Presentation overview

- Consensus
- Principles and guidance
- Strategies for running/strengthening an NMC
- NWIP example
- Interactive discussion
Session 5: Running/Strengthening an NMC

**CONSENSUS**

- Stakeholder engagement and consensus decision-making are key to successfully running/strengthening an NMC
- Consensus:
  - What is it?
  - How do we *build* it?
  - How do we demonstrate it?

ISO/IEC Directives Part 1:
“General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments. Consensus need not imply unanimity” (3.2G1)
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PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE

- Any national stakeholder may comment but the NSB determines and is responsible for its national process for developing its positions on ISO work
- A description of how the NSB determines its national positions should be publicly available or provided to stakeholders on request
- Forming a National Mirror Committee is a common and recommended approach, and at times other existing NMCs may need to be consulted
- Where possible, NSBs should rely on existing NMCs
- All stakeholders and participants should respect national consensus positions
- NSBs should have procedures for dispute resolution, abstention and appeals as needed
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PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE

- Arguments for and against existence of a standard are addressed at the project proposal stage, not throughout development of the standard
- NSBs should address and try to resolve all views expressed
- NSBs should keep a record of which national stakeholders were involved
- NSBs should communicate decided positions clearly to all stakeholders
- Appeals should be handled informally if possible, but any formal appeal process should be fair, transparent and neutral
- Engage different means to establish consensus (postal service, email, press releases, teleconferences/webinar meetings, web sites, social media) – be proactive and flexible
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**PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE**

- All NMC members should have equal rights to information and participation
- Attempts should be made to achieve stakeholder balance without dominance by any one stakeholder category
- NMC members should be encouraged and helped to learn about standardization procedures
- NSBs should provide information, advice and training to all NMC members
- Any participation fees for NMCs should be reasonable / fair and information on funding mechanisms for underrepresented stakeholders should be clearly communicated
- Fee waiver or fee reduction options are recommended
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**ISO RULES ON PARTICIPATION**

- A Secretariat shall notify ISO Central Secretariat if a P-Member:
  - Is persistently inactive and has failed to contribute to 2 successive technical committee/subcommittee meetings, or
  - Fails to vote on over 20% of the questions formally submitted for voting on the committee internal balloting (CIB) mechanism over the course of each calendar year
  - Fails to vote on a single DIS or FDIS

- What are some strategies NMC leaders can use to ensure active participation?
STRATEGIES FOR RUNNING/STRENGTHENING AN NMC

- NMC policies and procedures:
  - Formalized and regularly reviewed
  - How is a consensus national position achieved?
    - If voting is used, who votes? When do you vote? What is the consensus threshold? How are negative votes and comments addressed?
  - How are appeals handled?
- NMC communication strategies:
  - When and how to hold meetings?
  - Communication across subgroups, entire NMC, NSB
  - Preparing for, reporting back on TC/SC meetings
- Information management strategies:
  - Gathering and dispersing ISO documents
  - Membership roster
  - Recording votes, comments, etc.
MORE STRATEGIES FOR RUNNING/STRENGTHENING AN NMC

- NMC membership:
  - Regularly review and undertake additional stakeholder outreach as necessary
  - Delegating/sharing the responsibility for membership maintenance across NMC members

- Trainings:
  - On standardization
  - On ISO meeting participation
  - On ISO policies and procedures

- Communicate/cooperate with other NMCs:
  - “P-member twinning”
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ENCOURAGING EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ISO MEETINGS

- Who should attend?
  - Demonstrated competence in the field
  - Ability to express views in a clear, concise and persuasive manner
  - Familiar with ISO process and what’s expected of them at the ISO meeting
- NMC should clearly communicate expectations for:
  - ISO delegates
    - Attend meetings, actively participate and contribute to strategy sessions
    - Represent the county well, represent the national position
    - The importance of participating in informal gatherings and social events
  - Heads of Delegation
    - Calls strategy meetings
    - Speaks on behalf of the delegation
NEW WORK ITEM PROPOSAL EXAMPLE

- NWIPs are circulated for a 3 month ballot in ISO
- **Week 1:** Conduct a preliminary review with NMC Chair
- **Weeks 2 – 5:** Circulate document (with input from Chair) for initial review and comment by NMC
- **Weeks 6 – 7:** Collate all comments and review with NMC Chair and hold initial NMC meeting to discuss all comments received
- **Weeks 8 – 11:** Finalize NMC position
  - Includes circulation of consensus comments
  - Includes any outstanding negative votes
- **Week 12:** Send NMC position to NSB for submission to ISO
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INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

- Does your NSB have an established policy for how it determines its national position?
- Does your NSB have an established procedure for dispute resolution?
- What are the greatest obstacles to running effective NMCs for your NSB?
- What are the greatest obstacles to running an effective NMC for TC 285 in particular?
- What best practices can your NSB share on running/strengthening an NMC?
For More Information

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