



TBT PROGRAMME
OVERCOMING TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

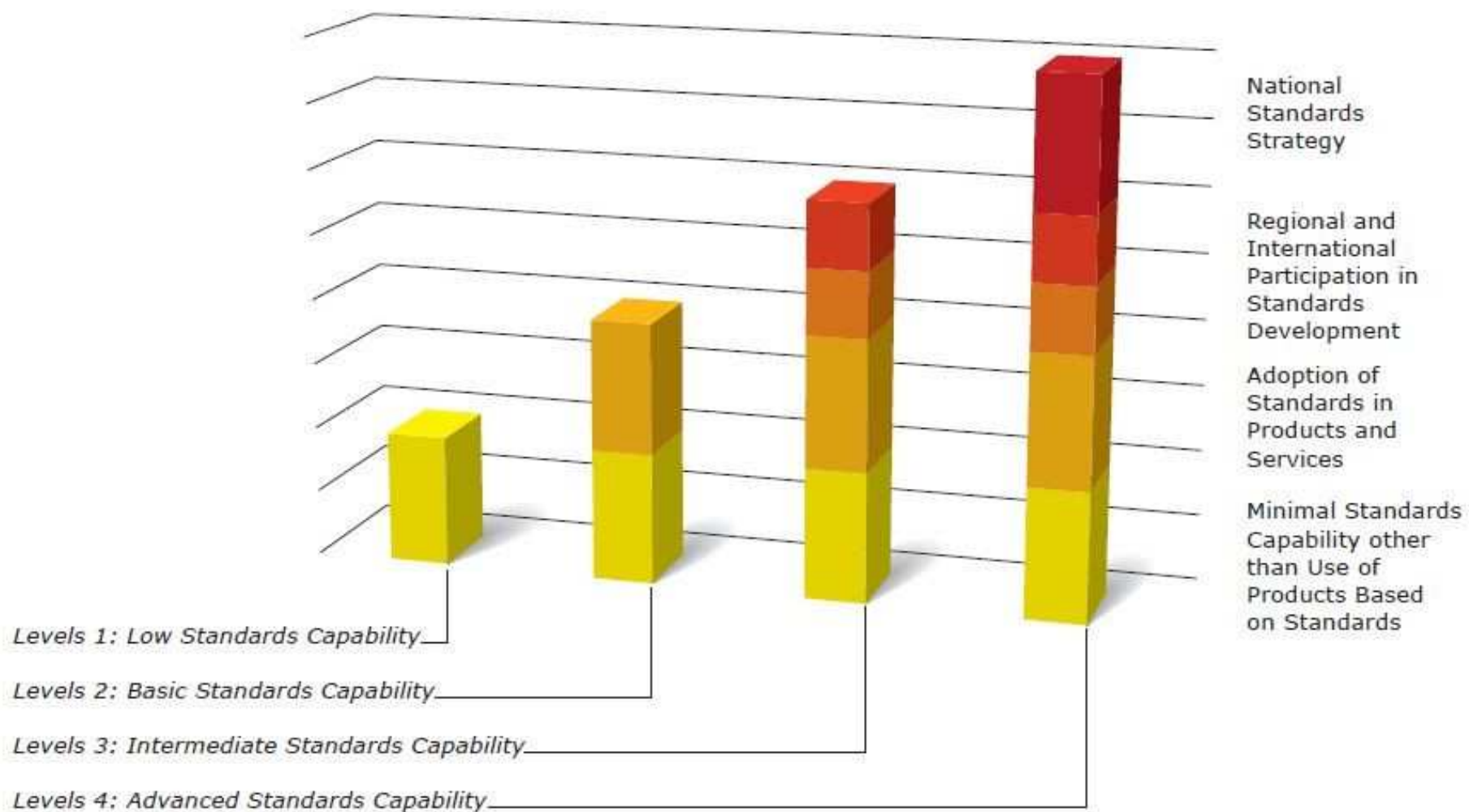


ACP-EU TBT Programme

Strengthening the Quality Infrastructure Institutions of Ethiopia

*Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
10th November 2016*

ITU – levels of standards capability



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Good standards practice: ISO and the WTO/TBT Code of Good Practice

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Contents

- Transparency
- Openness
- Impartiality and consensus
- Effectiveness and relevance
- Coherence
- Development

Part 1

Transparency

Annex 3 – Code of good practice

- J. At least once every six months, the standardizing body shall publish a work programme containing its name and address, the standards it is currently preparing and the standards which it has adopted in the preceding period.

