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Organisation internationale de normalisation
International Organization for Standardization
Международная Организация по Стандартизации

**Rob Steele**

Secretary-General

Your ref.
Our ref. Accessibility workshop

Date 2010-08-25

TO THE ISO MEMBER BODIES**TO THE CHAIRS AND SECRETARIES OF THE
ISO TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND
SUBCOMMITTEES****TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL
MANAGEMENT BOARD****ISO, IEC and ITU to hold international workshop on accessibility**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am pleased to inform you of an international workshop, organized by the three partner organizations of the World Standards Cooperation (WSC)¹, to be held 3-4 November 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland on the subject of “**Accessibility and the contribution of International Standards**”. The WSC workshop will raise awareness of the World Standards Day theme, celebrated on 14 October, which is this year dedicated to the issue of "Accessibility". Accessibility is the degree to which a product, device, service, environment or facility is usable by as many people as possible, including by persons with disabilities. Globally, the number of persons with disabilities that are either congenital, acquired or as a result of age, are estimated to be at around 650 million worldwide.

In addition, a special session following the workshop will be held on **5 November 2010** primarily for persons currently involved in related WSC partner standardization committees and activities. However, new contributors and stakeholders are welcomed and encouraged to participate. The purpose of this special session is to review the workshop results and ideas, consider coordinated activities, and to develop possible action plans for further engagement and development. Draft agendas for the workshop and the additional half-day session are attached to this circular letter.

This WSC workshop will bring together key stakeholder groups from all over the world including disability organizations, governments and regulators, standards development leaders, consumers, as well as product designers and manufacturers addressing accessibility needs. The workshop is designed around three key subjects:

- Accessibility in the field of everyday products
- Accessibility and buildings
- eAccessibility and eInclusion

Using a combination of plenary and break-out groups, these three subject areas will be discussed and the potential for international standardization to contribute to strengthening accessibility aspects in the design of products, services, environments and facilities will be addressed.

¹ ISO, IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) and ITU (International Telecommunication Union)

This WSC workshop will contribute to a better understanding of existing standardization work on accessibility issues, as well as new and emerging issues. It is hoped that the basis for an accessibility "road map" could be established to help guide the further engagement of key stakeholders, future standardization initiatives, and improved awareness-raising initiatives.

I encourage you to promote the attendance of relevant participants in this workshop, and to help contribute to its success. Attendance is free of charge and a registration form for the event may be found at: www.iso.org/wsc-accessibility. This site will be updated as programme and speaker details are finalized.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Steele', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rob Steele
ISO Secretary-General

Enclosures:

- Workshop programme (3-4 November 2010)
- Programme for the additional meeting for standards developers (5 November 2010)



WSC Workshop "Accessibility and the contribution of International Standards"

3-4 November 2010, Geneva, Switzerland, at the premises of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Overall Workshop Programme (for more details see: www.iso.org/wsc-accessibility)

3 November 2010			
Morning Day 1 10:00 – 12:00	Plenary		
	Welcome and opening speech: Director of the ITU-T		
	Opening Keynote 1: Representative from UN / Regulator		
	Opening Keynote 2: International Disability Organization (IDA)		
	Opening Keynote 3: Setting the stage on accessibility and standardization: Secretary-General of ISO		
Statements by Moderators of the three break-out groups about the objectives and organization of each group			
Lunch break			
Afternoon Day 1 13:00 – 17:30	Parallel meetings of the 3 breaks-out groups		
	Consumer/everyday products	Buildings	eAccessibility
Evening social event			

4 November 2010			
Morning Day 2 9:00 – 12:00	Parallel meetings of the 3 breaks-out groups (continued)		
	Consumer/everyday products	Buildings	eAccessibility
Lunch break			
Afternoon Day 2 13:30 - 15:30	Plenary: Reports to the plenary from rapporteurs of the 3 break-out groups + questions, answers and discussion		
Break			
Final session 15:50 - 16:20	Plenary: Summary of key issues, challenges and outcomes		



WSC Workshop “Accessibility and the contribution of International Standards”

Additional meeting for standards developers

5 November 2010, Geneva, Switzerland, at the premises of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), 9:00 - 16:00

DRAFT PROGRAMME

1. Objective and participants

This meeting will discuss the potential evolution of existing WSC standards development activities related to accessibility. However, new contributors and stakeholders are welcomed and encouraged to participate. The meeting will address and discuss the outcomes of the workshop, as well as specific issues related to related standards development work.

2. Discussion questions

- What are the key outcomes and messages from the workshop?
- What work is already going on to address some of these issues?
- How can the differing expectations of stakeholders in accessibility issues (disability organizations, regulators, consumers, product designers and developers etc.) be addressed by standards developers?
- What could be some next steps to move accessibility forward as an important and horizontal issue in the WSC organizations standards development programmes?
- How can standards committees and other groups, inside and outside the WSC organizations, be more involved in accessibility matters?
- What initiatives should the Central Offices of the WSC organizations consider to facilitate the understanding and visibility of accessibility issues?
- What networking and communication opportunities exist or need to be enhanced to leverage collaboration with other individuals, committees and organizations dealing with accessibility matters?

3. Structure and timing

The meeting will take place at the WMO facilities. A Meeting Chair and Rapporteur will be appointed to facilitate and note the discussions, capture ideas and propose actions for consideration and follow-up by the respective WSC partners.