Welcome to the 24th ARSO General Assembly Events
18th – 22nd June 2018, Hilton Durban, South Africa

Theme: “One Africa One Market - The Role of Standardisation in attaining sustainable Development within the context of Regional Integration”

The 24th ARSO General Assembly events, to be hosted by the Government of the Republic of South Africa, through the South African Bureau of Standards will be held on 18th – 22nd June 2018 at the Hilton Durban, in the South African Coastal City of Durban.
The events will comprise:
1. 58th ARSO Council meeting – 18th June 2018 (ARSO Council members only)
2. ARSO Standardisation Training on Technical Barriers to Trade (Technical Regulations) and the implementation of the AfCFTA – Targeting members' Regulatory Staff - 19th June 2018. (Invited members' Experts only).
3. One day forum for the Africa Day of Standardisation – 20th June 2018 (all invited members and stakeholders)
4. One day Meeting for the 24th ARSO General Assembly – 21st June 2018 (all invited members and stakeholders)
5. Industrial visits and other related social events organised by the Host – 22nd June 2018 (all invited members and stakeholders).

The 24th ARSO General Assembly will come after the 57th ARSO Council events which were hosted by the Government of the Republic of Sudan through THE
Sudanese Standards and Metrology Organisation (SSMO) and where the ARSO members and Stakeholders engaged on round table discussions on the Strategies for ARSO Sustainability within the Strategic Plan 2017 - 2022, a lecture by the Secretary General on “Role of Quality Infrastructure and Standardisation in facilitating Trade and sustainable Development within the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)”.

The ARSO President Dr. Eve Gadzikwa in her official address to the delegates highlighted the importance of ARSO and its standardisation programmes in achieving the Africa's Industrialization Agenda and the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). Dr. Gadzikwa made reference to the celebrations of the 20th November African Industrialization Day, with the 2017 theme being “African Industrial Development: A Pre-Condition for an Effective and Sustainable Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)”, which focused on the industrial challenges faced by Africa, with a special emphasis on industrial development as a foundation for the implementation of the CFTA.

This also happened at a time when the global focus on Africa’s industrialization with the need for the sustainable industrialization in Africa captured by the unanimous adoption of a resolution proclaiming the period 2016-2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa on 25 July 2016 by the United Nations General Assembly and by the initiative by the G20 to include in their Action Plan, support for Industrialization in Africa.
and Least Developed Countries, upon the proposal by the Chinese Presidency in September 2016.

UNECA in its Economic Report of Africa 2015 highlights the importance of such institutions as PAQI (ARSO) in addressing the TBT issues, viz: “stringent standards and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, due to Africa’s lack of quality-assurance and easily accessible standard setting and monitoring bodies, increase costs for African producers, particularly in developed country markets. Given these bodies’ large fixed setting-up costs, the case for a coordinated regional action including strengthening the African Organisation for Standardization (ARSO) and PAQI institutions by extension, is self-evident.”

USAID (2016) warns against underestimating the importance of metrology, accreditation, standards, certification, and quality (MAS-Q) in the development of economic policies as understanding the link between global trade, industrialization MAS-Q and export competitiveness is at the forefront of trade policy. UNIDO (2016, Benard Bau) further highlights that “Setting up a Quality Infrastructure System is one of the most positive and practical steps that a developing nation can take on the path forward to developing a thriving economy as a basis for prosperity, health and well-being.

Experts (UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2011, 2015, Jensen, Has Grinsted and Sandrey, Ron, 2015) have indicated that to benefit from the CFTA, Africa must focus on reducing technical barriers to Trade as major inconsistencies among countries’ and Regions’ (RECs) Standards, technical regulations and Conformity assessment regimes, as a major obstacle for trade, remain, and this can only be underpinned by an effective and better Quality Infrastructure. NTMs, especially the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs - Standards, technical regulations and Conformity assessment regimes) are still prevalent across Africa’s regional groupings, despite positive efforts made in reporting and monitoring mechanisms.

