfirmed minutes of the 29th General Assembly, which was held in Ottawa (Canada) in September 2006, were circulated to the members on 19 December 2006. Comments were received from the following four member bodies: MSA (Malta), SII (Israel), TISI (Thailand) and SAZ (Zimbabwe).

The confirmed minutes of the 2006 General Assembly, including the above comments, were circulated on 24 January 2007. No member body submitted comments on the confirmed minutes.

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

The General Assembly <u>approves</u> the minutes of the 29th General Assembly held in Ottawa (Canada) in 2006, as circulated to the members of the Organization on 24 January 2007.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 4.1   GENERAL REPORT

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 Annex 1 to this document, showing developments in ISO's membership since the 2006 General Assembly. At 1 July 2007, ISO comprised 154 members distributed as follows among the three membership categories: 104 member bodies, 41 correspondent members and 9 subscriber members.

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 2006 will be circulated around mid-July 2007 and will be posted on *ISO Online* (see contents of the Report at Annex 2)*.* The Report, entitled "Discovering Planet ISO", points out that ISO International Standards as a whole constitute a toolbox for the economic growth, the environmental integrity of the planet and societal equity – in other words, for all three dimensions of sustainable development. The *ISO Annual Report 2006* explores these dimensions of "Planet ISO", mainly via a selection of the record 1 388 International Standards and standards-type documents published by ISO in 2006:

- in the economic dimension, ISO standards for products, services, materials, systems and good practice promote efficiency and effectiveness, the facilitation of trade and the dissemination of new technologies;

- ISO's 2006 total of 16 455 International Standards included more than 560 comprising a complete offering for the environmental dimension;

- in the societal dimension, ISO standards make positive contributions relating to health, safety and security. This area includes the ongoing development of ISO 26000 which gives guidance for social responsibility, and ISO's development initiatives, such as the *ISO Five-Year Action Plan for Developing Countries.*

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 2007) 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 2006 calendar year, with regard to both its substance and its presentation.

AGENDA ITEM 4.1

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

TO THE ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Geneva,

SEPTEMBER 2007

Distinguished guests,
ISO officers,
ISO members,
Friends and colleagues,

I have the pleasure to welcome you to Geneva for this 2007 General Assembly, the 30th meeting since our first formal General Assembly in Paris in 1949, nearly 60 years ago. In this span of time, as you will realize throughout the week, Geneva has become the No.1 hub for international cooperation and action for sustainable development, the imperative we must now all strive for. Indeed, numerous international governmental and non-governmental organizations based in or around Geneva contribute to providing the political framework, as well as to designing and promoting the technical solutions and building the necessary partnerships for a planet in danger. ISO is at the heart of this international hub.

Our subsequent agenda addresses many of ISO's recent developments and achievements. After briefly highlighting some major developments on the world scene since our last General Assembly in Ottawa, I have therefore elected to focus my report on four aspects of our recent achievements which contribute to making the ISO System an increasingly attractive platform for the development of globally and market relevant International Standards:

– our contribution to assisting our members to make the best of their membership in ISO, so that they, in turn, can better serve their national stakeholders;

– consolidating and expanding ISO's international network;

– addressing and promoting ISO's broadening scope and the increasing production of International Standards;

– modernizing and securing the foundations of the ISO System.

1   The world scene: the imperative of sustainable development

The list of events held in 2006 and 2007 where the imperative and modalities of a sustainable development for the planet and its inhabitants have been

addressed by world leaders is impressive, with the response to climate change now being a recognized top priority: the UN General Assembly last September and more recently the 15th session of its Commission on Sustainable Development, the 2007 Session of the World Economic Forum in Davos (Switzerland), the G8 Meeting in Heiligendamm (Germany), the OECD Forum on "innovation, growth and equity", the US-EU Summit, the APEC or the ASEAN Leaders Summit, to cite prominent ones. In all these meetings, the need for international standards was highlighted as major tools to transform political will and international commitment into concrete actions by all stakeholders for the dissemination of new technologies, as well as good practices for business and public governance.

Whereas much focus is being given to the alleviation of poverty, the fight against pandemics, the prevention of natural disasters or the reduction of the digital divide, some economic growth has been achieved in 2006 in most countries with a world average of +5% on Gross National Income, with spectacular performances of the new giant economies emerging from the developing world (more than +10%), which, not surprisingly, wish to be more active in ISO. The development and facilitation of world trade in products and services is clearly an element of this growth, and much is expected from a positive conclusion of the current Doha Round of negotiations in the context of the WTO. But this growth obviously creates tensions on the supply of energy, the control of pollution from additional economic activities and the availability of essential resources such as water and raw materials. The development of national and regional programmes, and of international cooperation, to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources is being accelerated and we are dedicating an agenda item (9.3) to ISO's contribution.

Finally, some new technologies are revolutionizing many industrial and service sectors, as well as the life of the "citizens" of the global village, whom we have placed at the center of our World Standards Day 2007. Every day, we can indeed witness new applications, and implications, of information and communication technologies and of bio- and nano-technologies.

Our International Standards development process does take these trends into account, as reflected in our 2006 Annual Report which I encourage you to use as a promotional tool and on which I welcome your comments.

2   Making the best of being a member of ISO

The membership of ISO at 1 July stands at 155 members, of which 104 are member bodies, 42 correspondent members and 9 subscriber members, similar to last year's level of membership and 12 more than in 2003. I am particularly pleased to extend our welcome to the ISO family to the standards bodies of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and of Montenegro and to congratulate the standards bodies of Lebanon and Peru for their upgrade of membership since the last General Assembly. These are developing countries, as many other ISO members: I will report later in the agenda on the progress made in implementing the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries*, under the monitoring of DEVCO.

The efficiency and global relevance of the ISO System is primarily dependent on the strength, influence and dynamism of its national members. Many of our members have recently reviewed their strategies and legislative framework and their positioning in the broader national and global "quality infrastructure". All have emphasized the need to get more involved in and knowledgeable about international standardization. As I have seen myself on the occasion of some 90 individual visits I have made so far to ISO members, their stakeholders, political authorities and the media are putting pressure on them to take an active part in the development of ISO deliverables. Together with the other ISO Officers, I have taken my share in promoting the benefits of the ISO System to them.

As a priority, we develop actions and tools to assist ISO members in playing their role efficiently as the gateway to international standardization for their national stakeholders. Some examples of recent actions include:

– the publication of an *information document giving guidance on the use and referencing of ISO and IEC standards in regulations*;

– the *training and assistance programmes* we have developed to facilitate the use of the IT tools supporting the ISO System, as well as their "cloning" (for their use) at national level. I insisted last year on the importance of the *ISO Global Directory*, as a single sign-on to the ISO electronic services, facilitating access to all ISO applications and enabling control by our members of their national participation. We have held 22 training sessions, involving 204 trainees, and therefore much progress has been made. But we are still missing the active involvement of 23% of the ISO members concerned;

– the development of a *specific document distribution service* to enable our members to feed ISO documents automatically in their National Mirror Committees operated electronically (the *"NMC server"*);

– the development and revamping of our Web sites, with the new *ISO Online* and its "Members portal", leading to more specialized areas, such as the new *"Marketing and Communication" Web site*, that I encourage you to use extensively;

– the high level of quality of our two magazines*, ISO Focus* and *ISO Management Systems*. We have decided to increase the free circulation of *ISO Focus* to our members and we encourage its use both as a promotional tool and as pedagogical material;

– the creation of the *ISO Award for Higher Education in Standardization,* with the support of JISC, which we present for the first time during this General Assembly. This award is an opportunity for our members to raise awareness of their academia, benchmark with other countries and promote initiatives for the inclusion of standardization in technical, management, commercial and legal curricula;

– the development and implementation of the *Guidelines for the reinforcement of the protection of copyright in ISO Standards and national adoptions thereof*, for which the active involvement of our members is indispensable;

- the consolidation of an *Action Plan for the involvement of consumers' interests in standardization*, including some recommendations made by COPOLCO and which your Council will examine at its meeting later this week;

- our progress concerning our *language policy*, which is another way to address the diversity of our membership. We have reviewed our policy for the production of official translations of ISO deliverables in non official languages and I am happy to report that two *Translation Management Groups* have been set up respectively for Spanish and Arabic, and I take this opportunity to thank AENOR and EOS for taking on their secretariats. Our member for the Russian Federation, GOST-R, has decided to partner with the ISO Central Secretariat to post *Russian versions* of ISO standards and other deliverables on the ISOSTD[1] Server, starting with the most frequently used ISO standards. We are closely following the initiatives taken by AFNOR, SCC and their colleagues from *the francophone community* to reinforce their collaboration and increase their involvement in ISO.

3 Consolidating and expanding ISO's international network

Following the network of national members, ISO's international and regional network, together with the contributions of experts in our Technical Committees, is its second biggest asset for the quality of the content and of the consensus on which ISO standards are based, as well as for their actual and global take up by the stakeholders.

I will expand later in the agenda on our relations with the UN and related Agencies, as well with WTO, ITU, IEC and the 685 other organizations in cooperation with ISO. At this stage, I would like to report a recent exchange I had with the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, on the topicality of putting the relations between the UN and the ISO systems in a strategic perspective. ISO is, and must remain, a non-governmental international organization. But, due to the globalization of many issues, the links between public policies and international standards are growing, and we will elaborate on this trend during our open session.

We have also placed particular emphasis on our relations with international groupings and meetings of stakeholders. Our participation this year in the World Economic Forum, in the OECD Forum, in the annual meeting of the American Society for Quality, in the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit or, soon, in the World Energy Congress are examples of reaching out to economic and political leaders. The MoUs we have signed with the WBCSD[2] and the WRI[3] on climate change are other illustrations of the expansion of our international networking. Our partnering with the International Energy Agency and the World Energy Council (cf. item 9.3), as well as the initiatives in COPOLCO towards the fair trade movement or the involvement of societal

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[1] ISOSTD : ISO Standards and Publications Server

[2] WBCSD: World Business Council for Sustainable Development

[3] WRI: World Resources Institute

NGOs in our Working Group on Social responsibility should also be mentioned here.

It is important that our members liaise with the national members or interfaces of these international partners, as this will at the same time contribute to enhancing their national stature and facilitate collaboration at the international level. Our new database of organizations in cooperation with ISO should facilitate this networking.

4 Addressing and promoting ISO's broadening scope and increasing production

The production of ISO standards and other deliverables reached an all-time high of 1 388 in 2006. This is due to the increased interest in fields already covered and in the emergence of new work areas, and to the reduction of processing times. In 2006, the average processing time from initiation of work to the publication of the corresponding ISO deliverable was 34 months, the first time ever under three years.

Council has decided on a more proactive attitude in relation to innovative fields for standardization, which will be addressed later in the agenda. But a quick look at the technical committees recently created under the normal "bottom-up approach" demonstrates that the pressure is strong for ISO to enter new areas.

Progressively, we are proposing comprehensive "clusters" of complementary deliverables addressing a whole sector or broad issue. This is the case for example for:

- *quality management*, with the ISO 9000 series which is celebrating its 20th anniversary and which we regularly update and complement;
- *environmental management and climate change*, with the ISO 14000 series, just over ten years old and recently complemented by ISO 14064 and 14065 on Greenhouse gases accounting and verification;
- *food safety management*, with the ISO 22000 series, to which we have just added ISO 22005 on traceability management;
- *IT quality and security*, with our successful standards on IT security management, ISO 27001, and on IT services, ISO 20000;
- *security*, with our corresponding Strategic Advisory Group, which associates IEC and ITU, our TC 223 on Societal Security and our ISO 28000 series on security management in the supply chain;
- *healthcare,* with a broad collection of standards covering the quality, safety and clinical assessment of medical devices and dental products, clinical laboratories, risk assessment, as well as health informatics and the support to telemedicine;
- *conformity assessment*, with a "CASCO toolbox" already quite comprehensive and vastly referenced and used across the world, for which we have undertaken to review ISO/IEC Guide 65 on product certification, to become eventually ISO/IEC 17065, of major interest

worldwide to millions of companies and thousands of certification bodies and testing laboratories, amongst which many ISO members.

We are also addressing the emergence of standards operated as databases, which require adjustments in our development procedures, as well as specific IT tools for their development and dissemination, currently underway. We have added public information symbols to our standard on graphical symbols. We are well underway with the major project of a database of all terms and definitions contained in ISO standards, in partnership with some member bodies, in particular with SAC (China) to make it eventually multilingual.

5   Modernizing and securing the foundations of the ISO System

In addition to our members, our international network, and the numerous experts which contribute to the content of our standards, the ISO Central Secretariat is the fourth pillar of our foundations. We have indeed made significant progress in ensuring its sustainability and efficiency.

The Treasurer will report on our financial results, now sustainably positive, four years after three successive deficits, thus enabling a regular decrease in the monetary value of the subscription unit, bearing in mind inflation. He will also expand on the reflection conducted by Council, and its orientations, in relation to our medium-term financial perspectives. The fiscal agreement which we have concluded with the Swiss Authorities brings an additional element of financial performance. It has clearly assisted in enabling that the grouping of operations in new and modern premises be done without drawing from the General Fund. On the contrary, this Fund has been refurbished.

I would like to end this report by paying tribute to the staff of the ISO Central Secretariat. They have greatly contributed to the success of our move to new premises. After some re-engineering in 2003 and 2004, resulting in a reduction of 8%, we have not increased the number of staff in the past three years. This means that our staff has readily adjusted to the increased efficiency, scope and networking which is reflected in the increase in our production and in the services we provide to our members and partners. Our 154 full-time equivalent staff are composed of 23 nationalities. 38% have been less than five years with the Organization, which shows a significant renewal. The new recruited staff suited to the evolution of the tasks of the Central Secretariat. We are accompanying the evolution of our activities and working methods by a sustained training programme and communication.

With the management team, the ISO/CS staff is determined to bring their contribution to consolidating the ISO System as the world leader for the development of globally relevant International Standards, thus serving the ISO membership, their stakeholders and contributing positively to society at large.

Alan Bryden

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ISO MEMBERSHIP SINCE THE 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (situation at 1 July)

At 1 July 2007, the **total ISO membership** stands at 154 (comprising 104 member bodies, 41 correspondent members, and 9 subscriber members).

Since the last General Assembly in September 2006, the following changes have taken place in the membership:

a)   Member bodies

- **New member body**

  — ISS (Serbia) has been admitted as a member body further to the separation of Serbia and Montenegro into two independent states and the consequential disbandment of ISSM, the then standards body for Serbia and Montenegro.

- **Changes in membership status**

  — INDECOPI (Peru) and LIBNOR (Lebanon) have been upgraded from correspondent members to member bodies.

- **Transfers of membership**

  — The ISO membership for Belgium has been transferred from the *Institut belge de normalisation (IBN)* to the *Bureau de Normalisation de la Belgique (NBN)*;

  — The ISO membership for Bosnia and Herzegovina has been transferred from the Institute for Standards, Metrology and Intellectual Property of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BASMP) to the Institute for Standardization of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BAS);

  — The ISO membership for Bulgaria has been transferred from the governmental to the non-governmental Bulgarian Institute for Standardization (BDS);

- **Reinstatements after suspension**

  — BPS (Philippines) and OCC (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) – suspended for non-payment of their dues in arrears – were reinstated in January and February 2007 respectively, after payment.

b)   Correspondent members

- **Reinstatements after withdrawal**

  — CDNQ (Cameroon) and CSN (Togo) – withdrawn for non-payment of their dues in arrears – were reinstated in November 2006 and February 2007 respectively, after payment.

- **Withdrawals from membership**

  — To date, DNQM (Niger), DSNPQ (Guinea-Bissau), INNM (Guinea) and MLIDNI (Mali) remain withdrawn due to non-payment of their dues in arrears.

c) Subscriber members

- **New subscriber member**

  — DISM (Lao People's Democratic Rep.) has been admitted as a subscriber member.

- **Withdrawal from membership**

  — To date, GDBS (Grenada) remains withdrawn due to non-payment of its dues in arrears.

d) Negotiations on new memberships

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

Congo, Rep. of
Mauritania
Sierra Leone
Suriname
Timor Leste

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ISO
and international
standardization

ISO is the International Organization for Standardization. It has a membership of 156* national standards institutes from countries large and small, industrialized and developing, in all regions of the world. ISO develops voluntary technical standards which add value to all types of business operations. They contribute to the dissemination of technology and making the development, manufacturing and supply of products and services more efficient, safer and cleaner.
They make trade between countries easier and fairer. ISO standards also safeguard users and consumers, and make many aspects of their lives simpler.

ISO develops only those standards that are required by the market. This work is carried out by experts coming from the industrial, technical and business sectors which have asked for the standards, and which subsequently put them to use. These experts may be joined by others with relevant knowledge, such as representatives of government agencies, consumer organizations, academia and testing laboratories.

Published under the designation of International Standards, ISO standards represent an international consensus on the state of the art in the technology or good practice concerned.

* As of May 2007.

Contents

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 4.2   REGIONAL COOPERATION

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 current membership of each of these bodies is set out at Annex 1. This report gives the highlights of ISO's relations with those bodies since the 2006 General Assembly.

1   ACCSQ (ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality)

Organized in the framework of ISO's collaboration with ACCSQ and developed with the Austrian Standards Institute (ON), a two-day training course on Marketing and Promotion on International Standards was hosted by the Indonesian standards body (BSN) on 14-15 November 2006. The training was conducted by the ISO/CS Director, Marketing and Sales and by ON's Head of Sales and Services, and attended by some 30 participants.

The Secretary-General will attend the 30th ACCSQ meeting to be held in Manila (Philippines) on 6-8 August 2007. In conjunction with this meeting, a regional workshop on social responsibility is organized by ISO in cooperation with ACCSQ (9-10 August).

The report submitted by ACCSQ is attached at Annex 2.

2   AIDMO (Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization)

Mr. Mohamed Binyousef took office as Director General of AIDMO in November 2006. He succeeded in this position Mr. Talaat Al Dafer.

The report submitted by AIDMO is attached at Annex 3.

3   ARSO (African Regional Organization for Standardization)

The President represented ISO at the 15th ARSO General Assembly held on 1-2 February 2007 in Dakar (Senegal) where he made a presentation on *ISO and the challenges facing the world community*. On this occasion, he recalled the particular attention paid by ISO to the role of standardization in the development of Africa, and underlined the importance of raising awareness and building capacity for development efforts to succeed.

The report submitted by CEN is attached at Annex 4.

4   CEN (European Committee for Standardization)

At the 33rd CEN Ordinary General Assembly which took place in Lemesos (Cyprus) on 28 June 2007, ISO was represented by its President who underlined, *inter alia*, the hope that the Future Landscape of European Standardization (FLES) exercise would lead to an increased European contribution to international standardization and to ISO's own collaborative efforts with IEC and ITU in the context of the World Standards Cooperation (WSC).

At the technical level, ISO/CEN cooperation is governed by the Vienna Agreement, a new version of which was approved in 2001, together with revised *Guidelines for the implementation of the Vienna Agreement.*

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The implementation of the agreement is monitored by the ISO/CEN Joint Coordination Group of the Technical (Management) Boards (JCG) which meets annually and reviews the status of implementation of the agreement, as well as address particular technical coordination issues or matters relating to the general principles of the Vienna Agreement.

At its meeting in June 2007, the JCG was informed of the deliberations in ISO aimed at simplifying the naming of ISO deliverables and of the study initiated by ISO and IEC concerning a possible change in policy with regard to the decimal marker used in International Standards. CEN reported on its experience and market feedback with respect to the automatic consolidation of amendments in European Standards and on a procedure which had been elaborated for managing claims of defects in European Standards. The JCG also noted that review of EN ISO standards would be needed in the light of the revision of the European Union Machinery Safety Directive. In addition, there was an exchange of views on the subject of standardization of biofuels where there was general agreement that, despite the political imperative caused by the establishment of tri-partite groups of experts from Brazil, EU and USA, the preparation of International Standards should be carried out within ISO.

The report submitted by CEN is attached at Annex 5.

5   COPANT (Panamerican Standards Commission)

The Vice-President (policy) represented ISO at COPANT's 2007 General Assembly held in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) on 23-24 April.

This year, COPANT and PASC held their annual meetings back to back in the same city with a one-day COPANT-PASC joint meeting (see item 7 hereafter).

ISO will organize, in collaboration with COPANT, a regional workshop devoted to social responsibility in La Paz (Bolivia) on 10-11 October 2007.

The report submitted by COPANT is attached at Annex 6.

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

The 31st EASC Jubilee Meeting took place on 6-8 June 2007 in Duchanbe (Tajikistan) where the President represented ISO. He addressed the 15th Anniversary Conference, held in the framework of the Jubilee Meeting, on ISO's contributions to innovation and deregulation.

The report submitted by EASC is attached at Annex 7.

7   PASC (Pacific Area Standards Congress)

It is recalled that at the 29th General Assembly in Ottawa, ISO and PASC signed a cooperation agreement aiming to strengthen collaboration between regional and international standardization activities in the Asia Pacific region. This agreement was signed after the recognition by Council of PASC as the regional standards organization for the Pacific region, under the terms of Council Resolution 26/1992 (Council Resolution 29/2006).

On 26-27 April 2007, the President attended PASC 30 in Cartagena de Indias. On that occasion, he had a meeting with IEC President Renzo Tani to exchange views on the ISO/IEC cooperation.

ISO's message at the COPANT-PASC Joint Meeting held on 25 April was delivered as follows:

- by the President, on the highlights of ISO since the 2006 General Assembly, key issues to be addressed by Council during 2007, and progress in the framework of the World Standardization Cooperation (WSC);

- by the Vice-President (policy), on ISO's initiatives in innovative fields (pilot project on energy efficiency and renewable sources);

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- by the Secretary-General, on topical issues in ISO of interest to COPANT and PASC members, including actions in favour of developing countries.

The report submitted by PASC is attached at Annex 8.

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

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 Regional 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	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Turkey
Croatia		

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

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REPORT OF
ASEAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND QUALITY (ACCSQ)
AT ISO GENERAL ASSESSEMBLY
19-21 September 2007, Geneva

With tariff reduction implemented, non-tariff barriers such as different technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment could impede the seamless flow of ASEAN trade. ASEAN Cooperation on Standards and Conformance continues progressing in harmonizing standards, technical regulations and implementing Mutual Recognition Arrangements on Conformity Assessment.

A monitoring Mechanism has been developed to monitor the implementation of the ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Standards and Conformance which was endorsed by ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) in September 2005.

The ASEAN Sectoral MRA on Electrical and Electronic Equipment has been well operated with the listing of 13 testing laboratories and 1 certification body. This contributes to the realization of a single regulatory regime for electrical and electronic sectors in ASEAN by 2011.

Continuous efforts have been taken for the implementation of the ASEAN Common Technical Dossiers (ACTD) and ASEAN Common Technical Requirements (ACTR) for pharmaceutical/medicinal products by 31 December 2008. The ASEAN Sectoral MRA for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Inspection of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products has been finalized.

There has been very encouraging progress towards the establishment of a single regulatory scheme for cosmetics in the region by 1st January 2008. Majority of technical preparations have now been established at regional level. Member countries are also putting tremendous efforts to ensure that their national infrastructure will be ready by timeframe.

A common submission dossier template (CSDT) for medical device approval in ASEAN has been established. As the first step, a pilot programme is being conducted to evaluate the system before Regulatory Authorities in ASEAN can adopt it for implementation in the region.

In addition to the establishment of ASEAN Reference Testing Laboratories and development of ASEAN Common Food Control requirements, the establishment of ASEAN Food Safety Forum is under consideration.

Substantive work on harmonization of technical requirements/regulations is being taken in other various sectors such as automotive, wood-based, rubber-based, traditional medicines and health supplements to facilitate the regional trade integration by 2010.

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AIDMO's Report to the
Thirtieth ISO General Assembly
Geneva, 19-21 September 2007.

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 are working to develop and update 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, technolgical and economical activity. Also, 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 and protecting the industrial environment ").

We all appreciate your support for our region by the acceptance of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to host the thirty first ISO General

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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.

Our new strategy for issuing unified Arab standards is based on the adoption of the International ones in its original language, issued so far 3427 standards (In addition to 1403 International standards to be ratified in its original language 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 reingineered 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. Also we appreciate our fruitful cooperation with ISO DEVCO which resulted in the execution of several technical assistance seminars and workshops for this year in different issues, namely:

- Awareness raising seminar on ISO 22000,
- ISO 14040 Workshop,
- Enhanced participation course,
- Regional workshop on Social Responsibility,
- CASCO/DEVCO Workshop,
- Marketing and promotion course,
- CASCO tool box.

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- 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.

- The Ministerial Council for AIDMO issued a decree (Number 337), which confirms the importance for the presence of 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 September 2007. 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.

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

**ARSO PRESENTATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE
THIRTIETH (30) ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
GENEVA, SWIRTZERLAND, 19-21 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**BY
DAMIAN UDENNA AGBANELO
SECRETARY GENERAL, ARSO**

On this occasion of the 30th ISO General Assembly, 17-21 September 2007, Geneva, Switzerland, ISO celebrates, again, another milestone in its contributions to the well-being of the individual and his/her society.

African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) presents its compliments to ISO on this occasion, commends this distinguished audience and urges all participants to optimise the opportunity of this forum.

Coming from the continent of Africa, having experienced, as ARSO Secretary General, the dynamic challenges of standardisation in Africa, for optimum socio-economic benefit, I wish to commend the Management of ISO plan of Action for Developing Countries 2005-2010 for its co-operation with ARSO pursuant to improving, for instance:
  - standardisation awareness and participation
  - standards use in business
  - intra-African and global trade
  - consumer protection
  - political support.

Improvement on these economic indices is fundamental to positively impacting on United Nations Millennium Development (MDG) and fierce challenges of WTO/TBT and SPS Agreements.

Noteworthy also is the personal commitments of the ISO Presidents (post and present) and the current ISO Secretary General, Mr. Alan Bryden towards development and realisation of standardisation benefits and support in Africa.

ISO/ARSO partnership is healthy for African Standardisation co-ordinated by ARSO.

Pursuant to its development and purpose objectives, ARSO accomplished the following within the period under review:

- Database on prioritised human resources and infrastructure development needs of African Standardisation – resultant of Sida sponsored ARSO-SIS Planning Session on Capacity Development of African Standardisation, Stockholm, Sweden, Nov./Dec. 2006.

- Train- the-trainers Training Model for Capacity Development in standards-led economic growth:

    - 52 ARSO Pilot Trainers and 20 ARSO Certified Trainers in 2007 in partnership with Swedish Standards Institute (SIS)

    - 1 Strategic leadership training in Standardisation for Chief Executives of ARSO member States in 2007.

- Improved awareness on the necessity for conducive standards-regulatory environment in Africa, to facilitate adoption of Reference to Standards Principle in Africa and International Model for technical harmonisation.
    - Participation of regulatory Agencies in ARSO workshop on Standards, Consumer Protection and Health, Kenya 2006.
    - Database on product Conformity Assessment programmes of AU member States, their varied socio-economic benefits and problems in Africa as guide to developing continental harmonised procedures for the application of "one-stop-shop" principle in order to optimize ports operations and facilitate trade.

- Improved Political support:
    - AU through its Department of Trade and Industry of Commission of African Union (AUC) chairs ARSO Advisory Committee on Competitive Tools (AACCTs).

    - ARSO is participant/represented in United Nations Regional Consultation (Africa) Industry, Trade and Market Access (ITMA) Cluster inaugurated in Vienna, Austria, May 2007.

    - Lack of common quality level is the greatest hindrances to intra-Africa Trade - observation of the 17th Conference of African Union Ministers of Industry Cairo, Egypt 2006 (CAMI 17) and resulting resolution 3 of CAMI 17:

    " We reiterate the commitments of our governments and call on our development partners to urgently strengthen African Standardisation and Conformity Assessment infrastructure and increase standards harmonisation in Africa, both at the national, regional and continental levels, based on UNIDO recognized experience in Africa (i.e. UEMOA quality programme..). This should be done in co-operation with regional and international technical agencies, such as ARSO, ISO, ILAC, IAF, and OIML".
    -

ISO Secretary General, Mr. Alan Bryden, President of Egyptian Organisation for Standardisation and Quality (EOS) Dr. Eng. Mahmoud Eisa and ARSO Secretary General participated in CAMI 17 as resources persons.

- Greater stakeholder participation and perception of ARSO standardisation Co-ordination.

  - Improved ARSO-African sub-regional economic communities (RECs') co-operation in standardisation.
  - Commission of African Union (AUC) participation in ARSO organised Expert Group Work on evolution of African Standards Harmonisation Model (ASHAM), Egypt 2007.

- Revised ARSO Constitution 2007 endorsed by member States and ratified by ARSO General Assembly, Dakar, Senegal 2007.
  - The ARSO Constitution 2007 formally acknowledged by and deposited with the Legal Department of the AUC.

