EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Textiles are one of the most important and versatile commodities in the global economy. The textile industries involve provision of raw materials, preparation of fibre production, manufacture of yarns and fibres, manufacture of fabric formation, finishing processing including bleaching, dyeing, printing, coating, special chemical treatments, transformation of the fabric into clothing, upholstery, or industrial/technical textiles, smart textiles and rope and netting formation. Therefore, the textile industry concerns a variety of entities such as suppliers of raw materials, processors, manufacturers, traders, distributors, retailers, associated industries such as the laundry industry, government and educational establishments as well as consumers.

There is also extensive movement among countries as companies take steps to become more innovative and competitive. Fabrics designed and manufactured in one country and may be cut to design in another, then machined in the third and finished in the originating country. In addition, retailing of garments is done now common across national boundaries.

Standards are now the international language for communicating the buyer's requirement to the suppliers. To ensure a textile product meets the desired requirements, the supplier in turn shall ensure the whole of the textile supply chain, from spinner through to garment manufacturer, knows what is required. Each part of the supply chain may in turn be specifically responsible for certain aspects of the desired standards.

The main objectives and priorities in the work of the committee TC 38, Textiles, are to develop and publish Standards in the field of fibres, yarns, threads, cords, rope, cloth and other fabricated textile materials; methods of test, terminology and definitions relating to the textile industries, raw materials, auxiliaries and chemical products required for processing and testing; and methods of tests and specifications for textile products with respect to safety, health, material and product safety and quality. The ethical and environmental issues in textile supply chain will be added in the TC38 scope newly. The need for Global relevance is highly considered.

The benefits to the market from publication of these standards are explicit for the stakeholders stated above. The most standards published are methods of test and specifications, which enable objective assessment of products or processes. Some standards are developed to provide products consistency and harmonization that meet consumer’s expectation.

The global environment protection policy is going to be implemented in practice. The priority is given to the microplastics from textile sources (i.e. fine fibre wastes coming out during textile production processes - such as dyeing, finishing, etc. - and textile care process, such as domestic washing, professional cleaning or industrial laundering, etc.), as well as the animal welfare in the textile supply chain as soon as fibres are collected from animals (with the implications of the chain of custody). The newly established working groups are dealing with the respective topics. The sustainability is another significant topic and required to watch carefully and to collaborate with the emerging projects across the TCs.

Our technical committee liaises for cooperation with other technical fields, such as nanotechnologies and electronic textiles (known as "e-textiles") and will be involved for standardization in such fields when textiles are concerned.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 ISO technical committees and business planning

The extension of formal business planning to ISO Technical Committees (ISO/TCs) is an important measure which forms part of a major review of business. The aim is to align the ISO work programme with expressed business environment needs and trends and to allow ISO/TCs to prioritize among different projects, to identify the benefits expected from the availability of International Standards, and to ensure adequate resources for projects throughout their development.

1.2 International standardization and the role of ISO

The foremost aim of international standardization is to facilitate the exchange of goods and services through the elimination of technical barriers to trade.

Three bodies are responsible for the planning, development and adoption of International Standards: ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is responsible for all sectors excluding Electrotechnical, which is the responsibility of IEC (International Electrotechnical Committee), and most of the Telecommunications Technologies, which are largely the responsibility of ITU (International Telecommunication Union).

ISO is a legal association, the members of which are the National Standards Bodies (NSBs) of some 165 countries (organizations representing social and economic interests at the international level), supported by a Central Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland.

The principal deliverable of ISO is the International Standard.

An International Standard embodies the essential principles of global openness and transparency, consensus and technical coherence. These are safeguarded through its development in an ISO Technical Committee (ISO/TC), representative of all interested parties, supported by a public comment phase (the ISO Technical Enquiry). ISO and its Technical Committees are also able to offer the ISO Technical Specification (ISO/TS), the ISO Public Available Specification (ISO/PAS) and the ISO Technical Report (ISO/TR) as solutions to market needs. These ISO products represent lower levels of consensus and have therefore not the same status as an International Standard.

ISO offers also the International Workshop Agreement (IWA) as a deliverable which aims to bridge the gap between the activities of consortia and the formal process of standardization represented by ISO and its national members. An important distinction is that the IWA is developed by ISO workshops and fora, comprising only participants with direct interest, and so it is not accorded the status of an International Standard.

2. BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE ISO/TC 38

2.1 Description of the Business Environment

The following political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal and social dynamics describe the business environment of the industry sector, products, materials, disciplines or practices related to the scope of this ISO/TC, and they may influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards:

Traditionally the Textile and Clothing (T&C) industries had been well protected. Major importers such as Europe and the USA had applied a wide range of quantitative restrictions or quotas on imported
goods. Similarly, major exporters such as Asia have protected their own markets by applying high import tariffs and/or numerous non-tariff barriers.

Since 1995 global trade in T&C had been governed by the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC). The Textiles and Clothing quotas of ATC were abolished on January 1, 2005. This abolishment of quotas strongly affected the large textile supplying countries, especially China and India, who can export freely to Europe or the USA without any quantitative restrictions. The fact of the matter was that China - the USA, and China - EU made quantitative agreements until the end of 2008, to avoid the exploding expansion of imports from China on the immediate aftermath of the quota abolishment. In January 1, 2009 ended the both agreements, and after the date, any agreements were not concluded for the quantities of the T&C trade.

Although the dismantling of the quota system has posed both challenges and benefits, the net result has been positive for those countries where there are inexpensive, abundant and skilled work force suited for labour intensive apparel industries, accompanied by sufficient raw materials.

The USA and EU industries have been exposed to increasing competition from numerous low-labour cost countries, particularly from Asia, for which the sector constitutes one of the most important sources of income and employment. Many developing countries have become very competitive combining low wages with high-quality textile equipment and expertise imported from the more industrialized countries.

The higher labour costs of North America, Europe and Japan have resulted in increased imports into these areas. For the T&C industries in these areas to maintain their position in the global market, they should develop more value-added products and remain competitive by innovation, quality, creativity and design.

In the field of T&C, EC introduced the following legal and binding directives to cover areas where safety of the consumer might be at risk. The relevant standards are developed and maintained in ISO and CEN, in some cases under the Vienna Agreement.

a) Fibre content labelling directive; EC Directive 2008/121/CE.

Two other general safety legislations that can apply to textiles and clothing are,

b) REACH (Regulation, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals), the regulatory framework for the safety of chemicals (Regulation 1907/2006 which came into force on 1 June 2007) (e.g. azo colourants), and

c) The General Products Safety Directive (GPSD); EC Directive 2001/95/EC.

Following to EC, the azo colourants have been legislated in 2003 in China, in July 1, 2009 in South Korea, in April 1, 2016 in Japan, etc.

2.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment

The following figures of quantitative indicators describe the business environment in latest in order to provide adequate information to support actions of the ISO/TC 38:

The world fibre production quantity was about 91 million tons in 2019, as a total of chemical fibre and natural fibre as shown in Table 1 and Figure 1, even though this is a provisional value. The fibre production quantity is showing uptrend and increased to 132% comparing with in 2007. The increase of the fibre production has been following the fibre consumption demands which are especially relating to the worldwide population growth and increase of GDP in developing countries. These fibres are processed and transformed clothing, commodity products, industrial materials, etc. The textile industries are quite huge and expanding business field as understood from the great quantity
of the fibre production.

Table 1 World fibre production (Unit: x 1,000 tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical fibre</td>
<td>41,502</td>
<td>39,470</td>
<td>42,089</td>
<td>50,973</td>
<td>55,660</td>
<td>59,394</td>
<td>62,102</td>
<td>64,628</td>
<td>65,294</td>
<td>67,994</td>
<td>69,958</td>
<td>64,512</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural fibre</td>
<td>27,465</td>
<td>26,790</td>
<td>25,672</td>
<td>26,318</td>
<td>24,031</td>
<td>24,882</td>
<td>25,203</td>
<td>25,764</td>
<td>24,941</td>
<td>23,770</td>
<td>26,777</td>
<td>26,868</td>
<td>27,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>68,967</td>
<td>66,260</td>
<td>67,761</td>
<td>73,410</td>
<td>75,004</td>
<td>80,594</td>
<td>84,363</td>
<td>89,569</td>
<td>89,064</td>
<td>94,771</td>
<td>87,826</td>
<td>91,634</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 1: Source: FEB [Fibre Organon], ICAC [Cotton World Statics], IWTO [Market Information]
NOTE 2: Chemical fibre: Production quantity, 2018 and 2019: Provisional value
NOTE 3: Natural fibre: Cotton, Wool (washed) production quantity

Figure 1 World fibre production

The major production areas or countries for chemical fibre are shown in Table 2 and Figure 2, in 2017. China accounted for about 70% of the world chemical fibre production and the growing rate from previous year was 5.5%. Following to China, the share of India was 8.3% and EU was 3.5%. Total quantity of the chemical production was increased by 4.1% in 2017 comparing to 2016.

