



## **Terms of Reference – Working Group on Priorities**

The Working Group on Priorities operates as a standing committee under the authority of ISO/COPOLCO. Each year the Working Group evaluates and updates its current programme and processes to ensure alignment with the current range of concerns that ISO/COPOLCO is addressing. While the overall mandate of the WG remains constant, the focus and processes for the WG are regularly updated to reflect the current environment for consumer policy in standards work.

### **Mandate:**

The objectives of the COPOLCO Working Group on Priorities are as follows:

- To identify and monitor key standards work of interest to consumers; including emerging areas, horizontal issues, and mature technical committee work;
- Raise awareness and provide information about areas of priority to: ISO/COPOLCO members, consumer organizations and consumer representatives, standards development organizations, and members of Technical Committees and Subcommittees;
- To provide information to facilitate networking amongst individuals interested in priority areas,
- To take into account the needs of developing countries and emerging economies, and
- To encourage national standards bodies and other relevant organizations, such as Consumers International, to include consumer representatives on appropriate technical committees.

As COPOLCO relies on the resources of member bodies to facilitate consumer representation on technical committees and at the national level, the WG recommends priorities for COPOLCO, which can be used by national standards bodies and other organizations when they are considering their priorities for participation in the development of international standards. While the priority setting and decision-making at COPOLCO does not determine resource allocation at the national or regional level, the information provided by the WG can assist consumer representatives to convince their policy makers to support standards work in priority areas.