21\textsuperscript{ST} ARSO GA

Updates on Standardization and Conformity Assessment Activities

Reuben Gisore
Technical Director, ARSO
Standards Harmonization Updates

- THC 02, Food and Agriculture Products
- THC 03, Building and Civil Engineering
- THC 05, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
- THC 07, Leather and Textile Products
- THC 09, Environmental Management
- THC 12-1, Cosmetology and Wellness
- THC 12-2, Financial Services
- THC 13, African Traditional Medicine
Updates on ARSO-CACO

- Updates on conformity assessment facilities in Member States
- Updates on conformity assessment perspectives “Conformity Assessment 101”
- Updating Certification scheme documentation
  i. ARCO Cert Certification Guideline
  ii. Certification Schemes for Agricultural Produce and African Traditional Medicine
- Creating linkages with possible organizations for conformity assessment
- Connecting ARSO registered experts to various projects across the continent
Promoting Education about Standards

- Distribution of EaS materials to Member States requesting
- Currently some universities in Cameroon, DR Congo and Kenya undertaking EaS
- Rwanda has initiated EaS for middle school and high school students linked to the Korean system:
  - In 10th International Standards Olympiad held in Korea from 6th to 7th August 2015, Rwanda won the Silver Medal.
  - The competition involved middle school and high school students from South Korea, Peru, Japan, Indonesia and Rwanda.
Updates on ARSO-COCO

- Updates on Consumer organizations in Africa
- Draft policy guides guided by feedback from Member States on:
  - Child product safety
  - Food safety
  - Guidelines on safety of household appliances
  - Graphical symbols
  - Needs of the elderly and people with disabilities
- Updates on banned products in Member States and international markets:
  - Banned cosmetics e.g., Côte D’Ivoire, Philippines
  - Banned food products, e.g., Maggi Noodles in India
- Explaining effects of toxic cosmetics on human health
- Operating the African Quality Essays among the youth
- Formulating Quality Essay Themes
THC 02, Food and Agriculture Products

- Council took note of **TOOK NOTE of Draft African Standards (DARS)** which were on course for finalization in the next meeting of THC 02 in readiness for approval by the Council in the 53rd Council meeting.

- Council took note of **new work items** to be developed by THC 02 under the AfTra grant. Noted that the new work items included the development of codes for good agricultural practices, outreach materials and training modules for selected food crops.

- The intention of the new work items is to improve the compliance of the products through the value chain.
THC 03, Building and Civil Engineering

- THC 03 focused on harmonizing standards for affordable and sustainable materials and practices for housing. Such materials include: Rammed earth technology; Compressed Earth Blocks; Adobe Blocks; Interlocking Blocks; Clay Roofing Tiles.

- THC 03 presented:
  - A list of draft standards being processed through the THC process;
  - Standards for withdrawal and replacement by the respective ISO/EN standards
  - Harmonization work to start in identified areas with some standards harmonized through notification.
The draft Business Plan of THC 05 identifies areas of priority for harmonization with two elements:

- Review of existing harmonized African Standards

- Harmonization of new standards in key areas such as:
  - Fertilizer’s (organic and inorganic)
  - Petrochemicals, including petroleum based fuels
  - Plastic and rubber goods
  - Soaps and detergents
  - Pigments, paints and dyes
  - Mineral-based solid fuels
THC 07, Leather and Textile Products

- Africa has an overwhelming comparative advantage in the production or raw materials, intermediate and final products. However, the sector suffers from lack of standards to support value addition and final product manufacturing due to the low understanding of the fact that value addition is underpinned by standards and conformity assessment.

- The ARSO Secretariat proposes to approach the harmonization process as follows:
  - Recommendations on review of existing standards
  - New African Standards:

- The Secretariat has noted divergence of opinion regarding standards for second-hand clothing and footwear, hence no standards are proposed for harmonization in this regard.
This THC handles harmonization of standards with a cross-cutting orientation in addition to those which are purely environment-oriented. This is necessitated by the fact that all socio-economic activities derive from the endowments of the environment. The current work is segmented into three elements as follows:

- Umbrella Sustainability Standard
- Sustainable Mining
- Sustainable Tourism

Hence our request for experts should take into account the areas covered.
Umbrella Sustainability Standard

- This is informed by the fact that many standards with varying definitions of sustainability have been applied without useful impact.
- A general bias to environmental matters is observed at the exclusion of institutional, social and economic aspects.
- The standard comes as a two-set standard:
  - CD-ARS-752, Sustainability Standards — Glossary and basic descriptions
  - CD-ARS-753, General Principles and criteria for sustainability
Sustainable Mining

- Sustainability criteria for mining
- Sustainability criteria for artisanal and small-scale mining
- Conformity criteria to sustainable mining
- Draft standard for mineral valuation
- Sustainable mining of radioactive minerals
- Guide for Sustainable Surface Coal Mine Reclamation
- Guidelines for Sustainable Hardrock Mining Reclamation/Closure
- Guidelines for Sustainable Reclamation of Disused Mines
Why Sustainable Mining?