Methodology

- Websites
- Monthly journals (ISO yellow pages)
- Trade journals

Transparent procedures

- Standards development procedures
- Participants need to know the rules of the game
- Upfront training

Procedures

- The Process Evaluation Group (TMB/PEG)
- Establishment and constitution of national mirror committees
- Lessons learned

Procedures

- The working group on social responsibility
- Constitution and working methods
- The case of OOXML



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Procedures

- No surprises
- Accountability to stakeholders



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Part 2

Openness



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Openness

Some definitions:

Source: ISO/IEC Guide 2

- 4.3.2 international standardizing organization

Standardizing organization whose membership is open to the relevant national body from every country

- 4.3.1 regional standardizing organization

Standardizing organization whose membership is open to the relevant national body from each country within one geographical, political or economic area only



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Openness

Source: ISO/IEC Guide 2

– 4.4.1 national standards body

Standards body recognized at the national level, that is eligible to be the national member of the corresponding international and regional standards organizations

Openness

ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Foreword, c)

-national bodies have the responsibility of ensuring that their technical standpoint is established taking account of all interests concerned at national level.....



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Openness

- Openness of the standards development process: A standards development process which is open to all interests concerned at national level, either directly in the national standards body (in the case of national standardization) or via the NSB in the case of regional or international standardization.

Openness

- Who?
- Industry (including SMEs), government, consumers, civil society (NGOs), labour organizations, academia, consultants and certifiers/accreditors etc.



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Openness

- Why?
- Standards are voluntary agreements between relevant market players. Their acceptance/uptake and credibility depend on wide recognition that all concerned national interests have had the opportunity to contribute to the work.

Part 3

Impartiality and consensus



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Committee officers

The chairman of a technical committee or subcommittee shall

- act in a purely international capacity, divesting him- or herself of a national position; thus he or she cannot serve concurrently as the delegate of a national body in his or her own committee;
- A secretariat shall act in a purely international capacity, divesting itself of a national point of view.



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Consensus

ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004.

- "consensus: General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments.
- NOTE Consensus need not imply unanimity."

Consensus

consensus: General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests

Consensus

and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments.

Consensus

Consensus need not imply unanimity.



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Consensus

Appeals procedures

Part 4

Effectiveness and relevance



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Effectiveness and relevance

- Market relevance
- Global relevance

Effectiveness and relevance

Market relevance

- TC business plans
- Periodic reconfirmation of market need
- The Standards Value Assessment Tool



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Effectiveness and relevance

TC business plans

- A mechanism to allow committees to demonstrate their understanding of market environment and likely market evolution
- How this transfers into a need for standards
- To allow prioritization as a function of market requirements
- To ensure that appropriate resources are available to fulfil market needs and expectations



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Effectiveness and relevance

Content of business plans

- Factual data (committee scope, structure and work programme including published standards)
- (Can be replaced to links to online resources)
- Intellectual elements (market environment and anticipated evolution, economic, social and/or environmental benefits expected from the work of the committee, and how committee scope, structure and work programme, including priorities, responds to market needs)



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Effectiveness and relevance

Responsibilities of those participating in the process?

- Member bodies
 - To ensure that whenever they approve a new work item, it is because there is a real market requirement for a standard on this topic in their country. (SVAT)
 - To ensure that whenever possible they will make available appropriate expertise to allow standards required by the market to be developed in a timely manner.
 - To ensure that work programmes are reviewed periodically and that when the market has moved on, concerned projects are cancelled!



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Effectiveness and relevance

Responsibilities of those participating in the process?

- Delegates/experts
 - To ensure that their technical knowledge and understanding of the market requirement for standards is used to produce the right standards at the right time.
 - To ensure that, when a standard project no longer responds to a market requirement, the work item is cancelled.

Effectiveness and relevance

Responsibilities of those participating in the process?

- Standards professionals
 - To ensure that appropriate procedures exist to meet market requirements with a minimum of bureaucracy
 - To ensure that the procedures are administered effectively and efficiently
- Ensure the best use of the resources made available voluntarily by the market players



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Effectiveness and relevance

QUESTION: What do business plans add to the ISO system?

ANSWERS:

1. They ensure that ISO work is driven by an understanding of market requirements and not by a bureaucratic process of approving new work.
2. They allow communication between those participating in the process and the stakeholders – those bearing the costs of those who participate in the process.
3. They allow all those involved in the ISO system to know that what they are doing is really needed and will make a difference.

