TMB COMMUNIQUE

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Highlights from the June 2023 TMB meeting

1. ISO Critical Minerals Coordination Committee (CMCC)

**Background:** The SAG Critical Minerals was established by TMB Resolution 26/2021 to analyze the existing and potential ISO standardization work on critical minerals and make recommendations to the TMB regarding a structure to develop further standards relevant to the sector, including required coordination and priorities. The SAG completed its mandate and submitted its final report and recommendations to the TMB at the TMB June 2022 meeting.

The TMB accepted the report of the SAG and extended its mandate (TMB Resolution 50/2022) to further provide strategic advice related to:

- The organization of the ISO work on critical minerals, including the development of overarching guidance on common chemical analysis techniques, and
- Investigate the market need for focused standards on sustainability issues related to critical minerals, including the possibility of developing a general guidance for critical mineral supply chain participants.

The SAG Critical Minerals completed its second mandate, and the second final report with key findings and its seven key recommendations was presented at the TMB June 2023 meeting. The TMB accepted the second final report along with its recommendations, including the recommendation to establish an ISO Critical Minerals Coordination Committee (CMCC) with TMB Resolution 48/2023.

**What this means for you:** If you want to learn more about Critical Minerals, the SAG CRMI final report will soon be made available here. For updates on the CMCC work, make sure to read the September 2023 edition of the TMB Communiqué.

2. Improved Development Processes – Optimized Deliverables

**Background:** The Optimized Deliverables project is entering its in-depth analysis phase. The first phase of a journey to shape the future of ISO’s types of publications and their related processes.

The in-depth analysis aims at laying the foundations for changes through its three components:

- **Data analysis:** This involves conducting a comprehensive diagnosis of all the essential parameters related to our deliverables. Through thorough data analysis, we gain a deep understanding of the current state and performance of the deliverables.

- **Benchmarking analysis:** Here, we gather valuable insights on deliverable innovations from ISO Members as well as external standards drafting organizations. By comparing our practices with those of others, we can identify areas for improvement and gather ideas for enhancing our deliverables.

- **Gap analysis:** This component focuses on identifying the gaps between our desired performance and the actual results in meeting market needs. By pinpointing these gaps, we can develop strategies to bridge them and ensure that our deliverables align more effectively with market requirements.
What this means for you:

Committees and Workshops: As the driving force behind deliverables development, you serve as the crucial link between market needs and ISO's processes and deliverables.

ISO Members: You are the ones who power the machine with your ability to engage stakeholders, provide guidance throughout the processes, and ensure their voices are heard during standards development. Your role is pivotal when it comes to suggesting new projects, committees, or workshops. Additionally, your experience in understanding market needs, along with your regional or national set of deliverables, is essential for the success of this project.

Stay tuned for upcoming engagements where you can share your valuable perspectives and guide us through our transformative journey. Your input is crucial in shaping the future of ISO's deliverables!

Come join us, share your valuable perspectives, and guide us through our transformative journey toward Optimized Deliverables. You'll have the opportunity to actively participate at various stages of the project, ensuring that your input is heard and valued.

You'd like to know more and get the latest developments? See here: Optimized Deliverables' project.

3. Smart Farming Coordinating Committee (SFCC)

Background: To promote ISO's position in Smart Farming, a condensed version of the SAG SF Final Report is being developed with the support of the SAG SF Convenors. Additionally, an overall communication plan is being developed, and key dissemination events like the Agritechnica Fair in Hanover have been identified with the help of ISO members.

Based on the final report of the ISO Strategic Advisory Group on Smart Farming (SAG SF), the TMB established a Smart Farming Coordinating Committee, SFCC (TMB Resolution 17/2023).

The mandate includes facilitating communication and coordination among ISO committees involved in Smart Farming and Data-Driven Agrifood Systems and ensuring coherence in ISO standardization work. Additionally, the committee advises the ISO Central Secretariat on interfaces and partnerships with external organizations in the Smart Farming domain.

The SFCC membership composition includes relevant ISO committee Chairs, Committee Managers, a rotating Convenor from SFCC members, and a Secretary from ISO staff. Committees were invited to nominate representatives and express interest in nominating a Convenor.

What this means for you: If you want to learn more about smart farming and data-driven agri-food systems, you can read the final SAG SF report here.

A short version of the SAG SF Report is under finalization and will soon be made publicly available - stay tuned! Your Technical Committee has activities related to Smart Farming but does not yet have a seat? Reach out to the SFCC Secretary (Monica Ibido) email: ibido@iso.org.


Background: The IEC/ISO/ITU-T Standardization Programme Coordinating Group (SPCG) will organize a webinar on "Fostering more effective IEC/ISO/ITU-T standards coordination and collaboration". To provide convenient timeslots and flexibility for the participants around the globe, two identical sessions will be organized on 3 July 2023, 13:00-15:00 CEST, and on 28 September 2023, 7:00-9:00 CEST.