In describing how the International Trade Centre (ITC), a subsidiary of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO), provides technical assistance on global trade to businesses in developing countries, Ms. Arancha González the ITC’s executive director, highlights that “We promote trade by supporting the African Union’s goal to make the continent a free trade …Our key objective is to remove obstacles to trade”, “new obstacles are non-tariffs barriers, such as regulatory constraints, technical regulations and safety standards.” Source: The African Report (http://www.theafricareport.com/North-Africa/african-countries-come-to-the-wto-prepared-arancha-gonzalez.html#ixzz4SiBK6qm2).

The 24th General Assembly is scheduled to take place three months after the signing ceremony of the Framework Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by the AU Head of States during their Extraordinary Summit on 21st March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda. The elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers called for by the CFTA, under an effective Quality Infrastructure initiative offers African countries a great long-term opportunity and greater challenge (political, economic, legal and functional – under the WTO TBT/SPS Agreement) to improve industrial capacity and trade.

Due to their mandate and influence on the establishment of the legal and institutional framework, Quality Infrastructure governance structures in Africa, such as ARSO, NSBs and the PAQI institutions have a decisive influence on how the regional economic integration and the challenges of the TBTs presents a stepping stone or rather a stumbling block towards the liberalization of trade within the CFTA.
The African Day of Standardisation in a historical Context

ARSO initiated, in 2013, the Africa Day of Standardisation celebrated annually among ARSO members and collectively during the ARSO General Assemblies every June. The aim of African day of Standardisation is to raise awareness among African Regulators, Industry, Academia, Consumers and the entire African Citizens on the benefits of standardisation and the related Quality Components to Africa’s Industrialisation, Integration and Economic Transformation and Development.

Like the World Standards Day, ARSO initiated the Africa’s Standards Day to commemorate the birth of ARSO, push for the standardisation and Conformity Assessment Agenda in Africa and to celebrate the milestone of African standardisation as led by ARSO, focusing on the benefits and challenges.

- The 1st Celebrations were initiated in Cameroon in June 2013 under the theme “Celebrating Standardisation as a Strategic Resource to Africa’s economic integration”,
- The 2nd was celebrated under the theme “Standardisation as a driver for improving Africa’s Competitiveness” in Kigali Rwanda on 25th June 2014.
- The 3rd was celebrated collectively in August in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the 21st General Assembly events, and in various countries (Ghana-19 June 2015, Ethiopia – 21st-24th August 2015, Kenya, 17th March 2015 and Nigeria, 25th June 2015, South Africa - May 2015 as well as in Tanzania) under the theme “The role of Standards in promoting sustainable Agriculture and food security in Africa”, focusing on the role of standardisation in development of sustainable Agriculture.
- The 5th celebrations were also done in various countries (Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe) under the theme “the Role of Standardisation in Facilitating Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women”, and collectively in Burkina Faso on 28th June 2017.
- The 6th (current) celebrations are being organised under the theme “Role of Quality Infrastructure and Standardisation in facilitating Trade and sustainable Development within
the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). Kenya will be having its celebrations on 10th May 2018, in Kisumu, Kenya, with the continental celebrations scheduled for 20th June 2018 during the 24th ARSO General Assembly events in Durban, South Africa.

The general objective of the celebrations is to raise awareness on the Importance of Quality Infrastructure in facilitating National sustainable Economic Development and in the achievement of Africa’s industrialisation, integration and economic development as well as the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area. The Specific Objectives for the celebration include:

(i) Creating awareness among the Government officials, policy makers and the general citizens on Quality Infrastructure with regards to the promotion of Globalisation, regional Integration and the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)

(ii) Sensitizing the Government of their role in the Establishment and maintenance of effective National and regional Quality Infrastructure Components

(iii) Promote the need for National Quality Infrastructure with regards to Interests and priorities

(iv) Sensitising Governments and policy makers on potential areas for regional approaches to improve quality infrastructure and promote intra-African and cross border trade

(v) Draw the attention of Governments and policy makers on the respective challenges face the Quality Infrastructure institutions in developing countries and highlight the strategies for remedial actions

(vi) Sensitizing the Governments and policy makers on the need to include budgetary allocations in the National budgets and the Projects with the Development partners.

