



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.6/2003/9
27 August 2003

ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY
AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Technical Harmonization
and Standardization Policies

Thirteenth session, 10-12 November 2003

Item 8 (d) of the provisional agenda

Environmental Management Standards

Summary of the main results of
the Eleventh Annual Meeting of ISO/TC 207

The present document is circulated to provide information to delegates on the recent activities of ISO Technical Committee 270 "Environmental Management". It has been prepared on the basis of information provided by Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Secretary to ISO TC 207, who is also contributing to Working Party activities as a Rapporteur on Quality.

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1. **ISO/TC 207** held its 11th plenary meetings in Bali, Indonesia from 30 June to 6 July 2003. Some 300 participants representing Member bodies from 44 countries as well as several Liaison Organizations participated in the meetings.

2. The 11th Plenary meeting of ISO/TC 207 addressed issues that relate to the future of ISO/TC 207. The plenary approved 30 resolutions, including:

- Supporting the ongoing work of ISO/TC 207's Subcommittees (SCs) and Working Groups (WGs);
- Establishing several new Task Forces (TFs) to help implement the ISO/TC 207 Vision and Mandate, including:
 - Plenary Funding Task Force (PFTF) with a mandate to:
 - Identify various funding types and sources;
 - Develop plenary meeting funding mechanisms; and
 - Provide recommendations on how to make the plenaries less costly.
 - NGO Task Group (NGO-TG) with a mandate to:
 - Review the NGO TF Report ISO/TC 207 N590 recommendations and provide recommendations to the CAG.
 - Arabic Translation Task Force (ATTF) with a mandate to:
 - Review, assess, and translate ISO 14000 series of documents into Arabic.
 - Strategic Planning Group (SPG) with a mandate to:
 - Develop proposals to assist ISO/TC 207 in implementing the strategic plan; and
 - Plan a workshop to explain and review the strategic plan and submit proposals for its implementation.
 - Twinning Task Force (TTF) with a mandate to:
 - Explore the potential for twinning at the leadership level of the TC, SCs, and WGs, including co-chairing of committees and/or creating positions of Vice Chairs.
- Continuing its offer to assist the ISO/TMB Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR);
- Encouraging TC/SC and WG leaders to adhere to the ISO/IEC Directives re timely delivery of the ISO/TC 207 products to meet the ISO/TMB's vision of planning, developing, and completing documents within a timeframe of 36 months;
- Continuing the cooperation with ISO/TC 176, ISO/CASCO, and ISO/DEVCO;

- Asking ISO/CASCO to develop requirements and guidance for greenhouse gas verification bodies that would allow for their accreditation; and
 - Supporting the endorsement of the seven Spanish translated ISO 14000 documents (14015, 14020, 14021, 14024, 14031, 14040, and 14050).
3. The ISO/TC 207 SCs and WGs had a productive series of meetings during the week. Details of the outcome of their meetings in Bali are listed below.

Following is an update of ISO/TC 207 Task Forces and Contact Groups Meetings:

(a) Future Vision Task Force (FVTF)

4. The FVTF was established in 2001 to prepare the draft for a new strategic plan for ISO/TC 207. ISO/TC 207 accepted the final report of the FVTF and a new Strategic Planning Group (SPG) was established to assist the Technical Committee in preparing an implementation plan. The draft strategic plan was based on newly defined vision and scope for ISO/TC 207 which were accepted during the final plenary session in Bali as a basis for further action.

5. **Vision** - ISO/TC 207 is recognized as a leading world-forum for the development of international standards that leads to improvements in environmental performance of organizations and their products, facilitates, world trade and contributes to sustainable development.

6. **Scope** - Standardization in the field of environmental management systems and tools in support of sustainable development. Excluding: test methods for pollutants, setting limit values and levels of environmental performance levels, and standardization of products.