The webinar will promote the SPCG, its achievements and its coordination role. The objective is to highlight the importance of coordination and collaboration in the domain of international standards.
standardization. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for the participants to voice their challenges and expectations of the SPCG by means of a Q&A session.

What this means for you: The target audience for this webinar are the IEC/SMB, ISO/TMB, ITU-T/TSAG, leadership teams of technical committees and study groups in IEC, ISO, and ITU-T, and any other interested experts. Participation in the workshop is also open to ISO member bodies and any stakeholders they would like to invite. Register here for the 3 July 2023 webinar and for the 28 September webinar here. If you want to learn more about the SPCG, please visit the website here.

5. ISO/IEC Joint Task Force on the concept of risk and associated terms

Background: At its September 2021 meeting, the TMB approved the creation of a joint task force with the IEC via TMB Resolution 81/2021. The suggestion to create a joint task force originated in the standardization community due to a considerable variation in the definition, use and interpretations of risk and associated concepts. The purpose of the JTF was to examine how the concept of risk and associated terms can evolve to meet the needs of standards users. The JTF submitted its final report and recommendations for the TMB June 2023 meeting.

What this means for you: At the TMB June 2023 meeting, the TMB approved the recommendations and final report of the joint task force, see TMB Resolution 49/2023. By approving recommendation 1, the TMB agrees to allow committees the flexibility to choose to use definition(s) of risk in their deliverables as appropriate to the purpose of the deliverable and the needs of the committee’s relevant stakeholders. When a committed decides to use a definition of risk established in another ISO and/or IEC deliverable, the committee may choose to augment the term and definitions in the following ways:

- by adding notes to the definition(s) that will be helpful in bridging the definition(s) to the deliverable in which the definition(s) appears,
- by describing the context of risk, and
- by indicating the domain of risk in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives Part 2, clause 16.5.6.

The TMB also approved the recommendation to revise Annex SL and Annex SP of the ISO Supplement. The revised annexes will be published in the next edition of the ISO Supplement, in May 2024.

6. Task Force 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 and the NP Guidelines for overseas warehouse services in cross-border trade, 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 organized several meetings, including with the leadership of the committees identified as relevant in these fields. Based on the discussions, it was agreed to focus on logistics, and at the TMB March 2023 meeting, the TMB extended 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.

What this means for you: The task force submitted its final recommendations at the TMB June 2023 meeting. After undertaking several surveys and organizing meetings with the identified committees working in logistics, no critical overlap with the two proposals and the work of existing committees could be observed. As a result, the TMB approved the establishment of a new TC on ‘Innovative logistics’, see TMB Resolution 47/2023. This proposal was originally submitted for member body ballot as TS/P 304 and was revised to include the NP ‘Guidelines for overseas warehouse services in cross-
border trade’. If you are interested in the work of this new committee, you will be able to learn more on our ISO Technical Committees web page, once the committee has been set up.

7. Joint Task Force on New Normal

**Background:** It has been almost a year since the last COVID-19 meeting restrictions were lifted, with full decision-making around the modalities for governance and technical meetings returned to the relevant group and committee leaders as of 10 June 2022. In the lead-up to this easing of exceptional measures last year, ISO and IEC jointly prepared a Guidance Document to help group and committee leaders to select the most appropriate meeting mode.

**What this means for you:** Both ISO and IEC secretariats have observed that the technical communities are adapting well to the post-COVID environment and are steadily adapting approaches tailored to their participants and applying the guidance. This is a testament to the resilience of our community. Nevertheless, this is an opportune moment to take the pulse of the community through a survey and gather empirical facts for TMB and SMB to consider in any potential revisions of the Guidance and / or changes to the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. Your response by 30 June 2023 will be greatly appreciated in order to best inform the upcoming joint TMB/SMB meeting.

8. L.D. Eicher Award 2023 Nominations

**Background:** The Lawrence D. Eicher (LDE) Award was created to recognize the excellent performance of an ISO committee. It provides an opportunity for the winning committee to demonstrate their achievements and raise awareness of their work, both inside and outside ISO. The 2023 winner will be selected by the TMB and will be announced in September 2023 at the ISO Annual Meeting in Brisbane (Australia). The nominees for the 2023 award are:

- ISO/TC 34/SC 9 Microbiology
- ISO/TC 38 Textiles
- ISO/TC 94/SC 15 Respiratory protective devices
- ISO/TC 267 Facility management
- ISO/TC 304 Healthcare organization management
- ISO/TC 309 Governance of organizations
- ISO/TC 314 Ageing societies
- JTC 1/SC 42 Artificial intelligence

**What this means for you:** Are you interested in learning who the winner is for 2023? Then make sure to read the September edition of the TMB Communiqué. If you think your committee could be the next winner of the L.D. Eicher award, keep an eye out for the call for nominations which will be launched in early 2024, or contact tmb@iso.org for further information.

