TMB Communiqué

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH 2023 TMB MEETING

1. ISO Smart Farming Coordinating Committee (SFCC)

**Background:** The ISO Strategic Advisory Group on Smart Farming (SAG SF) was established in June 2021 ([TMB Resolution 60/2021](https://www.iso.org/membership-worldwide-congress) to identify challenges, opportunities, standards and gaps in the work of ISO technical committees related to Smart Farming as well as in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The SAG SF focused on data-driven agrifood systems, recognizing thus the critical role of data and data exchange in modern farming.

The group used an iterative and constructionist approach to identify the scope of its work, resulting in a final report with recommendations on Smart Farming, including a standardization roadmap that outlines the standardization landscape around Smart Farming.

The SAG SF completed its mandate and the final report with key findings and recommendations was presented at the TMB March meeting. The TMB accepted the final report along with its recommendations and agreed that the methods, which included a landscape assessment and the development of a roadmap used by the SAG SF should be made available to future task forces and to strategic advisory groups as best practice. With [TMB Resolution 17/2023](https://www.iso.org/membership-worldwide-congress), the TMB approved the recommendation from the SAG SF to establish a coordinating committee on smart farming to facilitate implementation of the recommendations, communication, coordination and information sharing among committees involved in smart farming including data-driven agrifood systems, among other things. The SFCC has also been asked to collaborate with ISO/DEVCO, given the importance of this subject area for developing countries.

**What this means for you:** The SAG SF included a record-number of experts, more than 150, combined with the setting-up of a Consultative Group with representatives from 35 committees and activities carried out by nine domain sub-groups. If you want to learn more about smart farming and data-driven agri-food systems, you can read the final report [here](https://www.iso.org/membership-worldwide-congress).

2. Management system for the UN Sustainable Development Goals - New PC

**Background:** Danish Standards (DS) submitted a proposal for a new project committee on ‘Management System for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Requirements for any organization’. This proposal provides a framework for organizations to actively work with a selection of relevant UN SDGs, enhancing their performance on sustainable development.

The member body ballot on the proposal, carried out in Q3/2022, showed support for the proposal. Several members however commented that the title and scope should be discussed further, before committing to an active work item. DS, the proposer, supported this suggestion. TMB approved via [TMB Resolution 21/2023](https://www.iso.org/membership-worldwide-congress) the establishment of a new PC on ‘Management system for UN Sustainable Development Goals – Requirements for any organization’. In the resolution, the TMB specified that the preliminary stage can be used to review the comments received during the ISO member bodies ballot.

**What this means for you:** if you are interested in ISO’s current work in helping achieve the UN SDGs, you can learn more [here](https://www.iso.org/membership-worldwide-congress).


**Background:** A new edition of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 (19th edition) and the Consolidated
ISO Supplement will be published on 1 May 2023 (14th edition). The following is a brief overview of some key changes:

ISO/IEC Directives Part 1:

- ISO/IEC joint SEGs (Standardisation Evaluation Group) (clause 1.2.10) - All rules applying to IEC are extended to include ISO, which now can co-convene (joint) SEGs with IEC.
- Clarification of participation criteria for P-Members (clause 1.7.4) – The downgrade criteria have been clarified and are now aligned between ISO and IEC.
- PAS (clause 3.2.2) - Additional clarification on the PAS document and the process required to initiate a PAS project.
- Liaison B – clarification of rights (clause 1.17) - Clarification requested by ISO committees: Liaison B is given access to the committee documents.
- No new working group for a PWI (clause 1.12) - The text is revised to clarify that it is no longer allowed to establish a new working group for a PWI. But PWIs can be assigned to an existing WG or other groups.

ISO Consolidated Supplement:

- Annex C – Annex C now includes additional considerations for those proposing new technical areas or standards.
- Commenting at the CD stage (foreword) – The text is revised to clarify the fact that, when a document is out for ballot (or commenting at CD stage), formal discussion during meetings or distribution of positions via formal committee distribution channels are prohibited.
- Automatic cancellation of IWAs (Annex SI) - The Directives now explicitly state that IWAs are withdrawn automatically 6 years after publication, if not converted into something else.
- Proposal stage – PAS (clause 2.3.1) – A new work item proposal (NP) is no longer required for a new PAS – neither for its revision.

Forms - The forms “Notice of meeting – draft agenda” and “Project limit date extension request” were updated.

