



Report to WTO TBT Committee

June 2018

IEC activities in developing and industrializing countries

March 2018 – June 2018

This report to the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee highlights the activities of the IEC, its Members, Affiliates and Regional Centres related to increasing the participation of developing and industrializing countries in IEC International Standardization and Conformity Assessment activities.

IEC Regional Centre activities

IEC Africa Regional Centre

The IEC Africa Regional Centre (IEC-AFRC), located in Nairobi, Kenya, is the focal point for the IEC in Africa, helping to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, and enhance participation and membership of countries in the region.

From 12-16 March, IEC-AFRC participated in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) TBT Cooperation Structures Annual Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. IEC-AFRC Director made a presentation aimed to update the participants on IEC activities in the SADC region. The presentation highlighted the mission of the regional centre, its activities and results, the national situation of SADC member states in IEC work and made some recommendations regarding full participation in IEC work and the use of its Conformity Assessment Systems. The meeting also allowed IEC-AFRC Director to get in touch with representatives from different countries in the region (Angola, Botswana, DRC, Eswatini, Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

From 27-28 March, IEC-AFRC attended the Power and Electricity World Africa 2018 Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. The exhibition was attended by over 8 000 attendees, 350 exhibitors, 300 speakers and 40 African Countries, and showcased the latest opportunities, trends and innovative technologies in the power sector. IEC-AFRC Director participated in the solar and storage workshops, moderated the round table discussion on "International Standards and their importance", and was interviewed by Power TV about the importance of International Standards.

From 23-27 April, IEC-AFRC attended the 7th Standards Management Committee (SMC) and 21st East African Standards

Committee (EASC) Meeting of the East African Community (EAC), in Arusha, Tanzania. The meeting gathered representatives of all EAC partner states, except South Sudan. It discussed issues around the regional quality infrastructure. The participation of IEC-AFRC allowed IEC to update participants of the SMC, the EASC and the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) on IEC activities. It also gave opportunity to have side meetings with some countries of the region. Resolutions were taken by the meeting to reinforce the collaboration with IEC within the region.

From 30 April to 4 May, IEC-AFRC participated in FISUEL General Annual Meeting and Symposium in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. FISUEL is the International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users. Its meetings were attended by representatives of FISUEL active members, partners and observers. For two days, the symposium delivered more than 45 presentations from different organizations and countries. IEC-AFRC Director updated the participants on the IEC and IEC-AFRC activities. He highlighted the importance of IEC International Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems in relation with the safety of electrical installations and the national development. He also presented the importance of IEC national committees (NCs) and IEC national electrotechnical committees (NECs) as national fora to participate actively in IEC work. More than 500 persons participated in the symposium. IEC-AFRC also participated in the African regional working group meeting. IEC-AFRC Director took the opportunity of these meetings to discuss with representatives of Benin, Cameroon, Mali, Senegal, and Togo on national issues regarding their participation in IEC work.

From 15-17 May, IEC-AFRC attended the African Utility Week (AUW) in Cape Town, South Africa, an annual conference and trade exhibition that provides the largest gathering of energy and water professionals focused on all aspects of the provision of energy services to the African market. The purpose of the event is to fulfil the needs of various stakeholders through the provision of a professionally organized gathering where attendees can source solution, generate business and connect with existing and new energy markets. The focus of this year's conference

was on the subject of “Building a skilled and dynamic workforce” and “Innovative approaches to problem solving”. This year the conference brought together over 7 500 attendees including decision makers, showcased over 300 exhibitors, thousands of products and the latest technology solutions from all over the world.

IEC Asia-Pacific Regional Centre

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The IEC Asia-Pacific Regional Centre (IEC-APRC), located in Singapore, has a twofold mission: to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems as well as enhance participation of all countries in the region in the IEC work; and to provide additional staff support to IEC Technical Committees and Subcommittees in the same way the IEC Central Office does at present.

On 8 May, the IEC, together with ISO and with support from Standards Australia, jointly organized an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional workshop on adoption of International Standards in Singapore to assist countries in Southeast Asia have a deeper understanding of ISO/IEC Guide 21. The objective was to help facilitate adoption of International Standards by these countries to support regional harmonization efforts. The workshop which focused on the practical application of the ISO/IEC Guide 21, was attended by about 40 participants from 11 countries.

On 10 May, IEC-APRC participated at the ACCSQ (ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality) WG 1 meeting on Standards in Singapore. IEC-APRC Director presented on latest developments at the IEC and also on how IEC International Standards are supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly on energy and renewable energy; poverty and hunger; health; water and sanitation; and sustainable cities and communities. There was also interest from the WG on standards relating to smart manufacturing, cyber security and data protection.