- Draft African Standards Harmonisation Model (ASHAM) for consideration and ratification by 16th ARSO General Assembly, November 2007 in Sudan
  - includes draft consensus model for RECs standards harmonisation.
  - adoption of international standards by AU members States will no doubt facilitate ARSO harmonisation programmes.

These modest contributions by ARSO towards improving market access and consumer protection in Africa were accomplished with co-operation of donor agencies and technical partners.

Thank you for the audience.

CEN's Contribution to the ISO AG 2007

Dear ISO Colleagues,

It is my pleasure, as CEN President, to present to you the achievements of our organization since the ISO Ottawa meeting last year.

This contribution – which was prepared at the beginning of June – will be complemented by our Secretary General at the ISO AG itself as important decisions, of interest for ISO, are due to be taken during the CEN AG at the end of the month.

 I refer here explicitly to decisions related to:

- the exercise, running for two years now in CEN and CENELEC, regarding to the *Future Landscape of the European Standardization*; and

- the project relating to new definitions and rules for CEN Affiliates and Partner Standardization Bodies

At this time in the year, I can, however, report on some other areas and give some updates which will not change before the ISO AG 2007. These concern:

- the adoption of the updated CEN Strategy 2010, the full text of which is available on the CEN website. The key objectives are:

    1. Promoting the development of a coherent European Standardization System.

    2. Ensuring a business-like approach within CEN, together with an effective marketing strategy, to strengthen the provision of services to customers and to improve the visibility of the CEN Standardization System.

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3. Providing customers with timely and market relevant products and services which meet their needs, whilst upholding the values of openness, transparency and consensus.

4. Securing stable financing for the CEN Standardization System and the CMC in order to enable CEN to concentrate on its primary objective of developing European Standards.

5. Developing effective relations with the EC and EFTA in order to promote and reinforce the role of European standardization as a tool for supporting European policies and for simplifying legislation in Europe.

6. Being the recognized provider of European Standards relating to Conformity Assessment and promoting a European mark of conformity.

7. Reviewing the corporate governance structures with a view to facilitating the decision-making processes and ensuring effective policy making within CEN.

8. Being open to partnerships for the efficient development of European Standards, ensuring a close collaboration with international partner organizations.

Linked to the last objective, I am pleased to mention:

- the good level of the technical cooperation between our organizations, through the well-known Vienna Agreement. It is now a routine which is well-oiled and under control. However its use depends on the environment of given sectors, hence the various results.

- the cooperation in the IT field between the central offices in Brussels and Geneva which has successfully progressed over the last years. As a result, common CEN and ISO members benefit from similar electronic tools to support the standards development process and a common HelpDesk. Following on from the introduction of the Livelink collaborative tools a few years ago, these tools have been further developed with the progressive roll-out of e-Balloting facilities for all the types of votes, on standards or for strategic decisions by our Governance Bodies. CEN is now working – with the support of ISO - on the integration of the CEN Global Directory with the above-mentioned tools, following closely the strategy of ISO. The CEN Members also have high expectations in the development of the future NMC – National Mirror Committees – project, one of the leading projects currently in progress at ISO.

- In the technical field, I am proud to highlight that CEN's annual production in 2006 reached a record with some 1,472 deliverables (including amendments) of which 1,287 were ENs. We are even more proud of the production time for ENs which is now, similarly to ISO, less that 36 months. CEN has noted the recent ISO/TMB Resolution on deliverable nomenclature, and the fact that ISO will be discussing alignment with us and other standards bodies. In CEN we are making increasing use of the open Workshop mechanism (the end of 2007 is likely to see our 100th Workshop), but also the use of Technical Specifications in our traditional TCs is increasing gradually. We would welcome any moves to simplify the nomenclature, although we must continue to be very clear that the different delivery mechanisms exist. We look forward to considering further in CEN and with ISO how we can align as far as possible.

In addition to the above, it is worth mentioning to the ISO community that CEN has strengthened its cooperation with other regional organizations. We have concluded agreements with GSO and SADACSTAN, so permitting the reciprocal exchange of information, the possibility to participate in CEN work etc

We have also developed links through the so-called Regulatory Dialogues conducted between the European Union and third countries' governments and the NSBs of countries such as Russia, Japan, US, China,…

All the above, permits me to say that our relations can be rated "excellent" and you can count on me and your CEN colleagues to maintain this level in the future

I wish you a successful meeting and thank you.

Juan Carlos López Agüí
CEN President

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COPANT

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

PAN AMERICAN STANDARDS COMMISSION – COPANT

REPORT TO 30TH ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY – GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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 2007	- Held in Cartagena de las Indias, Colombia on April 23 and 24, 2006 - Joint meeting with the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) on April 25, 2007 - Peter Clark, SCC (Canada) took over as COPANT President in April 81 delegates, including invitees as well as observers from the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC). Delegates represented 21 or 26 COPANT member bodies and 3 adherent members (France, Spain and South Africa). As well, there were representatives from ISO (the ISO Secretary General), IEC, CEN/CENELEC-ETSI, AMN, RAN, PASC and CANENA

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

Some Highlights of 2006-2007	• Board of Directors held 3 meetings: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (December 2006), Cartagena de las Indias (April 2007 – two meetings)
	• Approved four new COPANT standards produced by two committees: accessibility and energy efficiency
	• Capacity building - Peer Assessor Workshop (Conformity Assessment). a workshop ISO/COPANT/UNIT on the Role of NSB in the discussion and diffusion of ISO 26000 on Social Responsibility
	• INTECO Executive Director (Costa Rica) named leader of the Affiliate Program at IEC
	• Establishment of a COPANT/TAG group on Fire Protection
	• Nomination of Members to ISO Spanish Translation: Colombia, Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Venezuela and Cuba Call to participate in the Tourism Committee as well as the Spanish Translation Groups.
	• TMC Approved 2 Documents:
	• Thanks AENOR for its support over last 20 years

Documents & Standards Approved 2006-2007	Technical Management Commission: • Procedure of Adoption of International Standards Approved
	• Criteria for the Preparation, Presentation and Inclusion of New Items
	• Intra-Regional Cooperation
	Technical Committees: • CT 152 - COPANT 1707:2006 – July 2006 Energy Efficiency. Refrigerators, Freezers And Combined Household Appliances. Specifications and Labelling
	• CT 152 – COPANT 1708:2006 – July 2006 Energy Efficiency. Incandescent Lamps for Domestic and Similar Purposes. Specifications and Labelling
	• CT 143 – COPANT 1705:2006 – NOV 2006 Accessibility of the Persons to the Physical Environment. Buildings. Accessible Doors
	• CT 143 – COPANT 1706:2006 – Nov 2006 Accessibility of the Persons to the Physical Environment. Buildings. Hygienic Accessible Services

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Panamerican Standards Commission
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Training 2006-2007	• ISO/IEC/ITU course for future NSB Managers 2006 - Argentina • ISO Global Directory 2006 – Argentina • ISO/COPANT/UNIT 2006 Seminar on SR – Uruguay • IECEE Peer Assessors 2006 – USA • Conformity Assessment Workshop 2006 – Cuba

Participation in International and Regional Initiatives 2006-2007	• Spanish Translation Task Force: ISO/TC 207 STTF, ISO/TC 176 STTG and ISO/CASCO STWG – 2006 Venezuela, 2007 South Korea & Mexico • ISO TMB WG Social Responsibility – 2006 Portugal, 2007 Australia • ISO GA 2006 – Canada • CEN/ELEC 2006 – Greece • IEC AGM 2006– Germany • PASC 2006 – South Africa • IAAC 2006 – Argentina • COPOLCO 2007 – Brazil

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

Strategic Plan	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:
	• Evaluate holding a workshop on the application of tools for conformity assessment in the tourism sector, and
	• Evaluate holding a workshop on benchmarking for standardization and conformity assessment work of the NSBs
	• Propose create conformity assessment toolbox

President's Priorities	• Improve efficiency and effectiveness of meetings to focus on strategically important issues
	• Outreach to all members – improve relevancy and provide value
	• Capacity building – sound planning and financing
	• Use of Technical committees – as regional discussion groups for ISO and IEC to enhance participation and build expertise in ISO ad IEC initiatives

Next General Assembly of COPANT	• Buenos Aires, Argentina - May 5 to 8, 2008

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EURO-ASIAN COUNCIL FOR STANDARDIZATION, METROLOGY AND CERTIFICATION (EASC) – 15 YEARS OF INTEGRATION

In March 2007, the EASC celebrated the 15th anniversary of its creation.

This event was marked by a symposium and the EASC 31st session that were held on 6-8 June 2007 in Dushanbe (Tajikistan).

These two events summed up the results of the EASC activities during this period and outlined further developments of regional standardization metrology and conformity assessment at the new level of integration between Member States.

The EASC coordinates work and proposes decisions on the agreed policy in the field of standardization, metrology and conformity assessment.

National bodies on standardization, metrology and conformity assessment of the CIS[1] States, scientific and technical commissions and interstate technical committees on standardization determine the EASC technical policy.

The legal foundation comprises the Agreement of 13 March 2000 concerning the implementation of a coordinated policy in the field of standardization, metrology and certification, the Protocol of 20 June 2000 to this Agreement and a few other agreements signed by the Heads of Government of the CIS States, as well as agreements concluded within the framework of the EASC between national bodies on standardization, metrology and certification.

The EASC is managed on a rotation basis by the heads of national standardization, metrology and conformity assessment bodies.

The Executive Secretary is appointed by the heads of national bodies.

Decisions falling within the EASC's field of competence are taken during the sessions of the Council and are consensus-based. The sessions are held twice a year.

Six scientific and technical commissions, three working groups, and over 260 interstate technical committees for standardization carry out regular activities within the EASC.

Representatives of international and European organizations for standardization, metrology and acknowledgement of conformity and many concerned national organizations take part in the activities of the EASC.

The EASC is a multidisciplinary regional organization with the following major activities**:**

− development of normative documents on standardization, including interstate standards, regulations, recommendations and classifiers;

− creation, maintenance and running of a collection of interstate standards and provision of said standards to the EASC Member States;

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

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[1] CIS: Commonwealth of Independent States

− running of the interstate time and frequencies service;

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

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

− development of regulations and procedures concerning mutual recognition of the accredited laboratories (centers) responsible for verification, testing, calibration and measurement, as well as certification bodies, product certificates and quality management systems;

− international cooperation in the field of regional standardization, metrology, certification and quality.

EASC activities are aimed at improving the quality and competitiveness of products produced in the CIS States, at ensuring the security of life and health of citizens, 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 the field of standardization, EASC cooperates with international and regional organizations on standardization: ISO, IEC, CEN, CENELEC.

Since 2005, EASC has provided ISO, IEC and CEN with an English language version of the regional standards catalogue, on an annual basis.

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 thus ensuring the free movement of goods and services. These priorities constitute a basis for future 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 the interstate standardization system (GOST 1.0 - GOST 1.5) and adopted at the EASC sessions or by correspondence.

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

At present, the average level of harmonization of the adopted interstate standards with International Standards exceeds 45 %.

The introduction of the Russian language electronic version of the International Standards in the ISO server, launched in June 2007, should stimulate their application.

The existing collection of interstate standards covers 20 453 normative documents, including by sectors:

Mechanical engineering	5 882
Metallurgy	1 688
Agriculture and food industry	1 736
Building materials and products	451
Chemical industry	2 869
Electrical engineering, radio electronics, communication	3 049
Forest and woodworking industry	603
Light industry products	1 231
Other	2 944

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In order to improve information flows for the EASC Member States concerning standardization, metrology and conformity assessment, «The CIS Standard» information retrieval system covering a comprehensive set of international, interstate and national standards of the CIS States has been developed and launched.

The CIS States Inter-parliamentary Assembly will harmonize national standardization systems on the basis of the «On Standardization» model law.

The following new tasks in the field of standardization are identified:

− create a normative and technical base meeting modern requirements for the assessment of the conformity of products and services to technical regulations;

− stimulate the application of newly adopted International and European Standards as interstate standards;

− 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 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, the EASC considers the search of mutually acceptable decisions on harmonization of national technical regulations as one of its key tasks.

For this purpose the following documents were adopted:

− strategy for the harmonization of the CIS States technical regulations;

− working program for the development of priority interstate technical regulations 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 that the CIS States adopt a common approach to the recognition of conformity assessment results.

To ensure the free movement of goods between the CIS countries and the elimination of technical barriers to trade the following measures were taken:

− adoption of the Realization Agreement on principles and mutual recognition of certification works (4 June 1992, Krasnodar);

− adoption of the common mark opening to products access to the CIS markets;

− adoption of the list of products recommended for common mark of access to the CIS market;

− information is provided to the certification bodies as well as to certification, verification and measurement laboratories accredited in the EASC Member States;

− creation of a system efficiently providing information on the products that are subject to obligatory certification in the CIS States.

Improvement of product quality and competitiveness is one of the key problems encountered by 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 to the EASC certification results is ensured by the Agreement on mutual recognition of the quality management systems certification results.

In November 2005, the CIS Council of Heads of Government decided to establish the CIS Prize for Quality aimed at fostering quality and competitiveness of products produced in the CIS States.

By the end of 2007, the results of the first competitors contest for the Commonwealth of Independent States Prize in the field of quality will be known.

The responsibility for the coordination of activities in the field of accreditation was assigned to the EASC by the Protocol of 20 June 2000 concerning supplements and amendments to the Agreement of 13 March 1992 on the implementation of agreed-upon policies in standardization, metrology and certification.

In addition to the above-mentioned Agreement, the EASC has adopted:

− the concept of cooperation between accreditation bodies of the CIS States in the field of conformity assessment;

− the Agreement on a mutual recognition of the results of works on accreditation in the field of conformity assessment.

The EASC policies ensure that the CIS States mutually recognize the certification bodies and testing and measuring laboratories that are accredited in their national systems, as well as the results of their activities.

In order to improve activities in the field of accreditation, measures are being taken to develop cooperation with such international organizations on accreditation as IAF and ILAC.

Uniformity of measurements is ensured on the basis of the EASC Programme of establishment and revision of the GSI (State Measurement System) basic normative documents.

Since 1992, have been developed and adopted: over 250 interstate standards, 34 organizational and methodological documents, which made it possible to maintain common approaches to the organization of metrology in the Commonwealth States.

CIS States standards are based on standards of highest accuracy, both national and basic, and on working standards of basic units of the International System of Units (SI).

The national standards database formed on the basis of information provided by national bodies allows to plan activities on the maintenance of the required level of accuracy of measurements in the CIS States, and to compare standards.

Uniformity of measurements in the CIS States is ensured by the application of uniform standard samples. The MSO register (Interstate Standard Samples) for the period starting in 1992 includes over 1 100 types of MSO adopted by the EASC.

In order to harmonize national metrological systems, the CIS States Inter-parliamentary Assembly has adopted a model law entitled "Ensuring Uniformity of Measurements".

Public supervision in the CIS States is aimed at the protection of markets from low quality, unsafe and counterfeit products.

In order to strengthen the coordination of the activities of national bodies an electronic version of the database was created that includes basic legal instruments and organizational and methodological documents on State supervision and the list of competent bodies authorized to carry out public control in the CIS States.

The interstate automated mechanism now under construction for an efficient information exchange on products identified by the CIS States surveillance and control bodies as dangerous should prevent further proliferation of dangerous products. It is envisaged to cooperate with a similar system (RAPEX) existing in the European Union.

Further development of the cooperation between national bodies will be facilitated by the transition to the electronic form of normative documents.

The system of electronic voting of interstate normative draft documents has substantially accelerated the process of their consideration, coordination and adoption.

The site http://www.easc.org.by in Russian and English languages contains information concerning legal and normative bases in the field of standardization, metrology, conformity assessment, as well as information on the Organization and about future and past activities.

Efforts by national bodies on standardization, metrology and conformity assessment to harmonize technical regulations, update and harmonize existing corpuses 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 economies of the CIS States in the global economy.

Pacific Area Standards Congress ("PASC") report to ISO
June 2007

Objective	This report provides a summary of activities carried out by PASC in last 12 months. The key activities have been: - - Follow up of actions from PASC 29 held in Capetown, South Africa on 2-5 May 2006 - Establishment of the agreement on cooperation between ISO and PASC on 12 September 2006 - PASC SC meeting held in Ottawa on 12 September 2006 - PASC SC meeting held in Canberra on 26 January 2007 in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation ("APEC") Standards and Conformance Sub-Committee ("SCSC") meeting - PASC 30 held in Cartagena, Colombia on 26-27 April 2007 in conjunction with meetings of COPANT (Pan American Standards Commission)
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.

5. encouragement of closer working between ISO and IEC. To this end, PASC and ISO signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that will assist the already close relationship between the two organisations and foster the region's views in the development of international (ISO) standards. Process to sign a similar MoU with IEC is ongoing. 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.

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. A dialogue with APEC Business Advisory Council ("ABAC") was held at PASC 30 and the following number of action points were suggested.

   · PASC members and ABAC are urged to extend an invitation to industry leaders and regulators to attend the SCSC Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) conference and Standards and Conformance conference planned to be held in Peru in 2008. PASC members are also encouraged to provide input to the conferences in their capacity.

   · PASC members are encouraged to develop closer ties with their national ABAC representatives to ensure greater coordination and value.

   · PASC members are encouraged to initiate and enhance their dialog with their regulators, to better understand and help in identifying their regulators' standards and conformance needs.

   · PASC members are also encouraged to make

	strong efforts to educate their standards clients (regulators, businesses, etc.) on how to effectively use internationally harmonized standards.
	· PASC members are encouraged to have better communication between their trade policy leaders and standards bodies with regard to the role of standards and conformance in FTAs.
	· PASC members are encouraged to share information on their experiences in engaging and working with their regulators, focusing on successful strategies (including case studies, economic impact analyses etc.) and those that have not produced desired results as lessons learned.
	All of the above are incorporated in a PASC Action Plan which records agreed projects and which is monitored by the PASC Standing Committee. An updated Action Plan and progress on the actions is presented at each PASC annual 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. Throughout the joint activities with COPANT at PASC 30, PASC reconfirmed the importance of cooperation between the two regions and decided to further strengthen the cooperative relationship between the tow organizations.
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 Geneva, Switzerland in September, 2007. Juichi Nagano For PASC Acting Secretary

ISO RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS AND INSTITUTIONS

AGENDA ITEM 5.1   WORLD STANDARDS COOPERATION (WITH IEC AND ITU)

Under this agenda item, the IEC President, Mr. Renzo Tani, and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (ITU-T), Mr. Malcolm Johnson, will both 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 sixth meeting in Geneva on 9 February 2007. This was the second meeting with the new ITU membership, following the formal request of the ITU Secretary-General in March 2005 to change the ITU-T participation into an ITU participation, with a delegation consisting of four people and representing both ITU-R[1] and ITU-T[2]. The membership list in 2007 and the terms of reference (unchanged) of the WSC are attached at Annex for ease of reference.

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

–   Workshop on *The Fully Networked Car*

It is recalled that this workshop, initially foreseen as an ITU event, was expanded into a WSC event organized by a Steering Committee comprising experts from ITU, ISO and IEC and their respective Secretariats. The event, held at the Geneva Motor Show, consisted of a workshop from 7 to 9 March 2007, and was accompanied by a small exhibition running from 6 to 10 March 2007 (which included a joint ITU/ISO/IEC stand).

The workshop addressed the market for information and communication technologies (ICT) in motor vehicles, which represents an ever-increasing share of innovation and added value in the automotive sector. This WSC event provided a forum for the key specialists in the field, from top decision-makers to engineers, designers, planners, government officials, regulators, standards experts and others. The workshop was aimed at identifying how standards, and which standards, can speed up the development of the fully networked car and its introduction into the market.

As to media coverage, the Geneva Motor Show issued a press release shortly before the workshop. The latter was also advertised in automobile magazines and publicized through the IEC and ISO channels, and the February issue of *ISO Focus* highlighted the event.

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[1]   ITU-R: ITU Radiocommunication Sector

[2]   ITU-T : ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

– Cooperation on security and workshop on security

Initially set up in 2005 as a joint ISO/IEC group, the **Strategic Advisory Group on Security** (SAG-S) was enlarged in 2006 to include ITU-T, thus becoming a tripartite ISO/IEC/ITU-T body. It was established to monitor security-related standardization activities in the three organizations, "Security" being addressed by the group in a broad sense including IT, homeland, natural disasters, etc.

SAG-S intends, at each meeting, to conduct a review of the standardization work in a specific field. At its meeting held in Geneva on 25-26 October 2006, the ISO/IEC JTC 1 *Information technology* was asked to review its activities on cyber security. At its meeting held in Sydney (Australia) on 12-13 April 2007, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) 8 *Building* reported on building technology.

At its meeting in February 2007, the WSC agreed with the concept expressed by SAG-S of holding **focused thematic workshops related to security** around each of the SAG-S's meetings (i.e. every six months) and welcomed the idea of envisaging a partnership with a designated standards body which would host both the SAG-S meeting and the workshop; however, the same process as for the previous workshops would be followed, i.e. the three CEOs will be invited to clear the programme and a steering committee will be established. The first such events will be hosted by ANSI (USA) at the NIST's headquarters in Gaithersburg with a workshop on transit security on 4-5 October 2007 and the SAG-S meeting on 3 October.

– Patent policy

It is recalled that the common patent policy was approved by the ISO Council and IEC Council Board in 2006; within the ITU, it was approved by ITU-T at the TSAG meeting in July 2006, and by ITU-R at its January 2007 meeting. The document is therefore now officially accepted as the ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC common patent policy.

The implementation guidelines for the patent policy and the declaration form have also been approved by the relevant bodies within each of the organizations.

Moreover, each of the three WSC organizations has an online patent database to facilitate the work of the standards developers and to assist companies wishing to implement international standards/recommendations that include patented technologies.

– WSC standardization community management course

Two standardization community management courses for members of IEC, ISO and ITU, presented under the WSC banner, have been held to date. These five-day courses took place in September 2004 and April 2005, with 30 participants each. The questionnaires distributed at the end of the courses indicated that they were well received.

The WSC agreed that the three organizations should conduct a market survey with their respective members to assess whether there is an interest in organizing such a course and, if the interest expressed proves sufficient, take the necessary steps to organize such a course, deciding among them who would take the lead.

– World Standards Day

As decided by the WSC in 2006, the theme of the **2007** World Standards Day (14 October) will be **standards and the citizen**; the WSD slogan will be "Standards and the Citizen: Contributing to Society". A joint message by the ISO and IEC Presidents and the ITU Secretary-General and a common poster will be sent to the ISO membership at the end of July.

The theme chosen by the WSC for the **2008** World Standards Day will be **Intelligent and Sustainable buildings**. This theme will cover at the same time innovative building technologies, energy efficiency, environmental impact, security, networks involving buildings and domotics – the theme is therefore very topical and rich for the three organizations.

–   **Promotion of International Standards to academic institutions and their students**

Having noted that each of the three organizations has current activities to promote the values of international standardization to academia, the WSC agreed that there was room for joint efforts and that coordination should be improved, and asked that the three CEOs return to the WSC with detailed proposals. It further emphasized the need to get the professors interested in the subjects so that they would appreciate how research actually connects to the production of standards, and the importance of including standardization in the curriculum for management, trade or legal matters as well as for scientific and technological disciplines.

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 are some areas of overlap and duplication which are currently 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. A meeting of the Joint ISO/IEC Directives Maintenance Team was held in June 2007 where, in particular, there was an exchange of views on the optimum method for maintaining the Directives.

Following a first such meeting in February 2006, a second joint meeting was held in June 2007 between representatives of the TMB and SMB, at which views were exchanged on strategic/policy issues and on a number of technical cooperation issues. In particular, 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, mutual participation in the ISO and IEC activities relevant to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, and the ISO and IEC approaches to assuring the global relevance of their technical work. The meeting was appreciated by the participants and similar meetings are expected to be held each June in the future. ISO has invited IEC to join a session on International Standards and energy efficiency and renewable energy sources to be held in the context of the World Energy Congress in Rome (Italy) on 11-15 November 2007.

At their meetings in June, the TMB and IEC/SMB approved for publication an ISO/IEC information document on the use of ISO and IEC standards in technical regulations and also established a special subcommittee which will develop joint ISO/IEC standards for non-electrotechnical equipment for use in explosive atmospheres.

ISO and IEC cooperate in the field of standards as databases, in particular in the framework of the ad hoc group of the TMB dealing with this field in which the IEC participates on a continuous basis. Furthermore there are regular exchanges on the subject between the two central offices.

- Participation in meetings

IEC actively 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[3] General Assembly in March 2007 in Nice (France) also represented IEC; and the IEC participant at a conference on patents in Beijing (China) in April 2007 also represented ISO and ITU.

- 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, recent examples of this cooperation have included consultation on statements in response to media enquiries, communication aspects of the World Standards Cooperation workshop on "the networked car" at the Geneva Motor Show and alignment of a press release on the common patent policy.

- First ISO and IEC Marketing and Communication Forum

In December 2006, the first ISO and IEC Marketing and Communication Forum took place in Geneva and was attended by over 120 experts from more than 50 different organizations. The forum was aimed at raising awareness of standards and thus increasing the use and sales of International Standards among prospective users. At the same time, it provided a good opportunity to exchange and learn from the experience of the many international specialists invited. The feedback received from the participants was very positive and a second edition of the forum is foreseen in 2008.

- 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 last modification of the site concerning the development of a common enquiry channelling section was introduced at the beginning of March 2007. The preparation of a new section containing information on studies on economic and social benefits of standardization is planned, based on the update of the inventory of such studies currently underway as a joint ISO/IEC inventory. Work related to a new IT platform for the Web site to provide common space open only to ISO and IEC members, e.g. for Marketing and Communication Forum presentations, is also being carried out.

- Action plan for the protection of ISO and IEC intellectual property

In March 2007, ISO and IEC launched an action plan to promote the fact that ISO and IEC standards are protected by copyright and to reinforce the copyright in standards. The plan consists in particular of the inclusion in ISO and IEC Standards of a more visible copyright notice and a warning sign as well as the publication of a joint information brochure aimed at users to understand the copyright issue in relation to standards.

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

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[3] ETSI : European Telecommunications Standards Institute

security (JTC 1/SC 27) and radio-frequency identification (RFID) (JTC 1/SC 31), while collaboration is also developing in the areas of intelligent transport systems (ISO/TC 204) and e-health (ISO/TC 215).

Following the agreement on a common ISO/IEC/ITU patent policy in 2006, work continued and resulted in the approval of common implementation guidelines and a common patent statement and licensing declaration form in 2007.

It should be noted that the Agreement for mutual cooperation and exchange of documentation signed between ISO and ITU-R (Radiocommunications sector) in 2005, allowing both ISO and ITU-R, through their participation in each other's activities, to access draft and other internal documents relevant to their respective work and to distribute them internally for standards development activities, is working satisfactorily.

In line with the stated objectives of the *WSIS[4] Geneva Declaration of Principles*, ITU and EBU[5] jointly organized a High-Level Experts Meeting held in Geneva on 21-22 June 2007 to identify global trends and to address the new technological and policy challenges in the digital content delivery environment. On this occasion, the Secretary-General was invited to speak on the subject of "Building the Information Society Together: What is the Role of International Organizations in a Convergent Media World" and outlined the many contributions of ISO standards in this area, including those developed by ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, such as the MPEG series.

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.

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[4] WSIS: World Summit on the Information Society

[5] EBU: European Broadcasting Union

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 2007

For IEC	**For ISO**	**For ITU**
President *Mr. Renzo Tani*	President *Mr. Håkan Murby*	Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau *Mr. Malcolm Johnson*
President Elect *Mr. Jacques Regis*	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 *Mrs. Ziva Patir*	Chairman, Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) *Mr. Gary Fishman*
General Secretary *Mr. A. 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.

ISO RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS AND INSTITUTIONS

AGENDA ITEM 5.2   COOPERATION WITH THE UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Among the 685 international organizations in liaison with ISO, the UN system is certainly ISO's major "partner" since all 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. In order to maintain this status, ISO is invited to submit to the ECOSOC a quadrennial report on ISO activities, specifically as regards the support given to the work of the United Nations. The report submitted in May 2007 on ISO activities during the years 2003-2006 is attached at Annex 1.

Since the last General Assembly, a substantial number of developments have taken place regarding ISO's cooperation with the UN and its specialized agencies and bodies, which are summarized below.

1   CAC (FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission)

The Deputy Secretary-General attended the 29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) held in Geneva in July 2006, where he provided the CAC with information on environmental awareness, test methods and technical specifications in fisheries and aquaculture.

At that session, several delegations stressed the importance of maintaining coordination and cooperation between the two organizations to avoid duplication of work or contradiction in the standards. It was suggested that CAC members liaise with their national member bodies that were members of ISO. In addition, one delegation suggested that "ISO's national focal point could be part of the National Codex Committee". Finally, the CAC "supported continued cooperation and coordination with ISO and agreed that the Codex Secretariat should maintain its contacts with ISO and report regularly to the Commission on ISO activities of relevance to Codex work".

