



ISO AND AFRICA

Introduction

Of the 156 ISO members, 120 are from developing countries or are economies in transition. Of these, 37 are members in Africa (the list is attached at Annex 1).

Increased membership, has prompted ISO to develop actions to assist its members in developing countries in improving their standardization infrastructure and capacities, as well as to enhance their participation in relation to international standardization and conformity assessment activities. In September 2004, the ISO Council endorsed the *ISO Action Plan for developing countries 2005-2010* which is structured in five key objectives:

- **1:** Improve awareness of key stakeholders in developing countries of the role of standardization in economic growth, world trade and sustainable development;
- **2:** Build capacity of ISO members and stakeholders involved in developing the standardization infrastructure and participating in international standardization work;
- **3:** Increase national and regional cooperation to share experience, resources, training and information and communications technologies;
- **4:** Develop electronic communication and expertise in IT tools to participate in international standardization work, reach out to stakeholders and make efficient use of ISO e-services;
- **5:** Increase participation in governance and technical work of ISO to voice priorities, contribute and influence the technical content of ISO deliverables.

This is fully in line with the recommendations of the NEPAD framework on “the New Partnership for Africa’s development” (October 2001) which, i.a., states:

- « - To establish organisations on national standards in African countries;
- To harmonise the technical regulatory frameworks of African countries;
- To acquire membership of the relevant international standards organisations. Active membership would give Africa a stronger voice in these bodies, and would enable African industry to participate meaningfully in the development of international standards. Membership would also result in the transfer copyright of international standards to the national associations;
- To establish standards bureaux, which would provide the industry and government with the necessary information on international, regional and national standards, thereby facilitating market access. These centres should be linked to the relevant international, regional and national standards information centres so that the latter can act as the national WTO/TBT enquiry points;
- To ensure the development of appropriate regional and national standards through the establishment of appropriate technical committee structures representing the stakeholders of the countries, as well as managing such committees in line with ISO/IEC directives and WTO/TBT requirements. »

ISO's institutional relationships in Africa

The African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) is one of the six regional standards organizations formally recognized by the ISO Council. The ISO-ARSO relationship consists in exchanging information and experience, participating in general meetings, encouraging the dissemination and implementation of International Standards, organizing training and awareness-raising workshops and seminars, and ensuring an optimal use of technical resources and expertise.

Recent examples of the constructive cooperation between ISO and ARSO are:

- the participation of the ISO President at the 2006 ARSO General Assembly in Cairo in February which he addressed on behalf of ISO;
- the awareness seminar on food safety management systems organized in Cairo in February 2006 by ISO in cooperation with ARSO and with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

More recently, ISO has established contacts with the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). On the occasion of the Secretary-General's meeting with the Executives of NEPAD at the NEPAD Headquarters in Pretoria (South Africa) in September 2005, the importance of national and regional quality and standardization capacity for African countries and the role ISO plays in this respect were highlighted. It was agreed that further collaboration between NEPAD, ISO and its African members should be pursued, in close relation with ARSO, in particular by raising the awareness of governments and including the related issues in economic development plans and actions for the African continent.

ISO has established a proactive approach to collaborate with other regional economic integration arrangements such as the East African Community (EAF), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as well as the Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA). The sub-regional level of cooperation on standardization and related matters are most suitable for sharing experience, organizing training, optimizing participation in International Standardization and ensuring consistent implementation of International Standards. By pooling the resources of several countries, using cost-sharing and providing some funding from the ISO Central Secretariat, the requisite services can be offered at an affordable cost.

Recent ISO technical assistance activities included:

- regional seminar on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000 for the SADC region, Windhoek, Namibia, 5 April 2006;
- regional training course on Enhancing participation in International Standardization, Cairo, Egypt, 15-17 May 2006;
- regional seminar on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000 for the UEMOA region, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 13-15 June 2006;
- regional seminar on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000 with ToT, for the East Africa Community (EAC), Nairobi, Kenya, 26-30 June 2006 (planned).

ISO technical assistance activities in Africa implemented in 2005 and ongoing or planned in the region for 2006 fall under the different objectives defined in the ISO Five-year Action Plan for developing countries and are detailed in Annex 2.



