National Standardization Strategy of The Gambia – Our Journey

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NSS Joint follow-up Virtual Workshop for Asia-Pacific and Africa Regions
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- Reasons for developing a NSS
- ISO Support and Contribution
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Reasons for Developing a National Standardization Strategy

- Buy-in by the Board of Directors
  - to define Strategy for Standardization of the Bureau
  - Useful for resource mobilization – BoD’s role

Action item in Bureau’s Strategic Plan 2015 – 2019

National Quality Policy of The Gambia
  - Policy option for effective standards development
ISO Support and Contribution

- Training of Staff on development of NSS
  - 2 trainings provided – fully funded
  - Materials and tools made available
- Expert support throughout the process
  - Guidance and coaching
Difficulties and how they were overcome

- Stakeholder feedback on questionnaire
  - Step down training of stakeholders
  - Site visits and meetings
  - Follow-up and follow-up…!!

- Pre-validation meeting of stakeholders
  - Review questionnaire submissions
  - Clarifications
  - Engagements to build confidence and buy-in
Prioritization and balancing interests – Bureau’s leadership and expertise

- Which standards for what year?
- How many in a year?
- Limitations e.g., resources, capacity

Limited awareness on standardization

- Sensitizations on value of the NSS
- Leveraging on TCs
How Useful is the NSS

- Standardization program is easier to develop and more coordinated
- Decisions on setting priorities on standards are more efficient and realistic – National and Regional
- Better rationalisation of cost of Standardization
- Good tool for advocacy – Policy and others
- Better overview of Standardization needs, trends and focus
- Tool for resource mobilization
Implementation challenges

- Unplanned requests to develop key/urgent standards
  - Government
  - Projects

- Budgetary fluctuations
  - e.g., Government-funded NSBs

- Changes in commitment from stakeholders

- Impact of regional Standards harmonization
Conclusions

- Process is easy as it is well supported by ISO
- Should be the basis for Standardization
- Effective tool for resource allocation
- Useful to embed it in National Quality Policies
- Effective in linking and creating relevance of Standardization in national development
Thank You