- There is near-absence of any benefits to host communities and disproportionately little benefits to governments in mineral-rich countries
- Association of “resource curse” arises from unsustainable mineral exploitation practices which results in:
  i. Institutional breakdown
  ii. Social evils
  iii. Mineral conflicts
  iv. Conflict minerals
  v. Environmental degradation
  vi. Land degradation
  vii. Economic deprivation
Sustainable Tourism

- Tourism is a principal export for many African countries and a significant source of foreign exchange.
- Tourism is a powerful vehicle for economic growth and job creation all over the world being directly and indirectly responsible for 9.4 percent of the world’s jobs (277 million); 9.8 percent of the world’s GDP (US$7.6 trillion); 5.7 percent of the world’s exports (US$1.4 trillion); and 4.3 percent of the world’s investment (US$814.4 billion).
- The continent is endowed with huge unexploited tourism potential
- Most tourism in Africa can be classified as Animal Tourism disguised as wildlife tourism
Why Sustainable Mining?

- Cultural Tourism: $800 billion - $1.1 trillion
- Medical Tourism: $50-60 billion
- Culinary Tourism: $350-550 billion
- Agri-Tourism: $60-160 billion
- Eco/Sustainable Tourism: $325-480 billion
- Adventure Tourism: $115-150 billion
- Wellness Tourism: $439 billion
  - Spiritual Tourism: $37-47 billion
  - Volunteer Tourism: $10-20 billion
  - Sports Tourism: $250-375 billion
Constraints to Tourism in Africa

- Quality of tourism assets
- Standards of visitor accommodation
- Efficiency and safety of transport to, from, and within the country
- Adequacy of a variety of infrastructure components
- Receptiveness of local populations to tourists
- Skills of the range of officials and employees with whom tourists interact
- Safety and security of the destinations.
Where do Tourists Come From?
THC 12-1, Cosmetology and Wellness

- An underutilized, underestimated and neglected sector of public health, professional and socioeconomic importance
- The sector plays a crucial linking role to increasing tourism arrivals in many destinations
- Overwhelmingly practiced as a low-paying job for unskilled labourers
- Commonly seen as normal “The Roadside Hairstylists”
- Standardization in Support of Mainstreaming and Regulation
Standards Deliverables

i. Practices and Procedures

ii. Product Standards (Indicative List)
   1) Face and Nail Product Standards
   2) Hair care and hairdressing products
   3) Personal Care Products
   4) Perfumes and Fragrances
   5) Skin Care Products
   6) Aromatherapy Products
   7) Spa Products
   8) Reflexology Therapy Products
   9) Massage Therapy Products
   10) Cosmetics

iii. Regulatory Oriented Standards and Guidelines
A request was received by the ARSO Secretariat to facilitate the harmonization of a standard titled: Good Financial Grant Practice. While the originating proposer is the Medical Research Council (MRC) of UK, they propose to channel the facilitation through the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) based in Nairobi, Kenya and with which ARSO has a cordial working relationship.

The proposal seeks to develop a standard for Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP) to provide an internationally recognised set of auditable principles backed by rules and regulations for the management of all financial activities which are supported by accurate reporting capabilities. The standard is to be developed and agreed by a quorum of funders, recipients and is suitable for implementation by grant recipients in Africa and other Low to Middle Income Countries.

MRC through AAS will provide financial and logistical resources for the successful implementation of the project.
THC 13, African Traditional Medicine

The THC continued to generate interest with the membership of 20 Member States and 3 RECs represented.
African Standards Implementation

- Adoption at the national level
- Advocacy for a united and compatible African standardization infrastructure
- Awareness, sensitization and mobilization of target stakeholders through diverse communication tools and strategies and extension approaches
- Implement award and incentive schemes centred on demonstrable application of African Standards by enterprises
- Engage in dialogue with legislators and regulators on the opportunities for effective and efficient legislations and regulations based on standards
- Promote the use of African Standards in conformity assessment schemes across Africa as a tool for mutual recognition
- Promote the use of African Standards in the private sector as acceptable contractual tools and self-regulation across borders
Thank you

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