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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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ISO UPDATE TO THE TBT COMMITTEE

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)

This document contains information provided by ISO at the TBT Committee meeting of 13-15 July 2022 under Agenda Item 4 (Update by Observers).

1.1. ISO would like to thank the WTO TBT for the opportunity to provide an update on ISO activities.

1.2. [Registration is now open](#) for ISO's must-attend event of the year. ISO Annual Meeting 2022, taking place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), from 19 to 23 September, hosted by the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT) will be open to anyone that would like to participate. This keystone event will feature thematic sessions, networking opportunities, the ISO General Assembly and related governance meetings.

- a. Join an exciting [programme](#) exploring today's most important global challenges and technological developments (a combination of hybrid and fully on line events). Join the session *Building Trust: Trade in the age of digitalization*, to discuss about latest developments in conformity assessment and emerging challenges and opportunities in a digitalized environment, in a world where digitalization of trade is accelerated. We will explore how compliance is managed across global supply chains and how conformity is assessed and communicated, so that it continues to provide confidence to regulators and the market.
- b. Network and connect with colleagues from other national standards bodies, industry leaders and international organizations.
- c. Come in person for the full and exclusive event experience.

1.3. The implementation of the [ISO Strategy 2030](#) (approved at beginning of 2021) is well progressing. The rolling implementation plan and the measurement framework are constantly adapted to better support the achievement of its goals and priorities to help us reach our vision and mission. A revision of the priorities is expected in 2023.

1.4. [ISO SMART](#) is one of the most transformational programme of the ISO rolling implementation plan, and run in tight collaboration with the IEC. Its aim is to shift from a document-based to a content-based standard life-cycle, and thus enable new ways of creating and sharing content which have machines (not only humans) as end users.

1.5. Recognizing the need to bring alignment to the definition of "net-zero", ISO is working with the UN's Race to Zero campaign, SBTi and national standards bodies (NSBs) from multiple countries under the Our 2050 World initiative to develop net-zero guiding principles. ISO is committed to accelerating progress in this area by providing the international platform to develop those principles through the launch of a process known in the global standardization community as "International Workshop Agreement" (IWA).

1.6. The IWA was launched on 18 May 2022, and it is expected to be published by COP 27. The first workshop was held virtually on 13 July 2022. All interested parties are invited to participate by registering here: <https://our2050.world/#register>. The IWA will build upon the progress made through existing initiatives, campaigns and governance from state and non-state actors. The process enables all relevant players and stakeholders to participate in a structured, inclusive and open debate to reach consensus on:

- a. A definition of net-zero and related concepts (national, regional and organizational)
- b. How this definition should be incorporated into initiatives, strategies and policies at all levels
- c. The basis for accountability mechanisms and measurement to provide assurance through independent measurement, validation, verification and certification of information on climate impacts.

1.7. Within the context of ISO's commitment to Climate Action, the organization's current portfolio is being assessed to identify which ISO standards have the highest potential to positively contribute to the achievement of climate goals, especially the transition to a net-zero economy. This exercise will accelerate the continuous update of ISO standards with highest impact towards the climate goals.

1.8. ISO's efforts to support gender equality and women empowerment continue with the launch of the Gender Action Plan 2022-2025. The second ISO gender action plan seeks to (1) continue collecting and analysing data on gender representation; (2) enhance balanced participation and representation; (3) develop gender responsive deliverables; (4) ensure ISO/CS plays a key role in supporting gender within the ISO system and (5) continue to support ISO members on gender equality.