(vii) Create awareness among the NSBs in Africa on the need for structured cooperation to promote Quality Infrastructure in their respective countries.

(viii) Bring to the attention of the National, Regional and Continental Parliaments on the need for the policy decisions for promoting Quality Infrastructure in Africa

(ix) Sensitisation of NSBs and the associated Quality Infrastructure Institutions on the need for cooperation both at the National, Regional, Continental and International levels.

(x) Promotion of African Products

Made in Africa Expo and relevance of manufacturing in Africa

2nd ARSO PRESIDENT FORUM and MADE IN AFRICA CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2017 1 - 4 March 2017, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.
MADE IN AFRICA AS A PILLAR FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC, INTEGRATION, INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRANSFORMATION AGENDA.

The Made in Africa Expo under the African Day of Standardisation is therefore meant to create more awareness on the role of Manufacturing in Africa and the need to promote the quality of the African products for competitiveness through standardisation and effective Quality in Infrastructure. The Expo highlights are on the benefits of standardisation on ensuring increased manufacturing and trade through Quality, safe and competitive goods and service to facilitate intra-Africa trade and global market access.
With a cheap workforce, allied with an abundance of raw materials and low-cost agricultural products, many experts (Mr. Alexis Akwagyiram, in an article, *Made in Africa: Is manufacturing taking off on the continent?* BBC Africa (2014)) argue that Africa has the potential to become the world’s low-cost manufacturing hub and that many African countries are well placed to replace south-east Asia as the most attractive, and cost-effective, region in which to create goods. This despite the fact that Africa only commands a meagre 1.5% share of the world’s total manufacturing output (against 24.7% for Europe, 21.7% share for the Asia Pacific region, 17.2% for East Asia and North America’s 22.4% share, 5.8% Latin America) with strong indication that the current trend is likely to continue through 2015 and beyond. This is (UNIDO 2013). In many African countries, a relatively small manufacturing sector reduces the potential for participation in Global trade and regional value chains and provides additional incentives for specialization in primary sectors and. Experts (Mr. Alexis Akwagyiram, 2014) already fear that a failure to develop manufacturing could prove to be costly as the continent continues to be filled with goods from different regions “*Made in China*, *Taiwan*, *Vietnam*, unlike - "*Made in Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Ethiopia…etc.*. In addition, the region’s manufacturing sector is dominated mostly by small and informal (and thus less productive) firms with weak technological capabilities and embedded in fragmented learning and innovation systems. The labour-intensive sectors (for example, textiles, and apparel and leather products) play a rather limited role both in terms of domestic manufacturing production as well as exports (McMillan and Harttgen, 2014).

Lawrence Mbae (2014) in his article: *Industrialization in Africa: Can the continent make it?* feels strongly that without strong industries to create jobs and add value to raw materials, African countries risk remaining shackled by joblessness and poverty. Johan Aurik (2016) asserts that Africa’s future rests in manufacturing. This is in supported by Margaret McMillan et al (2014) assertion that Development entails structural change as the countries that manage to pull out of poverty and get richer are those that are able to diversify away from agriculture and other traditional products, through manufacturing. UNCTAD (*Policy Brief, No. 27, August 2013*) confirms that virtually all cases of high, rapid and sustained economic growth in modern economic development have been associated with industrialization, particularly growth in manufacturing production, for which Quality Infrastructure is an integral part. Dani Rodrik (2014) confirms this and restates that Industry was key to the explosive and continued growth in Asia and Europe, and without concentration on or support of the manufacturing sector, African economies are not likely to replicate those convergence dynamics.