The 30th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was held in Rome (Italy) on 2-7 July 2007. An informative paper (attached at Annex 2) was submitted by ISO and circulated as a Codex document for that meeting. As in 2005 and 2006, 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 Annex 3.

The CAC has liaison relations with 20 ISO technical committees and subcommittees and has already requested to have a liaison with the new ISO/TC 234, *Fisheries and aquaculture.*

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 with *ISO/TC 85 – Nuclear energy*, which is assured by four liaison officers assigned to participate

actively in IAEA technical committees dealing with the subjects of nuclear radiation, transportation, waste and energy. Further support is ensured by the attendance of ISO representatives at the IAEA's annual general meeting.

The ISO/TC 85 Chair met on 16 May 2007 with the IAEA Deputy Director General; during the meeting it was decided, *inter alia,* to proceed with a GAP analysis driven by the need to review both organizations' respective work programmes, to examine coordination in various thematic areas and to highlight those areas where work remains to be done as well as those of potential overlap.

3   ILO (International Labour Organization)

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). The Memorandum of Understanding between ISO and ILO, signed in March 2005 to secure cooperation with ISO in the field of social responsibility through the ILO headquarters in Geneva, is proving useful.

A meeting was held on 5 March 2007 between senior management staff of the ISO Central Secretariat and representatives of ILO constituents and secretariat with a view to clarifying and informing ILO about ISO, its standards development process and its relations with other international organizations. This meeting was in preparation for ILO's Governing Body agenda item dealing with the subject of occupational health and safety management system standards (OHSMS).

The Secretary-General has been subsequently informed that the ILO Governing Body has asked ISO "to refrain from developing an international standard on occupational safety and health management systems". However, the ILO Governing Body "requested the International Labour Office to continue consultations with ILO constituents on possible cooperation between ILO and ISO and to report back to the Governing Body in November 2007 with recommendations reflecting these consultations".

The ISO Technical Management Board, at its meeting on 7-8 June 2007, reviewed this ILO decision and encouraged that the CEOs of both organizations meet to discuss the matter in the context of overall cooperation between ILO and ISO. The TMB also decided to carry out a survey amongst its members on the world wide use of, and interest in, standards and documents on OHSMS.

The ISO Secretary-General intends to meet with the ILO Director-General to, *inter alia*, discuss this matter and overall cooperation between ISO and the ILO.

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

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 developed with IMO's active support. Moreover, the item of specifications for ship recycling management systems has been recently added to ISO/TC 8's programme of work upon IMO's request.

ISO was invited to speak at the IMO Seminar on Port Facility Security held in the framework of the TranSec World Expo on 27 June 2007 in Amsterdam (Netherlands). On this occasion, the ISO representative gave an overview of ISO standards and specifications on port security.

5   ITC (International Trade Centre UNCTAD-WTO)

A joint ITC/ISO reference publication entitled "ISO 22000 Food Safety Management Systems – An easy-to-use checklist for small business. Are you ready?" was published in May 2007. The 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.

6   UNCSD (United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development)

At its 15th session held in New York (USA) on 30 April-11 May 2007, the UNCSD addressed, *inter alia,* the subjects of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change. The importance of energy standards was highlighted by several delegations and by the UNCSD Chairman in his final recommendations, as follows:

> ...
> *to take actions to:*
>
> ...
> m)   *Increase international support for national efforts to adopt standards and labelling for energy-efficient appliances and consumer equipment, as well as international harmonization if appropriate of testing and certificating methods;*
>
> ...

(Extract of the Chairman's Summary of the 15th session of the UNCSD)

7   UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)

Consultations are currently taking place at Secretariat's level to study ways of increasing the cooperation between ISO and UNCTAD in fields of mutual interest in addition to the ISO Working Group on Social Responsibility, in which UNCTAD is actively involved.

8   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.

The Secretary-General spoke at the UNECE Session "International Standards in the multilateral trading system: A stakeholders' discussion" held in Geneva on 25 September 2006 in the framework of the WTO Public Forum 2006 "What WTO for the XXIst Century?". On this occasion, the Secretary-General asserted that dialogue among stakeholders was becoming ever more important because there was increased interest in international standards from many quarters, notably from national regulators, who must abide by international commitments taken by their

country such as the WTO TBT Agreement and need guidance in using international standards for developing regulations, and also business and the civil society.

ISO was represented at the 15th Annual Session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy held in Geneva on 28-30 November 2006; and at the 60th anniversary session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe held in Geneva on 25-27 April 2007.

It is expected that the agenda of the Working Party 6[1] session on 5-7 November 2007 will include an update from ISO on the ISO/IEC information document "Using and referencing ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations".

The UNECE has liaison relations with 89 ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

9   UNGCO (United Nations Global Compact Office)

The Secretary-General signed in November 2006 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ISO and the United Nations Global Compact Office regarding ISO's standardization work on the subject of social responsibility (SR). The agreement promotes cooperation with UNGC to help ensure consistency of the efforts of the ISO Working Group on SR with the UNGC ten principles addressing human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption.

The MoU indeed helps to reinforce the global importance of the ISO SR standardization initiative and its future utility to the UN system and global business. It will also help to optimize the collaboration, in particular in the framework of the Growing Sustainable Business Initiative where international standardization could assist cement interaction between the UN system and the business community.

In line with common UN-ISO objectives in a number of topical areas (including social and environmental performance) and with the above-mentioned MoU, the Secretary-General made a presentation at the Global Compact Leaders Summit held in Geneva on 5-6 July 2007 (attached at Annex 4). The Summit, chaired by the UN Secretary-General, brought together approximately 1 000 leaders representing business, government, civil society and labour.

10 UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)

ISO and UNIDO continue to work closely for the delivery of training seminars and workshops on standardization, including on ISO 22000 on food safety.

At UNIDO's invitation, the ISO Secretary-General chaired and addressed the session entitled "Standards and Conformity Infrastructure Development for Trade" on the globalization of standards activity, in the framework of the UNIDO-African Union Expert Group Meeting held in Tunis (Tunisia) on 22-24 February 2007.

ISO participated in the Expert Group Meeting on the development of an international Energy Management System standard organized by UNIDO in Vienna on 21-22 March 2007. The participants reached a consensus that the timing is favourable to move forward with the international harmonization of standards for Energy Management.

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

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

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

11 UNWTO (World Tourism Organization)

At the meeting that the ISO Secretary-General had with the UNWTO Secretary-General and senior officials in May 2004 in Madrid (Spain), it was agreed to focus the collaboration on the following issues: guide on a methodology for the classification of hotels; sustainable tourism; and signs and symbols for tourism. The UNWTO has liaison relations with ISO/TC 228 *Tourism and related services*, and ISO/TC 145 Sub-committee 1 *Public information symbols*. UNWTO participated in the last TC228 plenary meeting in Bangkok in February 2007, and proposed three subjects for development:

a) Guidelines for the suppliers of tourism services: common and specific aspects of accessibility.

b) Procedures for assessing the remuneration of factors employed in tourism activities.

c) Technical specifications of ticket vending machines in public transport.

12 UPU (Universal Postal Union)

It is recalled that the Secretary-General paid a visit to the UPU Director General, Mr. Edouard Dayan, in March 2006 with a view to further developing the relationship between the two organizations. Following that visit and at UPU's invitation, he participated as a speaker in the session "The evolving postal network" at the UPU Strategy Conference held in Dubai on 14-15 November 2006.

On that occasion, the Secretary-General pointed to the complexity of the emerging postal network that would need international standards to operate effectively and to the win-win relation that might be consolidated between UPU and ISO, and their respective members. On the UPU side, the Director General stated that standardization was a key factor in interconnectivity, and was increasingly important in the context of internationalization, adding that "it promotes innovation and reduces cost". The conclusions of the UPU Strategy Conference included a positive appreciation of the interest of strengthening the ISO/UPU cooperation:

> *Standards and standardization are key factors in interconnectivity. In what, as was pointed out many times during the Conference, is a rapidly changing environment, standards play a crucial role. The discussions during the Conference confirmed the view that the appropriate level at which to set common standards is international. This should be carried out through an open approach to the other organizations which set worldwide standards, such as, principally, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).*

(Extract of the conclusions of the 2006 UPU Strategy Conference)

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

13 WHO (World Health Organization)

Closer cooperation between ISO and WHO has developed, in particular since a WSC workshop on medical technologies took place in Geneva in February 2004. ISO is regularly represented at

WHO Health Assemblies and Executive Boards. WHO has shown increased interest in the activities of several ISO Technical Committees, including ISO/TC 126 *Tobacco and tobacco products* (in which it has upgraded its involvement to category A liaison).

The WHO has liaison relations with REMCO and 56 ISO technical committees and subcommittees.

Pursuant to a UN General Assembly resolution of April 2005, the WHO has established a UN Road Safety Collaboration body to ensure coordination of initiatives at worldwide level as it concerns Road Safety. ISO is a member of that body.

14 WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization)

Since the last General Assembly, various forms of collaboration with WIPO have been sought, e.g. the ISO Legal Adviser participated in several WIPO meetings concerning intellectual property rights (IPR) issues; one staff member from the ISO Central Secretariat took part in a WIPO training seminar on the registration of international trademarks and is going to take 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 a number of ISO member countries via the WIPO International Register in April 2007; and the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center processed the complaints of the ISO Central Secretariat in 2006 and 2007 related to a number of domain names infringing ISO trademarks.

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 2006-2007.

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

15 WMO (World Meteorological Organization)

ISO and WMO are currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in the development of International Standards and to avoid duplication of work on standards related to meteorology, climatology, hydrology, marine and related environmental observations.

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

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

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QUADRIENNIAL REPORT AS SUBMITTED BY ISO TO ECOSOC IN MAY 2007

International Organization for Standardization – ISO
(General Consultative Status granted in 1947)

ISO is a network of national standards bodies from 156 countries. Through International Standards, ISO aims to promote the development of standardization and related activities with a view to facilitating international exchange of goods and services, and to developing cooperation in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological and economic activity. Its work addresses diverse topics such as health, safety, security, quality, the environment, transport and information technology, as well as associated services, management systems and conformity assessment.

The *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010 – Standards for a sustainable world,* which outlines the global vision for the organization in 2010, is the result of consultations undertaken in 2003 (in parallel with ISO's members) with ISO's major international partners – many of which from the UN system. The derived five-year *Action Plan for developing countries* aims to increase the participation of these countries in standardization activities and strengthen their standardization infrastructures.

ISO representatives attend the sessions of ECOSOC or its committees at which matters of concern to ISO are discussed. Cooperation with the United Nations, its specialized agencies and various bodies has substantially developed for the past four years.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL'S REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

Cooperation with all regional commissions has been pursued, in particular with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

1   United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

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.

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UNECE International Forum on *Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade*, Geneva, 20-21 June 2006. The ISO Secretary-General addressed the Forum on "International Standards and good regulatory practice".

UNECE Executive Forum on *Competing in a Changing Europe,* Geneva, 11-12 May 2004. The ISO Secretary-General took part in the Forum and chaired, and made opening remarks at, the opening session "Beyond enlargement: Impact of competitiveness".

Meetings of the UNECE Working Party 6 *Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies*. ISO has regularly been represented by its Secretary-General at the meetings (Geneva, November 2003 and 2004, and June 2006) and provided updated reports on the latest developments within the ISO Committee on conformity assessment (ISO/CASCO).

2   Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

At the 17th Conference of the African Ministers of Industry held under the auspices of (*inter alia*) the ECA in Cairo (Egypt), on 19-21 June 2006, the ISO Secretary-General addressed the audience as a panellist on the importance and benefits of International Standards for economic and social development. The Conference placed standards and conformity assessment high on the agenda for African industrialization and economic progress.

UNITED NATIONS' SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

3   Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Following meetings of the ISO Secretary-General with the CEOs of both FAO and FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in July 2005 and February 2004 respectively, relations between ISO and CAC have developed extensively and interaction has been constantly enhanced, including through participation in, and submission of informative papers for, the 27th, 28th and 29th sessions of CAC. Furthermore, ISO has kept CAC informed of the progress made in developing the future International Standard ISO 22000 *Food safety management systems – Requirements for organizations throughout the food chain.*

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4   International Labour Organization (ILO)

ILO and its tripartite constituency continue to be active contributors to the ISO Working Group on Social Responsibility (SR). The Memorandum of Understanding between ISO and ILO, signed in March 2005 to secure a good level of cooperation with ISO in the field of social responsibility through the ILO headquarters in Geneva, proves to be very useful. Contacts have also been renewed on the issue of occupational health and safety management standards.

5   International Maritime Organization (IMO)

IMO has liaison relations with 30 technical committees and subcommittees. In particular, IMO continues to be a strong supporter and client of ISO Technical Committee 8 *Ships and marine technology*. The ISO 28000 series of standards related to security in the supply chain has been developed with IMO's active support.

6   International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

ISO's collaboration with ITU generally falls in the area of ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee 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 generates the publication of common texts as ISO/IEC Standards and ITU Recommendations. Moreover several new areas of interaction have recently emerged: intelligent transport systems and health informatics. In 2004 contact has been re-established with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), enabling a number of technical liaisons to be re-activated.

7   United Nations Industrial development Organization (UNIDO)

In December 2003, the ISO Secretary-General and UNIDO Director General signed a new Memorandum of Understanding aiming to make it easier for developing countries to participate in and benefit from international trade by using standardization. ISO, in collaboration with UNIDO, organized a training event for the countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) in Burkina Faso on 23-25 August 2005. UNIDO has been instrumental in assisting seven countries from the African region to join ISO or upgrade their

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membership in ISO. ISO and UNIDO also continue to work closely for the delivery of training seminars and workshops on ISO 22000 on food safety.

UNIDO-African Union Expert Group Meeting, Tunis (Tunisia), 22-24 February 2007. The ISO Secretary-General chaired and addressed the session entitled "Standards and Conformity Infrastructure Development for Trade" on the globalization of standards activity.

8 Universal Postal Union (UPU)

The Secretary-General met the UPU Director General in March 2006 with a view to further developing the relationship between the two organizations and to discussing potential areas of collaboration such as Information Technology: data coding, exchange, management and storage, IT security, e-commerce; processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration; security management in the supply chain; quality management in services; financial services; packaging; graphical symbols; and relations with consumers.

UPU Strategy Conference, Dubai (United Arab Emirates), 14-15 November 2006. The ISO Secretary-General, who participated as a speaker, emphasized the importance of International Standards in the UPU fields of activity.

9 World Health Organization (WHO)

Closer cooperation between ISO and WHO has developed, in particular since a workshop organized *inter alia* by ISO on medical technologies took place in Geneva in February 2004. ISO is regularly represented at WHO Health Assemblies. WHO has shown increased interest in the activities of several ISO Technical Committees, including ISO/TC 126 *Tobacco and tobacco products* (in which it has requested upgrade to category A liaison).

ISO 29th General Assembly, Ottawa (Canada), 14 September 2006. WHO provided a high-level speaker at the workshop devoted to healthcare.

10 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Following a meeting in October 2003 between the ISO Secretary-General and the WIPO Director, the decision was taken to set up a WIPO/ISO Task Force to coordinate cooperation in

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areas of mutual interest. The Task Force has regularly met since then and covered a number of

matters related to intellectual property rights (IPR).

ISO and IEC workshop on *Patent and copyright policies – New challenges*, Geneva,

1-2 June 2006. WIPO contributed three high-level speakers.

11   World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

ISO and WMO are currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen

cooperation in the development of International Standards related to meteorology, climatology,

hydrology, marine and related environmental observations.

12   World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

At the meeting that the ISO Secretary-General had with the UNWTO Secretary-General and

senior officials in May 2004 in Madrid (Spain), it was agreed to focus the collaboration on the

following issues: guide on a methodology for the classification of hotels; sustainable tourism;

and signs and symbols for tourism. The UNWTO has liaison relations with ISO Technical

Committees 228 *Tourism and related services*, and 145 Sub-committee 1 *Public information*

symbols.

UNITED NATIONS' RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

13   International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

IAEA has liaison relations with the ISO Committee on reference materials (REMCO) and

14 ISO technical committees. ISO/Technical Committee 85 *Nuclear energy* is one of the key

liaisons with IAEA and this committee has assigned four Committee Officers to participate

actively in IAEA committees dealing with the subjects of nuclear radiation, transportation,

waste and energy.

UNITED NATIONS' PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS

14   International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)

ISO was represented at the ITC Conference on *Influencing and Meeting International*

Standards: Challenges for Developing Countries, Geneva, 22 June 2005, and at the ITC

Executive Forum on National Export Strategies, Montreux (Switzerland), 5-8 October 2005

(which the ISO representative addressed on the ISO 9000 series of standards on quality

management).

Moreover, ISO and ITC have worked on joint publications, i.e. a new edition of "ISO 9000: a

workbook for service firms in developing countries", "Conformity Assessment in International

Trade" and "Are you ready for 22000". In the area of technical assistance, both organizations

have collaborated in providing computer equipment and training to the ISO member for

Tajikistan.

15   United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

ISO was represented at UNCTAD XI, Sao Paulo (Brazil), 13-18 June 2004, and at Pre-

UNCTAD XI event on Environmental Requirements and Market Access for Developing

Countries, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 7-8 June 2004. UNCTAD is actively involved in the work

the technical body on Social Responsibility.

16   UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT OFFICE (UNGCO)

ISO and UNGCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2006 with a view to

developing cooperation in the field of social responsibility, in particular in the framework of

the Growing Sustainable Business Initiative.

Global Compact Leaders Summit, Geneva, 5-6 July 2007. The ISO Secretary-General will

attend.

17   During the past years, ISO has followed closely the work of, and interacted with, the

UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the **UN Framework Convention on**

Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the **UN Global Programme on Disability**.

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April 2007

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirtieth Session

Rome (Italy), 2 - 7 July 2007

COMMUNICATION FROM ISO
(report of 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 156 countries, on the basis of one member per country.

3.   ISO has a Central Secretariat, based in Geneva, Switzerland, that employs approximately 153 staff. However, most of the work in developing and maintaining the portfolio of some 16 500 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.

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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.

7.   However, more and more standards are cited by regulators to provide a means of compliance with their technical regulations. This is recommended in WTO TBT and SPS agreements 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.

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.   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 of 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.

10.   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;

-   ISO/TC 134, *Fertilizers and soil conditioners*;

-   ISO/TC 147, *Water quality* for which CAC has a liaison with its SC 2 and SC 4 (see Annex 3 for the structure of ISO/TC 147);

-   ISO/TC 234, *Fisheries and aquaculture* (which is a **new** committee created in February 2007).

Codex and ISO Cooperation

11.   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.

12.   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.

13.   Since its creation in 1947, ISO/TC 34 has published 704 ISO deliverables (International Standards, Technical Specifications and Technical Reports). 65 % of these documents are test methods. See Annex 2 for the structure of ISO/TC 34.

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

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- 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/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*

15.   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 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/FDIS 22005, *Traceability in the feed and food chain — General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation* (to be published before Autumn 2007)

- ISO/CD 22006, *Guidelines on the application of ISO 9001:2000 for crop production*

- ISO/NP 22008, *Food irradiation — Good processing practices for the irradiation of foods intended for human consumption*

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

16.   WG 8 prepared ISO 22000 and ISO/TS 22004, which were 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.

17.   This publication followed the one of ISO 22000:2005, *Food safety management systems — Requirements for any organization in the food chain* 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.

According to a survey, more than 50 countries are adopting ISO 22000 (among them all countries in the European Union as ISO 22000 was prepared in parallel with the European Committee for Standardization – CEN). More than 357 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,

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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.

18.   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. Therefore, 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*.

19.   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.

20.   WG 9 has almost 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 is being developed in cooperation with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

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. WG 9 has collaborated closely with Codex, and the 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.

The FDIS (Final Draft International Standard) vote on this document was launched in April 2007.

21.   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 Autumn 2007.

22.   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 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 Committee Draft stage.

23.   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 is currently being voted on as a Committee Draft.

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

24.   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 63 members in the subcommittee: 18 Participating countries, 33 Observing countries and 12 international liaisons, among these CAC is a liaison that has most common interest with SC 4.

SC 4 has published 54 International Standards and has 20 ongoing projects (9 International Standards are under systematic review in 2007).

The following projects might be of interest for CAC:

-     Revision of ISO 7970: 2000, *Wheat (*Triticum aestivum L*.) — Specification*

-     Revision of ISO 7302:1982, *Cereals and cereal products — Determination of total fat content*

-     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 standards of cereals and pulses.

25.   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 new 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*. At the present time, this project is at the Committee Draft stage.

26.   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.

27.   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.

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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 also. 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.

28.   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 - **New** ISO publication

29.   ISO and ITC have been collaborating to 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.

30.   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's conformity assessment standards and their use in food safety

31.   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.

32.   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).

33.   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.

34.   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 1 gives a list of documents and ongoing work.

Conclusion

35.   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.

36.   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.

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37.   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:

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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 UNDER WAY

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 New Work Item Proposal approved by CASCO members in August 2005.	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] New Work Item Proposal approved by CASCO members in September 2006.	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, Parts 1 and 2. New Work Item Proposal approved by CASCO members in May 2006.	Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons — Part 1: Development and operation of proficiency testing schemes Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons — Part 2: Selection and use of proficiency testing schemes by laboratory accreditation bodies
Product certification	**ISO/IEC 17065** [CASCO WG 29] Revision of ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996	Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems
Sector specific Greenhouse Gases	**ISO 14065** [Joint CASCO-ISO/TC 207 WG 6] Publication by June 2007.	Greenhouse gases — Requirements for validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation and other forms of recognition

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Structure of ISO/TC 34, *Food products*

ISO/TC 34 has established several substructures [13 Subcommittees (SC) and 6 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 7, *Genetically modified organisms and derived products* [with AFNOR (France) having the convenorship]

- 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)

- 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)

It can be noted that out of these 13 subcommittees, only 2 are horizontal in scope (ISO/TC 34/SC 9, *Microbiology* and ISO/TC 34/SC 12, *Sensory analysis*).

Annex 3

Structure of ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*

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)
- SC 2, *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods* (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 32 *ICP techniques* [with DIN (Germany) 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]
- SC 4, *Microbiological methods* (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 BSI (UK) 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)
  - WG 1 *Toxicity - Bacteria and biodegradability* [with DIN (Germany) having the convenorship]
  - WG 2 *Toxicity to invertebrates* [with DIN (Germany) having the convenorship]
  - WG 3 *Toxicity - Fish* [with SIS (Sweden) having the convenorship]
  - WG 5 *Toxicity - Algae and aquatic plants* [with SN (Norway) having the convenorship]
  - WG 6 *Biological classification* [with BSI (UK) having the convenorship]
  - WG 9 *Genotoxicity* [with DIN (Germany) having the convenorship]

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- SC 6, *Sampling* (general methods) (secretariat held by UK)
    - WG 1 *Design of sampling programmes* (Revision of ISO 5667-1) [with BSI (UK) having the convenorship]
    - WG 3 *Conservation methods* [with NEN (The Netherlands) having the convenorship]
    - WG 4 *Rivers and streams including groundwater* [with BSI (UK) having the convenorship]
    - WG 6 *Drinking water and water used for food and beverage processing* (Revision of ISO 5667-5) [with SCC (Canada) having the convenorship]
    - WG 11 *Sampling of sludges and sediments* [with BSI (UK) having the convenorship]

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

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Relations between Codex and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

14.   Following previous discussions in the Executive Committee and the Commission, the Commission at its 29th Session 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.[3]

15.   An information paper on ISO activities relevant to Codex work was submitted by the ISO Central Secretariat to the Commission (CAC/30 INF/8). Additionally, the information provided by the Secretariat of ISO Technical Committee 34, on selected work items of interest to Codex, is summarised in Tabe 1 below.

16.   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.

Table 1. Selected ISO/TC 34 work items of interest to Codex (as of May 2007)

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/FDIS 22005	Traceability in feed and food chain — General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation	FDIS vote launched April 2007. To be published before autumn 2007.

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* Reference ALINORM 07/30/9E.

[3] ALINORM 06/29/41, para.213

PROJECT NUMBER	TITLE	STATUS
ISO/CD 22006	Quality Management Systems – Guidance on the application of ISO 9001:2000 for crop production	ISO/TC 34/WG 12 was established in October 2005; Currently at the Committee Draft stage.
ISO/CD 22008	Food irradiation – Good processing practices for the irradiation of foods intended to human consumption	Should be submitted to the DIS vote in Autumn 2007.
ISO 26642	Food products — Determination of the glycemic index (GI) and relevant Classification	The document is currently being voted on as a Committee Draft.
ISO/TS 22964:2006	Milk and milk products — Detection of *Enterobacter sakazakii*	Published in January 2006. A horizontal International Standard for food products for the detection of Enterobacter sakazakii is at the Committee Draft stage in ISO/TC 34/SC 9.

GLOBAL COMPACT LEADERS SUMMIT 2007
"Facing realities: getting down to business"
Geneva 4-6 July 2007

ISO's contribution to sustainable development and social responsibility
by Alan Bryden, ISO Secretary-General

Globalization increases the need for and production of International Standards

The globalization not only of trade but of many other issues such as environmental protection, climate change, security, health, the need to alleviate poverty and to reduce the digital divide, has increased both the need for and the production of International Standards. With 154 national members and collaboration with more than 600 international and regional organizations, ISO is the leader for the production of voluntary International Standards. Each month, ISO publishes more than 100 new or revised standards, covering a very broad scope. Their increasingly successful uptake by economic and social actors worldwide is related to the double level of consensus on which they are based: amongst stakeholders and across countries, thus ensuring their global relevance and applicability. In addition, ISO's Action Plan for Developing Countries supports greater involvement in the ISO system and the effective use of its output.

ISO standards contribute to sustainable development

ISO standards contribute to the three components of sustainable development:

– economic growth by facilitating trade, interoperability and the dissemination of good business practices and new technologies,

– environmental integrity by promoting good environmental management and labelling or supporting the accounting and verification of Green House Gas emissions in the context of emission trading or providing standards on air, water or soil quality, as well as on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources,

– social equity, with standards related to consumer protection and information, safety at the workplace, health technologies and services or, more recently, social responsibility.

ISO 26000: the future International Standard giving guidance on social responsibility

Social responsibility came on the ISO agenda because of the need to harmonize terminology and principles, as well as the numerous guidance documents and initiatives developed on this topical subject. Indeed, companies, and organizations at large, public authorities and consumers or investors exposed to claims of ethical behaviour need to have a common understanding and a good communication. The Working Group on social responsibility created in ISO is developing what will be ISO 26000, the International Standard giving guidance on social responsibility. Experts, belonging to six well defined stakeholder categories, from 72 countries and more than 30 international and regional IGOs and NGOs are at work to produce the standard by 2009.

A strong partnership with the UN Global Compact and the UN System at large

A strong partnership with the UN Global Compact has been established since the inception of ISO's work and has been consolidated in an M.O.U. signed in November 2006. This will ensure that ISO 26000 will be consistent with the UN Global Compact and its ten universal principles. It enables the UN Global Compact to be actively involved in ISO's work and guarantees a good complementarity. A partnership has also been established with the International Labour Organization to ensure consistency with established international labour standards and instruments. Cooperation is also secured with other key international organizations such as the Global Reporting Initiative and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

This UNGC-ISO collaboration is another exemplary illustration of ISO's cooperation with the UN System and of the bridge that ISO standards can provide between public policies and societal needs and their actual implementation by the economic actors, based on the promotion of good practices and global relevance. This Global Compact Leaders Summit is a unique opportunity to raise awareness of these developments in ISO. I wish to encourage the business community to further seize the advantage of eventually having a voluntary International Standard on social responsibility which will facilitate the sharing and promotion of best practices and their communication towards stakeholders and society at large.

More at www.iso.org (see in particular the section on social responsibility)

AGENDA ITEM 5.3   **COOPERATION WITH THE WTO**

Under this agenda item, a WTO representative 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 Ottawa in 2006.

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, Mrs. Vesile Kulacoğlu.

The Deputy Director-General of the WTO, Mr. Harsha Singh, will take part in the panel on "International Standards supporting public policies for sustainable development" at the Open session.

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 12th edition of the *WTO TBT Standards Code Directory* was issued in January 2007. 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 2007, 165 standardizing bodies from 122 countries/customs territories and three regional standards organizations had accepted the Code, of which 115 ISO members (86 member bodies, 24 correspondent members and five subscriber members).

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 2006 General Assembly:

–   on 9-10 November 2006, at which the TBT Committee concluded the "Fourth Triennial Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade "

(attached at Annex 1). During the Review, the following six elements were explored: implementation and administration of the TBT Agreement; good regulatory practice; conformity assessment procedures; transparency; technical assistance; and, special and differential treatment. It is to be noted that, in the Fourth Triennial Review, the TBT Committee welcomes the actions taken by observer international standardizing bodies, such as ISO, "to enhance participation of developing country Members in their work and invites these and other international standardizing bodies to provide information on steps taken to ensure their effective participation". Explicit mention is made to the revisions of ISO/IEC Guide 2:1991, *General terms and their definitions concerning standardization and related activities*, and to the fact that the TBT Committee "will hold discussions on the reference to Guide 2:1991 in Annex 1 to the TBT Agreement on terms and their definitions".

