

## ISO, a leader for the production of International Standards

ISO standards are developed using a multi-national and multi-stakeholder approach where open procedures give transparency and the principle of consensus is applied. ISO standards facilitate trade by avoiding unnecessary barriers relating to technical requirements and supporting conformity assessment by providing tools to help customer-supplier relations and communication to the end users. They are the vehicle to disseminate good organizational and business practices, including interoperability and conformity assessment, new technologies and data dissemination and exchange. The scope of ISO is very broad and the ISO System is geared in such a way that it can, in principle, accommodate any voluntary standardization activity to be conducted at the international level, provided there is documented evidence that a sufficient consensus exists to produce globally relevant standards. More than 600 liaisons and partnerships have been developed with international and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, in order to optimize the production of ISO standards and ensure their global relevance. The network of ISO national members, in 154 countries, ensures both the organized and representative contribution of stakeholders and the subsequent promotion and implementation of ISO standards. Governments and Public Authorities, whether at the regional, national or local levels, therefore take an increasing interest in international standardization, whilst they actively support and become involved in their National Standards Bodies.

## The 2007 Open Session : at the crossroads

This Open Session, organized in the framework of the ISO 2007 General Assembly, will explore the new relations between public authorities and policies and voluntary standardization, as well as the topicality of ISO standards in this context. It will bring together the delegations from national ISO members, who are encouraged to include representatives from the public sector in their delegations as well as representatives from industry and civil society. A number of inter-governmental and other international organizations, many based in Geneva, which have a role in addressing public policies at a global level, will also be attending.



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OPEN SESSION OF THE  
ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007



# International standards and public policies

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Geneva

# International standards and public policies

**Venue:** International Conference  
Centre Geneva (CICG), 17, rue de Varembe

**20 September 2007**

## Public policies in a globalized world

In the globalized world, public policies can no longer be developed and implemented in isolation when they impact on trade, health, security or the environment. Increasingly, the use and referencing of standards, based on the consensus of the interested stakeholders, form part of good regulatory practices and good public governance. Because of globalization of trade, healthcare, climate change and security or the pervasiveness of information and communication technologies, international standards are more and more in demand. Moreover, the 150 signatories to the World Trade Organization are committed to using international standards in order not to create unnecessary technical barriers to trade through regulations and conformity assessment requirements.

## International Standards and good public governance

With an active collection of more than 16000 published standards, ISO is the leader for the development of International Standards and its scope encompasses a wide range of sectors, from basic industries to ICT, from technical and interoperability standards to standards for good management and business practices. It is expanding in the area of services.

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## PROGRAMME

- 09:30 Opening  
*Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze*, Director General,  
United Nations Office at Geneva
- 09:40 The politics of quasi-government  
and the role of International Standards in  
relation to public policies in the globalized  
world  
*Pr. Jonathan Koppell*, Ass. Professor  
of Politics and Management, Yale School  
of Management, USA

### 10:00 First panel *International Standards supporting public policies for sustainable development*

**Moderator:** *Mr. Paul Hohnen*, International  
Consultant on sustainability strategies, Netherlands

#### Panelists:

- *Mrs. Patricia Francis*, Executive Director,  
International Trade Centre (ITC)
- *Mr. Georg Kell*, Executive Director, UN Global  
Compact (UNGC)
- *Lord Lindsay*, Chairman, United Kingdom  
Accreditation Service (UKAS)
- *Mr. Harsha Singh*, Deputy Director General,  
World Trade Organization (WTO)
- *Mr. Björn Stigson*, President, World Business  
Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- *Prof. Masami Tanaka*, Vice-President, Japanese  
Industrial Standards Committee (JISC)

Questions and  
answers with the  
audience

12:30 lunch



### 14:30 Second panel *International Standards in relation to public safety and security policies*

**Moderator:** *Prof. Jonathan Koppell*,  
Yale School of Management, USA

#### Panelists:

- *Mr. Marek Belka*, Executive Secretary,  
UN Economic Commission for Europe  
(UNECE)
- *Prof. Manfred Hennecke*, President,  
Federal Institute for Materials Research and  
Testing (BAM), Germany
- *Dr. Larry J. Kessler*, Chairman,  
Global Harmonization Task Force<sup>1)</sup> (GHTF)
- *Amb. Krister Kumlin*, Chairman of  
ISO/TC 223, Societal security
- *Mr. Richard Lloyd*, CEO, Consumers  
International (CI)

Questions and answers with the audience

16:45 Wrap up and closing remarks

17:00 Closure

1) The purpose of the GHTF is to encourage convergence in regulatory practices related to ensuring the safety, effectiveness/performance and quality of medical devices, promoting technological innovation and facilitating international trade.

