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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 8-10 March 2023 under Agenda Item 5 (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. 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.

1.3. A revision of the measurement framework has been approved by the ISO Council Standing Committee on Strategy and Policy (CSC/SP) in November 2022 and submitted to Council for information in February 2023. Additionally, a survey has been launched to all members to kick off the "light-touch" strategy review process, followed by a Council workshop which took place in February 2023. A dedicated task force composed by Council members is in charge of reviewing the Council workshop output as well as the survey results, and proposing recommended changes to Council at their meeting in June 2023.

1.4. ISO is participating actively in the WTO Dialogue for Plastic Pollution and the International Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. ISO's written submissions to the latter process are available on the [INC-1](#) and [INC-2](#) websites.

1.5. ISO's Climate Action continues to gain momentum. ISO had its biggest-ever presence at a UNFCCC COP at COP27 in Egypt in 2022, during which the [ISO Net Zero Guidelines](#) were launched. In 2023, ISO will participate in the Bonn Climate Change Conference, Climate Week and COP28. In addition, ISO has launched the ISO National Climate Champions Network, bringing together ISO Members from around the world to collaborate specifically on the topic of climate action. The first meeting took place on 28th February.

1.6. Each year, ISO/CS conducts a needs assessment survey to understand the technical assistance and capacity-building priorities of developing country members and their stakeholders. The survey is a core component of the capacity building programme cycle and guides the design and the delivery of the annual work plan.

1.7. The first survey under the Action Plan for developing countries 2021-2025 was completed by 81% of developing country members and 79% of members from Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Results indicated a need for capacity-building support to fully benefit from standards in several key areas under the 3-P framework (People, Planet and Prosperity), such as to facilitate trade (e.g., conformity assessment), and in critical sustainability-related areas linked to climate change and energy management. In response to the needs expressed by ISO members, the

¹ In original language only.

Standards4Sustainability programme was initiated, focusing on knowledge transfer and skills on specific ISO standards in each of the three pillars of the 3-P framework, ranging from the basic level to advanced level training.

1.8. A second needs assessment survey was launched in late 2022 to confirm the results from the previous year and to determine if new needs had emerged. The results of this survey are currently being analysed by the ISO Capacity Building Unit.