Table 2 Chemical fibre production in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>in 2017</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>R. Korea</th>
<th>C. Taiwan</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>ASEAN</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>EU</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production (x 1,000 tons)</td>
<td></td>
<td>653</td>
<td>1,377</td>
<td>1,718</td>
<td>48,200</td>
<td>3,567</td>
<td>5,631</td>
<td>1,992</td>
<td>2,379</td>
<td>2,477</td>
<td>67,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composition Ratio (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing rate vs 2016 (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>-2.7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>-9.7</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The amount of T&C worldwide trade is shown in Table 3 and Figure 3 for the export and Table 4 and Figure 4 for the import. The latest data of the worldwide T&C trade amount in 2019 was about 800 billion USD and 4.3 % of the value of the total exported goods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>World</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>EU</th>
<th>JAPAN</th>
<th>CHINA</th>
<th>ASIA NIES</th>
<th>INDIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>506,375</td>
<td>21,944</td>
<td>138,040</td>
<td>8,072</td>
<td>107,664</td>
<td>67,714</td>
<td>16,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>634,957</td>
<td>23,595</td>
<td>151,274</td>
<td>8,615</td>
<td>199,561</td>
<td>61,242</td>
<td>22,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>764,702</td>
<td>24,925</td>
<td>178,089</td>
<td>7,831</td>
<td>273,584</td>
<td>42,738</td>
<td>38,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>744,135</td>
<td>23,532</td>
<td>185,287</td>
<td>7,619</td>
<td>257,316</td>
<td>37,973</td>
<td>36,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>775,868</td>
<td>25,836</td>
<td>200,567</td>
<td>7,562</td>
<td>257,007</td>
<td>36,852</td>
<td>38,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>820,626</td>
<td>27,144</td>
<td>218,868</td>
<td>7,815</td>
<td>266,536</td>
<td>36,278</td>
<td>38,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>797,986</td>
<td>26,118</td>
<td>206,438</td>
<td>7,742</td>
<td>260,574</td>
<td>40,695</td>
<td>36,533</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 1: Source: JETRO
NOTE 2: ASIA NIES (Newly Industrialized Economies): 4 countries of Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore: Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore
NOTE 3: EU 15 countries before 2012, 27 countries in 2012 and 2013, 28 countries after 2014
NOTE 4: India: India custom statics
As shown above statistics, the major production countries are China, EU and Asian area, while the major markets of the textile products are found in EU, USA, Japan, etc. Under the supply chain movement of the T&C production, the cross-border production becomes common and they are seeking China plus one production countries. From this trend, the sewing production has been shifting to ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations: 10 countries of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) countries from China. However, the materials for sewing are imported from China to the sewing countries, so the export amount of the China is expected as uptrend.