– on 21-22 March 2007. In line with the Fourth Triennial Review, ISO submitted an information paper regarding ISO actions in support of developing countries in 2006 giving details, *inter alia,* on the involvement of developing countries in ISO governance and their participation in ISO technical work; on training provided by ISO, including the targeted assistance; and on the collaboration between ISO and international and regional organizations as well as development agencies. (The ISO submission, circulated as a formal TBT document, is attached at Annex 2)

– on 5-6 July 2007.

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 West Africa and other French-speaking African countries, in Tunis (Tunisia), 12-14 September 2006;

– for the Arab and Middle East Countries, in Manama (Bahrain), 24-26 April 2007;

– for English-speaking African countries, in Gaborone (Botswana), 19-21 June 2007.

The next meeting of the TBT Committee is scheduled for 7-9 November 2007.

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 was represented at the CTE session held on 18 December 2006. Since this meeting, the Central Secretariat has monitored the agenda and discussions of the CTE. The next meeting of the CTE has not yet been scheduled.

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.

At the SPS Committee meeting on 28 February-1 March 2007, the ISO representative updated the SPS Committee on the important use that was already made of ISO Standards in support of the work of intergovernmental bodies. While mentioning ISO's interest in the discussion of "private" standards, he pointed to the opportunity for the SPS Committee to make use of the principles developed by the TBT Committee as preliminary criteria for the characterization of appropriate "private" standards that may be considered consistent with the intents of the SPS agreement. The ISO representative also updated SPS members on the latest developments regarding the future ISO 26000 *Guidance on social responsibility.*

For the above meeting, ISO provided a factual update on current ISO work, which was circulated as a formal SPS document (Annex 3).

ISO was invited to make a presentation on 25 June – i.e. just prior to the SPS Committee meeting – at a "Joint UNCTAD/WTO Informal Information Session on Private Standards" to provide an overview on ISO's process of voluntary international standardization, ISO 22000[1] and the usefulness of ISO 22000 for developing countries and SMEs. ISO was subsequently represented on 28 June at the meeting of the SPS Committee. The next meeting of the SPS Committee is scheduled for 11-13 October 2007.

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] ISO 22000: *Food safety management systems – Requirements for any organization in the food chain*

WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

FOURTH TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF
THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE UNDER ARTICLE 15.4

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I.   INTRODUCTION

1.   Article 15.4 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) provides that: "Not later than the end of the third year from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and at the end of each three-year period thereafter, the Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement, including the provisions relating to transparency, with a view to recommending an adjustment of the rights and obligations of this Agreement where necessary to ensure mutual economic advantage and balance of rights and obligations, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 12. Having regard, *inter alia,* to the experience gained in the implementation of the Agreement, the Committee shall, where appropriate, submit proposals for amendments to the text of this Agreement to the Council for Trade in Goods."   The TBT Committee concluded the First, Second and Third Triennial Reviews of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement on 13 November 1997 (G/TBT/5), 10 November 2000 (G/TBT/9) and 7 November 2003 (G/TBT/13) respectively.

2.   Pursuant to the Third Triennial Review, the Committee has followed-up on the specific recommendations for action contained therein. In particular, the Committee held in 2004 an exchange of experiences related to the identification of elements of good regulatory practice at the domestic level.[1] Moreover, in order to promote a better understanding of Members' conformity assessment systems, a number of events were held by the Committee: a Special Meeting dedicated to Conformity Assessment Procedures on 29 June 2004[2]; a Workshop on Supplier's Declaration of Conformity on 21 March 2005[3]; and, a Workshop on the Different Approaches to Conformity Assessment, including on the Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results on 16-17 March 2006.[4] On terms and definitions, the Secretariat of ISO informed the Committee of the changes involved by the revisions of the ISO/IEC Guide 2: 1991 and the Committee will hold discussions on the reference to the Guide 2: 1991 in Annex 1 of the TBT Agreement on terms and their definitions. Furthermore, with the objective of increasing transparency in the identification and prioritization of technical assistance needs, the Committee adopted on 2 November 2005, a Format for the Voluntary Notification of Specific Technical Assistance Needs and Responses.[5]   Moreover, with a view to assisting the operation as well as public understanding of the Agreement, the Secretariat prepared a "Handbook on the TBT Agreement".

3.   The Committee concluded the Fourth Triennial Review of the Agreement at its meeting of 9 November 2006. The elements considered during the Review and decisions and recommendations adopted by the Committee are set out below[6]: (A.) Implementation and Administration of the Agreement; (B.) Good Regulatory Practice;   (C.) Conformity Assessment Procedures;   (D.) Transparency; (E.) Technical Assistance; and, (F.) Special and Differential Treatment.

II.   ELEMENTS OF THE FOURTH TRIENNIAL REVIEW

A.   Implementation And Administration Of The Agreement

4.   With regard to the implementation and administration of the Agreement by Members, Article 15.2 provides that: "Each Member shall, promptly after the date on which the WTO Agreement enters into force for it, inform the Committee of measures in existence or taken to ensure the

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[1] See G/TBT/13, para. 14 and G/TBT/M/32-34.
[2] A Report of the special meeting is contained in G/TBT/M/33/Add.1.
[3] A Report of the workshop is contained in Annex 1 of G/TBT/M/35.
[4] A Report of the workshop is contained in G/TBT/M/38/Add.1.
[5] G/TBT/16.
[6] A list of documents submitted and discussed during the Fourth Triennial Review is contained in Annex 1. This Annex constitutes an integral part of this Report.

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implementation and administration of this Agreement. Any changes of such measures thereafter shall also be notified to the Committee."

5.   Since the Third Triennial Review, 16 Members have submitted their statements of implementation and administration of the Agreement under Article 15.2 and 10 Members have updated their original statements.[7] In total, 108 Members have submitted their statements of implementation and administration of the Agreement.

6.   The Committee reiterates the importance of Members fulfilling their obligations under Article 15.2.

B.   GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICE

7.   Good regulatory practice has been characterized by the Committee as a priority for Members in facilitating trade.[8] It can help to avoid unnecessary obstacles to trade in the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures. Such practices can contribute to the effective implementation of the disciplines of the Agreement by each Member.

8.   The Committee stresses the benefits of simplifying and improving regulatory environments and emphasizes the need for openness, transparency and accountability in the development and application of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. The Committee further considers that the appropriate regulatory framework can, *inter alia*: enhance predictability and innovation and thereby provide a more stable business climate; help to maintain a competitive environment thereby contributing to growth and consumer confidence; and cut unnecessary administrative costs that may result from overly complex regulations, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises.

9.   Since the entry into force of the Agreement, and in order to foster a common understanding of the issues involved, the Committee has engaged in an exchange of experiences on various aspects of good regulatory practice and in particular since the Third Triennial Review, on the identification of elements of good regulatory practice.[9]

1.   Aspects of Good Regulatory Practice

10.   With respect to technical regulations, the Committee notes the importance of Members considering, on a case by case basis, whether there is a need to regulate or whether other instruments are better suited to achieve the policy objectives sought, and whether existing regulations need to be maintained. In this respect, the Committee reiterates the need for regulators to begin by clearly identifying the problem to be addressed, including its magnitude and the legitimate objective sought, and then consider alternative approaches consistent with the Agreement to fulfil that legitimate objective. The Committee stresses the importance of Members avoiding the promulgation of technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures where they may not be necessary.

11.   When a Member decides that there is a need to prepare, adopt or apply a technical regulation or establish a conformity assessment procedure, the Committee underlines that such technical regulations shall not be more trade-restrictive than necessary to fulfil a legitimate objective and that conformity assessment procedures shall not be more strict or be applied more strictly than is necessary to give the importing Member adequate confidence that products conform with the applicable technical regulations or standards.

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[7] The latest list of Members having submitted their statements can be found in document G/TBT/GEN/1/Rev.4.
[8] G/TBT/5, para. 23 and G/TBT/9, para. 37.
[9] Information on the OECD Guiding Principles for Regulatory Quality and Performance was circulated in G/TBT/GEN/19.

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12.   The Committee notes that regulatory impact assessments can be a useful tool to facilitate regulatory decision-making, including with respect to assessing whether or not government intervention is necessary. Also, the Committee emphasizes the importance, when the option to regulate is considered, of assessing the costs and benefits of proposed regulations, including likely impact on consumers, trade and industry.

13.   When considering regulatory options, the Committee recalls that minimizing the use of mandatory measures, or relying on voluntary instruments, can facilitate adaptability and innovation and thereby contribute to creating incentives for businesses and opening up market access opportunities while still being effective in achieving legitimate objectives. Conversely, over-regulation may disproportionately affect business and trade and be unnecessary to achieve the legitimate objective pursued.

14.   In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Agreement, the Committee reiterates the importance of Members using relevant international standards, guides or recommendations when drafting new regulations or conformity assessment procedures. In this regard, the Committee notes the usefulness of expressly identifying relevant international standards and taking into account progress made in the development of international standards before initiating any regulatory proposal. Furthermore, the Committee emphasizes the usefulness of considering how other Members address the matter.

15.   The Committee stresses that where regulation is deemed necessary Members shall, wherever appropriate, specify technical regulations based on product requirements in terms of performance rather than design or descriptive characteristics in accordance with Article 2.8. While noting that performance-based regulations have the benefit of being easily adaptable and encouraging innovation, the Committee stresses the importance of clear and transparent criteria against which to verify compliance. The Committee also notes that a certain level of expertise and skill is required in verifying compliance with performance-based regulations developed in terms of desired outcomes and that, therefore, capacity constraints in developing country Members need to be taken into account.

16.   With respect to regulatory coordination at the domestic level, the Committee notes that Members have various mechanisms to ensure transparency, openness and accountability in the development and application of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. The Committee encourages information-sharing between government, industry, relevant stakeholders and the wider public on regulatory actions, including with other Members and their stakeholders. Such information-sharing can promote greater public understanding of the purposes and effects of – as well as the justifications for – regulations. This may also increase public confidence and trust that participants in the process will have their concerns heard and considered, and that the competent authorities will make their decisions on a transparent, well reasoned, and well supported basis.

17.   Moreover, the Committee notes the usefulness of a Member establishing administrative mechanisms for coordination between competent authorities. It notes that a number of Members have set up TBT coordinating committees to facilitate communication and cooperation between relevant government authorities. The Committee also emphasizes the importance of including local governments as well as non-governmental parties in the domestic consultation activities.

2.   Regulatory Cooperation Between Members

18.   Regulatory cooperation between regulators from different Members, whether informal or formal in nature, and including training activities, can help achieve a better understanding of different regulatory systems and approaches to addressing identified needs. Furthermore, it can promote regulatory convergence, harmonization, mutual recognition and equivalency, thereby contributing to the avoidance of unnecessary regulatory differences and to the reduction of unnecessary barriers to trade.

3.   Future Work

19.   With a view to deepening understanding of the contribution good regulatory practice can make to the implementation of the TBT Agreement, the Committee <u>agrees</u> to share experiences on:

(a)   factors used by regulators to determine whether there is a need to regulate in a given situation or whether other instruments are better suited to fulfil the legitimate objective sought;

(b)   the use of tools, such as regulatory impact assessment, to assist regulatory decision-making (including with respect to (a) above);

(c)   the use of performance-based regulations by Members;

(d)   how good regulatory practices have been integrated into Members' regulatory structures, including the use of mechanisms to ensure openness, transparency and accountability of the regulatory processes;

(e)   the establishment of domestic administrative mechanisms to facilitate cooperation and coordination between competent authorities and co-ordination with other stakeholders;

(f)   how regulatory cooperation between Members has contributed to the avoidance of unnecessary regulatory differences; and

(g)   steps taken and criteria used to arrive at an equivalency decision between Members (Article 2.7), or harmonization on the basis of international standards (Article 2.6).

20.   Furthermore, with a view to advancing its work on good regulatory practice, the Committee <u>agrees</u> to hold a workshop on good regulatory practice addressing, among other topics, regulatory impact assessment.

C.   CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

21.   With a view to promoting a better understanding of Members' conformity assessment systems, the Committee has intensified the exchange of information and experiences on various aspects of conformity assessment procedures since the Third Triennial Review. In accordance with the work programme agreed[10], two workshops were held in March 2005 and March 2006, respectively on Supplier's Declaration of Conformity[11] and the Different Approaches to Conformity Assessment, Including on the Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results.[12] The Committee takes note of the useful and detailed exchange of views and information which took place at these events and reiterates the importance of improving Members' implementation of Articles 5-9 of the Agreement.

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[10] G/TBT/13, para. 40.

[11] See Annex 1 of G/TBT/M/35.

[12] See G/TBT/M/38/Add.1. The objective of the March 2006 Workshop on the Different Approaches to Conformity Assessment was to promote a better understanding of conformity assessment systems in general. The workshop discussion was divided into three sessions: (i) Conformity assessment procedures at the domestic level; (ii) mechanisms to facilitate the acceptance of conformity assessment results (pursuant to Article 6 of the TBT Agreement); and (iii) conformity assessment infrastructure in developing country Members. The programme (G/TBT/GEN/31) as well as presentations are available on the TBT webpage: http://www.wto.org/english/ tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm#events.

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1.   Approaches to Conformity Assessment

(a)   Use of Appropriate Conformity Assessment Procedures

22.   In the preparation, adoption and use of conformity assessment procedures, the Committee reiterates the importance of complying with the provisions of Articles 5 to 9, 11 and 12 which set out the obligations concerning non-discrimination, unnecessary obstacles to trade, the use of international standards, guides or recommendations, transparency, technical assistance and special and differential treatment.

23.   In order to assist Members in better understanding whether the use of a particular conformity assessment procedure is appropriate in a given situation, the Committee agrees to exchange views on the various considerations that are relevant when deciding on the type of procedure to be used, including the level of risk associated with products. Moreover, with a view to gaining insight into how different procedures are applied to different situations and categories of products by Members,[13] the Committee agrees to continue sharing experiences on the use of different types of conformity assessment procedures.

(b)   Use of Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC)

24.   The Committee recognizes the benefits of SDoC for the assurance of conformity when used in appropriate circumstances and for certain sectors. From a manufacturer's perspective, SDoC can allow flexibility and non-discriminatory treatment in the choice of location for testing or other conformity assessment procedures and can reduce associated costs. When deciding whether or not to use SDoC, Members should analyze a range of elements in order to determine the costs and benefits of doing so.

25.   The Committee reiterates that when evaluating the approach to conformity assessment, and in particular SDoC, Members should consider the following: risk assessment, giving particular consideration to the characteristics of the sectors and the products; adequate regulatory and legal regimes to implement SDoC, including those related to product liability; and well-developed market surveillance systems with appropriate resources and enforcement mechanisms, which may include penalties for false/misleading declarations, and consumer redress. In using SDoC, the Committee stresses again the importance of Members complying with their transparency obligations so that suppliers are informed when such conformity assessment procedures are proposed.

26.   The Committee notes that SDoC may be difficult for developing country Members to implement. In this regard, the Committee further notes the need expressed by developing country Members for technical assistance and resources in order to implement SDoC.

27.   The Committee agrees to continue to exchange experiences on the design and implementation of SDoC and on situations for which SDoC may be a suitable conformity assessment procedure.

(c)   Use of Accreditation to Qualify Conformity Assessment Bodies

28.   The Committee notes that accreditation is widely recognized as a tool to demonstrate the technical competence of conformity assessment bodies in exporting Members. The Committee stresses

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[13] See G/TBT/M/38/Add.1. At the March 2006 Workshop on Different Approaches to Conformity Assessment, participants provided concrete examples of existing approaches at the domestic level and explained the mechanisms in place to make the conformity assessment procedures both effective and well-suited to the regulatory purpose at hand. Presentations were also provided on the implementation of voluntary conformity assessment market programs, and on sector-specific approaches to conformity assessment in relation to the following sectors: vehicle emission and noise, electricity and forest certification.

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the importance of Members complying with the provisions of the Agreement with regard to accreditation.

29.   The Committee recalls the necessity of using international standards, guides, or recommendations in relation to accreditation, which should help to achieve confidence. Such confidence is essential to the designation of conformity assessment bodies in other Members.

30.   A number of problems in relation to accreditation in certain developing country Members may be noted, for example: insufficient number of accredited bodies for the assessment of conformity at the domestic or regional level, high costs in obtaining foreign accreditation, and difficulties in establishing internationally recognized accreditation bodies. The Committee reiterates the importance of assisting developing country Members in this respect, in conformity with Article 11.

31.   The Committee agrees to share experiences on the use of accreditation to qualify the technical competence of conformity assessment bodies.

2.   International Standards, Guides or Recommendations

32.   The Committee reiterates the importance of Members (i) using relevant international standards, guides or recommendations, or the relevant parts of them, as a basis for their conformity assessment procedures, in cases where a positive assurance is required that products conform with technical regulations or standards, and relevant guides or recommendations issued by international standardizing bodies exist or their completion is imminent, and except where such guides or recommendations or relevant parts are inappropriate for the Members concerned (Article 5.4); and (ii) playing a full part, within the limits of their resources, in the preparation by appropriate international standardizing bodies of international standards, guides or recommendations for conformity assessment procedures (Article 5.5). The Committee notes that certain international standards, guides or recommendations concerning conformity assessment procedures have been recently developed or revised.[14]

33.   A focused discussion on Members' experience in using international standards, guides or recommendations can help regulators to better understand how they can be applied and how Article 5.4 is implemented. Therefore, the Committee agrees to exchange information on Members' experience on their use.

3.   Facilitating the Recognition of Conformity Assessment Results

(a)   Unilateral Recognition

(i)   Unilateral Recognition of Results of Foreign Conformity Assessment, Including Government Designation

34.   Pursuant to Article 6.1, Members have an obligation to ensure, whenever possible, that results of conformity assessment procedures in other Members, which are equivalent to their own procedures, are accepted. With a view to reducing unnecessary barriers to trade associated with duplicative testing and certification, the Committee acknowledges in particular that government designation is one of the approaches that can facilitate the acceptance of conformity assessment results as foreseen in Article 6.1.2. Under this approach, governments designate specific conformity assessment bodies, including bodies located outside their territories, to undertake conformity assessment activities.

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[14] See G/TBT/M/38/Add.1. At the March 2006 Workshop on Different Approaches to Conformity Assessment, Members heard a presentation on the ISO/CASCO Toolbox.

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35.   The Committee agrees to exchange information on unilateral recognition of results of foreign conformity assessment, including on existing government designation schemes, in relation to Article 6.1.2.

(ii)   Participation of Foreign Conformity Assessment Bodies in Domestic Conformity Assessment Procedures

36.   The Committee renews its encouragement of Members to allow the participation of conformity assessment bodies located in the territory of other Members in their conformity assessment procedures, on a non-discriminatory basis, as stated in Article 6.4. It is stressed that such participation should be facilitated to the extent that it contributes to providing a wider choice of competent conformity assessment bodies for suppliers and regulators. For example, cross-border accreditation arrangements can be cost-effective.

37.   The Committee agrees to exchange information on the participation of foreign conformity assessment bodies in domestic conformity assessment procedures, pursuant to Article 6.4.

(b)   Mutual Recognition

(i)   Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)

38.   Pursuant to Article 6.3, Members are encouraged to be willing to enter into mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) involving the reciprocal acceptance of the results of conformity assessment procedures taking place in the territory of Members concerned.

39.   In relation to government-to-government MRAs, possible difficulties and problems may relate to: differences in development levels amongst Members; cost; non-transparency; non-MFN nature; limited opportunity to enter into negotiations for the conclusion of MRAs; the need to take into account the quality of the conformity assessment procedures rather than the origin of the product; and, efficiency and effectiveness of MRAs to solve problems of multiple testing and conformity assessment procedures. The Committee notes that the mutual introduction of cross-border designation systems in equivalent fields by governments can be a cost-effective agreement. The Committee reiterates that the use of relevant international conformity assessment standards, guides and recommendations, as well as greater alignment of conformity assessment procedures could facilitate the conclusion of MRAs.

40.   Considerations and factors for the conclusion of effective MRAs between governments may include:[15] sound regulatory infrastructure; sufficient volume of trade in specific sectors between the parties involved to justify the high administrative costs and the generally long-term nature of the negotiations; tangible economic benefits; interest and support of stakeholders; underlying compatibility in the regulatory systems of the potential MRA parties; resource implications of MRA negotiation and implementation; and a confidence-building approach, in particular, where the technical competence of the two parties is not equivalent. In relation to the latter, it is noted that technical assistance can play an important role in enhancing the level of technical competence of parties from developing country Members and building confidence among parties that have different levels of technical competence.

41.   The Committee reiterates the importance of Members notifying mutual recognition agreements in accordance with Article 10.7 and invites Members to inform the Secretariat when such agreements are no longer in force.

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[15] See G/TBT/M/38/Add.1. At the March 2006 Workshop on Different Approaches to Conformity Assessment, participants shared information on the merits and possible difficulties in negotiating and implementing government-to-government mutual recognition agreements.

42.   The Committee agrees to further exchange information on (i) the operation of existing MRAs, including cases where implementation has not been deemed satisfactory;   and (ii) their cost-effectiveness.

(ii)   Voluntary Mutual Recognition Arrangements Between Domestic and Foreign Conformity Assessment Bodies

43.   The Committee notes that voluntary mutual recognition arrangements have been reached among individual laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.[16]   In addition, regional and multilateral recognition arrangements have been reached between accreditation bodies. A number of international and regional systems have developed over time with the objective of establishing networks of conformity assessment bodies whose competence can be relied upon by all members. Pursuant to these arrangements, each party undertakes to recognize the equivalence of accreditation systems, certificates, test or inspection reports issued by any other party to the arrangement as equivalent to their own and to promote that equivalence throughout its territory of operation. Some of these arrangements have been recognized by governments as a basis for the acceptance of test results and certification activities in relation to specific regulations.

44.   Hence, the Committee notes that the existence of international and regional voluntary mutual recognition arrangements can facilitate acceptance of results of conformity assessment.[17]

45.   The Committee agrees to further exchange information on voluntary mutual recognition arrangements and on the extent to which results of conformity assessment are accepted by regulators.

4.   Future Work

46.   With a view to furthering the understanding of the implementation of Articles 5-9 of the Agreement, and as indicated above, the Committee <u>agrees</u> to continue sharing experiences on:

    (a)   approaches to conformity assessment, and in particular on

        (i)   various considerations that are relevant when deciding on the need for a conformity assessment procedure and on the type of procedure, including the level of risk associated with products;

        (ii)   the use of different types of conformity assessment procedures;

        (iii)   the design and implementation of SDoC and situations for which SDoC may be a suitable conformity assessment procedure; and

        (iv)   the use of accreditation to qualify the technical competence of conformity assessment bodies;

    (b)   the use of international standards, guides or recommendations in Members' domestic conformity assessment procedures; and

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[16] See G/TBT/M/38/Add.1. At the March 2006 Workshop on Different Approaches to Conformity Assessment, Members shared information on the IECEE CB scheme.

[17] See G/TBT/M/38/Add.1. At the March 2006 Workshop on Different Approaches to Conformity Assessment, Members exchanged information on ways to promote acceptance by regulatory authorities of results by conformity assessment bodies participating in voluntary arrangements.

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   (c)   recognition of conformity assessment results, and in particular on

     (i)   unilateral recognition of results of foreign conformity assessment, including on existing government designation schemes in relation to Article 6.1.2;

     (ii)   the participation of foreign conformity assessment bodies in domestic conformity assessment procedures pursuant to Article 6.4;

     (iii)   the operation of existing MRAs, including cases where implementation has not been deemed satisfactory; and their cost-effectiveness; and

     (iv)   voluntary mutual recognition arrangements and on the extent to which results of conformity assessment are accepted by regulators.

D. TRANSPARENCY

47. The Committee reiterates the importance of Members fully complying with their transparency obligations under the Agreement, in particular, those related to the notification of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, as required under Articles 2.9, 2.10, 5.6, 5.7 and 10.7. A number of decisions and recommendations have been made with a view to facilitating access to information and further improving the implementation of transparency procedures under the Agreement.[18] The Committee encourages Members to follow these decisions and recommendations.

48. Pursuant to Article 10.1, each Member shall ensure that an enquiry point exists which is able to answer all reasonable enquiries from other Members and interested parties in other Members. 131 Members have submitted information on their enquiry points.[19] The Committee reiterates the importance of Members fulfilling their obligations under Article 10.1.

49. Article 10.7 of the Agreement requires Members to notify agreements between Members on issues related to technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures and which may have a significant effect on trade. From 1995-2005, 46 such notifications have been submitted.[20]

50. The Committee notes that pursuant to a 1995 Committee Decision to hold "regular meetings of persons responsible for information exchange, including persons responsible for enquiry points and notifications"[21], the Fourth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange took place on 2-3 November 2004.[22]

1. **Publication of a Notice of Proposed Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures**

51. Pursuant to Articles 2.9.1 and 5.6.1, Members are required to publish a notice of a proposed technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure if it may have a significant effect on trade and whenever a relevant international standard does not exist or the proposed regulation or procedure is not in accordance with it. The Committee notes that there appears to be no uniformity between Members as to how this notice is to be published and agrees to examine ways in which the publications for such

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[18] "Decisions and Recommendations adopted by the Committee since 1 January 1995", Note by the Secretariat, 23 May 2002, G/TBT/1/Rev.8, pages 11-18.
[19] The latest list of enquiry points is contained in document G/TBT/ENQ/28.
[20] Notifications under Article 10.7 are circulated under document symbol G/TBT/10.7/Member initials/--".
[21] G/TBT/1/Rev.8, page 19.
[22] A Report of this meeting is contained in Annex 2 of G/TBT/M/34.

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notices – and their content – are made available, so as to enable all interested parties to become acquainted with them.[23]

2.   Notifications of Proposed Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures of Local Governments at the Level Directly Below that of the Central Government

52.   Pursuant to Articles 3.2 (on technical regulations) and 7.2 (on conformity assessment procedures), Members are required to fulfil the notification obligations contained in Articles 2 and 5 for measures of local governments, at the level directly below that of Members' central governments. The Committee notes that 10 technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures proposed by local governments at the level directly below that of the central government have been notified in the period 1995 to 2005. The Committee reiterates the importance of Members fulfilling their notification obligations under Articles 3.2 and 7.2.[24] The Committee invites Members to indicate the local government bodies in their jurisdiction that are subject to these obligations.

3.   Texts of Notified Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures

(a)   Access to Texts

53.   The Committee notes that knowledge of the text of a notified technical regulation and conformity assessment procedure is essential. It informs exporters about the proposed regulations and procedures that apply to products they intend to place on a given market. In order to facilitate systematic access to texts of notified measures, the Committee encourages Members to provide (i) more detailed information in Section 6 "Description of content" of the notification form so as to enable Members to make a first analysis of the proposal; and (ii) the website address where Members can download the full text of the notified measure in Section 11 of the notification form "Text available from" or any other means to quickly and easily access the text of the proposed regulations and procedures. Moreover, the Committee notes some preliminary information provided by the WTO Secretariat on possibilities to attach to the notification form a copy of the text of the notified measure.[25] The Committee agrees to further explore ways to implement such a feature.

54.   The Committee further encourages Members to notify the availability of the adopted final text as an addendum to the original notification and provide information on where the final text can be obtained (including website address).

(b)   Translations

55.   Members are encouraged to provide translations of documents covered by specific notifications in any WTO official language of their choice without being requested to do so. The Committee notes that such translations may facilitate Members' ability to comment on notified technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures and be particularly useful for developing country Members as costs and time spent on translations may be reduced. In this context, the Committee reiterates the importance of sharing translation of texts of notified technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.[26]

56.   As some Members often have these documents translated into one official language of the WTO, the Committee agrees to explore ways to enhance the sharing of translation of documents referred to in notifications, such as posting on Members' websites or developing a format to inform

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[23] A list of official publications in relation to technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and standards is contained in document G/TBT/GEN/39 (List of Members' Publications in Relation to Technical Regulations, Conformity Assessment Procedures and Standards).
[24] G/TBT/5, para. 9; G/TBT/9, para. 11; G/TBT/13, para. 23.
[25] See "Attachments to TBT Notifications", Information from the Secretariat, G/TBT/GEN/40.
[26] See also G/TBT/13, para. 26.

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other Members of the existence of translations of notified measures. The Committee also recalls that the existence of translations should be indicated in Section 5 "Title and number of pages" of the notification form.

4.   Comments on Proposed Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures

(a)   Length of Time Allowed for Comments

57.   The Committee notes that an insufficient period of time for presentation of comments on proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment prevents Members from exercising their rights to submit comments. The Committee recalls the recommendation that the normal time-limit for presentation of comments be no less than 60 days, and, where possible, 90 days.[27]

58.   Furthermore, the Committee encourages Members to provide sufficient time between the end of the comment period and the adoption of the notified technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures for the consideration of comments made and the preparation of subsequent responses.