From 14-17 May, IEC-APRC participated in the Pacific Area Standards Congress Annual General Meeting (PASC AGM) and workshop in Okayama, Japan. PASC members from 19 economies participated at the 2018 AGM, which had the theme of “Standards for human centered society – How can standards support our sustainable and inclusive society?”. Aside from updating on the IEC Masterplan implementation and recent activities at the AGM, IEC-APRC shared about how IEC International Standards are supporting the UN SDGs at the workshop, which had the same theme on supporting sustainable and inclusive society.

IEC Latin America Regional Centre

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The IEC Latin America Regional Centre (IEC-LARC), located in São Paulo, Brazil, is the focal point for the IEC in Latin America, helping to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, and enhance participation and membership of countries in the region.

From 21-22 February, IEC-LARC participated in the CANENA annual meeting which took place in Chicago, USA. CANENA, the Council for Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards of the Nations in the Americas, develops the electrical standards harmonization focusing in the trade between its members and abroad. This year the main subject for discussion was the difficulties and challenges for the re-negotiation of multilateral trade agreements.

From 20-21 March, the IEC President and IEC-LARC Director were in Mexico City for discussions with industries and government authorities on how to enhance the Mexican participation in IEC activities. There were also joint meetings with the Mesoamerica Energy Efficiency Group with delegates from Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI). IEC highlighted how delegates can participate as IEC Affiliates.

From 15-18 April, the IEC President and IEC-LARC Director participated in the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) general assembly held in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Discussions arose on the IEC Mentoring Programme, and how IEC Affiliates and Members can be involved helping developing economies to participate in the IEC activities. Another important discussion arose on the topic of public policies for energy efficiency, energy management and renewable energy. Conclusions considering the panellists experience include:

- The importance of government and industry joint work
- The standards establish the method and the authorities the limits
- The importance of the collaboration between countries and regions
- Economic incentives for replacement of more efficient equipment
- The lack of an energy efficiency policy may allow the marketing of inefficient products that are not allowed in other countries or regions

IEC Affiliate Country Programme

The IEC Affiliate Country Programme is aimed at developing countries that do not yet have the necessary infrastructure and technical expertise to participate in IEC activities as a Member. Participants join the Programme free of charge on invitation by the IEC General Secretary and CEO.

Côte D'Ivoire becomes an Associate Member of the IEC

After having joined the IEC Affiliate Country Programme in 2003, Côte D'Ivoire became an IEC Associate Member in March 2018. Côte D'Ivoire fully benefited from the Programme by ordering over 350 free IEC publications, adopting and declaring over 340 IEC International Standards, engaging in the IEC Affiliate Conformity Assessment Status (ACAS), and also benefiting from the IEC Mentoring Programme with a partnership with France.

Sao Tome and Principe joins the IEC as an Affiliate Country

After an invitation sent to Sao Tome and Principe to become part of the IEC Affiliate Country Programme, the National Service of Intellectual Property and Quality of Sao Tome and Principe (SENAPIQ-STP) expressed their interest in the IEC activities in January 2017. With a follow up by the IEC-AFRC, Sao Tome and Principe's commitment to the Programme became official with a Pledge signed in March 2018.

→ There are now 86 IEC Affiliate Countries, and 85 IEC Members.

Update on participation

In May 2018, Niger started to benefit from the IEC Affiliate Country Programme by ordering its first batch of free IEC publications. The selection of IEC International Standards selected by Niger are varied and come from 19 IEC Technical Committees.

With a previously established national electrotechnical committee (NEC) and having declared a total of 150 national adoptions of IEC International Standards, Cameroon met the criteria to be granted the IEC Affiliate Plus Status. Out of the 86 developing countries that participate free of charge in the IEC Affiliate Country Programme, 31 countries have now been granted the Affiliate Plus Status.

Over 7 300 national adoptions of IEC International Standards have already been declared under the terms of the IEC Affiliate Country Programme, and the trend continues. A new country has taken the step to declare their first national adoption of IEC International

standards: Jamaica. Other countries have continued their adoption process: Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Rwanda, Togo, and Uganda.

IEC Conformity Assessment activities

IEC Affiliate Conformity Assessment Status ACAS

As part of its commitment to involve developing countries in all aspects of IEC work, including Conformity Assessment Systems, the IEC is pleased to report that, since our last report, seven Affiliate Countries have signed the ACAS Pledge: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Guinea, Mauritius, Saint Lucia, Togo, and Uganda. This will allow users in these countries to benefit from capacity building resources in the field of IEC Conformity Assessment, including access to the ACAS e-Learning course.

