ARSO GA
Workshop on Standardization

Break-out session on harmonization of standards
(in support of regional integration and the free movement of goods)

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The starting point

**Assumption:**

Technical harmonization requires an integrated approach to the harmonization of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures.
Major challenges

Focusing on harmonization of standards for Africa we can identify (at least) three major challenges:

1) Pan-African harmonization and harmonization by the RECS: How can duplication, overlap and potential contradictions be reduced and ultimately avoided?

2) Using (harmonized) standards as a basis for (harmonized) technical regulations

3) Ensuring the national implementation of harmonized standards
Harmonization of standards for Africa

- There exists a mechanism for cooperation and coordination of the technical work by ARSO and the RECs

- ARSO stakeholders and the Council have formulated a “sustainability recommendation” concerning this mechanism:

  “the council and stakeholders recommend that ARSO secretariat and RECs develop a road map of the implementation of the “guideline in implementation of ARSO-RECs MoUs” signed on 24th April 2016 in order to increase the adoption and implementation of ARS standards within RECs and ARSO member”

- Question: What else can be done to synchronize the work done by ARSO and the RECs?
Standards as a basis for technical regulations

- The three basic methods for using standards in support of technical legislation are:
  - Incorporation (Copy and paste)
  - Direct reference to standards
  - Indirect reference to standards (reference to a managed and controlled list of standards)

- Currently, across African nations, especially the first two methods are being used, in many variants

- Assumption: African technical harmonization requires an agreed policy on how (harmonized) standards are used in support of (harmonized) legislation

- **Question:** What could that policy look like?
National implementation of ARS

- In general, the level of national implementation of ARS as national standards is low. Even countries/NSBs that have actively participated in the formulation of the ARS often do not adopt it as a national standard. ARSO Council has issued the following sustainability recommendation:

  • “Whereas the ARSO members should have automatically adopted the standards they participated in their development, the council and stakeholders recommend a deliberate decision to be taken by the CEOs leadership starting by ARSO council members to assess all published ARS standards (ARSO standards catalogue) for adoption in their respective countries”

- **Question:** What else can and needs to be done?