



# SADC COOPERATION IN STANDARDIZATION

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# About SADCSTAN: Background

- ▶ SADCSTAN is a SADC Cooperation in Standardisation mandated by the SADC Council of Ministers to coordinate Standardisation activities and services in the region
- ▶ Established 1997 in Port Louis, Mauritius
- ▶ One of the seven structures implementing the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade.
- ▶ The seven structures form the SADC Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) body.
- ▶ The umbrella structure, SADC Expert Group (TBTEG) is responsible for coordinating all the regional SQAM activities and supports the SADC Secretariat in an advisory capacity on TBT issues.



# About SADCSTAN: Background

The seven TBT structures include:

- ▶ SADC Cooperation in Standardization (SADCSTAN)
- ▶ SADC Cooperation in Legal Metrology (SADCMEL)
- ▶ SADC Cooperation in Measurement Traceability (SADCMET)
- ▶ SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA)
- ▶ SADC Technical Regulation Liaison Committee (SADCTRLC)
- ▶ SADC Technical Barriers to Trade Stakeholder Committee (SADCTBTSC)
- ▶ SADC Technical Barriers to Trade Expert Group (TBTEG)
- ▶ **Functions and rules of all the cooperating structures are laid down in Article 14 of the SADC TBT Annex of 2008**



# About SADCSTAN : Objective

*Promote the coordination of Standardisation activities and services in the region with the purpose of achieving harmonization of standards in support of the objectives of the SADC protocol on trade.*



# About SADCSTAN : Aims & Functions

## Aims

- ▶ Promote regional cooperation in the development of harmonized standards/texts
- ▶ Facilitate exchange of information on existing standards , draft standards among members
- ▶ Facilitate the adoption of regional standards
- ▶ Facilitate the adoption of a common position by members in regional and international standardization bodies
- ▶ Encourage the harmonization of legislation relating to standards



# About SADCSTAN : Aims & Functions

## Functions

- ▶ Develop and adopt mechanisms for the formulation & adoption of regional standards
- ▶ Examine the need for and develop regional standards
- ▶ Develop standards in support of harmonized TR's
- ▶ Coordinate inputs to and liaise with ISO , IEC , ARSO and similar regional and international standardization organizations
- ▶ Develop means to disseminate standards information whilst protecting copyrights
- ▶ Develop regional mechanisms to facilitate compliance with the WTO/TBT Agreement requirements



# SADCSTAN Operational Structures

## SADCSTAN COMMITTEE

(SADC MEMBER STATES - National Standards Bodies)

*Governing body & Custodian of the aims and functions of SADCSTAN*

### SADCSTAN Secretariat

*Ensure proper functioning of SADCSTAN*

### Executive Committee

*Pursues SADCSTAN objectives*

Elected by  
AGM

### Standards Management Committee

*Implements the harmonization procedure*

Appointed by  
ExCo

Technical Committees (11)

MS Volunteer





# SADCSTAN Committee

- ▶ Governing body of SADCSTAN
- ▶ Custodian of the aims and functions of SADCSTAN

## Membership:

- ▶ NSB's and focal point (*where no NSB exists*)
- ▶ Chair and Vice Chair elected from among members for 2 years

## Associate Membership

- ▶ Upon written request and approval at AGM - Drawn from non - SADC member states
- ▶ Stakeholders (industry associations, other SQAM structures, SADC sectors etc.)



# Executive Committee (Exco)

Responsible for the pursuit of SADCSTAN objectives

## Composition:

- ▶ Chair , Vice Chair , SADCSTAN Secretariat (RC), SMC Chairperson and 2 MS representatives

## Current members

- ▶ NA- Chair, DRC, MW, ZA, SMC-Chairperson, ZM-RC



# Standards Management Committee

## Responsibilities

- ▶ Maintaining the Principles and Procedures for the Development of SADC Harmonized standards
- ▶ Establishment and management of TCs and SCs
- ▶ Allocation of TC's and SC's Secretariats