(b)   Sharing and Discussion of Comments

59.   The Committee notes that the sharing, on a voluntary basis, of comments and responses on notifications could contribute significantly to other Members' understanding of whether their comments have been taken into account, and could assist Members to benefit from the technical knowledge and legal expertise of their trading partners; this could be particularly useful for developing country Members. In the preparation of comments and subsequent responses, the Committee has stressed the importance of domestic coordination between the various interested parties.

60.   The Committee notes that Members have increased their efforts since the last review to promote a more widespread dissemination of comments and replies relating to notified draft technical regulations and conformity assessments procedures. Certain Members have put in place websites on which all comments and replies issued or received are made public. The Committee notes that the consultation of these websites may allow Members to take advantage of the legal expertise expressed by other Members and to identify "best practices" with respect to the regulatory approach to certain problems. In this context, the Committee encourages Members to exchange comments and to provide information on websites on which comments received from Members and replies thereto are posted, taking into account the fact that some bilateral communications between Members could be of a confidential nature. Based on the information provided by Members, a list of these websites could be prepared by the Secretariat.

5.   Timing of the Entry into Force of Technical Regulations

61.   Pursuant to Article 2.12, Members shall leave a reasonable interval between the publication of technical regulations and their entry into force, except in the case of certain urgent circumstances.

62.   The Ministerial Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns, adopted on 14 November 2001 in Doha, provides that, subject to the conditions specified in Article 2.12, the phrase "reasonable interval" shall be understood to mean normally a period of not less than six months, except when this would be ineffective to fulfil the legitimate objectives pursued.[28] The Committee stresses the importance of the Doha Ministerial Decision in relation to Article 2.12 on technical regulations.

63.   Furthermore, while noting that Article 2.12 already includes reference to developing country Members and their specific needs, the Committee encourages Members to provide an interval of more

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[27] G/TBT/1/Rev.8, page 17.
[28] WT/MIN(01)/17, para.5.2; included in G/TBT/1/Rev.8, page 30.

than six months, when possible, between the publication of technical regulations and their entry into force so that producers, in particular in developing country Members, have sufficient time to adapt to the new requirements.

6. Notification of the Existence of a Work Programme by a Standardizing Body

64.   Paragraph J of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 to the Agreement) requires in relevant parts that: "At least once every six months, the standardizing body shall publish a work programme containing its name and address, the standards it is currently preparing and the standards which it has adopted in the preceding period. … No later than at the time of publication of its work programme, the standardizing body shall notify the existence thereof to the ISO/IEC Information Centre in Geneva."

65.   With a view to enhancing transparency in terms of the obligations of standardizing bodies under Paragraph J, the Committee (i) invites the ISO/IEC Information Centre to provide information to the Committee on the status of notifications of the existence of a work programme made under Paragraph J when the WTO TBT Standards Code Directory is published; and (ii) encourages standardizing bodies that communicate their work programmes via the internet to specify the exact web pages where the information on work programmes is located under the item "Publication" of the notification form.[29]

7. Acceptance of the Code of Good Practice by Regional Standardizing Bodies

66.   The Committee recalls that pursuant to paragraph B of the Code of Good Practice, the Code is open to acceptance by any standardizing body within the territory of a Member of the WTO, whether a central government body, a local government body, or a non-governmental body; to any governmental regional standardizing body one or more members of which are Members of the WTO; and to any non-governmental regional standardizing body one or more members of which are situated within the territory of a Member of the WTO. The Committee recalls further that paragraph C provides that standardizing bodies that have accepted or withdrawn from the Code of Good Practice shall notify this fact to the ISO/IEC Information Centre in Geneva.

67.   The Committee encourages regional standardizing bodies to accept the Code of Good Practice and to notify their acceptance of the Code to the ISO/IEC Information Centre.

8. Future Work

68.   With a view to facilitating the implementation of transparency procedures under the Agreement, and as indicated above, the Committee <u>agrees</u>:

(a)   with regard to the publication of a notice of proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures

(i)   to examine ways in which the publications for such notices – and their content – are made available, so as to enable all interested parties to become acquainted with them;

(b)   with regard to the notification of proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures of local governments at the level directly below that of the central government

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[29] The form is contained in G/TBT/W/4/Rev.1, page 6.

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       (i)   to invite Members to indicate the local government bodies in their jurisdiction that are subject to the notification obligations contained in Articles 3.2 and 7.2;

(c)   with regard to texts of notified technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures

       (i)   to encourage Members to provide: (i) more detailed information on proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures in Section 6 "Description of content" of the notification form; and (ii) the website address where Members can download the full text of the notified measure in Section 11 "Text available from" of the notification form or any other means to quickly and easily access the text;

       (ii)   to explore ways to attach to the notification form a copy of the text of the notified measure;

       (iii)   to encourage Members to notify the availability of the adopted final text as an addendum to the original notification and to provide information on where the final text can be obtained, including website address; and

       (iv)   to explore ways to enhance the sharing of translation of documents referred to in notifications, such as posting on Members' websites or developing a format to inform other Members of the existence of translations of notified measures;

(d)   with regard to comments on proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures

       (i)   to encourage Members to provide sufficient time between the end of the comment period and the adoption of the notified technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures for the consideration of comments made and the preparation of subsequent responses;

       (ii)   to encourage Members to exchange comments and to provide information on websites on which comments received from Members and replies thereto are posted, taking into account the fact that some bilateral communications between Members could be of a confidential nature; and

       (iii)   to request the Secretariat to prepare a list of these websites, based on the information provided by Members;

(e)   with regard to the timing of the entry into force of technical regulations

       (i)   to encourage Members to provide an interval of more than six months, when possible, between the publication of technical regulations and their entry into force;

(f)   with regard to the notification of the existence of a work programme

       (i)   to invite the ISO/IEC Information Centre to provide information to the Committee on the status of notifications of the existence of a work programme made under Paragraph J when the WTO TBT Standards Code Directory is published;

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> (ii)   to encourage standardizing bodies that communicate their work programmes via the internet to specify the exact web pages where the information on work programmes is located under the item "Publication" of the notification form; and

(g)   with regard to the acceptance of the Code of Good Practice by regional standardizing bodies

> (i)   to encourage regional standardizing bodies to accept the Code of Good Practice and to notify their acceptance of the Code to the ISO/IEC Information Centre.

E.   TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

69.   Since the entry into force of the Agreement, technical assistance has been considered as an area of priority and features on the agenda of Committee meetings on a permanent basis.[30] The Committee reiterates the importance of Members complying with the obligations contained in Article 11 on technical assistance, in particular in relation to conformity assessment procedures.[31] The Committee also reiterates the importance of transparency in demand and supply of technical assistance and emphasizes the need for effective provision of such assistance.

1.   Transparency in Demand and Supply of Technical Assistance

70.   In the first years of the Committee's work, it was agreed that in order to enhance implementation of Article 11, Members would on a voluntary basis exchange information regarding its implementation, and that Members that required technical assistance would inform the Committee of any difficulties they encountered in the operation and implementation of the Agreement. Subsequently, and while reiterating the need for enhanced information exchange, the Committee agreed to develop a demand-driven technical cooperation programme; an approach that was confirmed by Ministers in the 2001 Doha Ministerial Decision on Implementation-related Issues and Concerns.[32]

71.   Following the Second Triennial Review, the Committee conducted a survey on needs identification and prioritization by developing country Members[33] and, at the Third Triennial Review, agreed on a number of recommendations related to improving transparency in the area of technical assistance.[34] In subsequent work, the Committee recognized that improvements were needed to facilitate demand and supply of technical assistance and, as a contribution to addressing this issue, the Committee adopted in 2005 a Format for the Voluntary Notification of Specific Technical Assistance Needs and Responses.[35] The operation of this mechanism will be reviewed at the end of 2007.

72.   The Committee stresses the importance of building upon previous work on improving transparency to ensure the flow of information on technical assistance. The Committee notes in this regard the usefulness of the WTO TBT webpage on TBT-related technical assistance.

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[30] G/TBT/1/Rev.8, page 22.
[31] See G/TBT/M/38/Add.1. At the March 2006 Workshop on Different Approaches to Conformity Assessment, participants from a number of developing country Members shared their experiences in either administering existing conformity assessment systems or working to build such systems. Participants presented the operation of these systems, key challenges and problems faced (resource constraints, technical and infrastructural needs, etc). Some international agencies informed the Workshop of their role and work to assist developing country Members in the identification of conformity assessment-related needs and in the provision of technical assistance. The importance of regional coordination was also stressed.
[32] WT/MIN(01)/17, para. 5.1.
[33] The questionnaire is contained in G/TBT/W/178; responses are compiled and summarised in G/TBT/W/186 and Add.1. An analysis of the responses is contained in G/TBT/W/193.
[34] G/TBT/13, paras. 54-56.
[35] G/TBT/16.

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2.   The Effective Provision of Technical Assistance

73.   The Committee recalls the emphasis put by Members in earlier work on the importance of enhancing the effectiveness of technical assistance activities.[36] In particular, at the Third Triennial Review, in considering approaches to technical assistance, the Committee noted that there were a number of good practices to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of technical assistance, as well as modalities for the provision of technical assistance under Article 11 of the Agreement.[37]

74.   With a view to enhancing the effective provision of such technical assistance, and considering that Members, the Committee and the Secretariat have different roles to play in furthering the objectives of Article 11, the Committee notes that there are different aspects to be considered in the delivery and receipt of technical assistance. In this regard, the use of good practices is essential to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. For instance, it is important that technical assistance is provided in a timely manner and that it is predictable and sustainable. Also, in some cases, technical assistance may need to be provided on an urgent and *ad hoc* basis to assist developing country Members regarding the methods by which technical regulations can best be met, in accordance with Article 11.3.2.

3.   Participation of Developing Country Members in the Work of International Standardizing Bodies

75.   The Committee agreed in 1997 to explore ways and means of improving the implementation of Articles 2.6, 5.5, 11.2, 12.5 and paragraph G of the Code of Good Practice with a view to enhancing Members' awareness of, and participation in, the work of international standardizing bodies. Subsequently, the Committee noted the discussions in the General Council on implementation concerns, particularly in regard to participation by developing country Members in international standardization activities.

76.   At the 2001 Doha Ministerial Conference, Members urged the Director-General to continue his cooperative efforts with international standardizing bodies and other institutions, including with a view to according priority to the effective participation of least-developed country Members and facilitating the provision of technical and financial assistance for this purpose.[38] At the Third Triennial Review, Members took note of a report issued by the Director-General on actions of relevant international organizations and institutions to increase participation of developing country Members in the work of international standardizing bodies.[39]

77.   Considering the above, the Committee notes and welcomes the actions taken by observer international standardizing bodies to enhance the participation of developing country Members in their work and invites these and other international standardizing bodies to provide information on steps taken to ensure their effective participation.[40]

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[36] G/TBT/9, para. 45 and G/TBT/13, para. 50.

[37] G/TBT/13, paras 50 and 52.

[38] WT/MIN(01)/17, para. 5.3. The reports issued by the Director-General are contained in WT/GC/42, 45 and 46/Rev.1. The latest report on TBT related work in response to the above mandate is contained in the last three paragraphs of WT/GC/W/500.

[39] G/TBT/W/172.

[40] For instance, the ISO General Assembly adopted, in 2004, an ISO Strategic Plan for the period 2005-2010 which aims, *inter alia*, at enhancing developing country involvement in its technical activities. The IEC has also reported on the use of its "Affiliate Country Programme", which is aimed at facilitating the participation of developing countries in the elaboration of international electrotechnical standards. The FAO/WHO (for Codex) has set up trust funds to enhance the participation of developing countries in standard setting meetings and activities, training programmes and regional technical consultations on standards and their implementation.

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4.   Future Work

78.   With a view to facilitating the implementation of the TBT Agreement's provisions on technical assistance, the Committee <u>agrees</u>:

(a)   to encourage Members to make use of the Format for the Voluntary Notification of Specific Technical Assistance Needs and Responses contained in G/TBT/16;

(b)   to review, in 2007, the use of the Format for the Voluntary Notification of Specific Technical Assistance Needs and Responses, including the possible further development of the demand-driven technical cooperation mechanism; and

(c)   to exchange experiences in respect of the delivery and receipt of technical assistance with a view to identifying good practices in this regard.

F.   SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

79.   The Committee emphasizes the importance of Members providing differential and more favourable treatment to developing country Members, through the implementation of the provisions of Article 12 as well as through the relevant provisions of other Articles of the Agreement. Such treatment could assist developing country Members to effectively implement and benefit from the Agreement.

80.   Special and differential treatment has been an important topic of consideration in the Committee. On various occasions, Members have exchanged views and information on how to improve transparency of the operation and implementation of Article 12.[41] In the past, the Committee invited Members on a voluntary basis to exchange information on the implementation of Article 12 and specific problems faced in relation to its operation.[42]

81.   The Committee underscores the continuing need for exchanges of information concerning implementation of the special and differential treatment provisions of the Agreement. This includes sharing of information on special and differential treatment provided by Members and its impact, as well as information on how Members have taken into account special and differential treatment provisions in the preparation of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. The Committee notes possible challenges of ascertaining and providing information on special and differential treatment and also a possible link between discussions on special and differential treatment and technical assistance.

1.   Future Work

82.   In order to have a more focused exchange of information, the Committee <u>agrees</u>:

(a)   to encourage Members to inform the Committee of special and differential treatment provided to developing country Members, including information on how they have taken into account special and differential treatment provisions in the preparation of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures; and

(b)   to encourage developing country Members to undertake their own assessments of the utility and benefits of such special and differential treatment.

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[41] See in particular G/TBT/5, Section H; G/TBT/9, Section F and also Annex 1 concerning a Workshop on Technical Assistance and Differential Treatment in the context of the TBT Agreement held on 19-20 July 2000.
[42] G/TBT/5, para. 33(a).

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83.   The exchange of information could cover, *inter alia*, possible linkages between discussions on special and differential treatment and technical assistance.

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ANNEX 1 : LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED AND DISCUSSED DURING THE FOURTH TRIENNIAL REVIEW

Date	Symbol	Title	Member
24 June 2004	G/TBT/W/239	Colombia's Experience with Good Regulatory Practice	Colombia
3 November 2004	G/TBT/W/248	Good Regulatory Practice	Mexico
25 May 2005	G/TBT/W/251	Intellectual Property Right (IPR) Issues in Standardization	People's Republic of China
8 June 2005	G/TBT/W/252	Fourth Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement	People's Republic of China
13 June 2005	G/TBT/W/253	Fourth Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement	European Communities
14 June 2005	G/TBT/W/254	Good Regulatory Practice	European Communities
26 October 2005	G/TBT/W/258	Good Regulatory Practice	United States
3 March 2006	G/TBT/W/261	Fourth Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement	Chinese Taipei
10 March 2006	G/TBT/W/263	Fourth Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement	Japan
13 March 2006	G/TBT/W/264	Advancing the Discussion of Instrument Choice under Good Regulatory Practice	Canada
23 May 2006	G/TBT/W/265/ Rev.1	Counterfeiting of Certification Marks Affixed to Goods where there Exists a Health and/or Safety Concern	Canada
7 June 2006	G/TBT/W/266	Fourth Triennial Review of the Operation and Implementation of the TBT Agreement	Costa Rica
8 June 2006	G/TBT/W/267	Good Regulatory Practice – National Experiences	Brazil
12 June 2006	G/TBT/W/268	Fourth Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement – Good Regulatory Practice and Transparency	Chile
3 October 2006	G/TBT/W/269	Fourth Triennial Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade	Colombia
8 November 2006	G/TBT/W/251/ Add.1	Intellectual Property Right (IPR) Issues in Standardization	People's Republic of China

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WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/GEN/50
23 April 2007

(07-1667)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade   Original: English

ISO ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN 2006

The following information was provided by the <u>International Organization for Standardization (ISO)</u> at the TBT Committee meeting of 21 March 2007 under Agenda Item 5: (Updating by Observers).

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1.   Over two thirds of ISO's 156 members are from developing countries. They face a number of challenges in response to which ISO has defined a set of actions to improve national standardization infrastructures and capacity and to involve developing countries more fully 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.

2.   The **ISO Action plan** is also aimed at mobilizing members, regional organizations and donor agencies to promote developing country participation in international standardization, to build capacity through technical assistance programmes and enhance interactions at regional and international levels.

3.   Technical assistance and training activities carried out in 2006 are described below. Additional information of the projects is included in the Annex.

A.   INVOLVEMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ISO GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITY SETTING

4.   The **ISO Action Plan for developing countries** is monitored by the ISO Committee on developing country matters (DEVCO). Through the revision of the DEVCO terms of reference in 2003 and the establishment of the DEVCO Chair's Advisory Group in March 2004, developing countries participate more actively in setting priorities for policy development and technical assistance activities. Key performance indicators allow the appropriate monitoring.

5.   DEVCO currently has 127 members from developed and developing countries and meets once a year. The DEVCO Chair's Advisory Group consists of six members from developing countries and three from developed countries and meets twice a year.

B.   PARTICIPATION IN TECHNICAL WORK

6.   Increasing the participation of ISO members in developing countries in the standardization process is essential for developing countries to be able to voice priorities, contribute to and influence the technical content of ISO deliverables.

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7.   Through the concept of twinning between developed and developing countries introduced four years ago, ISO encourages members from developing countries to take on leadership positions in technical committees and subcommittees, to upgrade to P-member status and to hold technical committee secretariats. It should also be noted that an increasing number of technical committee meetings are hosted by developing countries.

8.   Under the **ISO Action Plan for developing countries**, support is also provided through direct sponsorships granted to developing country delegates to travel to technical committee meetings and through training programmes to ensure that delegates have the required knowledge and competence to participate effectively in the international standardization process.

9.   Candidates are selected according to the following principles: ensure maximum impact on the country's competitiveness, on consumer health and safety, or on the environment; apply consistency in the selection process; focus on an equitable distribution of assistance; ensure continuity in the support provided and to the extent possible, sustainability for long-term commitment from the national standards bodies.

C.   SUPPLYING TARGETED ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

1.   Reference publications

10.   An important element of the support provided by ISO to its members in developing countries is the development and dissemination of a range of publications on the operation and promotion of standardization activities.

11.   A work plan has been established according to which publications and educational materials are prepared and made available to members. The subjects prioritized in 2006 are guidance on the establishment and management of a national standards body, training materials on enhancing developing country participation in international standardization and a check list for small businesses to test readiness to implement ISO 22000, **Food safety management systems**. Another publication relates to involvement in ISO work ("My ISO job").

2.   ISO Central Secretariat training courses

12.   The ISO Central Secretariat offers training services to ISO members in developed and developing countries in a variety of fields relating to standards development practices, including tools and services supporting the standards development process. The training menu features regular courses covering the most requested topics and proposes customized training to support specific requirements and any particular needs of ISO members.

13.   Under the **ISO Action Plan for developing countries**, in-depth training in specialized disciplines of standardization is also available through the ISO Robert Oteng Fellowship programme.

3.   Enhanced participation in International Standardization

14.   To respond to the needs of its members, the ISO training services offer is regularly updated and new courses introduced. The latest addition is a three-day course on **Enhanced participation in International Standardization**. The course is targeted at staff from member bodies and delegated organizations and provides an overview of the ISO structure and major policy issues, the process of producing an International Standard, the role of the ISO member in the production of standards, an introduction to the electronic services offered by ISO and the role of the individual delegate in international standardization. A training of trainers course is under development for deployment at the regional level.

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4.   ISO's e-Learning programme

15.   E-Learning is a good option for addressing the steadily growing education and information needs of different stakeholders in the process of international standardization.

16.   The e-Learning programme developed at the ISO Central Secretariat was launched in November 2004 and now comprises the following three modules:

- Module 1: Assessing of national priorities in standardization

- Module 2: Participating in international standardization

- Module 3: Implementing international standards

17.   ISO's e-learning modules follow a "learning-by-doing" approach. Advantage is taken of the opportunities that information technology, combined with careful instructional design, offer to create a virtual environment where the student is given the possibility to perform the "same" activities that s/he is supposed to undertake in real life.

18.   To date, close to 40 staff of ISO members both in developed and developing countries have taken part in the e-Learning courses.

D.   ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND ICT TOOLS

19.   ISO provides assistance and training in the acquisition, implementation and maintenance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) by its members in developing countries. ISO encourages the use of ICT tools developed in support of the standards development and dissemination processes, in particular to enable effective involvement in the ISO system.

1.   ISO/ICT Programme

20.   To strengthen national standardization activities and to integrate these with the international system constituted by ISO and its members, ISO has established a programme to enhance the capability of developing countries to implement and use electronic tools and services.

21.   The ISO/ICT programme consists of a hardware and software package to receive information from ISO and other sources, and to sort it and disseminate it to national stakeholders. The programme also includes a template for establishing the national standards body's Web site, as well as ISO expertise to install the equipment and to train local staff in its usage.

2.   ISO Global Directory

22.   The ISO Global Directory is a database which allows ISO members to register individuals as their representatives on ISO committees and/or in other functions. It is aimed at harmonizing and simplifying the registration and management of data concerning the individuals who act as ISO member representatives in technical committees, sub-committees and working groups.

23.   A large-scale training programme has been designed and continues to be implemented by the ISO Central Secretariat to support the release and use of the Global Directory by ISO members. To facilitate the participation of ISO members in developing countries in regional training courses, sponsorships have been extended under the **ISO Action Plan for developing countries**.

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E.   INVOLVING REGIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

1.   Regional cooperation

24.   In line with the objectives of the **ISO Action Plan for developing countries**, ISO seeks to foster relationships between standards bodies in developing countries and regional and sub-regional organizations to coordinate the development of capacity and building synergies.

25.   Collaboration with the regional organizations consists in exchanging information and experience, participating in general meetings, organizing workshops and seminars, and ensuring an optimal use of technical resources and expertise. Successful training and awareness-raising activities are organized jointly and aligned with the objectives of the regional standards organizations.

26.   The sub-regional level of cooperation on standardization and related matters is most suitable for sharing experience, organizing training and optimizing participation in International Standardization. By pooling the resources of several countries, using cost-sharing and providing some funding from the ISO Central Secretariat, the requisite services can be offered at an affordable cost. ISO has established a proactive approach to collaborate with other regional economic integration arrangements such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Gulf Standards Organization (GSO). Furthermore, formal partnerships have been established with major regional training centres.

2.   Partnerships with development agencies and international organizations

27.   ISO has established partnerships with international organizations and development agencies at the multilateral and bilateral level and works closely with them for the implementation of technical assistance projects in developing countries. Financial support to ISO actions is achieved either through funding by ISO members themselves, a special endowment provided by DIN, or through contacts with national development agencies, such as NORAD (Norway), SECO (Switzerland), SIDA (Sweden) and the Finnish government.

28.   ISO works closely with international bodies involved in fields related to standardization such as the Joint Committee on coordination of assistance to developing countries in metrology, accreditation and standardization (JCDCMAS). This initiative seeks to bring together all specialist organizations operating at a global level that are active in promoting MAS (metrology, accreditation, and standardization) as a tool for sustainable economic development.

29.   Active collaboration takes place with ITC, UNIDO and the WTO. The cooperation takes various forms such as reciprocal participation in meetings and increasingly the joint implementation of technical cooperation projects.

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II. OVERVIEW OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2006

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	Beneficiary countries
Awareness-raising seminar on ISO 22000 Food safety management systems	Cairo, Egypt	14 February 2006	100	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Senegal, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe
Awareness-raising seminar on ISO 22000 Food safety management systems	Windhoek, Namibia	5 April 2006	150	Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Awareness-raising seminar on ISO 22000 Food safety management systems	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	13-15 June 2006	33	Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger Senegal and Togo
Awareness-raising seminar on ISO 22000 Food safety management systems	Dubai United Arab Emirates	18-19 June 2006	117	Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates
Awareness-raising seminar on ISO 22000 Food safety management systems	Zagreb, Croatia	26-27 June 2006	88	Croatia
Awareness-raising seminar on ISO 22000 Food safety management systems	Nairobi, Kenya Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Kampala, Uganda	26-28 June 2006 12-14 July 2006 17-19 July 2006	75	Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

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Objective 1: Improve awareness of key stakeholders in developing countries of the role of standardization in economic growth, world trade and sustainable development				
Awareness-raising seminar on ISO 22000, Food safety management systems	New Delhi, India	10-11 August 2006	200	Afghanistan Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Nepal Pakistan and Sri Lanka
Awareness-raising seminar on ISO 22000, Food safety management systems	Jakarta, Indonesia	14-15 August 2006	130	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam
Séminaire régional sur les systemes de management de la sécurité des denrées alimentaires selon l'ISO 22000	Casablanca, Morocco Tunis, Tunisia	4-6 September 2006 7-9 September 2006	85	Morocco and Tunisia
Awareness raising seminar on ISO 22000 - Food safety management system	Colombo, Sri Lanka	18-20 December 2006	101	Sri Lanka
Seminar on Environmental Management Systems and ISO 14001	Kathmandu, Nepal Dhaka, Bangladesh	15-18 September 2006 18-20 September 2006	103	Nepal and Bangladesh
National Awareness-raising Workshop on ISO 14001 - Environmental Management System	Luanda, Angola	17-19 October 2006	45	Angola
Séminaire Sous-Regional ISO/MLIDNI sur les Systèmes de Management Environnemental et l'ISO 14001	Bamako, Mali	21-23 November 2006	35	Bénin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Sénégal and Togo

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Objective 1: Improve awareness of key stakeholders in developing countries of the role of standardization in economic growth, world trade and sustainable development				
Regional workshop on Life Cycle Assessment and ISO 14040	Astana, Kazakhstan	24-26 May 2006	33	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan
Awareness raising regional seminar for Central and South American Countries on standardization on social responsibility & national workshop	Montevideo, Uruguay	17 October 2006 ISO/UNIT 18-19 October 2006 ISO/COPANT/UNIT	246 20	COPANT Spanish speaking countries
Awareness Raising Workshop on Social Responsibility	Bridgetown/St.Michael, Barbados	23-24 October 2006	16	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Awareness raising regional workshop on standardization on social responsibility for Arab and Mediterranean Countries	Casablanca, Morocco	31 October – 1 November 2006	24	Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Syrian Arab, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
Africa Workshop on Social Responsibility (ISO 26000)	Blantyre, Malawi	30 November – 1 December 2006	29	Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe
COPOLCO/DEVCO seminar for Policy makers, consumers and standards bodies	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	23 May 2006	60	Brazil, India, Malaysia, Fiji, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and Zimbabwe

Objective 1: Improve awareness of key stakeholders in developing countries of the role of standardization in economic growth, world trade and sustainable development				
COPOLCO/DEVCO workshop on Consumer Participation in Standardization	Gaborone, Botswana	31 August – 1 September 2006	57	Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Rep. Dem. Congo,Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo Uganda , Zambia and Zimbabwe
Awareness-raising seminar on ISO 10015 and Quality Management in Human Capital Formation	Bogotá, Colombia Medelin, Colombia Cali, Colombia	5-6 June 2006 7 June 2006 8-9 June 2006	47	Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela

Objective 2: Build capacity of ISO members and stakeholders involved in developing the standardization infrastructure and participating in international standardization work				
Title	Venue/Host	Dates	Total participants	Beneficiary countries
Marketing and Promotion of International Standards	Jakarta, Indonesia	14-16 November 2006	30	Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam
Module 1 - Assessing National Priorities	e-learning	November 2005 - June 2006	14	Brazil (2), Colombia (1), Fiji (2), Ghana (1), India (1), Jamaica (1) Jordan (1), Kazakhstan (1) Kenya (1), Philippines (1), Thailand (1) and Zimbabwe (1)
Module 2 - Managing National Participation in International Standardization	e-learning	February – May 2006	10	Argentina (2), Croatia (2), Malaysia (2), St. Lucia (2) and South Africa (2)
Module 2 - Managing National Participation in International Standardization	e-learning	November 2006 – February 2007	10	Azerbaijan (1), Belarus (1), Brazil (1), Ghana (1), India (1), Jordan (1), Kenya (1), Nigeria (1), Romania (1) and Zimbabwe (1)
Enhanced participation in international standardization	Buenos Aires, Argentina	27-29 March 2006	39	Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados , Bolivia , Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay
Enhanced participation in international standardization	Cairo, Egypt	15-17 May 2006	25	Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen
Enhanced participation in international standardization	Hanoi, Vietnam	3-5 October 2006	25	Brunei Darusalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

Objective 2:	Build capacity of ISO members and stakeholders involved in developing the standardization infrastructure and participating in international standardization work			
Enhanced participation in international standardization	Pretoria, South Africa	14-16 November 2006	22	Botswana, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe
ISO Project Management course	Geneva, Switzerland	19-20 June 2006	17	Bhutan, Iraq, Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia
Regional workshop on Social Responsibility	Vienna, Austria	11-12 April 2006	35	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Romania, Serbia & Montenegro and Uzbekistan
ISO/SIS workshop on Increasing the Impact of Developing Country Participation in International Standardization in SR	Lisbon, Portugal	13-14 May 2006	65	Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, St. Lucia, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe
Fellowship course in QMS	Canada (SCC)	23-29 April 2006	1	St. Lucia
Fellowship to attend the joint ISO-IEC workshop on patent and copyright policies	Geneva, Switzerland	1-2 June 2006	1	Belarus