Law manufacturing in Africa affects intra-African trade and scholars point out that intra-African trade cannot be resolved quickly unless the continent Transforms its production systems and improves its industrial and manufacturing capacity. It is important that Africa’s key stakeholders and policy bodies (UNECA, African Union and Fdb) are aware of this and the role of manufacturing is sustained growth of the Continent. UNECA asserts that structural transformation and integration in Africa’s economies remains the highest priority and industrialization and manufacturing is the top strategy for achieving it in practice (Economic Report on Africa 2016, UN 2016) as the African Union calls on the African institutions to give priority to structural transformation, an overarching objective of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 that calls for the promotion of macro-economic policies that facilitate growth, employment creation, investments, manufacturing and industrialisation (AU, Agenda 2063). The African Development Bank’s Strategy
for 2013–2022 reflects the aspirations of the entire African continent and it is on economic transformation focusing on infrastructure development, regional economic integration, private sector development, governance and accountability, skills and technology. The Bank also recognises the potential of Agriculture in facilitating Africa’s manufacturing and industrialisation in its Feed Africa Strategy for agricultural transformation in Africa 2016–2025.

This year’s event is expected to run from 18th – 22nd June 2018 with South African Manufactures, SMEs, farmers and Traders participating in the Expo. The exhibitors will be given the opportunity during an ARSO Workshop to highlight their experiences and challenges with standardisation and conformity assessment issues in attempt to make their products competitive and accessible to other markets. Best Exhibitors, with good standardisation and quality Management practices and application, will be recognised and warded.

The ARSO Continental Standardisation Essay Competition

With almost 200 million people aged between 15 and 24, Africa has the youngest population in the world. And it keeps growing rapidly. The number of young people in Africa will double by 2045. Between 2000 and 2008, Africa’s working age population (15-64 years) grew from 443 million to 550 million; an increase of 25%. In annual terms this is a growth of 13 million, or 2.7% per year (World Bank 2011a). If this trend continues, the continent’s labour force will be 1 billion strong by 2040, making it the largest in the world, surpassing both China and India (McKinsey Global Institute, 2010). According to the World Bank, Africa’s youth population is not only growing rapidly, it is also getting better educated. Based on current trends, 59% of 20-24 year olds will have had secondary education in 2030, compared to 42% today. This will translate into 137 million 20-24 year olds with secondary
education and 12 million with tertiary education in 2030 (Figure 6.1). Although significant quality gaps remain, these trends offer an unrivalled opportunity for economic and social development if the talents of this swiftly increasing reservoir of human capital are harnessed and channelled towards the productive sectors of the economy. Without urgent action to modernise their economies, African countries risk wasting the tremendous potential offered by their youth. In a paper titled “The Economics of the Arab Spring” Malik and Awadallah (2011) point to the “singular failure” of the Arab world to develop a private sector that is independent, competitive and integrated into global markets. In full realization of this fact, the African Head of States in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2009 declared 2009–18 the “African Youth Decade” and resolved to mobilize resources, including from the private sector for youth development. In 2014 the African Union Commission underscored that, at 60% of the continent’s 1.03 billion population, those under the age of 35 constitute a valuable resource. If equipped with the right skills and given the right opportunities, this demographic group could help propel Africa onto a higher growth path. The AU has encouraged for all concerted effort with stakeholders support and action.

The Continental Essay competition was initiated jointly by ARSO and APEX Management Consultants Limited as a programme that empowers the youths and increase the publicity of Standard use in Africa. The programme is meant to enable the Youth (as future leaders, businessmen, policy makers, consumers, Traders, farmers, entrepreneurs) understand the role of Standardisation and Quality infrastructure in the African sustainable development and Integration through facilitating Manufacturing, Industrialisation and Trade, and to inculcate and promote the Quality Culture in Africa.

