TMB COMMUNIQUE

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Highlights from the September 2023 TMB meeting

1. New ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 44 on Information Technology for Smart Cities

**Background:** ISO/IEC JTC 1 on Information Technology submitted a proposal for a new subcommittee on ‘Information Technology for Smart Cities’ in JTC 1. In the proposal, JTC 1 explains that ICT is used in smart cities to enhance the quality, performance, and interactivity of urban services, reduce costs and resource consumption, improve the quality of life, and contact between citizens and city stakeholders. As the ecosystem of smart city standardization grows, there is a need for closer connections and visibility across ICT sectors.

The TMB and SMB were asked to ratify the decision of ISO/IEC JTC 1 to establish the new SC. During the TMB ballot, several members deferred the ballot asking the JTC 1 to reconsider the title and scope of the new SC. The concern was that the title and scope are too broad, and that the new SC would be overlapping with existing work, including that of the IEC SyC Smart Cities, ISO/TC 268 Sustainable cities and communities and other committees.

The JTC 1 addressed the feedback received and revised the proposal. At the TMB meeting, the TMB agreed to ratify the decision of JTC 1 to establish the new SC. In the TMB resolution, the TMB asks the JSCTF to review the activities in the field of smart cities, and provide recommendations to the TMB and SMB on coherence and coordination, and submit the recommendations by February 2024.

2. New TC on Data-Driven Agrifood Systems integrating the TS/P on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Crops

**Background:** The proposals TS/P 310 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Crops, proposed by SAC and TS/P 312 Data-Driven Agrifood Systems proposed by DIN/ANSI, were both approved by the members during the member body ballots. During the TMB ballot on the two proposals, the TMB raised concern over potential overlap between the proposals. The Smart Farming Coordinating Committee (SFCC) was consulted on the proposals to provide their opinion on whether there was any duplication and/or overlap with existing ISO work.

The SFCC supported the establishment of a new TC on Data-Driven Agrifood Systems. This was in fact one of the recommendations of the ISO Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) on Smart farming.

At the TMB meeting, the TMB members considered both proposals and the feedback from the SFCC. To ensure coherence and coordination, the TMB decided to establish a new TC on Data-Driven Agrifood Systems, and agreed to include the TS/P on IPM for Crops within the TC, as the subject of the IPM proposal is related to the scope of the broader data-driven agrifood systems.

3. New PC on Sustainable raw materials & new IWA on Sustainable critical mineral supply chains

**Background:** The NP proposal from DIN (Germany) for a new PC on Sustainable Raw Materials was approved by the members in August 2023. However, when the proposal was submitted for TMB ballot, a concern was raised that there was overlap with the International Workshop Agreement (IWA) on Sustainable Critical Mineral Supply Chains, proposed by SA (Australia).

The IWA was one of the recommendations of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) on Critical Minerals which submitted its final report and recommendations at the TMB June 2023 meeting.

The TMB discussed both proposals at the TMB meeting and decided that both could go ahead. The TMB however requested the PC on Sustainable Raw Materials to wait and to start its work in July 2024, only after the IWA is published, and to integrate the insights from the IWA on Sustainable Critical Mineral Supply Chain into the NP. In addition, the TMB asked further market analysis to be carried out on the sustainable raw materials proposal and for SA/DIN to report back to TMB on the analysis.
4. Re-activation of ISO/PC 302 Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems

**Background:** ANSI, the former member body that held the Secretariat of the project committee ISO/PC 302 - Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems, submitted a proposal to re-activate the PC to revise ISO 19011:2018 *Guidelines for auditing management systems*. The results of the systematic review supported the revision of the standard.

Due to the subject area being close to the work of ISO’s Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO), a Joint Working Group will be established with CASCO with PC lead.

**What this means for you:** If you are interested in the work of any of the new committees mentioned above, you will find more information on the ISO website on technical committees here.

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**News**

5. Improved Development Processes – Optimized Deliverables

**Background:** The goal of the Optimized Deliverables (OD) project is to improve the set of ISO deliverables (IS, TS, PAS, TR and IWA) and ensure the best use of them to better meet longstanding, emergent and urgent market needs.

A TMB OD sub-group led by BSI and with the contribution of ABNT, AFNOR, ANSI, BIS, DIN, SA, SAC and SN is responsible for guiding and contributing to the project with IEC and CEN/CENELEC as observers.