Objective 3:	Increase national and regional cooperation to share experience, resources, training and information and communications technologies			
Title	Venue/Host	Dates	Total participants	Beneficiary countries
Regional workshop on Conformity Assessment for Sustainable Development and Trade	Amman, Jordan	9-10 April 2006	134	Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen

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Objective 4: Develop electronic communication and expertise in IT tools to participate in international standardization work, reach out to stakeholders and make efficient use of ISO e-services				
Title	Venue/Host	Dates	Total participants	Beneficiary countries
ICT support	Kigali, Rwanda	13-14 March 2006	9	Rwanda
ICT support	Bujumbura, Burundi	16-17 March 2006	9	Burundi
ICT support	Havanna, Cuba	28 September -2 October 2006	7	Cuba
ICT support	Thimphu, Bhutan	6-7 November 2006	4	Bhutan
ICT support	Kathmandu, Nepal	9-10 November 2006	10	Nepal
ICT support	Sanaa, Yemen	14-17 November 2006	5	Yemen
ICT support	Lima, Peru	4-6 December 2006	7	Peru
ISO TC Server and e-balloting	Geneva, Switzerland	23-24 October 2006	4	China (3) and Jamaica (1)
Using the ISO STD Template: Practical Tips	Geneva, Switzerland	25-26 October 2006	2	China (1) and Jamaica (1)
Global Directory training course	Geneva, Switzerland	6-7 February 2006	10	Ghana (1) and Egypt (1)
Global Directory regional training course	Buenos Aires, Argentina	1-2 March 2006	11	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile. Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela

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Objective 4:	Develop electronic communication and expertise in IT tools to participate in international standardization work, reach out to stakeholders and make efficient use of ISO e-services			
Title	Venue/Host	Dates	Total participants	Beneficiary countries
Global Directory regional training course	Moscow, Russian Federation	25-27 April, 2006	14	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan
Global Directory regional training course	Alexandria, Egypt	27-28 June 2006	11	Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen
Global Directory regional training course	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	11-12 July 2006	11	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam
Global Directory training course	Geneva, Switzerland	7-8 November 2006	1	Romania (1)
Global Directory regional training course	Paris, France	14-15 November 2006	12	Algeria (1), Bénin(1), Côte d'Ivoire (1), Guinée (1), Guinée-Bissau(1), Mali (1), Madagascar (1), Morocco (1), Niger (1) Senegal (1), Togo(1) and Tunisia (1)
Global Directory regional training course	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	5-6 December 2006	8	Afghanistan (1), Bahrain (1), Korea DPR (1), Lebanon (1), Myanmar (1), Palestine (1), Syria (1) and United Arab Emirates(1)
Global Directory regional training course	Pretoria, South Africa	6-7 December 2006	16	Angola (1), Botswana (1), Congo (1), Ethiopia (1), Ghana (1), Malawi (1), Mauritius (1), Mozambique (1), Namibia (1), Nigeria (1), Rwanda(1), Sudan (1), Tanzania (1), Uganda (1), Zambia (1) and Zimbabwe (1)

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Objective 5:	Increase participation in governance and technical work of ISO to voice priorities, contribute and influence the technical content of ISO deliverables			
Title	Venue/Host	Dates	Total participants	Beneficiary countries
Sponsorship to TC 228	Tunis, Tunisia	27-28 March 2006	1	St. Lucia
Sponsorship to TC 59/SC16	Madrid, Spain	24-28 April 2006	1	Uruguay
Sponsorship to TC 197	Paris and Lyon, France	6-10 June 2006	1	Argentina
Sponsorship to TC 85	Ottawa, Canada	18-23 June 2006	1	Argentina
Sponsorship to TC 176	Busan, Rep. of Korea	13-18 November 2006	1	Tunisia
Sponsorship to TC 224	Punta del Este, Uruguay	30 November – 5 December 2006	1	Nigeria
3rd Meeting of Working Group on SR	Lisbon, Portugal	15-19 May 2006	32	Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, St. Lucia, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe

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WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

SUBMISSION BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO) TO THE SPS COMMITTEE MEETING – 28 FEBRUARY, 1 MARCH 2007

The following communication, received on 15 February 2007, is being circulated at the request of ISO.

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1.   The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has provided this updated information paper following on-going communications between the ISO Central Secretariat and the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the WTO. It provides a summary of current work undertaken by ISO that may be of interest to the SPS Committee.

2.   ISO is an observer at the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It is also an observer at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). In the area of technical assistance, ISO cooperates regularly with WTO, as well as with ITC and UNIDO, in the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding in the latter case.

3.   There is a long history of collaboration between the Codex Alimentarius and ISO, in particular through ISO Technical Committee TC 34, *Food products*. Indeed, Codex and ISO activities are complementary. Codex, as an intergovernmental organization, prepares consensus-based documents to assist governments in their statutory and regulatory work to protect citizens from health hazards related to food consumption. ISO, as an international non-governmental organization, prepares standards on test methods and nomenclature to assist stakeholders along the food chain to meet the existing statutory and regulatory requirements, as well as the requirements of consumers of these products. The number of ISO methods endorsed by Codex is over 100.

4.   ISO 22000:2005, *Food safety management systems — Requirements for any organization in the food chain*, is based on a management systems approach, as in ISO 9001:2000, and on the Codex hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) system. The need for a new International Standard arose from the fact that a variety of national standards had been developed and several retailer organizations had prepared documents (BRC, EFSIS, IFS, etc.) for the establishment and auditing of food safety systems, possibly including HACCP requirements. ISO 22000 should help to clarify and harmonize the present situation. The ISO 22000 standard has been adopted as a national standard in a number of countries including countries of the European Union. Although ISO itself does not provide certification to its standards, we are informed of more than 70 companies worldwide that have now been certified by third parties to ISO 22000, including companies in the EU, Australia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tunisia and USA.

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5.   A Technical Specification, ISO/TS 22004:2005, *Food safety management systems — Guidance on the application of ISO 22000:2005*, gives generic guidance to small and large enterprises on the implementation of ISO 22000, and explains the 'process approach' used in that standard. For an organization to operate effectively and efficiently, it has to identify and manage numerous linked activities. This set of linked activities using resources and managed to enable the transformation of inputs into outputs, is considered a 'process'.

6.   ISO, through TC 34, *Food products,* and its Committee on Conformity Assessment, CASCO, has recently published Technical Specification ISO/TS 22003:2007, *Food safety management systems — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems*. It 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.

7.   ISO/TC 34, together with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), is preparing ISO 22005, *Traceability in the feed and food chain — General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation*. It will shortly be out for vote as a Final Draft International Standard. This new International Standard will assist feed and food organizations to document the history, application and location of a product or components. The Working Group has collaborated closely with Codex, and the 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.

8.   Other important ISO International Standards specify methods for the detection and quantification of genetically modified organisms in foodstuffs. These standards, also developed in close cooperation with CEN, include:

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 24276:2006, *Foodstuffs —Methods of analysis for the detection of genetically modified organisms and derived products — General requirements and definitions*

9.   ISO considers that using its International Standards will assist regulatory authorities in achieving their aims in public health and safety at less cost to manufacturers and consumers, whilst at the same time disseminating new technologies and good practices.

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MANAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL WORK

AGENDA ITEM 6.1   TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT BOARD INITIATIVES IN 2007

Over the last year, the TMB has continued to progress with items relevant to ISO's strategy, and the TMB Business Plan continues to be the main focus for the TMB's work. It has also addressed a number of initiatives for new standardization activities as well as carrying out refinements to ISO's working procedures.

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

As reported previously, the TMB has appointed project champions from among its members for each of the seven key strategic objectives in *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010* and the project champions submitted some 70 proposals and recommendations for consideration by the TMB which has since categorized and prioritized the proposals. Among the priorities was the development of what was initially foreseen as a Guide, but will now be a special ISO/IEC publication, on the use of ISO and IEC standards in technical regulations. The final text of this document was approved at the meetings of the TMB and IEC Standardization Management Board (IEC/SMB) in June 2007.

Other initiatives completed in 2006 included the development of mechanisms for strengthening the top-down identification of new standardization needs (through the establishment by the TMB of Strategic Advisory Groups and through special study groups within technical committees and subcommittees) and the creation of a new structure, the project committee, to develop standards in very focused areas not falling within the scope of existing technical committees. Six project committees have been created to date.

As reported last year, in order to obtain a better understanding of the needs of developing countries and to seek ways of increasing developing country participation in ISO's technical work, a special session had been organized during the DEVCO plenary in September 2006 during which TMB members were able to discuss these issues with the members of DEVCO. As a follow up to that session, DEVCO and the TMB established an ad hoc task force which has been developing a guidance document on the concept of twinning which has been introduced into the ISO procedures to facilitate participation by developing countries.

Other initiatives in the context of ISO's strategy have seen the initiation of consultations with the IEC and CEN on a possible simplification of the range of deliverables. At its meeting in June 2007, the TMB decided in principle to use the new designation "ISO Agreement" to replace Technical Specification, Technical Report, Publicly Available Specification, Technology Trends Assessment and International Workshop Agreement. The mechanisms by which such publications are developed will be retained, but it was considered that the range of designations was not understood by end-users and should consequently be simplified. Subject to the results of the consultations with the IEC, and with regional standards bodies, it is consequently proposed that in future, ISO will offer three types of documents: International Standards, ISO Agreements, and Guides.

2 Procedural refinements

As reported last year, upon the initiative of the WSC, ISO and IEC worked with the ITU to develop a common patent policy and the WSC task force continued to work throughout 2006 to develop common implementation guidelines and a common patent statement and licensing declaration form. These were approved by the TMB and IEC/SMB at their meetings in February 2007 and have similarly been approved by ITU-T (the telecommunication sector) and ITU-R (the radiocommunications sector).

Another joint activity with the IEC is a current study looking at the possibility of revising the ISO and IEC policy on the use of the decimal marker in International Standards, recognizing that in recent years a number of international organizations have revised their policies and now use the point on the line in English language texts and the comma in French language texts.

One particular procedural refinement was introduced at the beginning of this year and that concerns the systematic review of International Standards. It had been recognized in the past that ISO member bodies occasionally find a need to modify ISO standards during the process of national adoption, but unless they are members of the committee concerned, there is no mechanism by which such changes can be communicated to the responsible committee. The TMB had consequently decided to extend the systematic review to all ISO member bodies who are asked to identify whether ISO standards are being used as-written or with modifications in their countries. Such feedback will enable committees to see whether changes are needed to improve the global relevance of the standards they have produced. The feedback will also allow the establishment of a database on the use of ISO standards which is another element that has been identified as needed to support *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010*. **The General Assembly is accordingly invited to encourage all member bodies when responding to the systematic reviews to provide as much information as possible on the use of ISO standards in their countries and thereby to contribute to the goal of global relevance of ISO's technical work.**

One final item of note is that there is an emerging trend which is likely to see particular types of standards no longer being issued in the form of documents, but being made available in the form of databases (of symbols, terms and definitions, codes, data elements etc.). Procedures have been prepared for the development and maintenance of such standards, but other aspects, including commercial issues and IT platform, still need to be addressed.

3 Management systems standardization

By its resolution 7/2003, the General Assembly had invited the TMB and the chairs of ISO/TC 176 and ISO/TC 207 to consider ISO's further involvement in management standards. The TMB consequently established an Ad hoc group on Management Systems Standards (MSS) and the results of the work of that group were reported to the General Assembly last year.

As follow-up, two new groups have been constituted: a Strategic Advisory Group on Management System Standards to provide advice to the TMB from the senior management and user perspectives on strategic directions for ISO management system standardization, and the Joint Technical Coordination Group on MSS which has a more operational role and is expected to develop guidance for implementation by all ISO MSS projects in order to ensure consistency among different management system standards.

Over the last three years, ISO has been conducting a dialogue with the International Labour Organization (ILO) concerning potential collaboration on an occupational health and safety management system standard. Regrettably, the result of the tri-partite negotiations in the ILO resulted in a request that ISO refrain from developing standards in this field. At its meeting in June, the TMB, recognizing that an increasing number of ISO members are developing their own

national standards on OHSMS, decided to carry out a survey in order to collect information on which OHSMS standards are being used in different countries.

The TMB is currently addressing two new potential MSS, on energy management, and on road traffic safety. It has also approved for publication a handbook on the integrated use of management system standards which has been prepared by a specially constituted task force of experts.

4   Security

As reported last year, ISO and IEC had established a joint Strategic Advisory Group to monitor security-related standardization activities in the two organizations and this has now been extended to become an ISO/IEC/ITU-T SAG.

In addition to having developed a number of inputs for the first meeting of the newly activated ISO/TC 223 on societal security, the SAG-S has also decided that a series of sectoral workshops should be held and the first such workshop, on transit security, will be held in the USA in October 2007 (see item 1 of document General Assembly 7/2007 under agenda item 5.1). The SAG-S also reviewed and endorsed a proposal from SII (Israel) to hold an IWA[1] workshop on water security and this has since also been approved by the TMB.

5   Social responsibility

The TMB continues to monitor the work of its working group on social responsibility and has noted that while there are sometimes difficult discussions and negotiations between participants, the work is advancing in a generally positive atmosphere. The WG held its fourth meeting in Sydney (Australia) in late January/early February 2007 as a result of which a third working draft is in preparation. This will be circulated for review and comment by the experts prior to the fifth meeting which will be held in Vienna in early November 2007.

6   New areas of standardization

As mentioned previously, six project committees have been created over the last year to address psychological assessment (PC 230), brand valuation (PC 231), cleaning services (PC 233), rating services (PC 235), project management (PC 236) and exhibition terminology (PC 237) (the latter resulting from the transformation of a TMB WG into a project committee). During the same period, two new technical committees have been established, on educational services (TC 232), and fisheries and aquaculture (TC 234).

Two IWAs have been authorized, on water security as mentioned previously, and on bulk commodity grain sampling.

In addition, the TMB has discussed the question of standardization in the area of biofuels, and has pre-authorized the creation of a new subcommittee within ISO/TC 28 *Petroleum products and lubricants*. It also reviewed the results of an ISO roundtable organized in January 2007 on the global harmonization of regulations, codes and standards for gaseous fuels and vehicles.

The TMB has reactivated its technical advisory group (TAG 8) on building in order to revitalize standardization work in that important sector.

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[1] IWA: International Workshop Agreement

7   Collaboration with IEC and CEN

More detailed information concerning the technical cooperation with IEC and with CEN is given under other agenda items, but it is worth recalling the joint meeting between representatives of the TMB and the IEC Standardization Management Board, the meeting of the ISO/IEC Joint Directives Maintenance Team held in June 2007, and the meeting of the ISO/CEN Joint Coordination Group which was similarly held in conjunction with the TMB's June 2007 meeting. The meetings were conducted in a cordial and constructive atmosphere and demonstrated that there is good cooperation between the organizations.

8   Translation management groups

Following a decision by Council to revise the procedure by which committees may request that ISO publish particular standards in non-official languages, the TMB has established two translation management groups, for the Spanish and Arabic languages. The secretariats of the two groups (AENOR -Spain and EOS -Egypt, respectively) have been requested to establish work programmes based on requests for publication of standards in non-official languages through to the end of 2008, for approval by the TMB and under the supervision of the Secretary-General.

9   2008 TC/SC chairs' conference

Planning has started for the next TC/SC chairs' conference which will be held in June 2008 where member bodies are invited to encourage chairs from their countries to participate in this event.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited:

a)   to note/comment on the above report; and

b)   to consider encouraging member bodies to provide as much information as possible on the use of ISO standards in their countries when responding to the systematic reviews of International Standards, as explained under item 2 above.

MANAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL WORK

AGENDA ITEM 6.2   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.

The procedure established by the TMB has been followed and 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 *Coding of audio, picture, multimedia and hypermedia information;*

– in 2004 to ISO/TC 176/SC 2 *Quality systems;*

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

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 7   **ISO ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Over two thirds of ISO's 154 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 involve developing countries 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 third year of implementation and well on track, as the General Assembly already noted with satisfaction in its Resolution 7/2006 adopted in Ottawa, Canada, in September 2006.

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 to 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 2006 General Assembly.

1   Implementation of the ISO Action Plan for developing countries

1.1   Improve awareness of the role of standardization

Raising awareness of the benefits to be gained from standardization can act as a catalyst for development. Considerable efforts have therefore been made to disseminate and improve awareness of new standards, particularly in the field of food safety, with the delivery of seminars and workshops on ISO 22000, not only in English but thanks to donor funding, also in Russian, Portuguese and Spanish. In addition, and to respond to requests for training on issues related to climate change and environmental issues in general, seminars were organized on the ISO 14000 series, including ISO 14064 on Greenhouse gases.

In view of the importance of conformity assessment and related issues in developing countries, the sixth in a series of regional workshops on *Conformity Assessment for Sustainable Development and Trade* was organized in co-operation with ISO/CASCO in Johannesburg (South Africa) in May 2007.

Awareness raising seminars on *Consumer Participation in Standardization* were held in co-operation with ISO/COPOLCO for English- and French-speaking Africa, in Gaborone (Botswana), in August 2006 and for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Vienna (Austria), in April 2007.

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 participate more effectively in ISO's technical work.

Training-of-trainers programmes have proven their efficiency in building capacity of national standards bodies to provide training to experts and national stakeholders. New material and

training modules on environmental and food safety management systems have been developed for training-of-trainers workshops to enable national experts to acquire the knowledge and practical skills needed to serve as multipliers throughout their regions.

Also, a major effort has been put into supporting the participation of ISO members in developing countries in the drafting of the future ISO standard on Social Responsibility, with the organization of global, regional and national capacity-building seminars and workshops.

Financed by the ISO/DIN Endowment, the fifth in the series of regional training courses on *Enhanced Participation in International Standardization* was organized in Pretoria (South Africa). To complete the round of regional training events held since 2004, French and Russian versions of the course are scheduled in the fourth quarter of 2007.

It is recalled that the course on *Enhanced Participation in International Standardization* is aimed at ISO members' staff and focuses on the international standardization process, the roles and responsibilities of the key players as well as the tools and web technologies that support the process. A training-of-trainers module is also under development for deployment at regional level.

Reference publications and training materials

An important element of the support provided to members in developing countries is the development and dissemination of a range of publications on the operation and promotion of standardization activities.

A work plan has been established according to which publications and educational materials are prepared and made available to members. The subjects prioritized in 2006 are guidance on the establishment and management of a national standards body, training materials on enhancing developing country participation in international standardization with the development of the publication entitled *"Joining in - Participation in International Standardization"* and a check list for small businesses to test readiness to implement ISO 22000 on food safety management systems.

1.3   Increase regional cooperation

In line with the objectives set in the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries* greater emphasis has been placed on strengthening regional and subregional cooperation and building partnerships to increase efficiency in the delivery of technical assistance and training programmes. Experience has shown that regional and subregional cooperation is the most effective mechanism for sharing experience, organizing training and optimizing the participation of developing countries in international standardization.
In addition to working closely with established regional organizations, a proactive approach has been taken to collaborate with subregional organizations such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Gulf Standards Organization (GSO).

It is recalled that in its Resolution 7/2006, the General Assembly recognizes the increasing importance of the regional/subregional dimension in relation to cooperation in the field of standards for trade facilitation and development and asks Council to review ISO's relations with such regional and subregional organizations (the subject will be on the agenda of the Council meeting in March 2008).

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.

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Since last reporting to the General Assembly in 2006, the I**SO ICT Programme** that involves the delivery of hardware, software and training for the effective use of electronic tools and web technologies, has been implemented in Barbados, Bhutan, Cuba, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru and Saint Lucia.

Furthermore, the **ISO e-learning course** on *Expert in International Standardization Management* has been followed by close to 40 ISO staff members both in developed and developing countries. Students value the "learning-by-doing" approach and take advantage of the opportunity that information technology and distance mentoring offer to engage in a training effort while remaining at their desks.

The large-scale training programme on the **ISO Global Directory** continues to be implemented with a view to supporting ISO members' proficiency in the use of the database tool for registering members taking part in the technical work. Sponsorships have been extended under the *ISO Action Plan* to facilitate the participation of ISO members in developing countries in Global Directory courses organized at regional level.

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.

Also, a number of training events were organized to facilitate developing country participation in the work of the ISO/TMB Working Group on Social Responsibility.

A joint DEVCO/TMB panel was held at the 40th meeting of DEVCO in Ottawa, Canada, in September 2006, to explore ways of improving the participation of developing countries in ISO's technical work.

As a result of the panel and in line with DEVCO resolutions 14/2006 and 15/2006, an ad hoc DEVCO/TMB task force was established to work *inter alia* on the development of a guidance document on twinning arrangements.

The DEVCO/TMB ad hoc task force will provide a progress report at the 41st DEVCO meeting to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 17-18 September 2007.

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 which, since 1 January 2007, has a new Chairman in the person of Mr. Iman Sudarwo, BSN (Indonesia).

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:

- Effective stakeholder participation: the national perspective

- The role of regional organizations in International Standardization

- Twinning arrangements – The way forward

3   Partnerships with development agencies and international organizations

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*. 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.

Active collaboration takes place with the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The cooperation takes various forms such as reciprocal participation in meetings and increasingly the joint implementation of technical cooperation projects.

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

AGENDA ITEM 8   **THE NATIONAL STANDARDS BODY OF THE 21st CENTURY: EXPECTATIONS FROM AN INDUSTRIALIST**

Under this agenda item, Mr. Jacques Schraven, Chairman of the Netherlands Standardisation Institue NEN, will express his views on the challenges to a national standards body as the 21st century begins, addressing questions such as:

- Can and should standardization become part of business strategy?

- How to ensure the return on investment of resources allocated to standardization?

- Is the system of national representation still viable and sustainable?

- What can the formal standardization system learn from other ways of developing standards?

- Could the standardization system benefit from being more standardized in its operation?

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIONS IN 2007

AGENDA ITEM 9.1   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 2006 (STRATPLAN 2006) was noted by Council at its meeting in March 2007 and circulated to the ISO member bodies and correspondent members through the Secretary-General's circular letter dated 21 March 2007 in accordance with Council Resolution 6/2007.

STRATPLAN 2007 was approved by Council at its March 2006 meeting, together with the ISO/CS business plan and budget for 2007. STRATPLAN 2007 was conveyed to the ISO membership by circular letter dated 24 March 2006. STRATPLAN 2008 was approved by Council at its March 2007 meeting and conveyed to the ISO membership by circular letter dated 22 March 2007.

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 2007 and STRATPLAN 2008 are attached hereto as Annexes 1 and 2 respectively).

Implementation of STRATPLAN 2007

A brief report on the implementation of STRATPLAN 2007 at 1 July 2007 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 2008 meeting.

1   Developing a consistent and multi-sector collection of globally relevant International Standards

Several developments have taken place in 2007 under this strategic objective, notably 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]. In the framework of this process, a Council task force on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources was established under Council Resolution 6/2007, which is expected to complete its work

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[1]   Council Resolution 35/2006

in time for submitting recommendations to Council in September 2007 on how to strengthen/expand ISO's activities in the selected fields (see agenda item 9.3 of the General Assembly).

In this connection, Council has also asked the Secretary-General 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. Regarding the latter, the Secretary-General will participate in a session of the World Energy Congress scheduled for November 2007 in Rome (Italy) dedicated to the role of International Standards.

Under the same objective, the TMB has finalized procedural improvements and taken implementation measures to support the identification of new standardization needs including, *inter alia*, the possibility for the TMB to create Strategic Advisory Groups to investigate needs for standardization work in new fields.

In relation to the "*Optimization of the architecture of technical bodies (TC/SC/WG/JWG) to deal with sector, cross-sector and horizontal issues*" the TMB has introduced a new type of body, the Project Committee (see item 1 of document General Assembly 10/2007 under agenda item 6.1).

Regarding **new areas of activity**, there have been a number of proposals for new work, particularly in the service sector (see item 6 of document General Assembly 10/2007).

This key objective also includes, among the actions for its implementation, the need to:

> *Review ISO's language policy relating to the development and publication of International Standards with a view to increasing their quality, timeliness and dissemination.*

As a follow-up to this action, Council has approved, under its Resolution 51/2006, a procedure for the management, approval and publication by the ISO Central Secretariat of **official translations of ISO standards and other deliverables in languages other than the official languages of the Organization** (see item 8 of document General Assembly 10/2007).

NOTE – The above-mentioned proposal specifically concerns languages other than the official languages of ISO, to which the current procedures provided in the *ISO Statutes and Rules of Procedure* will continue to apply.

2   Ensuring the involvement of stakeholders

Several initiatives aiming to achieve this key strategic objective are underway, including, *inter alia,* steps to optimize **liaisons with international organizations of stakeholders** (see document General Assembly 15/2007 under agenda item 9.2) and to foster the development and dissemination of information services, educational material and training services.

Under its Resolution 38/2006, Council decided to create an **ISO Award for Higher education in standardization**, co-sponsored by ISO and JISC (see documents General Assembly 18/2007 and 19/2007 under agenda item 10).

Communication toward the corporate and political spheres has been enhanced, as illustrated, *inter alia*, 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,* has been re-designed with the objective of offering an improved, consistent view of the services provided by ISO and allowing different types of users, including notably *ISO members*, *Experts* participating in standards development, *Customers* of ISO publications and services, and the *General public,* to identify and access in an easy and efficient way the information resources and services of their choice.

The third ISO e-Learning module "Implementing International Standards" has been successfully developed and tested through a pilot implementation. **The e-Learning Course** "ISO Expert in International Standardization Management", comprising three modules, is now completed – member bodies and correspondent members have been informed accordingly and invited to participate.

In addition, the Secretary-General has started to develop an action plan to address the issue of **consumer participation in standardization** as per Council's request (Council Resolution 6/2007), to be reviewed by Council in September 2007.

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.

Membership from developing countries is increasing, in particular in terms of upgrades, 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 12/2007 under agenda item 7.

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 07/2007 under agenda item 5.1.

Regarding the collaboration with ASTM, the Secretary-General circulated on 16 January 2007 a letter to the ISO/TC/SC Chairs and Secretaries with a view to promoting the existing forms of cooperation and encouraging continued collaboration between committee experts involved in the work of the two organizations. This letter, prepared with ASTM and in consultation with ANSI, also clarified a number of issues with procedural implications.

Discussions with IEEE and SAE are being held in close contact with ANSI, following Council's previous decisions to foster the way for PSDO[2] agreements.

The network of collaboration between the ISO System and major international organizations has been expanded, both with governmental organizations such as United Nations Global Compact Office (UNGCO), and with the private sector, such as the Localization Industry Standards Association (LISA).

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

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[2] PSDO : Partner Standards Developing Organization

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WTO (detailed information is given in document General Assembly 08/2007 and 09/2007 under agenda items 5.2 and 5.3, respectively).

ISO and IEC have jointly developed an information document "Using and referencing ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations" (see document General Assembly 07/2007 under agenda item 5.1).

Consistent with this objective, Council agreed that the 2007 General Assembly, to be held in Geneva, in principle, therefore without open session, exceptionally include a one-day open session on the theme of International Standards and public policies (see document General Assembly 20/2007 under agenda item 11).

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 to 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.

The revision of ISO/IEC Guide 65, *General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems*, has started and a proposal for a revised scope and structure is expected to be submitted to the next CASCO plenary in November 2007.

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. As a result of those measures, 2006 saw an all-time record production of ISO standards published (1 388) and the average total delay for the development of standards brought down to 2.8 years.

A major effort is also underway to further the widespread use of advanced IT solutions supporting the ISO standardization and standards dissemination processes, including *inter alia* the finalization of the ISO electronic committee environments, giving particular attention to enhancing the use of the ISO Global Directory.

The move to new premises in February 2007 has also contributed 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.

ISO STRATPLAN 2007 – 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, in particular high-tech – 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, review and extend actions undertaken in 2006;

– 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;

– in 2007, a case study regarding engagement in the SR field of consumers and other stakeholders should be finalized, providing a basis to define policies and benchmarking concerning civil society's participation;

– effectively promote studies (and support new ones) on the economic and social benefits of standardization.

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.

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;

– implement new edition of POCOSA;

– follow-up to the ISO/IEC common marketing and communication forum;

– support the dissemination and effective use of ISO's eServices and collect users' feed-back.

jnb/14502604

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.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIONS IN 2007

AGENDA ITEM 9.2   ISO's POLICY FOR ORGANIZATIONS IN LIAISON WITH TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

1   Background

The numerous organizations in liaison with ISO are an important mechanism for supplying content to the standardization system. They contribute to the quality of the consensus on which ISO standards are based. Indeed, ISO standards rely on a dual level of consensus: among the ISO members and among the stakeholders. Consequently, the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010* includes a key strategic objective entitled "Ensuring the involvement of stakeholders"[1]. To achieve this key strategic objective, one of the actions identified by the *Strategic Plan* is to "optimize liaisons and involvement with representative international organizations of stakeholders".

