



TC 207 – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Strategic Business Plan 2023-2030

September 2023

Snapshot

ISO VISION

Making lives **easier**, **safer** and **better**

ISO/TC 207 MISSION

Through ISO/TC 207 members and their stakeholders, ISO/TC 207 develops International Standards that respond to global environmental challenges and support achievement of a sustainable future.



ISO standards used everywhere



Legislative Referencing

Advocate for and provide education in relation to the referencing of ISO/TC 207 standards in regulations and codes



Case Studies

Develop and disseminate case studies that illustrate the benefits of ISO/TC 207 standards and how performance indicators have contributed to environmental improvements, including case studies from developing countries



Communications

Enhance on-line presence and communications in relation to activities of ISO/TC 207 and the benefits of ISO/TC 207 standards



Social Media

Enhance social media presence of ISO/TC 207 to create knowledge-sharing opportunities amongst ISO/TC 207 users and expand ISO/TC 207 outreach



Meeting global needs



Coordinating Committees

Work with coordinating committees (e.g., Climate Change Coordinating Committee) and Strategic Leadership Group to ensure efficiency and alignment in standards development and the application of existing standards



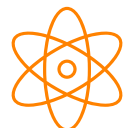
Task Force

Establish a task force under ISO/TC 207 to discuss whether there is a need for better integration within ISO/TC 207 and if so, the path to achieving such integration



Engagement

Engage with relevant external organizations that have been involved with development and application of environmental standards to explore potential collaboration opportunities



Technology Facilitation

Ensure standards facilitate technologies that advance global environmental and climate change objectives



All voices heard



Virtual Meetings

Facilitate opportunities for ISO/TC 207 members to participate virtually in meetings and use hybrid formats when any in-person meetings are required



Partnerships

Facilitate partnerships with external institutions that can play a role in capacity development for ISO/TC 207 standards



Training

Provide training and support with particular attention to application of standards in developing country contexts (initial pilot testing with ISO 14001, ISO 14064-1, ISO 14040/14044, and ISO 14091)



Active Outreach

Actively reach out to National Standards Bodies to increase representation within ISO/TC 207 with particular focus on ensuring diversity, including geographic, gender and generational diversity



Engagement Strategy

Develop engagement strategy for developing countries (led by Developing Countries Coordination Group (DCCG))

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London Declaration

International Standards play a crucial role in underpinning the global economy, creating trust on all aspects of international trade. ISO has a number of standards that are essential in supporting the climate change agenda; they help **adapt to climate change, quantify greenhouse gas emissions and promote the dissemination of good practices in environmental management**. The science is clear: the need for urgent measures to reduce emissions and help adapt to climate change is overwhelming.

Without up-to-date International Standards, industry and other stakeholders will be unable to achieve what is necessary. ISO hereby commits to work with its members, stakeholders and partners to ensure that International Standards and publications accelerate the successful achievement of the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Call for Action on Adaptation and Resilience.

Drivers of change

Understanding the challenges facing ISO/TC 207 is essential to defining priorities. This includes not only the role of ISO/TC 207 within the broader ISO organization, but also the environmental, social, and economic context that needs to inform the ISO/TC 207 priorities. Consultations were held with ISO/TC 207 members to identify key drivers of change.

Environmental Management

The world is currently not on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, nor to meet the required level of greenhouse gas reductions to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) notes that at current rates of adaptation planning and implementation, the adaptation gap will continue to grow.

ISO/TC 207 has a key role to play in ensuring there are robust approaches to managing environmental impacts by supporting sustainability with widely used standards such as the overarching ISO 14001 framework that can be applied by topic and combined with a life-cycle approach (ISO 14040 series). Environmental management systems are more important than ever and understanding impacts across the life-cycle, including water and climate change impacts, enables organizations to manage those impacts and implement robust reporting procedures. Multiple standards in the ISO/TC 207 suite support the implementation of a robust environmental management system and achievement of net-zero by 2050.

Participation from external entities in standards development

There are several organizations external to ISO that have been involved in setting standards that either use ISO/TC 207 standards as their underpinning or that overlap with the ISO/TC 207 standards. These external standards tend to be sector specific as in the case of the program of standards and accreditation process offered by Equitable Origin for responsible energy development. Another example is the GHG Protocol, which establishes standardized frameworks to measure and manage greenhouse gas emissions. There is some confusion due to overlaps between GHG Protocol's *Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard* and ISO 14064-1 – *Greenhouse gases – Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals*.

The Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) – a partnership between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – published in 2021 the *SBTi Corporate Net-Zero Standard*. At COP27 in 2022, ISO launched the *Net Zero Guidelines*, which establishes a global basis for harmonizing, understanding, and planning for net zero for actors at the state, regional, city, and organizational levels.

With entities outside of ISO contributing to the global standards landscape, the positioning of ISO/TC 207 and its speed and agility in communicating, anticipating and responding to standards needs are critical to its continued relevance and success.

Drivers of change

Overlapping scope amongst and within technical committees

A number of ISO technical committees are developing standards or have mandates that overlap with those of ISO/TC 207. These include ISO/TC 322 Sustainable finance and ISO/TC 323 Circular economy. It is critical that there is internal coordination within ISO so that efforts are not duplicated and collaboration results in accessible, best practice standards for the marketplace. The Coordinating Committees established under the ISO Technical Management Board, such as the ESG, Smart Farming and Climate Change Coordinating Committees, are a start to ensuring that there is strong collaboration and wise and efficient use of volunteer expertise within ISO.

The work of the six subcommittees of ISO/TC 207 is generally organized by themes, although there is some overlap between the work of the various subcommittees and their standards. As an example, ISO 14067 – *Greenhouse gases – Carbon footprint of products – Requirements and guidelines for quantification*, developed under SC 7 is a specific application case of the ISO 14040/14044 standards on life cycle assessment developed under SC 5.

During consultations, some ISO/TC 207 members noted the potential for confusion amongst users of ISO/TC 207 standards. There may also be opportunities to provide guidance on the linkages amongst ISO/TC 207 standards and their application within an overarching

environmental management system established in accordance with ISO 14001. Improving coordination amongst and within ISO technical committees to ensure consistency and efficiency of efforts is critical, as is defining the extent to which ISO/TC 207 should be developing application-based standards (e.g., sector-specific environmental standards).

Participation of developing countries

There is a need for greater participation of developing countries in the development and use of ISO standards. Amongst the barriers to the participation of developing countries are capacity, language, differences in time zones, and relevance of standards to the priorities of developing countries. In some developing countries, National Standards Bodies face significant challenges in getting traction from organizations to implement ISO standards. Strong legislation that references standards can play an important role not only in advancing sustainability, but also in driving the adoption of ISO standards. It was noted during consultations that the ISO/TC 207 standards most relevant to developing countries include ISO 14001, ISO 14064-1, ISO 14040/14044, and ISO 14091.

ISO Vision and Mission interpreted for ISO/TC 207

ISO vision for 2030

Making lives easier, safer and better

The ISO vision recognizes that International Standards are a crucial component to making things safer and better in the world around us. By achieving this, ISO can contribute to improving people's quality of life every day.

In the context of ISO/TC 207, management of environmental impacts, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation to climate change are key in making lives easier, safer and better.

ISO mission

Through our members and their stakeholders, we bring people together to agree on International Standards that respond to global challenges.

ISO standards support global trade, drive inclusive and equitable economic growth, advance innovation and promote health and safety to achieve a sustainable future.

Through ISO/TC 207 members and their stakeholders, ISO/TC 207 develops International Standards that respond to global environmental challenges and support achievement of a sustainable future.

ISO Strategy 2030 Goals and Priorities

ISO standards used everywhere

- Demonstrate the benefits of standards
- Innovate to meet users' needs



Meeting global needs

- Deliver ISO standards when the market needs them
- Capture future opportunities for international standardization



All voices heard

- Strengthen ISO members through capacity building
- Advance inclusivity and diversity in the ISO system



Goal 1: ISO standards used everywhere

Priorities: Demonstrate benefits of standards and innovate to meet users' needs

The standards overseen by ISO/TC 207 are critical tools to manage current and future environmental challenges. Referencing ISO standards can save time and costs when drafting legislative instruments and the strength of ISO conformity assessment means that inspection and verification to ensure compliance can be done relatively easily.

Whether it is assessing greenhouse gas, air quality, health, or other environmental impacts, life cycle assessment is important to ensuring that impacts are understood and managed across a product's full life cycle. In any environmental reporting or assessment, robust auditing processes underpin quality. These are all areas where ISO/TC 207 has developed standards to support environmental, social and economic benefits.

Environmental labeling and environmental product declarations (EPDs) are influencing local and international markets. Standards for mutual recognition of environmental labeling are important to supporting sustainable international trade.

