

COPANT WELL REPRESENTED IN ISO/CASCO

COPANT Workshop on and participation in ISO/CASCO Plenary

From April 25 to 27, 2018, Mexico City hosted the 33rd Plenary Meeting of [ISO/CASCO](#), the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment. During that week, more exactly on 23 and 24 April, [COPANT](#) organized a Workshop to prepare the participation of its members in this Plenary.

The members of COPANT are increasing their participation in ISO/CASCO and this was a special opportunity because the meeting was held in a country of America.

For many of the participants, representatives of the members of COPANT, it was the first time that they participated in the ISO/CASCO plenary session. For others, it was their second time after the Vancouver Plenary last year. This is a good sign: ensure the continuity of participation.

26 delegates participated physically or via Web Ex, representing the following 15 countries: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, United States, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay.



Representatives of COPANT present at the Plenary meeting of ISO/CASCO, in Mexico City, Mexico; accompanied by the Secretary General of ISO, Sergio Mujica and the Secretary of ISO/CASCO, Sean MacCurtain

The **COPANT-PTB-CASCO workshop** was held on Monday, April 23, organized and facilitated by Mario Wittner, and under the auspices of PTB. The main objectives were:

- Present and discuss the main themes in the ISO/CASCO Plenary Agenda;
- Explain the ways to access the ISO/CASCO work program and the relevant documents in the Technical (WG) and Policy Working Groups.
- Report on the activities of the main working groups and the stage of their relevant documents;
- Highlight the approval of the revisions of ISO/IEC 17011 - Requirements for Accreditation Bodies and ISO/IEC 17025 - Requirements for Laboratories, two of the main ISO/CASCO standards
- An overview of the future developments of ISO/CASCO;
- Present the activities of the National Mirror Committees (NMC) and of the United States (ANSI)



Participants of the COPANT Workshop on ISO/CASCO

On Tuesday 24th there was a meeting of **the COPANT-CASCO Focal Group** (led by Fabián Colorado - ICONTEC) with different presentations on the Spanish Translation Task Force STTF/CASCO (led by UNE-Spain), experiences on the use of CASCO standards and the program of future translations of the drafts under study in the WGs of CASCO.

Previously, and to prepare the workshop and the participation of the members in ISO/CASCO, a meeting was organized on March 27, via **Web Ex**, with the purpose of presenting the Plenary Agenda in a general way and emphasizing the need for good preparation for some of the main issues on the agenda.

Finally, on April 27 an **ISO/CASCO workshop** was held on "Disaster-related risk management – The role of standards and conformity assessment".

Recommendations of the participants to COPANT and CASCO

As a result of this training and the discussions related to the participants, these are the recommendations:

1. Training:

- a. *National Mirror Committees (NMC): Request COPANT to obtain relevant information from ANSI, SCC and other interested bodies; to be distributed to the members of COPANT;*
- b. *Develop a COPANT training program to be applied by members at the national level to improve the competence of their NMC;*

2. Technical:

- a. *Continue supporting the activities of the Focal Groups related to ISO/CASCO to achieve the effective participation of the members*
- b. *Include ANSI, SCC and other members of COPANT interested in the Focal Group activities, in order to exchange their comments during the study of the ISO/CASCO WGs;*
- c. *In order to improve effective participation in the focal groups, establish an annual plan for the Web Ex meetings aligned before the respective WG meetings;*

3. Strategies:

- a. *Elaborate a COPANT policy for its members to promote the continuity of the participation of the normalizers in the ISO/CASCO activities. The lack of continuity in participation prevents an adequate positioning in ISO/CASCO;*
- b. *Analyze the possible strategies that will be developed with government authorities to promote the use of the ISO/IEC standards of CASCO.*

In addition, workshop participants agreed on the need to present to the ISO/CASCO Plenary different topics, such as:

- a. Improve the participation of developing countries in the high level of leadership of CASCO. As a result, the ISO/CASCO Plenary adopted a resolution that considers COPANT's suggestion for the creation of an additional key strategic priority to improve the participation of developing countries in ISO/CASCO at all levels; and requests the secretariat of ISO/CASCO to contact ISO/DEVCO to make a proposal
- b. Members of COPANT were included in the resolution team for the ISO/CASCO Plenary and in the team in charge of reviewing the new educational tool of ISO/CASCO.

Source: Report of Mario Wittner (Facilitator), photographs Fabian Colorado (ICONTEC)

More photos of the event can be found on COPANT [Flickr](#) and ISO [Flickr](#)