Some 660 international or broadly-based regional organizations have liaison status with one or more ISO committees. These are inventoried in a database of organizations in cooperation with ISO, some sections of which will be accessible to ISO members at the same time as the revamped *ISO Online*.

Council, at its meeting in March 2007, reviewed ISO's liaison policy on the basis of a document attached at Annex. It reviews ISO's policy in regard to organizations in liaison, focusing on international or broadly-based regional organizations in liaison with TCs and SCs[2] for the development of the ISO deliverables stated in Articles 19.1.1 and 19.1.2 of the *ISO Statutes,* with the exception of Guides, which are, in principle, intended for standards developers.

The attached document gives an analysis of the current situation and, in particular, of the:
– ISO/CS database;
– liaison categories (A, B, C and D);
– eligibility criteria for an organization to establish a liaison with an ISO committee;
– procedure for establishing liaisons;
– rights and obligations of an organization in liaison;
– agreements/Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between ISO and organizations in liaison.

The document also identifies a number of shortcomings of the current situation as well as orientations and recommendations that take into account the above-mentioned analysis and shortcomings.

2   Council decision

In the light of the above, Council adopted the following resolution:

> *Council,*
>
> *recalling that "to optimize liaisons and involvement with representative international organizations of stakeholders" is one of the actions required to*

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[1] Strategic objective 2

[2] and CASCO when it is developing International Standards.

achieve key strategic objective 2 "Ensuring the involvement of stakeholders" of the ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010,

having considered the analysis of ISO's policy regarding organizations in liaison with technical committees for the development of ISO deliverables, contained in the Annex to document Council 04/2007,

confirming that a liaison should bring added value in terms of content and/or quality of the consensus at stake and of global relevance, and that it should be reviewed periodically by the TC/SCs,

confirming that a liaison should in no way compromise the involvement of the corresponding stakeholders with the member bodies at the national level and in national delegations,

confirming the importance of maintaining a balance between various liaison organizations within ISO/TCs and SCs, including between industry and non industry organizations,

decides:

a) *to ask the TMB, in consultation with its IEC counterpart, as relevant:*

- *to reassess the need for category B liaison;*

- *to consider formalizing the rule that only those regional organizations which do not have an international counterpart involving their members are eligible for liaison with ISO;*

- *to review the existing procedure for establishing liaisons, considering, in particular, the current acceptance criterion of unanimous approval by ISO members, and the importance of having an appropriate communication by the ISO Secretary-General to liaison organizations regarding their rights and obligations and the need for reciprocity;*

b) *to ask the Secretary-General to submit a proposal to Council at its March 2008 meeting on how to further involve in the ISO System, as relevant, non governmental organizations representing societal interests on the one hand, and organizations representing industry interests on the other hand;*

c) *to ask the Secretary-General to explore the opportunities for intergovernmental regional organizations to obtain a liaison status, when they are involved in the harmonization of public policies and regulations in their region;*

d) *to confirm the existing arrangements for developing agreements/MoUs and to ask 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;*

e) *to confirm the existing procedure for establishing liaisons with PDCs, i.e. CASCO – for its policy-related work only –, COPOLCO and DEVCO.*

(Council Resolution 5/2007)

3   Follow-up to Council decision

In accordance with the above Council Resolution, the following actions have been taken:

Regarding item **a)**, at its meeting in June 2007 the TMB revised the existing procedure for establishing liaisons and decided on a number of principles to be included in the ISO/IEC Directives. As to the questions of category B liaisons and of regional organizations, the TMB required further investigations and intends to address the matter again at its meeting in September 2007.

Steps are being taken by the Secretary-General to progress with items **b)**, **c)** and **d)**.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION	The General Assembly is invited to note/comment on the above report, in particular concerning relations with national interfaces of international or regional organizations in cooperation with ISO.

ISO's POLICY FOR ORGANIZATIONS IN LIAISON WITH TECHNICAL COMMITTEES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISO DELIVERABLES

1   Background

The numerous organizations in liaison with ISO are an important mechanism for supplying content to the standardization system. They contribute to the quality of the consensus on which ISO standards are based. Indeed, ISO standards rely on a dual level of consensus: among the ISO members and among the stakeholders. Consequently, the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010* includes a key strategic objective entitled "Ensuring the involvement of stakeholders". To achieve this key strategic objective, one of the actions identified by the *Strategic Plan* is to "optimize liaisons and involvement with representative international organizations of stakeholders".

In this connection, Council members may be aware that some 660 international or broadly-based regional organizations have liaison status with one or more ISO committees. Over the last year, the Central Secretariat has been developing a database to better cover and profile such organizations and others with which ISO cooperates. This work is now largely completed and it is considered timely that Council reflect on the cooperation arrangements that exist between ISO committees and organizations in liaison.

2   Scope

This document reviews ISO's policy in regard to organizations in liaison, focusing on international or broadly-based regional organizations in liaison with TCs and SCs[1] for the development of the ISO deliverables stated in Articles 19.1.1 and 19.1.2 of the *ISO Statutes,* with the exception of Guides, which are, in principle, intended for standards developers.

NOTE – This document does not deal with internal liaisons between ISO bodies (e.g. between TCs).

3   Analysis of current situation

3.1   Analysis of the database

An analysis of the database shows that out of the total of 689 organizations in cooperation with ISO TC/SCs and CASCO for the development of ISO deliverables:

– *by liaison category:*
   500 are in "A" liaison category;
   230 are in "B" liaison category;
   63 are in "C" liaison category (ISO/IEC JTC1 only).

   4, 71 is the average number of liaisons per ISO Committee (TC or SC)

– *by status:*
   108 are intergovernmental;
   435 are non-governmental;
   101 are business associations.
   45 others

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[1] and CASCO when it is developing International Standards.

– *by type:*
470 are international;
210 are regional;
9 others[2].

– 44 organizations have in total 61 agreements with ISO[3].

3.2 Liaison categories

It is recalled that the *ISO/IEC Directives* provide for four categories of liaison. **Category A** is intended for organizations wishing to actively participate in the work of an ISO committee. Such organizations are invited to attend meetings of the ISO committee(s) concerned; they may nominate experts to serve on working groups, submit proposed new work and provide contributions, comments on draft standards, etc., but do not have the right to vote. **Category B** is intended for organizations simply wishing to be kept informed of the progress of work. **Category C** is a special category applicable only in the context of ISO/IEC JTC 1 *Information technology* and acknowledging that, in the ICT sector, there are many organizations that may qualify for category A liaison, but whose interests are very specific and do not extend to the full scope of a given JTC 1 subcommittee. Category C liaison allows such organizations to participate directly at the working group/project level. **Category D** liaison is intended primarily for entities such as consortia and other fora, and enables these to participate at the working group/project level. It should be noted that at present there is no on-line and active inventory of category D liaisons. Therefore, these are not included in the database. At this time, the ISO/CS database contains only category A, B and C liaison organizations.

3.3 Eligibility criteria

The first time an organization applies for liaison with an ISO committee, the Central Secretariat requests a copy of the statutes of the organization in order to check that it is a legal entity, that it is not-for-profit, that it is open to membership internationally or from a broad region, that it is representative of the stakeholders and of the subject matter concerned and that it has either the required expertise to contribute to the development of International Standards, or the authority needed to promote the latter's implementation.

3.4 Procedure for establishing liaisons

It should be noted that, whereas category A, B and C liaisons are approved within the respective TC or SC, all category D liaisons must be approved by the TMB.

Before the mid-1990s, once the Central Secretariat had verified that an organization was eligible for liaison, liaisons were established simply through a consultation with the Chair and Secretary of the committee. In 1997, however, Council decided that all P-members should be consulted (cf. Council Resolution 32/1997 attached at Appendix, following which the TMB decided that the acceptance criterion should be unanimity. The original intent was to enable a member body to consider whether a proposed liaison organization, headquartered in its country, should more appropriately engage in the ISO process through the member body concerned rather then establish a direct liaison with the ISO TC or SC.

3.5 Rights and obligations

Liaison organizations have the right to "initiate a request for undertaking standards development work in a technical field", as provided for in Clause 5.1 of the *ISO Rules of Procedure*.

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[2] National organizations having a formal agreement with ISO (e.g. a number of SDOs and of Registration Authorities), outside of ISO members.

[3] including four which are registration authorities having nine agreements.

In order to be effective, the liaison shall operate in both directions, with suitable, reciprocal arrangements. The liaison organization shall agree to ISO/IEC procedures, including IPR, and accept the requirements on patent rights.

3.6   Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)

In the vast majority of cases, the rights and obligations of the ISO/IEC Directives suffice to describe the relationship between ISO and a liaison organization. In a number of instances, however, special agreements/memoranda of understanding have been concluded with organizations in liaison – in line with key strategic objective 4 "Being open to partnerships for the efficient development of International Standards" of the Strategic Plan – to elaborate on such matters as technical coordination, mutual promotion of activities, transfer of the intellectual property from such organizations to ISO and details concerning reciprocity of the liaison arrangement. In two cases, an MoU was used to facilitate cooperation with authoritative organizations which had not been incorporated as legal entities and were not formally eligible for liaison (GHTF[4] and VAMAS[5]).

Such agreements are generally not required for organizations which simply wish to liaise with ISO committees, although in some instances it is the policy of the organization itself to conclude such agreements. In cases where there are standards development procedural implications, TMB's review and approval is requested. Where there are commercial implications, Council approval is also sought.

4   Shortcomings of current situation

Overall, the current liaison policy is largely a bottom-up, reactive process. This leads to the question of how it can become more proactive to ensure that the relevant organizations are contributing as effectively as possible.

Regarding the procedure for establishing liaisons, the requirement for unanimity within a TC or SC (see 3.4 above) has proved to be onerous. To date, when there have been negative votes on a proposed liaison, the Central Secretariat has consulted the member bodies voting against, and in all cases this has resulted in the member body's agreeing not to sustain its objection when the majority of P-members were in favour.

As to rights and obligations, various elements have been noted with a number of liaison organizations: lack of attendance at meetings which they are invited to, lack of reciprocity (do not provide means for ISO to participate in their work neither inform ISO committees of developments within their organizations), inactivity to various degrees.

There is also some uncertainty as to the perceived meaning of "broadly-based" regional organization.

5   Orientations and recommendations

5.1   Liaison categories

A great deal of general information about the activities of ISO committees is now publicly available on *ISO Online* (TC/SC membership, work programme, structure, business plan, etc.), which could lead to a reassessment of the need for category B liaison (see 3.2 above), or possibly to restricting the types of organizations eligible for category B liaison (e.g. to intergovernmental organizations).

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[4] GHTF: Global Harmonization Task Force

[5] VAMAS: Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standards

Since the scope of ISO has grown to cover societal interests (e.g. environmental management, quality of water services, social responsibility), new types of international, society-oriented Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are seeking liaison status with ISO. These organizations also have new demands for engagement and transparency that require special consideration (e.g. as in the TMB Working Group on Social Responsibility). It may therefore be appropriate to further study on how to effectively involve such organizations in the ISO System.

5.2 Eligibility criteria

In addition to the eligibility criteria specified in item 3.3, there is a need to clarify the existing uncertainty regarding broadly-based regional organizations. For example, there may be a need to formalize that only those regional organizations which do not have an international counterpart should be eligible for liaison with ISO (i.e. a regional organization which is a subset of an international organization would not be eligible for liaison).

Furthermore, it is noted that the European Commission (EC) has liaison status with 198 ISO TCs and SCs, and has applied in 2006 for liaison status with CASCO; and it is deemed appropriate that opportunities be explored for other intergovernmental regional organizations having a role in harmonizing public policies and regulations within a region, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) or the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), to benefit from liaison status with ISO, and be thus encouraged to use and promote ISO standards, including those relating to conformity assessment, within their regional arrangements.

5.3 Procedure for establishing liaisons

Considering the shortcomings of the current situation (see 4 above), the following revised procedure for establishing liaisons with TC/SCs and CASCO (when the latter is developing International Standards) is proposed:

– Once the Central Secretariat has established that an organization is eligible for liaison, and provided the ISO member in the country where the applicant organization is headquartered is in agreement with the proposed liaison, it is proposed to reduce the acceptance criterion to two-thirds of the voting P-members,

– Once the liaison has been established by the relevant ISO committee, it should be notified to the organization by the Secretary-General in a letter setting out both the rights and the obligations of an organization in liaison, including the reciprocity aspect (cf. item 5.4 below)

NOTE – The procedure for establishing liaisons with PDCs (COPOLCO, DEVCO and CASCO [when the latter is not developing International Standards]) remains unchanged, i.e. liaisons are established on the basis of a consultation with the committee Chair and the Secretary-General.

5.4 Rights and obligations

Special attention should be given to reciprocity. Organizations in liaison should inform the relevant ISO Committee of any developments within their organization relevant to the work of that ISO Committee; they should be expected to attend the meetings to which they are invited and to communicate. If an organization in liaison does not comply with these requirements, it should be possible to take appropriate measures, including the option to cancel the liaison or to charge fees for the information provided.

In this connection, Council decided in 1997 (cf. Council Resolution 32/1997 attached at Appendix) that in cases where organizations receive documentation from ISO but do not provide their own documentation on a reciprocal basis, those organizations shall be asked to pay a fee to cover the costs incurred by providing basic ISO documentation. Council also requested the ISO Committees to review their external liaison arrangements annually and to propose the cancellation of liaisons which were no longer effective or relevant.

5.5   Agreements

Entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with an organization should bring added value compared to the liaison policy as contained in the *ISO/IEC Directives.* For example, an MoU could be justified in connection with the implementation of an ISO standard into one of the other party's documents. If this is not the case, then the normal rights and obligations, as defined in the *ISO/IEC Directives,* would apply.

In line with Clause 9.1 of the *Rules of Procedure*[6], any such MoUs (involving the liability or commitment of the Organization) should be signed by the Secretary-General. Council would be consulted only if the MoU involved any commercial arrangements for publication and distribution.

The possibility of entering into overarching MoUs with UN agencies to rationalize public policies should be explored. It should be noted that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has expressed interest in possibly seeking the status of a recognized international standardizing body for the purpose of Council resolution 42/1999 (attached at Appendix).

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6   Clause 9.1 of the *Rules of Procedure* states that "The Secretary-General shall act as a signatory on behalf of the Organization".

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 32/1997 AND 42/1999

Council Resolution 32/1997

Council,

<u>referring</u> to the request of the President's Business Advisory Group on Financial Planning (PBAG/FIN) that arrangements for liaison between ISO and other international organizations be reviewed,

<u>noting</u> the results of the TMB deliberations on this matter set out in annex to ISO Council 40/1997,

<u>approves</u> the following new provisions concerning liaison arrangements with international organizations:

a) The consultation by the Central Secretariat regarding the requests for liaison shall be extended to the full P-membership of the committee rather than the committee secretariat alone.

b) Committees shall be requested to review their external liaison arrangements annually and to propose the cancellation of liaisons which are no longer effective or relevant.

c) In cases where organizations receive documentation from ISO but do not provide their own documentation on a reciprocal basis, those organizations shall be asked to pay a fee to cover the costs incurred in providing basic ISO documentation (Memento, Catalogue, etc.); and

<u>asks</u> the Secretary-General to take the necessary follow-up actions.

Council Resolution 42/1999

Council,

<u>expressing</u> positive interest for a development which would enable international standards developed by international standardizing bodies to be accepted as ISO standards,

<u>deeming</u> that the application of certain ISO technical committee procedures should be waived when such international standards have already been subjected to development procedures equivalent to those of ISO technical committees,

<u>approves</u> the following preconditions and procedures for the adoption as ISO standards of international standards developed by international standardizing bodies:

1.   Preconditions

1.1 The international standardizing body **(a standardizing body which is open to the relevant bodies of all countries)** may be recognized by ISO as having comparable technical expertise to that of ISO, i.e. it should be established that their standards are prepared by groups of experts

whose knowledge and international experience is comparable to that of an ISO technical committee. Such recognition shall normally only be made in cases where there is no competent ISO technical committee. If there is such an ISO technical committee, its views shall be sought before Council decides to recognize such an international standardizing body for the purpose of this Council resolution.

1.2 The international standardizing body should be prepared to allow its standards to be accepted as ISO standards in accordance with the ISO rules. According to the case, provision may also be made for the adoption of such documents as other types of ISO publication, e.g. as technical specifications (TS) or publicly available specifications (PAS).

1.3 Cooperative agreements with respect to copyright, marketing and sales shall be agreed between ISO and the international standardizing body.

1.4 Council will decide, on an individual basis, on the acceptability of any international standardizing body.

2. Procedure for adoption as ISO standards

2.1a) Draft standards prepared by an international standardizing body recognized as having comparable technical expertise to that of ISO may be registered as draft International Standards (DIS) at the ISO Central Secretariat.

2.1b) Draft standards which have been subject to a technical enquiry (equivalent to ISO's DIS procedure) and published standards prepared by an international standardizing body recognized as having comparable technical expertise to that of ISO may be registered as final draft International Standards (FDIS) at the ISO Central Secretariat.

2.2 The Central Secretariat shall distribute the documents to the member bodies for voting within five months for cases covered by both 2.1a) and 2.1b). In order to be approved, the appropriate acceptance criteria in Part 1 of the ISO/IEC Directives shall be met.

2.3 If approved, the documents shall be further processed in accordance with Part 1 of the ISO/IEC Directives.

This resolution supersedes Council Resolution 19/1984.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIONS IN 2007

AGENDA ITEM 9.3   ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES: HOW INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS CAN HELP

Dr. George Arnold, Vice-President (policy), and Chairman of the Council Task Force on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, will make a presentation to introduce the item.

Background

The General Assembly, through its Resolution 5/2005 (see extract attached), highlighted the importance of the relationship between standardization, competitiveness and innovation, and underlined that innovation was a key to competitiveness and progress.

Council then assessed whether and how the Organization was addressing new areas for possible ISO contribution and approved, at its meeting in September 2006, a pilot process to complement the existing approaches used for identifying and prioritizing innovative fields of work. Council further asked the Secretary-General to initiate the implementation of the process immediately, starting with the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources[1].

Council has subsequently approved, at its meeting in March 2007, the next steps for the above process in the field of energy, underlining the topicality of the matter and the need to consolidate and promote ISO's contribution[2].

To that effect, a Council Task force on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources has been set-up – to which IEA[3] and IEC are associated – entrusted with the following tasks to be completed in time for submitting recommendations to Council in September 2007 at the latest:

- to finalize a portfolio and gap analysis identifying high-level priorities for the development of International Standards;

- to propose the type of interaction with relevant stakeholders and possible partnerships with other international organizations and SDOs[4];

- to define the modalities for pursuing the issue within the ISO system (which might include, i.a. the set-up of a Strategic Advisory Group under the TMB and the initiation of work on biofuels).

In this connection, Council has also asked the Secretary-General to promote the role of International Standards through the ISO system and through partnerships with international organizations such as the IEA and the World Energy Council. Regarding the latter, the Secretary-General will participate in a session of the World Energy Congress scheduled for November 2007 in Rome (Italy) dedicated to the role of International Standards, as well as in a private session on carbon capture.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General assembly will be invited to comment on Dr. Arnold's presentation.
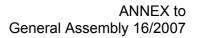
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[1] Council Resolution 35/2006 attached at Annex.

[2] Council Resolution 6/2007 attached at Annex.

[3] IEA: International Energy Agency

[4] SDOs: Standards Developing Organizations

jnb/14518955

Extract of General Assembly Resolution 5/2005

The General Assembly,...underlining that innovation is a key to competitiveness and progress, expresses the opinion that ISO should foster new initiatives and be more proactive in order to anticipate new fields where international standardization might support the dissemination of innovation,

asks Council to take appropriate steps to that effect in light of the comments and suggestions made by the speakers and panellists and during the discussion…

Council Resolution 35/2006

Council,

as a follow-up to General Assembly Resolution 5/2005 highlighting the importance of the relationship between standardization, competitiveness and innovation, and underlining that innovation is a key to competitiveness and progress,

approves, on a pilot basis, the process aiming at identifying and prioritizing innovative fields of work described under item 4 of Annex to Council 23/2006, in order to complement the existing approaches,

asks the Secretary-General to initiate a pilot implementation of the process immediately, starting with the field of Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, to be followed, in a timeframe dependent on available resources, by Biotechnology;

decides to review the results achieved, by the end of 2007, and to decide then whether the process should be formalized and embedded in ISO procedures.

Council Resolution 6/2007

Council

thanks the CSC/STRAT Chairman for his interesting report,

notes the final report on ISO STRATPLAN 2006 as set out in Annex to document Council 07/2007 and asks the Secretary-General to make it available to the ISO member bodies and correspondent members,

recalling its resolution 35/2006 approving a pilot process to complement the existing approaches used for identifying and prioritizing innovative fields of work and asking the Secretary-General to initiate the process, starting with the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, approves the next steps for the pilot project in this field as set out in section 3.3 of document Council 07/2007, underlining the topicality of the matter and the need to consolidate and promote ISO's contribution,

to that effect asks the Secretary-General:

– 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,

– to set-up by 1 April 2007 a task force under CSC/STRAT open to other Council members and coordinated by the ISO/CS – to which IEA would be invited to be associated –, entrusted with the following tasks to be completed in time for submitting recommendations to Council in September 2007 at the latest:

- • to finalize a portfolio and gap analysis identifying high-level priorities for the development of International Standards,

- • to propose the type of interaction with relevant stakeholders and possible partnerships with other international organizations and SDOs,

- • to define the modalities for pursuing the issue within the ISO system (which might include, i.a. the set-up of a Strategic Advisory Group under the TMB and the initiation of work on biofuels);

– to secure and participate in a session of the World Energy Congress scheduled for November 2007 in Rome (Italy) dedicated to the role of International Standards;

recalling furthermore that in 2006 the Secretary-General collected information from the Council members on "standardization in innovative fields", asks the Secretary-General to repeat the exercise in 2007 inviting Council members to update, by July 2007, whenever relevant, the areas already indicated and to indicate new areas if national objectives and priorities have evolved in the meantime,

further asks the Secretary-General to develop an action plan to address the issue of consumer participation, covering the items set out in section 5 of document Council 07/2007, for submission to Council in 2007.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIONS IN 2007

AGENDA ITEM 9.4   BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2008 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES FOR THE ISO CENTRAL SECRETARIAT – 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 two documents are attached as background information:

- An overview of the ISO Central Secretariat business plan and budget for the year 2008 (Annex 1) with, at Appendix, the budget as approved under Council Resolution 16/2007 and sent to the members by circular letter dated 21 March 2007.

- An executive summary of the review of the medium-term financial perspectives for the ISO Central Secretariat as approved under Council Resolution 15/2007 (Annex 2).

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

![ISO logo]

AGENDA ITEM 9.4

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

TO THE ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Geneva,

SEPTEMBER 2007

Distinguished Guests,
ISO Officers,
ISO Members,

1   Introduction

This is the last report I will have the honour of presenting to you as ISO Treasurer, as my term of office expires this year. Indeed, next December, I will have completed six years of office, and therefore it is a pleasure for me to report that I will be leaving ISO in a sound financial situation − 2006 has been another very successful financial year and we forecast a similar positive result in 2007. This has not happened by chance, especially considering that we had to recover from three consecutive years of deficit from 2001 to 2003. This is the result of the combination of increased membership and the high level of production of standards, the efficient promotion of the ISO system, members and products resulting in increased revenue from sales and, of course, good and lean management.

In my report this year, apart from commenting briefly on the results for 2006, the forecast for 2007 and the budget for 2008, I would like to concentrate on the following aspects of our finances:
  − the structural actions which will positively impact the operation budget of the Central Secretariat in the years to come;
  − the medium-term financial perspectives and the orientations and decisions adopted by your Council last March;
  − the increase in the volume and financing of our training and technical assistance programmes.

2   Results for 2006, forecast for 2007 and 2008 budget

The 2006 accounts were closed with a positive result before contributions to, or use of, provisions of +kCHF 3 747, compared to +kCHF 3 160 in 2005. Apart from revenue from membership fees, which remained stable as the value of the financial unit was not increased for the third consecutive year, all the other sources of revenue have contributed to this positive result to various degrees: +8% for mail order sales and sales via the ISO/CS Webstore, +12%

for copyright revenue from members, +20% for copyright revenue from IHS, +18% for IT services delivered by the Central Secretariat, +25% for the training and technical assistance programmes, +55% for financial revenue due to the higher level of our reserve funds. At the same time, expenditure was contained and only increased by 4% and benefited from the implementation of the fiscal agreement as of 1 July 2006.

2007 will be the first year of operation in the new premises and, with 2006, will bear most of the one-time costs related to this major achievement, most of which are covered by provisions. The budget approved by your Council takes into account the corresponding expenditure, but also the use of related provisions, so that the net budgeted result is again quite positive (+kCHF 2 865). The forecast made on the basis of the results at 1 July 2007 shows that we should more than achieve this target.

2008 will be the first full year of operation in the new premises, as the move was effective on 19 February 2007. The 2008 Budget takes into account the recurrent costs and savings related to the move, as well as the triennial exercise aimed at adjusting the number of subscription units allocated to the member bodies and the reduction by 3% of the monetary value of the subscription unit decided by Council in consideration of our sustained positive results. We have also taken into account the slow down of the increase in 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, thus reducing the revenue from copyright. The budgeted result before contribution to, or use of, provisions is +kCHF 1 635.

3   Structural actions impacting financial results

In the past two years, we have taken a number of actions which positively impact the overall economic performance of the Organization, and therefore its financial results:

3.1   The fiscal Agreement with the Swiss federal Council

I already described this agreement in my report last year and we have since expressed our gratitude to the Swiss Authorities, who have shown, in concrete terms, their strong support for anchoring ISO in the heart of the "Geneva International". We can now give more precise estimations of the financial impact of the agreement on our operations. The exemption of all major taxes related to our operation and investments represents a yearly saving of approx. kCHF 500. In addition, we were able to use the exemption from VAT (value added tax) for the purchase of most of the equipment, fittings and furniture related to the move to new premises, thus adding an additional saving of approx. kCHF 190.

3.2   The grouping of ISO/CS operations in new and efficient premises

The grouping of ISO/CS operations in new and efficient premises will have a major structural impact on the overall performance of the organization. All the one-time costs related to the installation in the new building (kCHF 2 415) are

covered by provisions drawn from the positive results achieved from 2004 to 2006, as well as the installation of a high-performance computer room and access control (kCHF 840), which were absolutely necessary to ensure an adequate level of security for our IT services. In addition, we decided to anticipate some investments we would have had to make in any case in the near future, such as completing the change of the furniture or ensuring modern installations for our meeting and training rooms and public areas. The corresponding investment costs (kCHF 750) will be amortized and more than covered by the savings made with the fiscal agreement. The recurrent additional operation costs, related to the higher rent, will be more than covered by the savings related to the grouping of operations in one building and the reduction of maintenance costs.

3.3   The improvement of our General Fund

Whilst we were constituting provisions to cover the one-time costs of the move to new premises, 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 which, due to our past deficits, we had to derogate until 2004. The level of the General Fund has thus been increased from kCHF 8 815 on 1 January 2003, representing 3,7 months of operation expenditure, to kCHF 12 791 on 1 January 2007, representing 4,8 months of operation expenditure and an increase in value of 45%. This increase in the reserves also positively impacts the financial revenue, as was already the case in 2006.

4   Medium-term financial perspectives

Considering the positive results achieved since 2004 and the structural improvements indicated above, your Council decided to reconsider the medium-term financial perspectives which were associated with the implementation of the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010*. This was done on the basis of a risk analysis and the development of various scenarios leading to projections of the financial results until 2010. It was concluded that there was sufficient visibility to expect a recurrent positive result in the order of +kCHF 2 500 with a possible variation of + or - kCHF 2 000, at least until 2010, thus enabling to take the following orientations:
  − target a level for the General Fund of six months of yearly operation expenditure;
  − invest in projects for the development and promotion of the ISO system, for which Council has adopted a formal procedure;
  − reduce by 3% the monetary value of the membership subscription unit in 2008.

These orientations strike a good balance between the consolidation of the General Fund, the investment in the future of the ISO System and the sharing of the positive results of the Organization with the members.

5   Training and technical assistance programmes

Following a request from the General Assembly, I would like to highlight the financial aspects of our training and technical assistance programmes. Their content and achievements are described under agenda item 7.

The external revenue for financing our technical assistance programmes increased to kCHF 928 in 2006, compared to kCHF 546 in 2005, a remarkable 70% increase. This is essentially due to donor contracts related to training in relation to our developments in social responsibility and consumer involvement, and to the accelerated use of the DIN Endowment, which is scheduled to be fully consumed by 2010. Unfortunately, the level of the allocation to the funds-in-trust by our membership has not followed this trend and I therefore once more exhort 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 will encourage, and facilitate, generosity. These 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, ISO/CS maintains a stream of on-site customized training sessions for individual ISO members on a cost recovery basis. The yearly revenue is stable around kCHF 60.