Region	Member bodies	Correspondent members	Subscriber members	Total
ISO Members in A F R I C A	Algeria Botswana Congo, The Democratic Rep. of Côte d'Ivoire Egypt Ethiopia Ghana Kenya Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Mauritius Nigeria South Africa Sudan Tanzania Tunisia Zimbabwe	Angola Bénin Burkina Faso Eritrea Guinea Guinée-Bissau Madagascar Malawi Mali Mozambique Namibia Niger Rwanda Senegal Seychelles Swaziland Togo Uganda Zambia	Burundi Lesotho	37



Summary of activities implemented in 2005 and ongoing or planned activities for 2006 in Africa

N°	Title	Venue	Date	Beneficiary countries
2005				
01	Implementation of an Environmental Management System and ISO 14001 with ToT	Nairobi, Kenya	24-28 January 2005	Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
02	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Programme	Accra, Ghana	30-31 March 2005	Ghana
03	Seminar on Quality Management (ISO 9001:2000) and the Role of Standardization Infrastructure in Economic Development	Luanda, Angola	18-20 May 2005	Angola
04	Regional conference on Quality & Standards in Education: the Path for Excellence	Cairo, Egypt	28-30 June 2005	Egypt
05	Workshop on Social Responsibility	Nairobi, Kenya	29 June 2005	Kenya
06	Regional workshop on Social Responsibility	Nairobi, Kenya	30 June-2 July 2005	Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe
07	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Programme for UEMOA	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	23-25 August 2005	Bénin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée Bissau, Mali, Niger, Sénégal and Togo
08	Training of Trainers on Environmental Management Systems according to ISO 14001	Tunis, Tunisia	November - December 2005	Tunisia
09	Training on ISO/IEC 17025: Upgrading analytical and microbiological laboratories	Cairo, Egypt	6-12 December 2005	Egypt

2006				
N°	Title	Venue	Date	Beneficiary countries
10	Regional ARSO seminar on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000	Cairo, Egypt	14 February 2006	ARSO region: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, République de Guinée, Sénégal, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe
11	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Programme	Kigali, Rwanda	13-14 March 2006	Burundi
12	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Programme	Bujumbura, Burundi	16-17 March 2006	Rwanda
13	Regional seminar on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000 for the SADC region	Windhoek, Namibia	5 April 2006	SADC region Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

2006 (continued)				
N°	Title	Venue	Date	Beneficiary countries
14	Regional training: Enhancing participation in International Standardization	Cairo, Egypt	15-17 May 2006.	Algeria, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia
15	Regional seminar on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	13-15 June 2006	UEMOA Region Bénin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée Bissau, Mali, Niger, Sénégal and Togo
16	Regional seminar East Africa Community on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000 with ToT	Nairobi, Kenya	26-30 June 2006	East Africa Community: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda
17	Regional Training on the ISO Global Directory	Alexandria, Egypt	27-28 June 2006	Egypt and Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
18	Regional Seminar East Africa Community on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000 with ToT	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	12-14 July 2006	East Africa Community: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
19	Regional Seminar East Africa Community on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000 with ToT	Kampala, Uganda	17-19 July 2006	East Africa Community: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

2006 (continued)				
N°	Title	Venue	Date	Beneficiary countries
20	Regional DEVCO/COPOLCO seminar on Standardization in Services	Gaborone, Botswana	31 August 1 September 2006	All ARSO: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, République de Guinée, Sénégal, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe
21	Regional Training on the ISO Global Directory	South Africa	September (indicatively)	Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe
22	Seminar on Food Safety Management Systems and ISO 22000	Tunis, Tunisia	7-9 September 2006	Tunisia
23	ISO National Workshop on Environmental Management Systems according to ISO 14001	Luanda, Angola	17-19 October 2006	Angola

2006 (continued)				
N°	Title	Venue	Date	Beneficiary countries
24	Regional Enhancing participation in International Standardization	Pretoria, South Africa	14-16 November 2006	Botswana, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
25	Regional Seminar on Environmental Management Systems and ISO 14001	Bamako, Mali	21-23 November 2006	Mali