Automatic cancellation

Reconfirmation of market requirements

- The five year rule
- The two year rule

When deadlines exceeded, reconfirm the need for the work by reballoting a new work item

Some exceptions: inter-laboratory testing, inter-related standards

SVAT

The Standards Value Assessment Tool:

- A qualitative method of trying to quantify market needs by rating elements such as expected benefits, priority, etc. from high to low
- Failed in ISO, but seems to have found some use in sector management bodies

Effectiveness and relevance

Any product has an infinite number of properties, and only some of them are subject to international standardization. The choice depends on the aims of the document to be prepared, the overriding aim being to ensure fitness for purpose of the product concerned.



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Effectiveness and relevance

separate clauses of the document or, preferably,
in separate documents or parts of a document

for example:

- health and safety requirements,
- performance requirements,
- maintenance and service requirements, and
- installation rules.



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Effectiveness and relevance

If health, safety aspects, the protection of the environment or the economical use of resources are relevant to the product, appropriate requirements shall be included.

Otherwise, they may, in some countries, be made additional mandatory requirements which, if not harmonized, would constitute technical barriers to trade.



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Effectiveness and relevance

Performance approach

Whenever possible, requirements shall be expressed in terms of performance rather than design or descriptive characteristics. This approach leaves maximum freedom to technical development.

Primarily those characteristics shall be included that are suitable for worldwide (universal) acceptance.

Where necessary, owing to differences in legislation, climate, environment, economies, social conditions, trade patterns, etc., several options may be indicated.



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Effectiveness and relevance

The principle of verifiability

Whatever the aims of a product standard, only such requirements shall be included as can be verified.

Requirements in documents shall be expressed in well defined values. Phrases such as “sufficiently strong” or “of adequate strength” shall not be used.



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Effectiveness and relevance

Values to be stated by the manufacturer

There may be some properties of a product that should not necessarily be specified (even though they decisively influence the performance of the product), if any number of varieties may be allowed.

The document may enumerate all characteristics which can be chosen freely by the manufacturer but the values of which are to be stated by the manufacturer. This statement may take various forms (name-plate, label, accompanying document, etc.).

Effectiveness and relevance

Values to be stated by the manufacturer

A requirement that the values of a characteristic be stated by the manufacturer instead of specifying the values themselves is not permissible in the case of health and safety requirements.

Part 5

Coherence



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Coherence

The objective of documents published by ISO and IEC is to define clear and unambiguous provisions in order to facilitate international trade and communication.

To achieve this objective, the document shall be as complete as necessary within the limits specified by its scope, be consistent, clear and accurate,

take full account of the state of the art.....



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Coherence

..... provide a framework for future technological development,

be comprehensible to qualified persons who have not participated in its preparation, and

take into account the principles for the drafting of documents



Coherence

Uniformity of structure, of style and of terminology shall be maintained not only within each document, but also within a series of associated documents. The structure of associated documents and the numbering of their clauses shall, as far as possible, be identical. Analogous wording shall be used to express analogous provisions; identical wording shall be used to express identical provisions.

Coherence

The same term shall be used throughout each document or series of associated documents to designate a given concept.

The use of an alternative term (synonym) for a concept already defined shall be avoided. As far as possible, only one meaning shall be attributed to each term chosen.



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Coherence

In order to achieve the aim of consistency within the complete corpus of documents published by ISO and IEC, the text of every document shall be in accordance with the relevant provisions of existing basic documents published by ISO and IEC.

This relates particularly to

- standardized terminology,
- principles and methods of terminology,
- quantities, units and their symbols,



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Coherence

- abbreviated terms,
- bibliographic references,
- technical drawings and diagrams,
- technical documentation, and
- graphical symbols.

Coherence

Verbal forms:

- Shall – to express a requirement
- Shall not – to express a prohibition



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Coherence

Verbal forms:

- Should – to express a recommendation
- Should not

Coherence

Verbal forms:

- May – to express permission
- Need not
- Can – to express possibility and capability
- Cannot

Part 6

Development



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Development

Global relevance policy seeks to ensure that the needs of developing countries are taken into account

But, sometimes difficulty in real-time participation – hence extension of systematic review



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Development

Products intended for various purposes or for use under various conditions (for example different climatic conditions), or by various groups of users, may require different values of some characteristics, each value corresponding to some category or level, intended for some particular purpose or conditions.

These values may be included in one document or in different documents, as appropriate, but it is essential that the correlation between purposes and values is clearly indicated.

Development

Different categories or levels in different regions or countries may also be included if justified by their importance for trade.



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Development

Needs of developing countries can only be taken into account if their needs are expressed.

Twinning arrangements.

Development

P-member twinning: Intended to allow needs to be expressed during the standards development process

Secretariat twinning: Capacity building, transfer of know-how

Vice-chairs: Capacity building and awareness raising



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END

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