6   Conclusion

In concluding this report, I would like to underline how much I have enjoyed being your Treasurer, as my term has coincided with a period of recovery, positive change and positive results. Council will soon appoint my successor and I will make sure that, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, we provide a smooth transition. After six years in this position, I can only confirm the value of having a Treasurer based in Geneva, knowing well the local scene and independent from the members. It provides your Council, and the Organization at large, with an efficient and neutral monitoring of its finances, as well as connections with the local environment. Sometimes, I had to take difficult decisions concerning membership and membership fees, but I have always had the interest of the Organization in mind and the need to be fair to all its members, without creating unjustified exceptions. I would like to thank the General Assembly and the ISO Council for their confidence and wish you all the full realization of the positive medium-term financial perspectives for which the last four years of operation have paved the way.

Antoine Fatio

ANNEX 1 to
General Assembly 17/2007

ISO CENTRAL SECRETARIAT BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2008 – OVERVIEW

1 Main features of the 2008 budget

2008 will be the first full year of operation of the ISO Central Secretariat in its new premises at the Montbrillant Business Center. All the related one-time expenditure foreseen have been included in the 2007 revised budget and provisions have been made using the 2004, 2005 and 2006 positive results to finance entirely the associated costs without drawing on the reserves. The benefits from the consolidation of our operations in a single modern building should then appear in full.

The Central Secretariat budget, as adopted by Council for 2008, foresees:

- a total **revenue** of **kCHF 34 195** based, inter alia, on a 2008 unit value of CHF 5 602, i.e. a decrease by 3% compared to 2007, decided by Council following the good financial results of 2006;

- a total **expenditure** of **kCHF 32 560,** i.e. 1,3% below the revised 2007 budget and 2,4% above the 2007 budget approved by Council in March 2006;

- a "**result before contributions / provisions**" showing a positive balance for operations of **+kCHF 1 635**, i.e. an increase of +kCHF 420 over the revised 2007 budget;

- a **"net result",** after the use of provisions to cover the amortization of capital investments related to the new premises, showing a positive balance of **kCHF 2 260**; 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" (see Annex 2), 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. In this respect, it should be noted that Council has approved by correspondence at the end of June the procedure for identification and approval of such projects (Resolution 21/2007), and will consider proposals for projects at its meeting in September 2007.

The budget supports the business plan developed in line with the 2008 implementation of the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010* (STRAPLAN 2008) approved by Council at its March meeting (Council Resolution 3/2007).

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 proposed Strategic Plan.

All ISO/CS activities are grouped under five programme areas:

- Membership services and support to governance

- Standards development and production

- Stakeholder programmes

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- 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 scheduled to take place in 2008 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 2008 as set out in Annex 1 to document Council 16/2007,

decides

a)   *to adopt the ISO Central Secretariat revenue and expenditure budget for 2008 as set out in Table 4 of Annex 2 to document Council 16/2007, subject to decreasing the monetary value of the 2008 subscription unit by 3%, i.e. to CHF 5 602, 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 2008 as presented in Table 3 of Annex 2 to document Council 16/2007,*

endorses the allocation of subscription units to the member bodies following the periodical adjustment of the number of subscription units conducted by the Treasurer in February 2007, as set out in the Appendix to Annex 2 to Council 16/2007,

commends the Secretary-General and his staff for the clarity and comprehensiveness of the financial documents presented to Council.

(Council Resolution 16/2007)

ISO/CS Budget for 2008
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS (FUNCTIONAL PRESENTATION)

FUNCTIONAL PRESENTATION (kCHF)	2008 BUDGET	%	2007 BUDGET REVISED	%	2007 BUDGET [1] Council March 2006	%	2006 ACTUAL	%
REVENUE								
1. Membership subscriptions	20 190	59,0	20 000	58,5	19 965	60,9	19 982	58,4
2. Sales and copyright								
2.1 Mail order sales	800	2,3	950	2,8	950	2,9	1 066	3,1
2.2 Sales via ISO/CS Webstore	2 900	8,5	2 700	7,9	2 300	7,0	2 451	7,2
2.3 Copyright	7 650	22,4	8 000	23,4	7 100	21,7	8 079	23,6
3. ISO Magazines	250	0,7	250	0,7	300	0,9	236	0,7
Sub-total	11 600		11 900		10 650		11 832	
4. Services invoiced :								
4.1 - to other international organizations	90	0,3	90	0,3	90	0,3	88	0,3
4.2 - for services to members + CEN	450	1,3	450	1,3	425	1,3	460	1,3
4.3 - for training services	60	0,2	60	0,2	60	0,2	63	0,2
4.4 - for CPA [2] with Open Text	605	1,8	585	1,7	605	1,8	550	1,6
5. Contributions for Developing Countries	850	2,5	820	2,4	790	2,4	928	2,7
6. Financial revenue	350	1,0	300	0,9	200	0,6	342	1,0
TOTAL REVENUE	34 195	100	34 205	100	32 785	100	34 245	100
EXPENDITURE								
1. Membership and governance	3 969	12,2	3 788	11,5	3 090	9,7	3 129	10,3
2. Standards development process								
2.1. Coordination	4 470	13,7	4 468	13,5	4 346	13,7	3 655	12,0
2.2. Technical programmes	7 700	23,6	7 845	23,8	8 081	25,4	7 609	24,9
2.3. Production	5 648	17,3	5 787	17,5	5 509	17,3	5 561	18,2
Sub-total	17 818	54,7	18 100	54,9	17 936	56,4	16 825	55,2
3. Stakeholder programmes	1 524	4,7	1 550	4,7	1 533	4,8	1 517	5,0
4. Develoment and training programmes	3 051	9,4	3 077	9,3	2 997	9,4	2 766	9,1
5. Communication, information and promotion	6 198	19,0	6 475	19,6	6 239	19,6	6 261	20,5
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	32 560	100	32 990	100	31 795	100	30 498	100
NET RESULT	1 635		1 215		990		3 747	

1) As per Council Resolution 20/2006, adopted during the March 2005 meeting
2) CPA : Central Procurement Agreement for Open Text licences

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REVIEW OF THE MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES FOR THE ISO CENTRAL SECRETARIAT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 Background

Medium-term financial perspectives were developed to back up the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010* and were adopted by Council in March 2004. An adjustment was made in the context of the decision taken by Council at its September 2005 meeting in relation to moving to new premises to take into account the positive results of 2004 and 2005.

The actual results for 2006 and the results achieved in 2004 and 2005 point to a possible sustained trend for a continued positive operation surplus. This is due mainly to:

– the reengineering and leaner management of the ISO Central Secretariat achieved since 2003;

– an increase in revenue derived from sales of the ISO Webstore and, more importantly, from royalties paid to the Central Secretariat by ISO members, both stemming essentially from the increased production and promotion of ISO publications which also benefit significantly ISO members. In addition, the financial conditions of the distribution agreement with IHS have been significantly improved for ISO;

– the increase and upgrade of membership in ISO (at 31 December 2006, 19 new members and 11 upgrades since 2003).

Moreover, the fiscal agreement concluded in 2006 has started to impact positively the accounts as of 1 July 2006.

In the light of the above, Council decided to review at its meeting in March 2007 the medium-term financial perspectives of the ISO Central Secretariat.

2 Methodology

The aim being that Council might consider a decision for the allocation of a possible recurrent surplus, a study to assess the risks for the ISO Central Secretariat was made and used both to determine necessary additional allocations to provisions from the 2006 positive result and to underlie possible financial scenarios for the horizon 2010.

On the basis of this study, of the actual results of 2006 and of additional assumptions related to the evolution of inflation, revenue from membership subscriptions, sales, invoiced services and external funding of developing country and training programmes, three scenarios were developed: middle (corresponding to the prolongation of current trends), pessimistic and optimistic. These scenarios, covering the period 2005-2010 of the Strategic Plan, led to estimating that the average recurrent positive result could be in the order of + kCHF 2 500, with a possible variation of + or - kCHF 2 000. The middle scenario incorporated the proposed revised 2007 budget and the proposed 2008 budget, both otherwise submitted for approval by Council at its meeting in March 2007. All scenarios were based on the normal triennial revision of subscription units and maintaining the current level of the financial unit over the period (CHF 5 776), so as not to pre-empt any Council decision concerning the allocation of the recurrent surplus.

Three options were proposed for the allocation of the possible recurrent surplus:

– **option 1: systematic allocation of surplus to reserves**, in order to progressively increase the General Fund from the current four months of annual expenditure to over six months;

– **option 2: investment in the development of the ISO system**, e.g. through additional resources for investing in new and innovative areas, additional marketing and communication or acceleration of ongoing IT projects;

– **option 3: redistribution to the members**, e.g. through a reduction of the value of the financial unit used to determine membership subscriptions, a reduction of the rate of royalties on sales or reproductions of ISO publications, or an increase in support and training services delivered by the Central Secretariat to the members, in particular those in developing countries.

3   Council decision

Keeping in mind the need to secure the sustainability of the organization and the fact that Council could always adjust on a yearly basis the level of the financial unit and the rates of royalties and retrocessions, Council examined the three options under item 2 above and decided as follows:

> *Council,*
>
> *having thoroughly reviewed the medium-term financial perspectives for the ISO Central Secretariat, possible scenarios and options as set out in document Council 15/2007 and its annexes, including the risk assessment for the ISO system in relation to the continuity of the ISO/CS,*
>
> *decides as follows:*
>
> a) *to target a level of the General Fund of six months of yearly operation expenditure by 2010 to consolidate the robustness of the ISO/CS finances;*
>
> b) *to invest in projects aiming to contribute to the sustained development of ISO and the promotion of the ISO system and, to that effect, to ask the Secretary-General to submit to Council for approval by correspondence by the end of June a procedure for the identification and approval of such projects;*
>
> c) *to ask the Secretary-General to present in September 2007 projects for consideration by CSC/STRAT and subsequent approval by Council (e.g. communication to industry leaders, collaborative study on benefits of standardization, improved marketing approach for innovative fields);*
>
> d) *to allocate part of the 2006 results – CHF 300 000 – to enable the initiation of such projects in 2007;*
>
> e) *to reduce the unit value by 3% in 2008 to ensure some return of the positive results to the members;*
>
> f) *to ask CSC/FIN to explore further options to retrocede part of the possibly recurrent surplus to the members (e.g. percentage of retrocessions and royalties, further decrease of the unit value in subsequent years), on the basis of an analysis prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the CPSG, and to submit its recommendations to Council at the March 2008 meeting;*
>
> *commends CSC/FIN for the quality and efficiency of its preparatory work to support Council deliberations.*
>
> <div align="right">(Council Resolution 15/2007)</div>

ISO AND EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 10.1   INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION

The importance of standardization activities in education is increasingly recognized around the world, and International standards of the type developed by ISO are increasingly understood, worldwide, as a major asset for:

- states and communities, in terms of economic competitivity and access to world markets, regulation, sustainable development, local competition, public purchases;

- companies, in terms of technology transfer, market knowledge, good management practices, quality recognition;

- consumers, in terms of products and services comparison, quality improvement, information on performance, security and impact on environment;

- researchers, in terms of measurements, risk assessment, dissemination of innovation.

Consequently, knowledge of the economic, technical and social importance of standards as well as of their benefits become imperative in the curricula of future managers, scientists and technologists, and many universities and other higher education institutions have begun introducing their students to standardization. Moreover, the subject of standardization and its relationship with economic and social issues is addressed in a number of publications, including books, research articles and other academic publications.

NOTE – A compilation of information on studies on economic and social benefits of standardization has been prepared. This inventory will be common to both ISO and IEC and will be available on the ISO/IEC information Web site which also provides a link to the WTO.

It is also recalled that the *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010* calls for action to ensure the involvement of stakeholders through development, training and the dissemination of educational material.

In view of the above, Council, following a proposal made by JISC (Japan), established the **ISO Award for Higher Education in Standardization**. This Award aims to raise awareness of the importance of standardization worldwide by supporting institutions of higher education that have successfully developed and implemented educational programmes related to standardization as a tool to access world markets, to transfer technology and to promote good business practices and sustainable development.

The Award is co-sponsored by ISO and JISC. It will be run every two years, starting in 2007. The first ISO Award for Higher Education in Standardization will be therefore presented at this year's General Assembly in Geneva (see document General Assembly 19/2007 under agenda item 10.2).

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

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ISO AND EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 10.2   PRESENTATION OF THE 2007 ISO AWARD FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN STANDARDIZATION

The ISO Award for Higher Education in Standardization, to run every two years, is presented for the first time at the 2007 General Assembly (see also document General Assembly 18/2007 under agenda item 10.1).

Application and nomination process

An invitation to participate in the contest was sent to ISO members by circular letter dated 8 December 2006, with a closing date for participation of 15 February 2007. In this invitation ISO members were invited to select a team, group or department from an eligible institution of higher education in their country and to nominate it for the ISO Award.

Nominations were received from 13 members taking part in the competition and valid applications were submitted by the following institutions of higher education:

Argentina	Universidad Nacional de Luján
China	China Jiliang (Metrology) University
Egypt	Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport
France	Université de Technologie de Compiègne (UTC)
Germany	Clausthal University of Technology, Institute of Mechanical Engineering
Guatemala	Universidad Galileo-School of Science, Industry and Technology
Hungary	Budapest University of Engineering and Technology
Italy	University of Milan, Faculty of Agriculture
Korea, Rep. of	Standards Education Development Committee
Japan	Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology
Netherlands	Erasmus University Rotterdam
Slovenia	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Electrical Engineering
Thailand	Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University

The ISO Award Selection Committee

The candidatures were reviewed by the Award Selection Committee and evaluated according to the following **criteria**:

- Major achievements and impact of the programme substantiated by well identified performance indicators;

- Curriculum requirements (methodological teaching methods);

- Connections with business, government and other stakeholders;

- Replicability of the programme: a model that can be implemented elsewhere in the world;

- High visibility and media exposure of the programme.

The **members of the Selection Committee** are eminent international personalities from academia, the economic sphere and the media.

- *Dr. George Arnold*, Chair of the Committee and ISO Vice-President (policy); Deputy Director, Technology Services, US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST);

- *Mr. Guillaume Chenevière*, Director, Media and Society Foundation; Chairman, World Radio and Television Council;

- *Dr. Barbara Ischinger*, Director, Directorate for Education, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

- *Mr. Guy Sebban*, Secretary-General, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC);

- *Prof. Masami Tanaka*, Director General, Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA); Vice-President, Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC).

The Selection Committee met on 11 June 2007 at the ISO Central Secretariat in Geneva. The Committee reviewed the application and nomination process, validated the established selection criteria and selected the winner.

The Winner of the ISO Award

The Award will be presented to a representative of the recipient university under this agenda item by the ISO President.

The 2007 ISO Award for Higher Education in Standardization consists of a certificate of appreciation and a cash prize of CHF 15 000.

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

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AGENDA ITEM 11   OUTCOME OF THE OPEN SESSION HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER ON *INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND PUBLIC POLICIES*

Council agreed that the 2007 General Assembly, to take place in Geneva, in principle therefore without an open session, exceptionally include a one-day open session on the theme of *International Standards and Public Policies* – it was felt that Geneva is a particularly well suited location for such a theme to secure the participation of the relevant international organizations and high-level speakers on the subject, thus showing how the ISO system fits into the world scene and contributes to reconcile trade, sustainable development and good public governance.

It is recalled that the theme chosen is consistent with key strategic objective 5 of *ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010*, which reads "Promoting the use of voluntary standards as an alternative or a support to technical regulations".

The open session (20 September 2007) is organized around two panels, dealing respectively with:

- "International Standards in support of policies for sustainable development", covering the contribution of standards to the three components of sustainable development:

  – economic growth, through facilitation of trade, dissemination of new technologies good business practices or raising the capacity and quality infrastructure of developing countries;

  – environmental integrity through standards on environmental management, energy efficiency, rational use of natural resources or the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;

  – social equity, through consumer and worker protection and better information, security and social responsibility.

- "International Standards for public safety and security policies", covering aspects such as:

  – safety of consumer products;

  – safety and security in transportation and in the supply chain;

  – healthcare and food safety;

  – homeland security;

  – prevention of and response to natural disasters.

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.

The programme containing the names of all speakers and an introductory text for the theme of the open session are attached at Annexes 1 and 2 respectively; the programme in a leaflet format will be circulated to the membership during the second half of July.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION	The General Assembly will be invited to assess the results of the open session on International Standards and Public Policies and to take any action it deems appropriate.

OPEN SESSION OF THE 2007 ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, GENEVA, 20 SEPTEMBER 2007

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND PUBLIC POLICIES

Venue: International Conference Centre Geneva, 17, rue de Varembé

09:30 Opening

Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, Director General, United Nations Office at Geneva

09:40 *The politics of quasi-government and the role of International Standars in relation to public policies in the globalized world*

Pr. Jonathan Koppell, Ass. Professor of Politics and Management, Yale School of Management, USA

10:00 First panel
International Standards supporting public policies for sustainable development

Moderator: *Mr. Paul Hohnen*, International Consultant on sustainability strategies, Netherlands

Panelists:
- *Mrs. Patricia Francis*, Executive Director, International Trade Centre (ITC)
- *Mr. Georg Kell*, Executive Director, UN Global Compact (UNGC)
- *Lord Lindsay*, Chairman, United Kingdom Accreditation Service
- *Mr. Harsha Singh*, Deputy Director General, World Trade Organization (WTO)
- *Mr. Björn Stigson*, President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- *Prof. Masami Tanaka*, Vice-President, Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC)

Questions and answers with the audience

12:30 Lunch

14:30 Second panel
International Standards in relation to public safety and security policies

Moderator: *Prof. Jonathan Koppell*, Yale School of Management, USA

Panelists:
- *Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*
- *Prof. Manfred Hennecke, President, Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM), Germany*
- *Dr. Larry J. Kessler, Chairman, Global Harmonization Task Force[1] (GHTF)*
- *Amb. Krister Kumlin, Chairman of ISO/TC 223 Societal security*
- *Mr. Richard Lloyd, CEO, Consumers International (CI)*

Questions and answers with the audience

16:45 Wrap up and closing remarks

17:00 Closure

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[1] The purpose of the GHTF is to encourage convergence in regulatory practices related to ensuring the safety, effectiveness / performance and quality of medical devices, promoting technological innovation and facilitating international trade.

OPEN SESSION OF THE ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007 ON *INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND PUBLIC POLICIES*

Introductory text

In the globalized world, public policies can no longer be developed and implemented in isolation when they impact on trade, health, security or the environment. Increasingly, the use and referencing of standards, based on the consensus of the interested stakeholders, form part of good regulatory practices and good public governance. Because of globalization of trade, healthcare, climate change and security or the pervasiveness of information and communication technologies, international standards are more and more in demand. Moreover, the 150 signatories to the World Trade Organization are committed to using international standards in order not to create unnecessary technical barriers to trade through regulations and conformity assessment requirements.

With an active collection of more than 16 000 published standards, ISO is the leader for the development of International Standards and its scope encompasses a wide range of sectors, from basic industries to ICT, from technical and interoperability standards to standards for good management and business practices. It is expanding in the area of services.

ISO standards are developed using a multinational and multi-stakeholder approach where open procedures give transparency and the principle of consensus is applied. ISO standards facilitate trade by avoiding unnecessary barriers relating to technical requirements and supporting conformity assessment by providing tools to help customer-supplier relations and communication to the end users. They are the vehicle to disseminate good organizational and business practices, including interoperability and conformity assessment, as well as new technologies and data dissemination and exchange. The scope of ISO is very broad and the ISO System is geared in such a way that it can, in principle, accommodate any voluntary standardization activity to be conducted at the international level, provided there is documented evidence that a sufficient consensus exists to produce globally relevant standards. More than 600 liaisons and partnerships have been developed with international and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, in order to optimize the production of ISO standards and ensure their global relevance. The network of ISO national members, in 154 countries, ensures both the organized and representative contribution of stakeholders and the subsequent promotion and implementation of ISO standards. Governments and Public Authorities, whether at the regional, national or local levels, therefore take an increasing interest in international standardization, whilst they actively support and become involved in their National Standards Bodies.

The Open Session at the ISO 2007 General Assembly will explore the new relations between public authorities and policies and voluntary standardization and the topicality of ISO standards in this context. It will bring together the delegations from national ISO members, who are encouraged to include representatives from the public sector in their delegations as well as representatives from industry and civil society. A number of inter-governmental and other international organizations, many based in Geneva, which have a role in addressing public policies at a global level, will also be attending.

AGENDA ITEM 12   ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE 2008-2009 TERM

The terms of office of the following nine Council members expire on 31 December 2007:

BSI (United Kingdom)	SCC (Canada)
GOST R (Russian Federation)	SIST (Slovenia)
IRAM (Argentina)	SNV (Switzerland)
JISC (Japan)	UNI (Italy)
KATS (Korea, Rep. of)	

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, **two of the outgoing Council members** appear among the five top-ranking contributors and **are** therefore **automatically appointed** for a consecutive term (2008-2009); these are BSI (United Kingdom) and JISC (Japan).

Regarding the seven remaining Council seats to be filled, member bodies were invited, by circular letter Council vote 2008 dated 3 April 2007, to submit by 3 July 2007 the names of the member bodies they wish to nominate for election to Council for the 2008-2009 term (five member bodies in group 2, one member body in group 3 and one member body 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)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited to elect seven Council members for the 2008-2009 term.

APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR THE 2008-2009 TERM

AGENDA ITEM 13.1   VICE-PRESIDENT (POLICY)

The term of office of the current Vice-President (policy), Dr. George Arnold, expires on 31 December 2007. In accordance with clause 7.1.1 of the *Rules of Procedure*, Dr. Arnold, who is completing his first term, is eligible for a second term of office.

The nominating committee, consisting of the President, the immediate past President, the Vice-President (technical management) and the Secretary-General, has decided to propose to the General Assembly the reappointment of Dr. George Arnold (USA) as Vice-President (policy) for a second two-year term (2008-2009).

Dr. Arnold has been appointed ISO Vice-President (policy) for the 2006-2007 term. He was Chairman of the ANSI Board of Directors in 2003-2005, after having served as Vice-Chairman, and has held several positions as a leader and active member of numerous ANSI committees. From the time that he joined AT&T Bell Laboratories in 1973, Dr. Arnold has held a wide range of technical and managerial assignments in research and development. From 1996 to 2001, he was Vice-President of Standards and Intellectual Property at Lucent Technologies; and then served until 2006 as Senior Advisor to the company's executive leadership on standards strategy and intellectual property. He is currently Deputy Director, Technology Services at the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Dr. Arnold is also President of the IEEE Standards Association 2007-2008. He has been involved in the US-Europe Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue (TABD). Dr. Arnold is currently Chairman of the ISO/IEC/ITU-T Strategic Advisory Group on Security. He has an academic background in engineering and applied sciences.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly is invited to appoint a Vice-President (policy) for the 2008-2009 term.

APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR THE 2008-2009 TERM

AGENDA ITEM 13.2   VICE-PRESIDENT (TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT)

The term of office of the current Vice-President (technical management), Mrs. Ziva Patir, expires on 31 December 2007. Mrs. Patir is completing her second term and, therefore, in accordance with clause 7.1.1 of the *Rules of Procedure*, is not eligible for a further term.

The nomination committee, consisting of the President, the immediate past President, the Vice-President (policy), the outgoing Vice-President (technical management) and the Secretary-General, has decided to propose to the General Assembly the appointment of Mr. Jacob Holmblad (Denmark) as Vice-President (technical management) for the 2008-2009 term.

Mr. Holmblad has been Managing Director of Danish Standards (DS) since 1991. Before joining DS, he had a long-standing experience within the Danish Energy Agency which he joined in 1978 as Head of Division, Technical and Safety Matters (relating to oil and gas exploitation and production), and left in 1991 after ten years as Deputy Managing Director. His career also includes commitments within the Danish Government such as Acting personal assistant to the Minister of Industry (1974-1978). Mr. Holmblad has also been involved in the board of several entities, such as the Danish Energy Society (Vice-Chairman), the Wind Turbines Capital Fund Ltd. (Vice Chairman and Chairman), the Danish-Chinese committee for technological and scientific cooperation (Member since 1997), the Danish Energy Regulatory Authority (Deputy Chairman) and the Danish Innovation Centre (Vice Chairman). From 2000 until 2004, Mr. Holmblad was Vice President Technical of CEN; and he is currently the DS representative on the ISO Council.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION	The General Assembly is invited to appoint a Vice-President (technical management) for the 2008-2009 term.

AGENDA ITEM 14   ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE NEXT TERM

The term of office of the incumbent President, Mr. Håkan Murby, will finish on 31 December 2008. According to the *Statutes and Rules of Procedure*, the term of office of the President consists of one year as President-elect (which coincides with the last year of the incumbent President), followed by two years as President (clause 6.1 of the *Rules of Procedure*). The term of the future President should therefore start as President-elect on 1 January 2008.

On 28 March 2007, the member bodies were invited to submit nominations by 28 June 2007 for the office of President for the 2009-2010 term, serving therefore as President-elect during 2008. In a letter dated 2 July 2007 (attached at Annex for ease of reference), the Secretary-General informed the member bodies that one nomination has been received: that of Dr. Alan Morrison (Australia).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION   The General Assembly will be invited to elect an ISO President for the 2009-2010 term, who shall also serve as President-elect for 2008.

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International Organization for Standardization
Международная Организация по Стандартизации

Alan Bryden
Secretary-General

Your ref.
Our ref.   Pres. vote 2008

Date   2007-07-03

TO THE ISO MEMBER BODIES AND, FOR INFORMATION, TO THE CORRESPONDENT MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBER MEMBERS

Election of next ISO President

Dear Sir or Madam,

Further to my letter of 28 March 2007 and in accordance with Clause 6.5 of the *Rules of Procedure*, I hereby inform you that there is one confirmed nomination for the next ISO presidency, that of **Dr. W. Alan Morrison** (Australia).

The nominee has assented to the presentation of his name. The biography of Dr. Morrison, currently Deputy Chairman of Standards Australia, is attached at Annex.

The election will take place during the General Assembly in Geneva next September, under agenda item 14.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Bryden

Enclosure

cc.   President
        Vice-President (policy)
        Vice-President (technical management)
        Treasurer
        IEC General Secretary

BIOGRAPHY OF *DR. W. ALAN MORRISON*

Dr. Alan Morrison is an engineer by profession with more than 32 years experience in senior management positions in industry and government in Australia. His involvement with standards development spans 36 years and he currently holds the positions of Deputy Chairman of the Board of Standards Australia, and Chairman of the Business Governance Technical Committee.

Dr. Morrison's experience includes Managing Director and Deputy Chairman of a major utilities corporation; Principal Policy Advisor to a member of the Ministerial Cabinet of the Australian Government; and CEO of an engineering consultancy. His early background with management positions in the media industries, both in the United Kingdom and Australia, provides him with an understanding of cross-sectoral issues affecting all three members of the World Standards Cooperation.

Dr. Morrison has been active in initiatives in the Asia Pacific Region through APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), as well as in specific programmes in developing countries, such as Myanmar.

Achievements

Founding director of three successful companies; represented Australia nationally and internationally on APEC Committees and Trade missions; founding Controller of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School; Principal Policy Advisor to the Minister for Transport and Communications; Principal Consultant to the 1980 Review of the Australian Broadcasting Commission; Australian Advisor on the formation of the Myanmar Television Service; Graduate Engineer with qualifications in engineering, business, public policy, public administration and teaching.

Fellowships

Australian Institute of Company Directors; Chartered Institute of Management; Institution of Engineers (Australia); Institution of Electrical Engineers.

Current positions held

Deputy Chairman of Standards Australia; Company Director of Standards Australia Ltd and Clanmor Holdings Pty Ltd; Chair of the Standards Australia Business Governance Committee; Chair of Standards Australia Certification and Testing Standing Forum; Member of the Standards Australia Finance and Audit Committee; Member of the Standards Australia Standards Accreditation Board; Member of the Energy Council of Australia; Member of the Department of Defence Weapons Materiels Governance Board; Member of the Education Advisory Board and Law Committee of the Australian Institute of Company Directors; Managing Director of Clanmor Holdings Pty Ltd.

. / .

Past positions held

National Council Member and Past President of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and South East Region Council of the Australian Institute of Company Directors; Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of ACTEW Energy Ltd; a former Corporate General Manager and General Manager Engineering of ACTEW Corporation; founder and Chief Executive of a design engineering company and a management consultancy company, each of which gave him a long term interest in and a commitment to the development and commercial use of Standards; Director of Engineering of the Institution of Engineers (Australia); Deputy Chairman of the Energy Council of Australia; Executive Director of the Sydney World Energy Council; ACT Chairman of The Executive Connection; in addition, held positions as First Assistant Secretary [Radio Communications] and Principal Policy Advisor [Broadcasting] with the Australian Government.

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