As shown in Table 5, the composition ratio of the export of clothing against all goods is very high in Cambodia and Bangladesh. The export growth ratio of Viet Nam, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Myanmar is also very high. The clothing industries and business are significant in ASEAN area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>EU</th>
<th>JAPAN</th>
<th>CHINA</th>
<th>ASIANIES</th>
<th>INDIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>92,678</td>
<td>173,198</td>
<td>27,532</td>
<td>23,445</td>
<td>44,016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>95,450</td>
<td>204,354</td>
<td>32,907</td>
<td>29,565</td>
<td>42,733</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>115,121</td>
<td>241,846</td>
<td>35,384</td>
<td>35,384</td>
<td>38,217</td>
<td>6,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>109,484</td>
<td>251,406</td>
<td>34,817</td>
<td>28,514</td>
<td>35,120</td>
<td>6,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>115,072</td>
<td>285,941</td>
<td>35,067</td>
<td>34,172</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>7,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>109,904</td>
<td>265,508</td>
<td>37,721</td>
<td>31,044</td>
<td>30,021</td>
<td>7,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>115,387</td>
<td>271,622</td>
<td>37,164</td>
<td>32,183</td>
<td>37,934</td>
<td>8,766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 T&C Trade in ASEAN area (Million USD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Viet Nam</th>
<th>Cambodia</th>
<th>Bangladesh</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Myanmar</th>
<th>Thailand</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>25,504</td>
<td>5,396</td>
<td>24,492</td>
<td>13,105</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>8,738</td>
<td>69,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>24,489</td>
<td>6,061</td>
<td>25,491</td>
<td>12,661</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>7,981</td>
<td>69,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>26,023</td>
<td>6,814</td>
<td>28,094</td>
<td>12,192</td>
<td>1,642</td>
<td>7,648</td>
<td>74,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>28,820</td>
<td>7,367</td>
<td>28,150</td>
<td>12,930</td>
<td>2,496</td>
<td>8,055</td>
<td>79,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>32,646</td>
<td>8,361</td>
<td>34,133</td>
<td>13,643</td>
<td>4,236</td>
<td>8,597</td>
<td>93,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>34,609</td>
<td>27,949</td>
<td>13,257</td>
<td>8,461</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Composition ratio in 2017 (%)  
Growth ratio 2018 vs 2017 (%)
In the global, the T&C production is still expanding, because the clothing consumption increases in proportion to population growth and GDP per person increase. As stated above, sewing has been switching remarkably from China to ASEAN area as a cross-border production designed by worldwide retailers. They distribute the T&C products globally and the activity results in the great amount of T&C trade in the world.

### 3. BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE ISO/TC

Standards developed by ISO/TC 38 are primarily specifications and test methods which provide the means to enable objective assessment of process and product. The standards assist the liberalization of world trade in textile commodities, as emphasised by the World Trade Organization.

Standards impose exacting demands on industry in terms of quality, environmental management, fire safety, consumer protection, metrology, the accurate calibration of measuring equipment and the performance of the newly developed products. The results from the testing using those standards give the requisite information to the consumers as well. The published standards and work programmes of the TC 38 including these demands and all the indications are relevant to the continued prosperity of the market.

ISO/TC 38 is structured to develop the specifications and test methods for the variety of textiles and textile products that the market generates. In recognition of this responsibility, the work programme includes standards that pertain to practically the whole supply chain from fibre through fabric to final product. In addition to end-use standards for evaluating finished products for important basic aspects such as colour fastness, burning behaviour, dimensional stability, strength and hygiene or amenity finishing such as antibacterial activity, the TC has also developed important standards relevant to the processing of textile materials and standards for evaluating raw materials used in their manufacture.

International test procedures for evaluation of product, process and performance are tools used to enable the development of international trade and increase market access. Although in-house specifications may be set by brands, the use of harmonised international test protocols reduces the need for duplicate testing in the world where fabric suppliers serve for European and USA consumers, as well as for global consumers.

These procedures also assist in obviating the occurrence of flammability problem and surface burning in textile products and so reduce the consequential losses of human life or properties due to fire.

A good example of the problems that ISO standards are seeking to obviate is in home laundering. Most apparel garments are subjected to home laundering and most materials sold in commercial outlets are based on their conforming to specific wash fastness criteria. Unfortunately, domestic procedures for home laundering vary around the world and with consumer expectation.

The detergent formulations, water temperatures, degree of agitation, cycle times for washing and

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T&amp;C Import (Million USD)</th>
<th>Viet Nam</th>
<th>Cambodia</th>
<th>Bangladesh</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Myanmar</th>
<th>Thailand</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>12,867</td>
<td>3,828</td>
<td>6,021</td>
<td>8,613</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>4,868</td>
<td>32,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>13,198</td>
<td>3,831</td>
<td>6,486</td>
<td>8,082</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>4,678</td>
<td>32,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>12,782</td>
<td>4,193</td>
<td>6,671</td>
<td>8,289</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>4,799</td>
<td>32,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>13,464</td>
<td>4,774</td>
<td>7,186</td>
<td>8,957</td>
<td>1,418</td>
<td>5,026</td>
<td>35,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>15,169</td>
<td>5,434</td>
<td>8,440</td>
<td>10,189</td>
<td>1,792</td>
<td>5,721</td>
<td>41,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>15,072</td>
<td>7,846</td>
<td>9,567</td>
<td>5,694</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Composition ratio in 2017 (%) | 5.4 | 54.1 | 14.0 | - | 3.5 |
Growth ratio 2018 vs 2017 (%) | 113 | 114 | 117 | 114 | 126 | 114 | 115 |