ACAS events

IEC ACAS-SARSO regional event – Colombo, Sri Lanka, 19-20 June 2018

The IEC, in collaboration with the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO), will be organizing an IEC ACAS regional event in Colombo, Sri Lanka, back to back with the 3rd meeting of Sectoral Technical Committee (STC) on Electrical, Electronics, Telecom and IT. This event will be an opportunity to give support on a national and regional level, for the development of quality infrastructure based on IEC International Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems. International delegates from the SARSO region will be in attendance, in addition to the Sri Lankan participants.

Regional collaboration

IEC-ECOWAS collaboration pledge

In February 2018, a collaboration pledge was signed between the IEC Affiliate Country Programme and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The ECOWAS Technical Management Committee (TMC) and the IEC Africa Regional Centre (IEC-AFREC) will work together to promote the participation of ECOWAS members in the activities of the IEC.

IEC-SADCSTAN collaboration pledge

In March 2018, a collaboration pledge was signed between the IEC Affiliate Country Programme and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Cooperation in Standardization (SADCSTAN). SADCSTAN and the IEC-AFREC will work together to encourage the participation of SADC member states in conformity assessment events in the SADC region, organized jointly by IEC and the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC). They will also collaborate to encourage those SADC members states who are IEC Affiliates to participate actively in the Affiliate Country Programme.

IEC-CROSQ memorandum of understanding

In May 2018, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the IEC and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ). Members of CROSQ are IEC Affiliate Countries.

The scope of the MoU is:

- to exchange information on standardization and promote communication between CROSQ and the IEC,
- to encourage the use of IEC International Standards by way of national adoption,
- to allow the endorsement and identification of IEC International Standards as CARICOM Regional Standards (CRS),
- to facilitate the use of IEC Conformity Assessment Systems through the Affiliate Conformity Assessment Status (ACAS)
- to enhance the participation in the IEC Affiliate Country Programme of CROSQ members,
- to work together to efficiently and effectively organize and implement the IEC Mentoring Programme for Affiliate Countries where necessary.

IEC webinar

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To further improve services towards IEC Members and Affiliates alike, the IEC is offering regular webinars and training workshops on a wide range of IEC aspects. These webinars and training workshops are open to all participants. The programme for the year, as well as past events can be viewed on the following link:
<http://www.iec.ch/academy>

Useful brochures/flyers

The IEC and the Sustainable Development Goals

Often behind-the-scenes but nevertheless crucial, the work of the IEC directly impacts 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN. The brochure *The IEC and the Sustainable Development Goals* provides a summary, goal-by-goal, of how IEC International Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems are making a difference. (English only)



Welcome to the IEC

A useful flyer to help communicate about IEC. It gives a basic overview of IEC structure, work and partnerships. Do not hesitate to download or ask for hard copies.



Secrets of effective participation

The aim of this pocket guide is to give you general pointers that can accelerate your learning curve and hopefully increase the efficiency of your participation.



IEC Affiliate Mentoring: a gateway to new markets

The purpose of IEC Affiliate Mentoring is to enhance participation at all levels (standards development, management, conformity assessment) by encouraging National Committees to share their expertise with developing countries who participate in the IEC Affiliate Country Programme.



About the IEC

The IEC, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is the world's leading publisher of International Standards for electrical and electronic technologies. It is a global, independent, not-for-profit, membership organization (funded by membership fees and sales). The IEC includes 171 countries that represent 99% of world population and energy generation.

The IEC provides a worldwide, neutral and independent platform where 20 000 experts from the private and public sectors cooperate to develop state-of-the-art, globally relevant IEC International Standards. These form the basis for testing and certification, and support economic development, protecting people and the environment.

IEC work impacts around 20% of global trade (in value) and looks at aspects such as safety, interoperability, performance and other essential requirements for a vast range of technology areas, including energy, manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, homes, buildings or cities.

The IEC administers four Conformity Assessment Systems and provides a standardized approach to the testing and certification of components, products, systems, as well as the competence of persons.

IEC work is essential for safety, quality and risk management. It helps make cities smarter, supports universal energy access and improves energy efficiency of devices and systems. It allows industry to consistently build better products, helps governments ensure long-term viability of infrastructure investments and reassures investors and insurers.



A global network of 171 countries that covers 99% of world population and electricity generation



Offers an Affiliate Country Programme to encourage developing countries to participate in IEC work free of charge



Develops International Standards and runs four Conformity Assessment Systems to verify that electronic and electrical products work safely and as they are intended to



IEC International Standards represent a global consensus of state-of-the-art know-how and expertise



A not-for-profit organization enabling global trade and universal electricity access



Key figures

85

National committees with full members (62) and associate members (23)

86

Affiliates with adoption (52), with NEC (57)

203

Technical committees (104) and subcommittees (99)

20 000

Experts from industry, test and re-search labs, government, academia and consumer groups

10 163

International Standards in catalogue (as per 2017-12-31)