Advancing awareness of ISO/TC 207 standards and their implementation, including through case studies on how ISO/TC 207 standards have been applied, is critical to demonstrating the benefits of standards and the ability of ISO/TC 207 to be the first choice for environmental standards development.

Strategies for demonstrating benefits of standards and innovating to meet users' needs



Legislative Referencing

Advocate for and provide education in relation to the referencing of ISO/TC 207 standards in regulations and codes



Case Studies

Develop and disseminate case studies that illustrate the benefits of ISO/TC 207 standards and how performance indicators have contributed to environmental improvements, including case studies from developing countries



Communications

Enhance on-line presence and communications in relation to activities of ISO/TC 207 and the benefits of ISO/TC 207 standards



Social Media

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Goal 2: Meeting global needs

Priorities: Deliver ISO standards when the market needs them and capture future opportunities

The level of activity in relation to environment and climate change standards has accelerated in recent years, both within ISO and externally. Ensuring alignment and efficiency amongst the various technical committees that are engaged in development of international standards related to environment and sustainability is increasingly important. A number of organizations external to ISO have also been successful in developing environmental standards that have been widely used by industry.

With rapid growth in the environmental sector, various technologies are now entering the market and their presence and performance need to be considered in the development of standards. These technologies can be used more widely, safely and optimally if supported by the right standards environment. For example, standardization processes are catching up with the pace of market adoption of technologies for hydrogen, heat pumps, carbon capture and decarbonization. Whether it is directly through the ISO/TC 207 work programs or supporting other ISO Technical Committees, ISO/TC 207 has an important role to play in facilitating technological advancements through the standards process.

Strategies for delivering standards when the market needs them and capturing future opportunities



Coordinating Committees

Work with coordinating committees (e.g., Climate Change Coordinating Committee) and the Strategic Leadership Group to ensure efficiency and alignment in standards development and the application of existing standards



Task Force

Establish a task force under ISO/TC 207 to discuss whether there is a need for better integration within ISO/TC 207 and if so, the path to achieving such integration



Engagement

Engage with relevant external organizations that have been involved with development and application of environmental standards to explore potential collaboration opportunities



Technology Facilitation

Ensure standards facilitate technologies that advance global environmental and climate change objectives



Goal 3: All voices heard

Priorities: Strengthen ISO members through capacity building and advance inclusivity and diversity

A large majority of ISO members are from developing countries, and consultation with developing country members of ISO/TC 207 revealed some key challenges when participating in international standardization:

- Challenges with finding appropriate subject matter experts;
- Challenges with understanding application of ISO/TC 207 in a developing country setting;
- Language barriers;
- Time pressures and time zone challenges; and
- Budget constraints.

The representation of all voices in the standards development process is critical to ensure that ISO/TC 207 standards meet global needs. Active engagement of developing countries as well as historically underrepresented voices, including those of women and the next generation of experts, is paramount.

Strategies for capacity building and advancing diversity



Virtual Meetings

Facilitate opportunities for ISO/TC 207 members to participate virtually in meetings and use hybrid formats when any in-person meetings are required



Partnerships

Facilitate partnerships with external institutions that can play a role in capacity development for ISO/TC 207 standards



Training

Provide training and support with particular attention to application of standards in developing country contexts (initial pilot testing with ISO 14001, ISO 14064-1, ISO 14040/14044, and ISO 14091)



Active Outreach

Actively reach out to National Standards Bodies to increase representation within ISO/TC 207 with particular focus on ensuring diversity, including geographic, gender and generational diversity



Engagement Strategy

Develop engagement strategy for developing countries (led by the Developing Countries Coordination Group (DCCG))