The overall project is structured around the following 4 components:
- In-depth analysis
- Proposal ideation
- Testing and Implementation
- Supporting changes

The project is now in its in-depth analysis phase setting the path for future change. It combines diagnosing the current situation, drawing inspiration from best practices through benchmarking, and identifying gaps that will guide ISO towards achieving its desired performance in meeting market needs.

**What this means for you:** Your active contribution in the project is crucial for shaping future changes that directly address your needs. Stay tuned here and discuss and share your thoughts with Charles-Pierre: bazindecaix@iso.org. Be sure to seize every opportunity to have your voice heard through various project activities and engagements!

We would like to extend our gratitude to the committee managers and chairs who responded to the survey “Your perspectives for better deliverables” which is now closed. Your input, both in terms of quantity and quality, provides the OD project team with invaluable material to work with. Thank you!

6. TMB London Declaration Action Plan

**Background:** The TMB London Declaration Action Plan has been published just a year ago, and is the TMB response to the London Declaration. As explained in the previous Communiqué, the TMB Task Force has started a review of the TMB Action Plan in June 2023 and is finalizing work on an update.

At the same time, ISO Climate Advisors have been hired to review standards pertaining to the energy sector and they have been deployed to 4 committees with the task to review 11 standards and produce recommendations as to how these standards could be edited to be more impactful climate action wise. Recommendations for all 11 standards were rendered in August and committees have now to decide how to take these forward.

The TMB also approved the revision of Appendix 2 (Harmonized structure for MSS with guidance for use) of Annex SL of the Consolidated ISO Supplement. The change to the high level structure is for a new requirement for all organizations implementing the MSS to determine the climate impact of their organization.
More is expected to happen in relation to the focuses #3 (Increase participation of underrepresented stakeholders) and #4 (Raise awareness on TMB’s work in support of the London Declaration) of the TMB Action Plan, stay tuned!

**What this means for you:** Technical committees will be informed of any update to the TMB Action Plan as soon as effective. The review by ISO Climate Advisor of standards continues and committees concerned will be contacted directly by ISO/CS. If your committee has started work related to climate change or is triggered by the need for climate action, please inform your TPM so that the TMB Task Force is aware of these initiatives. ISO/CS will develop a communication for ISO members and the technical community on the revised Annex SL.

### 7. L.D. Eicher Award 2023 Winner

**Background:** The Lawrence D. Eicher Award was created to recognize committees with outstanding performance. 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, announced during the ISO Annual Meeting 2023, is ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42 Artificial Intelligence.

**What this means for you:** 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. Want to know more about the achievements of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42 Artificial Intelligence? Read more in this news article on the ISO website.

### 8. ISO Open Consultation

**Background:** The ISO Open Consultation project premised on an understanding that ISO as a system is missing opportunities to systemically bring the value-addition of standardization to bear in selected emergent global trends, and where answers regarding the positive difference of standardization can be best explored from an “outside-in” perspective, leveraging voices from outside of the present ISO community.

More specifically, the ISO Open Consultation is designed to promote the involvement of external stakeholders and encourage collaboration across various sectors to capture expectations for standardization for supporting and expanding emerging technologies and markets, specifically those identified as having a significant need by industry, government, or the larger standardization community.

As SAGs represent an important bridge in coordinating transversal standardization work across different committees, the mandate of the ISO Open Consultation project also includes a diagnostic of recent SAGs, with the aim to consolidate best practices and bring about greater consistency in the process and outcomes of the SAG/SEG process. This work is being led by a task force made up of TMB members from Australia (SA), the United Kingdom (BSI) and the United States (ANSI) alongside representatives of the Council Standing Committee on Strategy and Policy (CSC/SP).

**What this means for you:** Participants in recent SAGs on Critical Minerals, Smart farming and ESG will be invited to participate in a diagnostic survey later in 2023. The outcomes of this survey will result in a more structured and optimized approach for future SAGs.

### 9. Committee Strategy Management – Update

**Background:** The establishment of the Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF) and the Committee Strategy Management (CSM) project is based on TMB Resolution 14/2022.

