



LDC Programme Expansion

ISO Action Plan for Developing
Countries 2021-2025





Participating members can select up to four (4) thematic areas for their national programme from the following menu:

Below is a short description of the thematic areas that will be covered by the programme.

1. Good Standardization Practices

The implementation of good standardization practices (GSP) is important to the success of standardization and our members. The member will conduct a self-diagnostic using the GSP methodology, after which an expert will provide support to review this and develop recommendations for improvement based on identified gaps, as well as a work plan. Based on the recommendations and the work plan, some interventions (e.g. workshops, training courses, sponsorship, coaching) could be tailored and delivered depending on the needs of the member.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

Members require additional support to increase consensus building and stakeholder engagement in their NMCs that contribute to the international ISO work. Some of the challenges faced by NSBs include identifying and involving appropriate national stakeholders and experts, and the capacity to prioritize national interests and relevance to justify the engagement in ISO activities. The member will be provided guidance on how to involve stakeholders, to communicate to stakeholders the benefits of participating actively in standards development, and an overview on the ISO standards development process to raise awareness and further improve understanding of it. An additional element will be the importance of marketing and communications with regards to stakeholder engagement.

3. National adoption Guide 21

International Standards are widely adopted at the regional or national level and applied by manufacturers, trade organizations, purchasers, authorities, and other interested parties. Since these standards generally reflect the best experience and knowledge, and cover common needs in a variety of countries, they constitute one of the important bases for the removal of technical barriers to trade (as acknowledged in the WTO TBT Agreement). It is important that every effort be made to adopt and use International Standards as regional or national standards and, consequently, to withdraw conflicting regional or national standards; by developing a global approach the benefits of standards will be fully realized. This programme would cover the principles of adopting standards (“why”), best practices and processes from ISO/IEC Guide 21 (“how”) and the benefits of adopting standards (“what”).

4. WTO TBT Agreement and standards and public policies

Many ISO members are the WTO TBT enquiry point for their countries or, in cases, where they are not, need support to align their standardization activities with the TBT Agreement. Also members from countries that are not WTO members, often recognize the need to adopt the basic principles and best practices embedded of the TBT Agreement from a socio-economic development perspective. The programme will support members in improving their understanding of the rules and requirements of the TBT Agreement.

In addition, many ISO members require assistance to better work with policymakers and regulators in using standards. The programme will support members where this is a priority.

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5. National Standardization Strategy

ISO has developed a methodology which provides suggestions and tools for developing a national standardization strategy. Support will be made available to participating members on the ISO methodology focusing on how to identify methodically national priorities; based on the economic, social, and environmental needs of the country; evaluate and consider strategies of international and regional standards organizations and consolidating them into a concrete national standardization strategic plan. This will enable members to draft or revise their NSS as needed.

6. ISolutions

Many members lack adequate IT infrastructure and accompanying processes; this could include online document management to participating and managing virtual TC and NMC meetings. ISolutions supports members to conduct national, regional, and international standardization work using IT solutions hosted through ISO. Members and their technical experts can use a consistent, integrated set of tools to make their work easier, and have quicker access to good quality, evolving IT services that meet their needs without the high costs of developing and running their own individual IT infrastructure.

7. Gender Action Plan

Supporting its members to develop an organizational Gender Action Plan (GAP) is a top priority for the ISO Capacity Building Unit. Every GAP should be the road map for gender activities that an institution has adopted for itself. A GAP aims to enable the member to attain concrete gender-related objectives in their organization's work through the development and implementation of a GAP. A gender expert will help the member and ensure they are given the knowledge to establish, implement, and measure their GAP to build long-term national capacity. The member will develop objectives, prioritize areas of action, develop short and long-term targets and outputs, and engage stakeholders in a participatory process to formulate a vision. The final deliverable is a well-researched and practical gender action plan.

8. Sponsorship

The participation in, and understanding of, ISO committee work is an important step in ensuring that ISO's LDC members fully benefit from standardization and other ISO activities. Members will be able to attend additional technical committee work than what is provided under the current ISO Sponsorship programme.

Additionally, attendance at a TC is a great opportunity and learning tool, but the full learning potential may be lost if the participant is unable to understand the context of the conversations. To ensure effective participation, if and when identified as necessary, ISO may provide a short (virtual) session before the meeting, to let the participant(s) know what to expect and the standards development process.

9. Other areas

Based on the GSP diagnostic or upon request of the member, other areas could also be considered for support, subject to the availability of expertise and if the request is aligned with the Action Plan for developing countries.





**International Organization
for Standardization**

ISO Central Secretariat
Chemin de Blandonnet 8
1214 Geneva, Switzerland

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