NOTE: Composition ratio: the trade amount % in the country's total trade amount
rinsing and bleaching systems, all play significant roles in evaluating colour change and staining or durability of applied finishes as well as the dimensional change and mechanical damage of the textile. Without universally accepted test methods of ISO for evaluating the parameters, the difficulties will continue to obstruct increased global trading both for raw materials and finished product. To solve these difficulties, ISO 3758 "Textiles-Care labelling code using symbols", based on the GINETEX care labelling system and ISO 6330 "Textiles-Domestic washing and drying procedure for textile testing" had been developed. Currently, these two 2012 editions are under the revision work to make both standards more consistent and coherent to Global relevance.

4. REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ISO/TC

4.1 Membership

Countries/ISO member bodies that are P and O members of the ISO committee – TC 38

4.2 Analysis of the participation

By their market share, resources, experience and historical links with the industry, the USA and the EU have been the most active participants in TC 38. After undertaking the secretariat of TC38 in 2008, the country with the textile highest production, China and a country interested in new functional textile goods, Japan became involved in ISO/TC 38 activity. Following those countries, Republic of Korea participated in the meetings and took roles in ISO/TC 38, such as SC chairs and WG convenors. They had taken roles of host of the meetings as well.

As the textile industry relocates to other regions of the world, there is an increasing role being played by countries such as ASEAN countries as encouraged in ISO Action Plan for Developing Countries for 2021-2025.

There are several movements of ISO activity in Asia, one of them is the international standardization workshop of the Asian Chemical Fiber Industries Federation in which the participants are the chemical fibre experts from Japan, China, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Malesia, India, Pakistan and Chinese Taiwan. The purpose of this workshop is a promotion of the participation to ISO/TC 38 standardization.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, ISO has been forced to have virtual meetings. WGs of TC 38 held virtual meetings very proactively. From March 2020 to now, almost 40 WG meetings have been held virtually. Although the time difference affected the participants, there were chances to participate in the meetings without concern about travel costs and time. The hybrid meetings by on-line and off-line will help the experts who have any difficulty with the travel costs and time even after COVID-19 pandemic.

The TC 38 has recognised the increasing importance of Asia by holding the 2003 plenary meeting of ISO/TC 38 in South Korea. To further encourage participation from newer or smaller National Standardisation Bodies (NSBs), the TC 38 agreed that the venue of each plenary or alternate plenary should take place in a new area of the TC 38 membership, rather than the usual US or European venues. However, this policy has run into the lack of candidate countries for the host and TC 38 plenary meeting has been held in US and European countries recently as the following.

The 14th plenary meeting was held in Cheju Island, SOUTH KOREA on May 12 & 15, 2003,
The 15th plenary meeting was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil on December 1, 2005,
The 16th plenary meeting was held in New Delhi, India on November 26 & 30, 2007,
The 17th plenary meeting was held in Beijing, China on September 24, 2009.
The 18th plenary meeting was held in Osaka, Japan on October 27, 2011.
The 19th plenary meeting was held in Istanbul, Turkey on October 11, 2013.
The 20th plenary meeting was held in Lyon, France on October 15, 2015,
The 21st plenary meeting was held in New Orleans, USA on October 13, 2017.
The 22nd plenary meeting was held in Treviso, Italy on October 18, 2019
The 23rd plenary meeting was scheduled by the virtual meeting on October 15, 2021

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE ISO/TC AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

5.1 Defined objectives of the ISO/TC 38

a. To elaborate standards within the scope of committee.

b. To develop International Standards on performance requirements, test methods for textile and its
products for the industries as well as for the consumers and concerned parties.

c. To adjust the existing work programme to be relevant to the stated needs of the industries as well
as the consumers and concerned parties and elaborate a coherent library of standards.

d. To establish a project-based approach to the development of standards throughout the TC and,
thereby substantially reduce the period of development.

e. To make standards more relevant to the needs of the industries as well as of the consumers and
concerned parties by ensuring timely delivery.