4

Global Conformity Assessment Systems

>1 million

Conformity Assessment certificates issued

Annex A

85 IEC National Committees (as per 2018-06-12)

Albania	Associate member	Kuwait	Full member
Algeria	Full member	Latvia	Associate member
Argentina	Full member	Lithuania	Associate member
Australia	Full member	Luxembourg	Full member
Austria	Full member	Malaysia	Full member
Bahrain	Associate member	Malta	Associate member
Belarus	Full member	Mexico	Full member
Belgium	Full member	Moldova	Associate member
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Associate member	Montenegro	Associate member
Brazil	Full member	Morocco	Associate member
Bulgaria	Full member	Netherlands	Full member
Canada	Full member	New Zealand	Full member
Chile	Full member	Nigeria	Full member
China	Full member	Norway	Full member
Colombia	Full member	Oman	Full member
Côte D'Ivoire	Associate member	Pakistan	Full member
Croatia	Full member	Peru	Full member
Cuba	Associate member	Philippines, Rep. of the	Full member
Cyprus	Associate member	Poland	Full member
Czech Republic	Full member	Portugal	Full member
Denmark	Full member	Qatar	Full member
Egypt	Full member	Romania	Full member
Estonia	Associate member	Russian Federation	Full member
Finland	Full member	Saudi Arabia	Full member
France	Full member	Serbia	Full member
Georgia	Associate member	Singapore	Full member
Germany	Full member	Slovakia	Full member
Greece	Full member	Slovenia	Full member
Hungary	Full member	South Africa	Full member
Iceland	Associate member	Spain	Full member
India	Full member	Sri Lanka	Associate member
Indonesia	Full member	Sweden	Full member
Iraq	Full member	Switzerland	Full member
Iran	Full member	Thailand	Full member
Ireland	Full member	The Former Yugoslav	
Israel	Full member	Rep. of Macedonia	Associate member
Italy	Full member	Tunisia	Associate member
Japan	Full member	Turkey	Full member
Jordan	Associate member	Ukraine	Full member
Kazakhstan	Associate member	United Arab Emirates	Full member
Kenya	Associate member	United Kingdom	Full member
Korea, DPR of	Associate member	United States of America	Full member
Korea, Republic of	Full member	Vietnam	Associate member

Annex B

86 IEC Affiliates (as per 2018-06-12)

Afghanistan	January 2007	Jamaica	October 2001
Angola	July 2002	Kyrgyzstan	December 2003
Antigua and Barbuda	May 2002	Lao PDR	June 2002
Armenia	October 2001	Lebanon	October 2001
Azerbaijan	June 2011	Lesotho	July 2005
Bahamas	July 2012	Liberia	November 2016
Bangladesh	October 2001	Madagascar	April 2005
Barbados	October 2001	Malawi	October 2001
Belize	April 2002	Mali	October 2001
Benin	October 2001	Mauritania	June 2002
Bhutan	July 2006	Mauritius	October 2001
Bolivia	August 2001	Mongolia	January 2002
Botswana	October 2001	Mozambique	March 2003
Brunei Darussalam	October 2001	Myanmar	November 2007
Burkina Faso	October 2001	Namibia	October 2001
Burundi	April 2002	Nepal	October 2001
Cabo Verde	January 2017	Niger	October 2006
Cambodia	October 2001	Palestine	April 2009
Cameroon	March 2005	Panama	April 2003
Central African Republic	April 2008	Papua New Guinea	June 2004
Chad	May 2008	Paraguay	December 2001
Comoros	October 2001	Rwanda	October 2001
Congo	May 2008	Saint Kitts and Nevis	September 2013
Congo (Dem. Rep. of)	October 2001	Saint Lucia	April 2002
Costa Rica	October 2001	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	February 2008
Côte D'Ivoire	September 2003	Senegal	April 2002
Dominica	May 2002	Seychelles	November 2001
Dominican Republic	August 2005	Sierra Leone	March 2003
Ecuador	April 2003	South Sudan	April 2013
El Salvador	February 2008	Sudan	April 2004
Eritrea	October 2001	Suriname	November 2008
Ethiopia	June 2002	Syrian Arab Republic	July 2016
Eswatini	October 2007	Tanzania	October 2001
Fiji	November 2001	Togo	April 2006
Gabon	February 2007	Trinidad and Tobago	January 2007
Gambia	March 2008	Turkmenistan	December 2001
Ghana	October 2001	Uganda	October 2001
Grenada	October 2001	Uruguay	October 2001
Guatemala	October 2001	Uzbekistan	October 2015
Guinea	January 2007	Yemen	April 2002
Guinea Bissau	November 2006	Zambia	March 2002
Guyana	October 2001	Zimbabwe	October 2001
Haiti	May 2002		
Honduras	August 2007		



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