7. The draft strategic plan contains 5 strategic objectives to fulfil the vision within the scope, taking into account 13 major international trends identified by the FVTF. These strategic objectives focus on:

- Ensuring that ISO/TC 207 is aware of relevant international policy developments and trends;
- Ensuring that market needs are served;
- Ensuring global participation in the development, revision, acceptance and use of the ISO 14000 standards for environmental management;
- Ensuring the continual relevance and quality of ISO/TC 207's standards; and
- Protecting the ISO/TC 207 brand and the integrity of the usage of the ISO 14000 series.

(b) The NGO Task Group and the New NGO CAG Task Force (NGOCTF)

8. In Resolution 14/2003, ISO/TC 207 expressed its appreciation of the contribution of NGOs in ISO/TC 207 and welcomed their continued involvement in the activities of the technical committee and its subcommittees and working groups. ISO/TC 207 received the NGO Report ISO/TC 207 N590, and after thanking its members for completing the report, ISO/TC 207 disbanded the NGO Task Group on the basis that it had completed its mandate.

9. In its stead, ISO/TC 207 created an NGO-CAG Task Force (NGOCTF) that will consist of eight members (4 CAG representatives and 4 NGO representatives), the Chair of which will be an NGO, chosen by the NGOs in ISO/TC 207. The mandate of the new joint Task Force is to review the NGO TG Report ISO/TC 207 N590, and provide recommendations to the CAG and ISO/TC 207, via the CAG, on how to address the specific recommendations within the N590 Report.

10. ISO/TC 207 also resolved to welcome the initiative of the NGO participants in ISO/TC 207 to establish an NGO Forum (NGOF). The purpose of the NGOF is to allow structured NGO coordination on issues they will identify among themselves.

(c) The Developing Countries Contact Group (DCCG)

11. The Bali meetings were characterized by a commitment among the members of the group to focus on the objectives of the group and to go about achieving these objectives.

12. The group meetings were attended by some 40 people representing 26 countries. As was requested at the meeting in 2002 in Johannesburg, a number of the delegates presented short talks on the standardization activities and the extent to which ISO 14001 systems had been implemented in each. The presentations were extremely well received and shed insight into the challenges faced in each country. During the discussions it became obvious that many of the issues were similar in many countries and others were quite unique. The benefit, though, of being able to share the experiences again highlighted the benefit of the existence of this group.

13. The group agreed that the primary objective of the DCCG was to concentrate on ways in which to ensure better, more effective participation in the development of standards in ISO ISO/TC 207. To this end, a resolution was passed expressing disappointment that certain groups did not synchronize their meetings to allow for meaningful participation by Developing Country members during the plenary meetings (bearing in mind that many delegations can only afford to send small delegations to a single meeting) and urging all active groups, whenever possible, to meet with the plenary in future.

14. In examining the degree of implementation of the standards in various countries, the group concluded that the adoption had somewhat lagged the developed countries and this was even more evident with the supporting documents. The DCCG therefore passed a resolution encouraging committees and working groups to aim for stability in the ISO 14000 series of standards and to consider carefully the consequences of revising the standards.

SC 1, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

15. ISO/TC 207/SC 1 and its WG1 and WG2 held their meetings in Bali. During the meetings, SC 1, inter-alia,

- supported the implementation of resolutions 207-9/1997, 207-8/1998. ISO/TC 207/SC 1 recommended that national standardization bodies seek to further improve communication between the environmental and quality management experts in order to facilitate mutual understanding and contribute to the improvement of the compatibility of the two sets of standards;
- reminded its Members to continue to compile interpretation queries and accompanying answers received at the national level, and to forward them to the Secretariat for compilation and circulation to the SC 1 Members;
- authorized the ISO/TC 207/SC1 Secretary to issue the ISO 14001 (“Environmental management systems-Specifications with guidance for use”)and the ISO 14004 revisions to Draft International Standard (DIS) for a five-month ballot, in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives Part 1;
- agreed to review the Interpretation Procedure at a date not later than its main meeting in 2004; etc.