f. To continue working in close liaison with CEN/TC 248 and the other liaison members of the TC
and its SCs to avoid repetition and conflict.

g. To enable the progress of the work programme and reduce the cost of organisation by holding
concurrent meetings of TC, SCs and WGs.

h. To utilize proactively the virtual measure for the meetings to increase the participants and reduce
the concerns for the travel cost and time.

i. To co-locate and co-ordinate arrangements with CEN/TC 248, when meetings are held in Europe

5.2 Identified strategies to achieve the ISO/TC’s defined objectives

ISO/TC 38 will employ the following strategies to satisfy the preceding objectives.

a. Continually monitor the structure of the TC to accurately reflect the changing work programme
and the needs of the industries as well as the consumers and the concerned parties.

b. Establish the priority of work items within SCs and WGs.

c. Establish project teams for each work item with the designated project leader.

d. Give priority to the timely circulation of documents and adherence to target dates.

e. Limit meetings to when necessary and encourage further use of Livelink for the electronic
distribution of documents.

f. Encourage the virtual meetings or hybrid meetings of on-line and off-line meeting for the
development of projects.

g. Continue to make maximum use of the Vienna Agreement to develop standards for global use.
h. Continue using a single language for meetings to obviate the problems and expense of organising interpreters/translation.

i. Continue close liaison with CEN/TC 248.

j. Continue close liaisons with the following international organisations:

— AATCC American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists
— BISFA International Bureau for the Standardisation of Man-Made Fibres
— CIJET International Committee of Textile Care
— EC - European Commission
— ECOS Environmental Coalition on Standards
— EDANA European Disposables and Nonwovens Association - EDANA
— ETSA European Textile Services Association
— EURATEX European Apparel and Textile Confederation
— IWTO International Wool Textile Organization
— TWC The Woolmark Company

6. FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISO/TC WORK PROGRAMME

The following factors have been identified which may affect, to a lesser or greater degree, the development of standards in accordance with the objectives and strategies of this business plan.

a. In such a competitive and rapidly changing market, there is a continuing difficulty in finding both the appropriate project leaders who have the available resource to drive the work and new expert participants at WG level. This can lead to an imbalance of relevant stakeholders.

b. The unavailability of responsive NSB support at WG level to assist the quicker development of projects, due perhaps to a lack of individual NSB resource. This creates a much-increased workload for the TC and the respective SC Secretariats and a consequent time delay in overall development.

c. The very large existing library of over 415 standards under the responsibility of ISO/TC 38 and its SC needs regular review/confirmation/amendment/revision, to ensure currency. Together with a current programme of over 30 WIs in development, this is having the cumulative effect of creating an overflow; keeping the responsible participants at permanent capacity. This situation may well create a few competing priorities, displace essential planning and disrupt the planned and orderly progress of project development.

d. Where the Vienna Agreement applies, work items subject to delay in CEN/TC 248 may create a consequent delay in the respective project projections.

e. Progress on many test methods is dependent on the technical resources available to Members

f. The cost of hosting meetings continues to be a concern. The lack of offers to host meetings of the TC, a SC together with its WGs and the possibility of concurrent CEN meeting may be a serious restraint. Electronic communication may assist the progress of documents to a degree, but personal networking and discussion remain essential for understanding national positions and limitations.

g. Irrespective of the financial crises within the industry, the costs involved to all concerned for expert participation in meetings of any size/duration are becoming prohibitive and may well reduce the
level of participation. This will be severely detrimental to the standardization process.

7. STRUCTURE, CURRENT PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS OF THE ISO/TC

This section gives an overview of the ISO/TC’s structure, scopes of the ISO/TCs and any existing subcommittees and information on existing and planned standardization projects, publication of the ISO/TC 38 and its subcommittees.

7.1 The structure of the ISO committee TC 38

7.2 Current projects of the ISO technical committee and its subcommittees

7.3 Publications of the ISO technical committee and its subcommittees

Click on the tabs and links on this page to find the following information:
- About (Secretariat, Secretary, Chair, Date of creation, Scope, etc.)
- Contact details
- Structure (Subcommittees and working groups)
- Liaisons
- Meetings
- Tools
- Work programme (published standards and standards under development)

Reference information

Glossary of terms and abbreviations used in ISO/TC Business Plans

General information on the principles of ISO’s technical work