In its broadest sense, strategic planning is a process of defining an organization’s direction and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this direction. Specific benefits accrue in clarifying mission and vision, responding to opportunities and challenges, setting objectives, allocating resources, continuous improvement, partnerships and shared commitments. The specific way these generic benefits would apply in the ISO context is reflected in a value proposition agreed by the SPTF in July 2023:

- Identifying benefits and vision of standardization within the committee’s field of activity
- Linking benefits to higher strategic imperatives (ISO 2030 Strategy, UN SDGs)
• Prioritizing among projects and allocating resources
• Communicating through a format adapted to three key audiences (general public, TMB and other TCs, and internal TC stakeholders)
• Transparency adapted to the needs of different audiences
• Data-driven continuous improvement, including user perspectives where available
• Flexibility for different market cadences

This proposition is currently being translated into a new ISO strategic planning framework, encompassing proposals for changes to technical policy (Annex SC on Strategic business plans (SBPs), in particular), process and supports for committees. Before taking any decision on policy and process, TMB has requested that the SPTF seek feedback from the technical community.

**What this means for you:** The SPTF will be hosting webinars on October 18 and 19, 2023 to provide the ISO technical community with an update on the project, the new strategic planning framework proposal and next steps. The webinars will work in concert with a technical community survey, where we will consider specific content elements of the current and proposed SBP framework and identify specific optimizations in keeping with the overall value proposition. Committees are requested to complete the survey by 30 October 2023.

The webinars are scheduled as follows:

- **Session I (Europe, Middle East, Africa)**
  18 October 2023 12.00 – 13.30 UTC
  https://iso.zoom.us/j/98933566414?pwd=azU1UGtlD1BZakY5WGZZQzZ2VkhOUT09

- **Session II (Americas)**
  18 October 2023 17.00 – 18.30 UTC
  https://iso.zoom.us/j/9106000873?pwd=VIaAwGFUR6jJSWNQs2RHWV2pVnRnQT09

- **Session III (Asia-Pacific)**
  19 October 2023 08.00 – 09.30 UTC
  https://iso.zoom.us/j/92669768806?pwd=UFhPNENE5mFDRnNGSIAdwHZxVhS2z09

Further information will be communicated in a dedicated circular letter.

10. **E-learning module available for ISO Guide 84**

**Background:** ISO Guide 84 “Guidelines for addressing climate change in standards” has been published in July 2020 with the aim to help ISO technical community to consider climate change in the planning, drafting, and revising/updating of ISO standards. ISO Guide 84 aims to enable committees to determine what issues, impact, risk, and opportunities related to climate change needs to be taken into account. The Guide proposes a systematic approach so that its implementation can enable a consistent approach in addressing climate change and increase compatibility among ISO deliverables.

A new ISO Guide 84 e-learning module has been prepared and is available in the ISO Learning platform. This e-learning module aims to: raise awareness about ISO Guide 84 and how it can help align international standards with climate action, and promote the use of ISO Guide 84 among standards developers.

**What this means for you:** An ISO portfolio of standards which responds to the global challenge of climate change is everybody’s responsibility. All committees should understand how to embed climate considerations in the standardization activities and ISO Guide 84 provides advice and support on how to do this. ISO Guide 84 and the e-learning module is directly supporting the implementation of the TMB London Declaration Action Plan (committees to include climate considerations, see previous TMB Communiqué) and as such, the TMB strongly encourages everyone to complete this module. It is short (less than 30 minutes) and you will be granted a completion certificate at the end. [Link to the e-learning module](#).
Reminders

11. Guidance on gender responsive standards (GRS)

Background: The Guidance on gender responsive standards 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 have been available since September 2022. A survey on gender responsive standards and the utility of the Guidance was launched in May 2023, with close to 200 responses. The TMB conveyed its appreciation to all survey respondents for their time and support.

In considering the gendered implications of their standards, 36% of respondents found gender to be relevant in some measure to their committee’s work, while 55% did not see any identifiable gender differences in their deliverables. The remaining 9% were unsure. 68% noted that the Guidance aided them in making this determination. Guidance sections on the rationale for GRS (45%), examples of physical and socially-constructed gender differences (40%) and the assessment process (34%) were seen as the most useful.

The ISO/IEC Joint Strategic Advisory Group (JSAG) is currently revising the guidance based on this feedback and will enhance the ISO/IEC GRS package with several case studies that were identified during the survey.

What this means for you: Several committees, including ISO/TC 94, ISO/TC 133, ISO/TC 188, ISO/TC 215 and ISO/TC 314 have already identified instances where gender was considered in the standards development process. The JSAG will be reaching out to these committees to develop case studies that will be included in the next iteration of the GRS guidance. Further examples of where gender was considered in the standards development process are welcomed from the technical community, ideally referring to specific standards. Should you have examples that you wish to share, kindly contact your ISO TPM.

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.