SC 2, ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING AND RELATED INVESTIGATIONS

16. The ISO/TC 207/SC 2 (subcommittee) welcomed the final publication of ISO 19011, the standard for joint quality and environmental management system auditing, as the result of a successful co-operation with ISO/TC 176/SC 3. A request was made to provide, during the next annual meeting of ISO/TC 207, a workshop on experience with the use of ISO 19011.

17. The main subject for the SC 2 meeting was the liaison with the work of ISO/TC 207/WG 5 on verification, validation, and certification of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) data. This liaison was established in 2002 following the discussion of a report indicating that the framework of ISO 19011 provided a useful starting point for documents on verification of GHG data. The purpose of the liaison, amongst others, was to provide WG 5 with SC 2's experiences in developing ISO 19011.

18. An extensive liaison report given at the meeting concluded that:

- ISO 19011 (“Guidelines on quality and environmental auditing”) & ISO 14064-3 are significantly different documents;
- input from SC 2 to WG 5 has helped maintain consistency of common concepts adapted from ISO 19011; and
- SC 2 may wish in future to consider relevance of some elements from 14064-3 to 19011 (e.g. assessment of data, data sample design).

19. ISO/TC 207/SC 2 decided to continue the liaison and to circulate the upcoming ISO/CD 14064/3 (CD-committee draft) to its members and to the Joint Working Group on auditing for comment, highlighting the need to assess compatibility issues.

SC3, Environmental Labelling

20. ISO/TC 207/SC 3 and its WG4 (*Type III Environmental Declarations*) held their meetings in Bali. Some highlights of the SC 3 plenary were as follows:

- 16 resolutions were taken;
- the development of ISO 14025 (“Environmental labels and declarations-type III environmental declarations”) progressing well and the document is scheduled to reach CD for comment around February 2004;
- ISO 14024:1999 (“Environmental labels and declarations-Type I environmental labelling”) was reviewed as it is approaching five years from publication. It was decided that the standard should be confirmed rather than revised;
- a review of whether or not to revise ISO 14021:1999 (“Environmental labels and declarations-Self-declared environmental claims-Type II environmental labelling”) will be considered at a workshop to be held in conjunction with next year’s plenary;
- the subcommittee expressed disappointment about poor coordination with ISO/TC 59/SC 17 *Sustainable construction* and proposed that CD 21930 on environmental declaration of building products not be raised to DIS yet so that issues of incompatibility with WD 14025 can be resolved;
- the subcommittee also advised ISO/TC 207 that the other work of ISO/TC 59/SC 17 addressed *Sustainability indicators*, which is wider than the scope of SC 3, but could have more far reaching implications than CD 21930, especially in the light of discussions in the FVTF about sector specific activities and the revised scope of ISO/TC 207
- the subcommittee further asked ISO to raise the profile of the ISO 14020 series on environmental and declarations in international forums, such as OECD and WTO, etc.

SC 5, ENVIRONMENTAL LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

21. ISO/TC 207/SC 5 held its plenary meetings in Bali. ISO/TC 207/SC 5 had already published its four core standards on life cycle assessment -LCA (ISO 14040, 14041, 14042 and 14043), one Technical Report (ISO TR 14049) and one Technical Specification (ISO TS 14048) to support the implementation of the core standards.

22. Another Technical Report (ISO TR 14047-“Environmental management-Life cycle assessment-Examples for the application of ISO 14042”) is under publication.

23. For the past few years, SC 5 has been studying its future strategy. Last year it established an ad hoc group to explore the potential and “boundaries” of revising the ISO 14040 series. In Bali, this ad hoc group reached a consensus on the need to start the revision cycle of ISO 14040, 14041, 14042 and 14043, and to prepare the corresponding draft new work item proposals.

24. ISO/TC 207/SC 5 approved the report of the ad hoc group. The revision of the ISO 14040 series of standards shall be conducted:

- with a caveat to improve the readability of ISO 14040’s, leaving the requirements and technical content unaffected but correcting errors and inconsistencies;
- with a content of revisions which would:
 - gather all requirements in one new standard, keeping the structure of "goal and scope", "inventory", "impact assessment", and "interpretation" as separate chapters;
 - maintain ISO 14040 as a framework document, while transferring all requirements to the new standard, and adding (to ISO 14040) a general requirement of compliance to the new “requirement” standard.