- The 1st Continental essay competition held in 2013-2014 was under the theme: The role of Standards in promoting sustainable development in Africa”.
- The 2nd Continental essay competition held in 2014-2015 was under the theme: “The role of Standards in promoting sustainable Agriculture and food security in Africa”.
- The 3rd Continental essay competition held in 2015-2016 was under the theme “The role of standards in promoting Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063”.
- The 4th Continental Essay Competition was organised under the theme “Role of Standardisation in Facilitating Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women”.
- The 5th (current) Continental Essay Competition is being organised under the theme “Role of Quality Infrastructure and Standardisation in facilitating Trade and sustainable Development within the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)”.

The competitions are open to all the African Youth below the age of 35 and within the Universities in the ARSO Member States. Members are encouraged to conduct National competitions and award and recognise the national winners. The names of National winners are sent to ARSO for continental competitions and the first 3 winners are recognised and awarded during ARSO General Assembly every in June each year, with the event being scheduled for 21st June 2018 on the day of the 24th ARSO General Assembly.
ARSO Thanks PTB-Germany, Intertek, EU (ACP-EU-TBT Programme), Proctor and Gamble and the IEEE India who have supported the Programme.

Understanding the ARSO Standardisation Training on Harmonisation of Standards with A View to Facilitate Trade in the Continent and the rest of the world – Targeting Regulatory Officials from ARSO members States


The news that, at the AU Head of States Extraordinary Summit on 21st March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda, 44 heads of delegation ratified the landmark African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) treaty, and that, 27 leaders signed the second protocol establishing the African economic Community relating to the free movement of people, the right of residence in the signatory countries and right of establishment, in addition to 43 Heads of delegations signing the third protocol dubbed the "Kigali Declaration" to formally launch the AfCFTA, should truly be best moment for Africa its long search for economic development and deeper integration.
The African leaders termed the creation of AfCFTA the greatest step (clear path to integration) since the formation of the AU. Reuben bat (March 21, 2018) contends and restates "The African Continental Free Trade Agreement is probably the most historic, epoch-making development since the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). It is also probably the biggest trade agreement since the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and a concrete, provable culmination of the goals of African Renaissance and Afro-optimism. The signatory State parties are also expected to progressively liberalise trade in services, co-operate on all trade-related areas and on investment, intellectual property rights and competition policy. When the AfCFTA pact is fully operationalised in the signatory State parties, residents of these nations will enjoy the convenience of a single passport and currency. The AfCFTA binds all State parties to eight objectives including the progressive elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade in goods.

Gerhard Erasmus (TRALAC 2017) agrees that Africa might be entering a new phase in its pursuit to boost intra-African trade and deepen regional integration, but only if the CFTA provides some novel answers to long-standing problems and if only the CFTA can be shaped as a comprehensive legal framework suitable for 21st century challenges including designing a continental scheme to deal with Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs - Standards, technical regulations and Conformity assessment regimes)). Under CFTA, African countries, would be confronted with the main challenge of the need to improve the quality of regulation to remove the NTMs (TBTs) in goods, and to deliver competitive markets, while achieving essential public policy objectives (Farahat, 2015). Private consumers will demand safety and quality assurance and public authorities will continue to scrutinise imported/exported goods for compliance as governments introduce more and more regulatory requirements to address inter-lia health, safety or environmental issues in accordance with the WTO TBT Agreement. (Gerhard Erasmus, 2017).

The elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers called for by the CFTA initiative offers African countries a great long-term opportunity and greater challenge to improve industrial capacity to provide the goods for which regional trade typically increases demand. The need for such tariff and non-tariff dismantling on a continental scale would build on the progress in the TFTA negotiations and other RECs, and as encouraged by UNCTAD (2015) would require complying with the WTO TBT/SPS Agreement, which under Article 2 (Technical Regulations). Article 4, (standards) and article 5 (Conformity Assessment) emphasizes on non-trade-restrictiveness of this measures. Erasmus (2017) argues that, given the fact that all AU members belong to the WTO and are bound by the TBT Agreement and by using the most suitable regulatory techniques, by observing international trade policy commitments, and by analysing carefully the potential consequences of draft product regulations, and by being transparent when adopting such measures, it will be possible for African countries to reduce the impact of TBTs resulting from different regulations, however, the regulatory capacity and technical capability are still major challenges for many while dissemination of information is often either not up to standard or inadequate. Erasmus sees the opportunity within the CFTA, whereby the CFTA could assist African nations in finding suitable local answers and in sharing technical capacity by enhancing transparency with regard to the adoption and implementation of TBT-related measures and disseminate this information to private and public users and stakeholders.

Ramachala (2013) highlights that standards development is a main pillar in the NQI as it provides the reference framework and basis for comparison of products as well as references in mandatory technical regulations. Standards and technical regulations define what can (or cannot) be exchanged, and outline the procedures under which such exchanges are or are not permissible. Technical regulations and standards are neither efficient nor effective if they are not complied with or cannot be effectively enforced. The WTO TBT Agreement requires that the International (harmonised) standards should be used as a basis for preparing technical regulations except
Consultation with all parties affected by the technical regulation is an essential element in the preparation and implementation of technical regulations. There are cases whereby Regulatory Authorities (Regulators) are ignorant of the standardisation processes in their countries and the standards available. Perceptions that Technical Regulations in most African countries are based on different national or regional standards and conformity assessment regimes and are unpredictable are likely to have a negative impact on intra-African Trade. It is suggested that regulatory cooperation between regulators from different Member States and standardisation bodies could also be viewed as an element of Good Regulatory Practice (GRP). This voluntary and "informal" activity, where regulators from different member states exchange information on regulations and conformity assessment procedures, could help to achieve a better understanding of different regulatory systems and avoid unnecessary regulatory differences (through means such as achieving harmonized, equivalent or compatible solutions).

There is need for Promoting Mutual (Harmonised) Development and Improved Dissemination of Standards and Compulsory Specifications. In line with international best practice, transparency in the standards and regulation setting environment leads to improvements in understanding what is regulated and where standards are actually used to meet regulatory objectives. In developing standards, identifying regulatory objectives can ensure that attempts to promote wider harmonisation take account of desired industrialisation objectives. There is also need for leveraging on the benefits of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRMs) where the African countries will recognise one another’s testing and certification requirements as acceptable, without undertaking its own testing or customs inspections to reduce the barriers imposed by differences in technical requirements. The use of MRAs with more trading partners could cement bilateral relations among the African countries and alleviate some of the testing and conformity assessment issues encountered by African traders as MRAs could lead to cost saving in the medium and long term and used to further with South Africa’s priority emerging markets.

It is to be highlighted that due to the absence of a central coordinating system for technical regulations in most of the countries, there appears to be some gaps as well as areas of overlap between national departments in respect of coverage. This suggests that the regulatory system is fragmented, that access to information on existing and proposed technical regulations may be problematic and that the system may be unpredictable and unclear. The major inconsistencies and unpredictable nature among countries’ technical regulations increases the scope for African countries, under the CFTA, to look for opportunities for greater collaboration among countries to share and implement similar technical regulations. Development of national legislations and regulations based on harmonised African standards to achieve a predictable and harmonised continental technical regulatory framework in such sectors such as manufacturing, environment, utilities, trade transactions, health and safety, is the way to go. The ARSO Training targeting the Regulatory Authorities in Africa is meant to highlight the above challenges and develop strategies for mutual cooperation. Already the ARSO Council and Stakeholders have recommended the restructuring of the ARSO Conformity Assessment Committee (ARSO CACO) to include regulatory bodies.
ARSO in a nutshell
ARSO is an intergovernmental Organisation established by the Organization of African Unity (OAU, currently African Union (AU)) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in 1977, with 21 African Governments, including Burkina Faso as founding members. The principal mandate of ARSO is to harmonise African Standards and conformity assessment procedures in order to reduce Technical Barriers to Trade and therefore promote intra-African and international Trade as well as enhance the industrialization of Africa, thus ARSO:

(a) Harmonises national and/or sub-regional standards as African Standards and issues necessary recommendations to member bodies for this purpose;
(b) Initiates and co-ordinates the development of African Standards (ARS) with reference to products which are of peculiar interest to Africa;
(c) Encourages and facilitates adoption of international standards by member bodies;
(d) Promotes and facilitate exchange of experts, information and co-operation in training of personnel in standardisation activities;
(e) Co-ordinates the views of its members at the ISO, IEC, OIML, Codex and other international organisations concerned with standardisation activities;
(f) Creates appropriate bodies in addition to the organs of the organisation for the purposes of fulfilling its objectives.

Currently ARSO has 36 member States (Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, New State of Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Sudan, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe), with Zanzibar as an observer member.

ARSO Organs
General Assembly
The General Assembly composed of the ARSO members is the Supreme organ of ARSO. The General Assembly meets once a year.

The Council
The operations of ARSO is administered, in accordance with the policy laid down by ARSO, by the Council consisting of the President with a minimum of number of six or a maximum of twelve active Member Bodies.

ARSO Central Secretariat
The ARSO Central Secretariat led by the Secretary General is the implementing Organ of ARSO and implements the ARSO Programmes, activities and the decisions of the Council and the General Assembly.

Officials
i) President - Dr. Eve Gadzikwa
ii) Vice-President - Tunisia, Mrs. Amel BEN FARHAT
iii) **Treasurer** - Burkina Faso, Issaka ZOUNGRAMA
iv) **Secretary General** - Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana.

### Focussing on 2017-2022 ARSO Strategic Framework

The 23rd ARSO General Assembly is being held with a greater focus on the ARSO beyond 2017 under the ARSO Strategic Framework 2017-2022 in which ARSO in its programmes aspires to:

1. **Facilitate the implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area and Integration**
2. **Facilitate Africa’s industrialisation and Integration**
3. **Strengthen Quality Infrastructure in Africa through the PAQI Forum and cooperation with RECs.**
4. **Increased Harmonisation and implementation of African Standards and relevant international standards.**
5. **Strengthen the Conformity Assessment to serve the interest of African industries, farmers, producers and consumers.**

### Expected Outcome of the 24th General Assembly events

Development of strategies for the implementation of the ARSO Programmes under the ARSO Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022 addressing policy issues on Standardisation in Africa.

- Identified Programmes and Strategies for the implementation of the African Standardisation Agenda for the wider African Integration and the CFTA implementation of the CFTA, especially challenges of TBTs.
- Increase cooperation among the African NSBs Awareness Creation among ARSO members, South African Policy makers and citizens, Trades and SMEs Industry Players, on the role standardisation in sustainable development.
- Approved themes for the ARSO 2018-2019 Events (Africa Day of Standardisation and Essay Competition)
- Understanding the benefit of standardisation and the related activities in economic development of Africa
- Strengthen strategic relationship between ARSO members and the Stakeholders.
- Involvement of the African Regulatory Bodies and Officials in the Standardisation Activities, given the inter relations between Standards and Technical Regulations.

Above: ARSO Secretary General, addressing delegates at the Made in Africa Expo, Victoria Falls Zimbabwe.
Durban is a very important tourist centre because of its warm subtropical climate and excellent sandy beaches. Located in the state of KwaZulu-Natal, it is also the gateway to several national parks and historic sites in Zululand and the Drakensberg Mountains. Durban is an ethnically diverse city with a cultural richness. It has a large number of people
of British, Indian and Asian descent. Spread out over more than 170 stalls, the vendors here offer a range of both African and Oriental products.