What this means for you: These changes will be effective starting from the publication of the next edition of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and Consolidated ISO Supplement on 1 May 2023. We will provide you with a document that shows all the changes made (with marked modifications), along with a presentation covering all the relevant updates. Committee Managers, Chairs and Convenors are invited to contact their ISO/CS Technical Programme Managers for any questions on these changes.

NEWS

4. JSAG on Gender responsive standards

Background: The ISO-IEC Guidance on Gender Responsive Standards has been available to the ISO and IEC technical communities since September 2022. JSAG’s guidance was approved by TMB and SMB in June 2022 per TMB Resolution 51/2022 and by SMB in April 2022 per SMB/7572/RV. Both the guidance and assessment form were made available to ISO and IEC technical communities in September 2022. At the same time the JSAG mandate was extended to 2024 to allow further refinement of the guidance and to support the roll-out of training, engagement and communication activities.

What this means for you: Committees are encouraged to consider the guidance and optional
assessment form when proposing new standards or revisions to existing standards. To ensure standards are gender responsive, it is essential to start with the early premise that there are gender differences and that this will inherently have implications for the standard under development when it is used by humans. This premise is essential in determining whether a standard functions, performs, and/or differentially impacts women and men. Standards developers are advised to pay particular attention when the most common physical and physiological differences between men and women play a strong role in the user’s interaction with the standard. The results of this differential analysis are best documented on the gender-responsive standards assessment form and stored in the relevant WG space on ISO Documents.

The JSAG will deploy a survey on the Guidance and on gender-responsiveness in standards in May 2023. The results of the survey will be essential in reviewing the guidance along with ensuring that it meets the needs of standards developers, while supporting ISO and IEC’s commitments to the UNECE Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards. The JSAG is also developing short training modules on the Guidance, which will be made available to the technical communities in May 2023.

5. Standardization roadmap

**Background:** At the Council Standing Committee on Strategy and Policy (CSC/SP) meeting in February 2022, a proposal was endorsed to adapt a transversal, outside-in, community-building, multi-organizational approach to define a forward-looking high-level standardization landscape across emergent fields of standardization activity. As the foresight trend report demonstrates, there are many important interlinkages between trends and a high degree of convergence between technologies and sectors. Emerging topics will increasingly implicate multiple committees and necessitate a higher-level strategic planning process as well as implicate a broader range of stakeholders.

Approved by TMB Resolution 14/2022, the Committee Strategy Management project is premised on a 2020-21 diagnostic of SBPs pointing to a complex of limitations in the current process and practice. The project will define a new value proposition for strategic planning in ISO, enabling better strategic integration, continuous improvement, stakeholder engagement and flexibility to different market contexts. TMB and CSC/SP will work jointly to develop a framework for high-level standardization landscape studies, which will compliment committee-level strategic planning with extrospective stakeholder inputs.

**What this means for you:** Committee strategic business plans (SBPs) are the current tool for technical communities to undertake environmental scanning, stakeholder mapping and standardization portfolio management. The Strategic Planning Task Force is currently developing a value proposition for a new SBP process and format that will better respond to strategic imperatives, transversal fields of activity and diverse stakeholder perspectives. Consultations with the technical community on the value proposition for a new approach to SBPs will be launched mid-2023. For the time being, committees are encouraged to review their SBPs and to ensure they are updated in accordance with Annex SC Strategic Business Plans of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Consolidated ISO Supplement.

6. TMB Action Plan

**Background:** The implementation of the TMB Action Plan related to the London Declaration has been underway since its approval in August 2022. Among the many actions composing the Action Plan, a special focus has been put on “committees to include climate considerations”, and activities to make this happen are currently being put into action. The technical community support is essential for the success of the London Declaration, and communication and engagement works have started with awareness-raising webinars dispensed over February. The TMB Task Force will continue to engage with the technical community and will share the results of the research on the contribution of ISO Standards to SDG 13: “Climate Action”. The results of this research will help
the Technical Committees to identify which standards can be revised to make a positive impact on climate action.

**What this means for you:** The implementation of the TMB Action Plan will trigger opportunities for ISO Technical Committees to communicate on how they do (or plan to) include climate considerations in their activities. ISO Technical Committees can expect more communication about the ISO Climate Commitment in general and about the TMB Action Plan in particular in the future.