9. ISO/IEC 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. Committees are encouraged to consider the guidance and optional assessment form when proposing new standards or revisions to existing standards.

**What this means for you:** With diversity and inclusion now figuring as central pillars in both the IEC and ISO strategies, it is more important than ever to ensure that IEC and ISO deliverables provide equal benefits for women and men. Even in fields of activity where gender implications may not be readily apparent, if a standard is used by humans, it is important to ask the questions contained within the Guidance and Assessment Form to determine the extent of potential gender implications. A new training module on the Guidance is now available on the ISO and IEC training platforms to support committees in the use of the Guidance.

A follow-up survey on gender responsive standards was issued to the ISO and IEC technical
communities in May 2023. This survey is an important contributor to ensuring that IEC and ISO deliverables offer equal protection and benefit to women and men. It is the opportunity for IEC and ISO technical committees to provide input on the utility of the Guidance and to share any specific case studies related to the Guidance across product, process, service and management system standards.

10. TMB London Declaration Action Plan

**Background:** The implementation of the TMB Action Plan related to the London Declaration has been underway since its approval in August 2022.

Five awareness-raising webinars for committee leaders took place in February and March 2023. The objectives of these webinars were to inform about the TMB Action Plan, ensure the committees feel engaged and empowered about it and get feedback from committee leaders. Approximately 300 technical committee chairs and managers representing close to 200 committees and subcommittees attended the webinars. The leaders engaged with the TMB Task Force members and shared feedback.

On 27 April, all committees were informed of the latest development of the TMB Action Plan-related activities: a list of standards to be reviewed as a matter of priority and key recommendations coming from the research mandated by ISO. The actual review work is now about to start with the hiring of external “climate advisors” to help in this task. All technical committees, whether in charge of the prioritized standards or not, were provided with resources to help them take on the activities triggered by the London Declaration. Resources will be added over time: for example, the Task Force is engaging with the TMB Climate Change Coordination Committee (CCCC) to find out how best they can support technical committees in responding to the London Declaration.

During the June TMB meeting week, the Task Force met in person for the first time after 10 virtual meetings held since November 2022. The main objective of this face-to-face meeting was to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan, hear about other ISO/CS projects related to climate, and initiate a review of the Action Plan through the lens of feedback from the committee leaders and key recommendations from the mandated research. The Task Force workshoped all these inputs and will see where updates in the TMB Action Plan are needed.

**What this means for you:** Have another look at the letter of 27 April 2023, which lists the priority standards. Those committees concerned with these standards will be approached directly by ISO/CS, others are invited to take action and have a proactive look at their work program. In either case, please visit this newly created ISO Connect page which aims at keeping the technical community abreast with the activities of the TMB Action Plan and also list available resources here.

11. ISO e-learning platform

**Background:** The ISO Platform provides digital learning solutions and virtual instructor-led training sessions on standardization and selected business skills. The platform is intended for the ISO technical community, ISO members, stakeholders and other involved in ISO’s global standardization activities.

**What this means for you:** Are you interested in learning more about ISO Good Standardization Practices (GSP) or would you like to learn how to ensure that the standards your committee is developing are gender-responsive? We also offer eLearning courses on analytical thinking, conflict resolution and problem solving, to name a few, that help develop your personal skills. You can learn from anywhere in the world at your own pace. Note that you can access the platform with your ISO credentials.

Reminders


**Reminder:** The ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and Consolidated ISO Supplement 2023 edition were published in May 2023. For an easy overview of the changes, please see the Power Point presentation here of the main changes and the track changes version here.
13. IEC/ISO/ITU-T Standardization Programme Coordinating Group (SPCG)
Landscape documents

Reminder: The SPCG has developed two landscape documents; the landscape of ISO/IEC/ITU-T existing fields and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (MI) landscape document.

The landscape documents reflect past results and ongoing activities, where more than one of the three SDOs have stakes. The landscape documents identify only the relevant groups, but do not reveal their actual standards or work items. The documents are offered as tools to assist in possible coordination not only among the respective groups, but also for submitters for any new planned or proposed groups or fields, with the overall purpose to address any overlaps, and to avoid duplicative activities.

What this means for you: The SPCG suggests that the Chairs and Committee Managers add the landscape documents as a standing item at the committee meetings, so the committees are aware of the existing work. We also ask you to kindly share any updates to the two landscape documents to the SPCG Secretary, Mikaela Sampson at sampson@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 this link.

TMB Resolutions

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