## Current membership

- ▶ BW, DRC, SW, ZA, ZW, MZ
- ▶ Zambia, as Secretariat provides regional coordinator



# SADCSTAN Secretariat

- ▶ Appointed by SADCSTAN for 3 years
- ▶ Hosted by NSB

## Responsibilities:

- ▶ Communication with SADCSTAN members
- ▶ Ensuring that details of collaboration and regional technical committees are circulated to all member states
- ▶ Preparing and circulating documents of the General Assembly, Executive Committee & SMC as required from time to time
- ▶ Conducting day-to-day activities of SADCSTAN in line with policies decided by the General Assembly in order to achieve the objectives as stated in the SADC Protocol on trade
- ▶ Ensuring the proper functioning of SADCSTAN



# Standards harmonisation process

- Harmonisation work is undertaken within TCs/SCs hosted by a NSB
- Each TC has a scope of work and is responsible for harmonisation work within that scope
- MSs participate as P or O members to TCs .
- P members are obliged to participate actively by commenting and voting on documents
- O members receive all documentation but not obliged to vote/comment
- International standards are the first choice of harmonisation work
- To date 56 standards harmonised (management system, construction, electrical appliances,

## Principles

- Consensus, Transparency, Coherence, Relevance, Impartiality



# Standards harmonisation process

Project stage	Associated document		Time frame
	Name	Abbreviation	
0:Preliminary stage	Preliminary work item	PWI	Not applicable
1:Proposal stage	New work item proposal	NWIP	3 or 5 months
2:Preparatory stage	Working draft(s)	WD	Not applicable
3:Committee stage	Committee draft(s)	CD	4 months (4-6 months)
4: Enquiry stage	Draft harmonized standard	DHS	3 months (5 months for direct entry)
5: Approval stage	Final draft	FDHS	2 months



# Standards harmonisation process - Stakeholder engagement

## 1: Proposal stage



- Stakeholders in Member states can propose projects for harmonisation through NSB.
- Stakeholders are consulted to vote on the proposals for harmonisation.

## 3: Committee stage



- National experts in Member states participate on mirror committees.

## 4: Enquiry stage



- The NSB circulates the DHS to Stakeholders to comment and vote

The NSB adopts and publishes the harmonised standards and makes them available to all stakeholders



# Standards harmonisation process – Publication of Standards

- ▶ SADCSTAN does not publish standards – Member Bodies are required to adopt and publish harmonised standards as national standards
- ▶ Member States are required to inform SADCSTAN Secretariat of progress with regard to adoption and implementation of harmonised standards
- ▶ Member states are expected to align or remove conflicting standards and replace them with harmonised standards.





# TC Secretariat Responsibilities

TC Reference and Title	TC Secretariat Hosting
TC 1: Construction	Botswana
TC 2: Automotive and Transportation	TBA
TC 3 Foods and Agriculture SC Tobacco SC Fish	Mauritius Zimbabwe Zambia
TC 6 : Health and safety	Mauritius
TC 8: Hospitality and Tourism	Mauritius
TC 11: Management systems and CA	Tanzania
TC 14 - Water	Malawi
TC 15: Chemicals & chemical products	South Africa
TC 16 - Energy	TBA
TC 18: African Traditional Medicine	South Africa
ISO TC 68: Financial services	South Africa

**11 TCs and 2 SCs**



# Benefits of regional standards

- ▶ Eradicate TBTs and facilitate free movement of goods in the region.
- ▶ Boost trade between member states
- ▶ Keep products not complying with SADCSTAN harmonized standards out of the region



# Challenges

- Inadequate participation in the harmonization process by MS
- low adoption of harmonized standards
- Inadequate resources to support TC work- *physical meetings in particular*
- Poor stakeholder awareness on harmonized standards



# Conclusion

- ▶ SADCSTAN is responsible for harmonizing standards in the region
- ▶ NSBs are required to involve the national stakeholders in the standards harmonization programs
- ▶ Regulatory Agencies need to reference harmonized standards in their regulations as necessary



***SADCSTAN***

***THANK YOU***

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