PARTNERSHIPS
ARSO PICTORIALS

EMA Stakeholders at the meeting on 27th February 2018, Nairobi, Kenya.

ARSO Technical Director, Mr. Reuben Gisore addressing the delegates at the EMA Stakeholders at the meeting on 27th February 2018, Nairobi, Kenya.

ARSO President addressing delegates at the EMA Stakeholders at the meeting on 27th February 2018, Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr. Charles Gachahi, standing, leading discussions at the EMA Stakeholders meeting on 27th February 2018, Nairobi, Kenya.

ARSO THC 02 Chairman, Prof. Henry Laswai present a certificate to the ARSO THC 02 Expert - 26th February – 2nd March 2018.

ARSO Technical Director, Mr. Reuben Gisore with the Experts during the ARSO THC 02 meeting on 26th February – 2nd March 2018.
Kenyan Trainees at the EMA Capacity building Training at the Kenya School of Law, Nairobi, Kenya, 12th – 14th March 2018.

Ms. Teresa J. Cendrowska, ASTM Int. Vice President, Global Cooperation, discusses with the ARSO Secretary General and the ARSO Technical Director at the ARSO Central Secretariat, Nairobi, Kenya on 16th March 2018.

ARSO CACO Chair, Ms. Caroline Outa, assisted by Mr. Paul Oima, ARSO (EMA) Marketing Officer, presenting a certificate to a Trainee of the EMA Capacity building Training at the Kenya School of Law, Nairobi, Kenya, 12th – 14th March 2018.

Ms Nadine Umutoni, ARSO Project Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator (left), presides over the issuance of certificates to the Rwandan Trainees at the EMA Capacity building Training at Cari Hotel, in Kigali, Rwanda on 6th – 8th March 2018.

Trainees at the EMA Capacity building Training at Cari Hotel, in Kigali, Rwanda on 6th – 8th March 2018.

Mr. Charles Gachahi, EMA Coordinator (left), presides over the issuance of certificates to the Rwandan Trainees at the EMA Capacity building Training at Cari Hotel, in Kigali, Rwanda on 6th – 8th March 2018.
The Cameroon Trainees at the EMA Capacity building Training in Yaoundé Cameroon on 19th – 20th March 2018.

The Sudanese Private Sector at the ARSO Membership and Sustainability Workshop during the 57th Council meeting, Khartoum, Sudan.

Mr. Mensan Lawson-Hechelli, of ECOWAS, addressing the delegates at the ARSO Membership and Sustainability Workshop during the 57th Council meeting, Khartoum, Sudan.

Sudanese Private Sector at the ARSO Membership and Sustainability Workshop during the 57th Council meeting, Khartoum, Sudan.
57th ARSO Council delegates on an industrial tour of Dairy Processing Company in Khartoum, Sudan.

The 57th ARSO Council delegates on an industrial tour of the Sudanese Traditional Food Expo in Khartoum, Sudan.

The 57th ARSO Council delegates on an industrial tour of the Sudanese Traditional Food Expo in Khartoum, Sudan.

ARSO Outreach Material for Papaya

ARSO Outreach Material for Avocado

ARSO Outreach Material for Pineapple.
Ms. Lily Sommer of UNECA, TOGETHER WITH Dr. Ben Manyindo, UNBS/Uganda and Dr. Karama of ABNORM follow proceedings at the ARSO Membership mobilization and Sustainability Session at the 57th Council meeting in Khartoum, Sudan on 22nd Nov. 2017.

Council delegates at the ARSO Membership mobilization and Sustainability Session at the 57th Council meeting in Khartoum, Sudan on 22nd Nov. 2017.

The ARSO President receives a gift from the Sudanese Private Sector representative ARSO-Sudan Private Consultative meeting during the 57th Council meeting in Khartoum, Sudan on 23rd Nov. 2017.