26. Following the recommendations of the ad hoc group, SC 5 decided to submit the two NWIPs (New Work Item Proposal) for ballot to its P-members together with an invitation to nominate experts.

27. Once these NWIPs are accepted, ISO/TC 207/SC 5 agreed to establish a new working group (WG6) to conduct the revision of ISO 14040, ISO 14041, ISO 14042, and ISO14043. The first meeting of this new WG 6 is planned for the end of November 2003, provided there is a positive vote on the NWIPs.

28. During its meeting, ISO/TC207/SC 5 expressed the need to ensure consistency with the LCA 14040 series of standards when a “life cycle approach” is used in preparation of other standards. So, in addition to the existing liaison with ISO/TC 207/WG 5 “Climate change”, SC 5 appointed four additional LCA experts to participate in the WG 5 work as to help in ensuring consistency between the WG 5 products and the LCA standards.

TCG, TERMINOLOGY COORDINATION GROUP

29. During the TCG meetings in Bali members of the TCG liaised with the SC 1 WGs, SC 3 WG 4, and WG 5. The TCG organized their work around eight tasks and assigned coordinators to complete each of them. These tasks cover both generic terminology issues (e.g. terminology guidance document, problems arising from translation) as well as specific terminology issues (e.g., liaison with specific ISO/TC 207 SC/WG’s).

WG 4, ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

30. The WG 4 document, ISO 14063, was circulated as working draft 4 in June 2003 for comments by 4 August 2003. An ordinary WG 4 meeting was therefore not scheduled to be held in conjunction with the ISO/TC 207 plenary meeting in Bali, July 2003. However, a WG 4 Task Group meeting was held. The main issue for the task group was to discuss content of and propose a way forward for the ISO 14063 annexes. Thirty-four experts from 18 member countries/liaison organizations participated.

31. The Task Group discussed how to structure the information in the annexes, and prepared a list of communication approaches for the annexes of 14063. Recommendations to WG 4 on the structure and content of the annexes include the following three types:

- Annex A: Examples illustrating different communication approaches;
- Annex B: Cross references to the ISO 14000 family; and
- Annex C: Bibliography of available information sources.

32. The proposals from the task group as well as comments on WD 4 will be discussed at the next meeting of ISO/TC 207/WG 4 which will be held in Berlin, Germany, in September 2003.

WG 5, CLIMATE CHANGE

33. ISO TC207 WG 5 on Climate Change held its meeting which was attended by some 90 participants from 24 member bodies; also 3 external liaisons and 3 internal liaisons participated. WG 5 is developing a new ISO Standard in 3 Parts:

- ISO 14064 Greenhouse gases - Part 1: Specification for the quantification, monitoring and reporting of entity emissions and removals;
- ISO 14064 Greenhouse gases - Part 2: Specification for the quantification, monitoring and reporting of project emissions and removals; and
- ISO 14064 Greenhouse gases - Part 3: Specification and guidance for validation, verification and certification.

34. The first Working Drafts (WD) of ISO 14064 Parts 1 and 3 were distributed for WG 5 expert comment in May 2003. The first Internal Draft of Part 2 was distributed to WG 5 in June 2003. The purpose of the Bali meetings was to consider expert comments, revise documents, identify remaining work, and plan a path forward. Significant progress by WG5 was made in advancing all 3 Parts of the Standard. WG 5 resolved to submit CD 1 of ISO 14064 Parts 1 and 3, and WD 1 of ISO 14064 Part 2, by October 2003. A Part 2 meeting will be held in Geneva in December 2003, to discuss WD 1 comments. A full WG 5 meeting will be held in London in March 2004, to discuss Parts 1 and 3 CD 1 and Part 2 WD 2 comments.