



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 16-18 November 2022 under Agenda Item 4 (Update by Observers).¹

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

1.2. ISO had a very successful ISO Annual Meeting 2022 which took place in Abu Dhabi on 19-23 September and was hosted by the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT), ISO's member for the UAE.

1.3. The new and open format of this year's event attracted [record-breaking participation](#) and was a pivotal moment for the ISO community to make progress and drive meaningful change for the future. Discover the [event session](#) replays, [highlights](#) and read the [wrap-up of the week](#).

1.4. The 44th ISO General Assembly took place during the ISO Annual Meeting on 22 September, it elected the next ISO President, Dr. Sung Hwan Cho (Korea, Republic of), for 2024-2025 who will serve as President-elect in 2023.

1.5. ISO's Climate Commitment was reinforced by the General Assembly through a resolution that called for members to engage with their national delegations to COP27 to highlight the important role played by International Standards and actively promote the Net Zero Guidelines due to be published next month.

1.6. On 14 October, the ISO community celebrated [World Standards Day](#) which was a [campaign](#) on standards supporting the [#SDGs](#) with the tagline "Shared vision for a better world".

1.7. 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 measurement framework is currently ongoing, and the review of the strategic priorities is expected in 2023.

1.8. Overall information on ISO capacity building can be found at [Home \(iso.org\)](#), including ISO's strategic framework for capacity building, and the **ISO Action Plan for developing countries 2021 to 2025**. The **ISO Digital Learning Platform** can also be accessed through this link. It is a knowledge hub that offers exciting opportunities for ISO members and their national stakeholders to benefit from a variety of standardization and business skills courses in a fully digital learning environment.

1.9. ISO's committee for developing country matters (**DEVCO**) met within the framework of the ISO annual meeting on 19 September 2022. During this meeting the **Standards4Sustainability**

¹ In original language only.

programme was launched, to be implemented under the ISO Action Plan for developing countries 2021 to 2025. Guided by the needs expressed by ISO members from developing countries, we will roll out comprehensive support and create pools of national experts by conducting training of trainer programmes on specific ISO standards, linked to People, Planet, and Prosperity. Through this national expertise created, awareness raising for governments and businesses will take place through our members, and case studies will be developed.

1.10. The 56th DEVCO meeting was chaired by Ms. Julia Bonner Douett of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ). Members approved a methodology designed to enable developing countries to identify standardization areas of primary interest and develop proposals for new fields of technical work. Given the importance of the ISO project on machine-readable standards (ISO SMART), a new Working Group was established at the DEVCO level to strengthen developing country involvement. Lastly, DEVCO members participated in a roundtable on the subject of marketplace confidence that took place with the conformity assessment (CASCO) and consumer (COPOLCO) Policy Development Committee (PDC) Chairpersons.

1.11. **LDC program:** Given the needs identified by members from LDCs in the annual ISO capacity building needs assessment conducted in December 2021, the LDC Programme, initiated as a pilot in 2019, will continue with a more targeted, tailored approach, but will allow more NSBs to take advantage of the programme offerings. The programme has been developed taking into consideration the feedback from the pilot programme members. Launched in 2022, and selected through a competitive application process, there are 10 ISO members from Africa and Asia participating in the LDC Programme. Under this new LDC Programme, the members will be able to select and create a programme that is tailored to the thematic areas most important and strategic to their organization and for the benefit of their public and private sector stakeholders. This tailor-made programme will help to strengthen their institutional capacity to better benefit from international standards to address their economic and social development needs through the high-quality tailored support while improving their standardization needs and contribution to the SDGs.