Measuring Success

Goal	Priorities	Action	Progress Indicator	2024 Year-End Target
ISO standards used everywhere 	Demonstrate benefits of standards and innovate to meet users' needs	Advocate for and provide education in relation to the referencing of ISO/TC 207 standards in regulations and codes	Number of legislative references	Host ISO webinar on approaches to 14000 standards in regulations
		Develop and disseminate case studies that illustrate the benefits of ISO/TC 207 standards and how performance indicators have contributed to environmental improvements, including case studies from developing countries	- Number of case studies - Number of case studies viewed	10 video case studies
		Enhance on-line presence and communications in relation to activities of ISO/TC 207 and the benefits of ISO/TC 207 standards	- Educational social media videos - Website analytics	25 social media videos
		Enhance social media presence of ISO/TC 207 to create knowledge-sharing opportunities amongst ISO/TC 207 users and expand ISO/TC 207 outreach	- Subscribers / Reposts / Likes - Content views	1000 LinkedIn followers 2000 views per video
Meeting global needs 	Deliver ISO standards when the market needs them and capture future opportunities	Work with coordinating committees (e.g., Climate Change Coordinating Committee) and the Strategic Leadership Group to ensure efficiency and alignment in standards development and the application of existing standards	Synergies / efficiencies achieved (qualitative)	Achievement of coordinating committee objectives
		Establish a task force under ISO/TC 207 to discuss whether there is a need for better integration within ISO/TC 207 and if so, the path to achieving such integration	Recommendation report of task force	Recommendation report of task force
		Engage with relevant external organizations that have been involved with development and application of environmental standards to explore potential collaboration opportunities	Collaborations / synergies achieved (qualitative)	At least two new collaborations established
		Ensure standards facilitate technologies that advance global environmental and climate change objectives	Education and outreach to industry with respect to standards supporting technology	At least one webinar hosted
All voices heard 	Strengthen ISO members through capacity building and advance inclusivity and diversity	Facilitate opportunities for ISO/TC 207 members to participate virtually in meetings and use hybrid formats when any in-person meetings are required	Participation in ISO/TC 207 meetings by country	20% increase in participation in meetings
		Facilitate partnerships with external institutions that can play a role in capacity development for ISO/TC 207 standards	- Number of partnerships - Number of trainees with partner	1 significant partnership 50 trainees
		Provide training and support with particular attention to application in developing country contexts (initial pilot testing with ISO 14001, ISO 14064-1, ISO 14040/14044, and ISO 14091)	- Number of sessions - Number of trainees per session	At least 4 sessions with at least 5 trainees each
		Actively reach out to National Standards Bodies to increase representation within ISO/TC 207 with particular focus on ensuring diversity, including geographic, gender and generational diversity	Diversity and inclusion statistics for participation	Baseline statistics
		Develop engagement strategy for developing countries (led by the Developing Countries Coordination Group (DCCG))	Engagement strategy of DCCG	Implementation of DCCG recommendations

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London
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Appendix

An aerial photograph of a river flowing through a dense forest. The river is characterized by white, turbulent rapids and a vibrant turquoise color, contrasting sharply with the surrounding lush green trees. The forest is composed of various types of trees, including tall evergreens and some deciduous trees with lighter foliage. The river winds through the center of the image, with rocky banks visible in some areas.

APPENDIX

About ISO/TC 207

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an independent, non-governmental organization comprising a membership base of over 160 national standards bodies. ISO and its members bring together a network of global experts to share knowledge and develop International Standards. The ISO Technical Committee 207 (ISO/TC 207) is focused on standardization in the field of environmental management to address environmental and climate impacts, including related social and economic aspects, in support of sustainable development. The international standards are developed through a team of subcommittees (SC) and associated working groups (WG).

ISO/TC 207 currently has 77 participating member bodies and 45 observing member bodies and 32 liaison groups. Additional members participate within the SCs. ISO/TC 207 has a Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) which includes membership from National Standards Bodies, representation from each SC and CASCO. The SLG also includes the Chair of the ISO/TC 207 Developing Countries Coordination Group and the Convenors for the Spanish Translation Task Force, the Communications Task Force, the Terminology Coordination Group and both Task Groups for Coordination with ISO/TC 322 – Sustainable finance and ISO/TC 323 – Circular economy.

This ISO/TC 207 Strategic Business Plan has been developed in consultation with representatives from the Strategic Leadership Group, the ISO/TC 207 Developing Countries Coordination Group, and members from the SCs. These consultations were held throughout April and May 2023.

The ISO/TC207 subcommittees are:

- SC1** Environmental management systems;
- SC2** Environmental auditing and related environmental investigations;
- SC3** Environmental labelling;
- SC4** Environmental performance evaluation
- SC5** Lifecycle assessment; and
- SC7** Greenhouse gas and climate change management and related activities

Alignment Matrix of ISO/TC 207 Subcommittees with SDGs

The work of ISO/TC 207 and its associated subcommittees (SCs) supports 16 SDGs



- 1 SC1 – Environmental management systems
- 2 SC2 – Environmental auditing and related investigations
- 3 SC3 – Environmental labelling

- 4 SC4 – Environmental performance evaluation
- 5 SC5 – Lifecycle assessment
- 7 SC7 – Greenhouse gas and climate change management and related activities