Following the ISO 26000
Sustainable purchasing standard - ISO 20400

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The ISO 26000 standard on social responsibility is being used significantly by organizations worldwide. Its use has been driven in part by the measures taken by the European Union, inviting multinationals to promote social responsibility in their value chain, using for this purpose international standards such as ISO 26000. Organizations that are using it as a guide for the implementation of social responsibility, have begun the process of bringing the concept to their supply chain, namely to their suppliers.

Based on the need for these organizations to bring social responsibility in the supply chain, ISO has start in 2013, the standardization process of purchases in order to provide organizations with a tool to help them integrate the sustainable development in the purchasing process. As a result of the consultation to the standards bodies that compose it, in early 2013 the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) took the decision to proceed with the study of an international standard for sustainable purchasing. Under the Secretariat of Brazil and France, the work of the project committee PC 277 was launched. To date some 28 countries are actively involved in the development process of document, including Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Chile, while another 13 are observers. This new standard addresses interested parties who are involved or impacted by the purchasing process of an organization.

The committee ISO PC 277, met in Singapore the week of November 3-7, 2014 to continue discussing the future ISO 20400. Discussions focused on reviewing the alignment of this standard with ISO 26000 and the review of the procurement process that is consistent with the policies and strategy of the organization. The essential purpose of the standard is to guide public and private organizations in their procurement activities and promote good practices when buying, regardless of their size or activity.

The standard is in the third draft stage (CD3) and is expected to have a new document for discussion at the beginning of 2015, with the aim of having it as an International Standard in 2016. We invite organizations who are already working with social responsibility be linked to the standardization process of this standard, which is very important in the purchasing process to involve suppliers, as one of the stakeholders greater impact on any organization.