### 7. LDE Award: Nominations for L.D Eicher Award 2023 are open

**Background:** The Lawrence D. Eicher (LDE) Award was created to recognize the excellent performance of an ISO committee. The winning committee enjoys a number of prizes such as a promotional video created for the committee, funding from ISO for their own celebration, and more! For more information on the award, selection criteria and prizes, please visit the ISO website on the LDE Award.

**What this means for you:** The nominations for 2023 are now open. Do you know any committee that deserves to be rewarded and recognized for its excellence? Please download the nomination form and submit it to LDE@iso.org by 30 April 2023. Nominations can be submitted by anyone participating in the ISO standards development process including (but not limited to) TC/SC Chairs, TC/SC Committee Managers, representatives of ISO member bodies and ISO Technical Programme Managers.

### 8. TMB Task Force on the coherence in the field of supply chain & logistics

**Background:** At the TMB September 2022 meeting, the TMB established a TMB Task Force on the coherence in the field of supply chain and logistics (TMB Resolution 84/2022). The task force was set up in response to the results and comments received on the member body ballots on TS/P 304 Smart distribution in logistics (closing date 2022-04-22) and the NP Guidelines for overseas warehouse services in cross-border trade (closing date 2022-06-07), and the comments and concerns raised by TMB members on potential overlaps between the two proposals as well as with other committees.

The task force was created to review the comments received on the two proposals, to consider ongoing committee activities that potentially overlap, and to develop recommendations for TMB on the best approach for coherence in the field of supply chain and logistics including on how to address the two proposals submitted by SAC.

The task force met twice, and a third meeting was organized with the leadership of the committees identified as relevant in these fields. Based on the discussions, it was agreed to focus on logistics and to carry out a gap analysis. The TMB TF submitted its recommendations to the TMB for the TMB March 2023 meeting.

**What this means for you:** At the TMB March 2023 meeting, the TMB decided to extend the mandate of the task force until June 2023 so that it could undertake a gap analysis to better understand the current landscape in the field of logistics, to identify key areas important for standardization not currently addressed by an existing ISO committee, as well as to consider if the two proposals could be accommodated in an existing structure or if new committees should be created. The task force will provide the results of the gap analysis and recommendations for the TMB June 2023 meeting. If you are interested in the results of the gap analysis, keep any eye out for the TMB June 2023 Communiqué.

### 9. Climate Change Coordination Committee (CCCCC)
Background: The Climate Change Coordination Committee (CCCC) was established in 2020 (TMB Resolution 73/2020) with an initial term of two years. With the signing of the London Declaration in September 2021 and the TMB Action Plan resulting from it, the TMB requested that the CCCC be made a permanent body with an updated mandate. The TMB has approved the new mandate of the CCCC (TMB Resolution 18/2023) which ensures that the group can continue to deliver high quality outputs (coordination of work across ISO committees, implementation of ISO Guide 84, support collaboration with other organizations), but also highlights their supporting role in the implementation of the TMB Action Plan.

What this means for you: If your Technical Committee has activities related to climate action but does not yet have a seat at the CCCC, reach out to Stefan Marinkovic (marinkovic@iso.org).

10. Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) – Coordination Committee

Background: In August 2022, the TMB Strategic Advisory Group on ESG ecosystem submitted its final report to the TMB. Considering the report and the recommendations included in it, the TMB decided to create an ESG Coordination Committee (ESG CC), approved their mandate and asked ISO members of Brazil, Canada and UK to nominate co-Chairs. An inaugural meeting was held virtually in December 2022 with Chairs of ISO Technical Committees who, according to the final report, have ESG-related standards. At their March 2023 meeting, the TMB appointed 3 co-Chairs: Dr. Jorge E.R. Cajazeira (ABNT), Prof David Jackman (BSI) and Mrs. Patricia L. McCarney (SCC). A meeting of the ESG CC took place on 8 and 9 March where groups with specific tasks were formed.

What this means for you: If your Technical Committee has activities related to ESG but does not yet have a seat at the ESG CC, reach out to Stefan Marinkovic (marinkovic@iso.org).

NEW COMMITTEES

Reminder: The NSBs proposing a new committee have the option to organize a web conference session(s) to “promote” their NPs and TS/Ps. For information on new proposals and the stages of approval that they are in, please click on the following link: https://connect.iso.org/x/L4AhAQ

TMB RESOLUTIONS

TMB Resolutions (including 2023) are available on ISO Documents.