



UNECE / ECTD /MAS /WP.6

GENDER RESPONSIVE STANDARDS

**BRINGING STANDARDS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER-EQUALITY
TO STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT BODIES**



ARSO INITIATIVES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL RESPONSE

**1st June 2022
10:00 - 17:00, CEST**



Philip Okungu – Documentation and Information Manager, ARSO

African Organisation for Standardisation



Representatives at an event an ARSO event on 14th March 1977

ARSO Members (42): Algeria, Botswana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo Brazzaville, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, New State of Libya, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and with Zanzibar as an Observer member.

- ▶ **10 - 17 January 1977**, Ghana, Accra International Conference Centre, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) formed ARSO, as an **intergovernmental organization** to promote standardization and conformity assessment in Africa. with the PRINCIPAL mandate to:

- 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.
- ***standardisation viewed as a purposeful guidepost and bedrock of the destiny of African Integration Agenda and a route to linking up the fresh Africa's economy with the rest of the world for economic prosperity of the continent.***
- **MSTQ/STQM/SQAMARSO** standardisation activities are influenced by the AU Summit decisions on standards related activities

The Gender Agenda – What are the Issues

Gender – The set of attributes, roles and aptitudes that are ascribed to men and women. These are socially constructed and learnt through the socialization process in the family and in society.

Sex - biologically predetermined and refers to the physical differences that characterize males and females.

Gender equality - the enjoyment of equal rights, opportunities, access to resources and decision-making power for women and men in all spheres of life.

- Equality does not imply that men and women should be the same, but rather that their rights and opportunities in life should not be determined by whether they are born male or female.
- A gender equality perspective recognizes the diversity of men and women and ensures that their different needs and interests have equal importance

Gender mainstreaming - the process of adopting a gender perspective with the aim to promote gender equality in any planned action.



Women's empowerment - women's ability to enjoy their rights and entitlements, and to make effective choices with respect to the economic, social and political spheres.

- Specifically, the economic empowerment of women refers to the ability to succeed and advance economically and to have the power and agency to benefit from economic activities.
- Access to and control over resources, including human, financial, social and physical capital, are essential aspects of women's economic empowerment.



Topic in Global Perspective

UN 1948

UN GENDER ACTIVITIES

Over the years, the debate on Gender equality has been championed by the UN and other organisations.

The UN, under its SDGs 2030, Goal 5, on Gender aims at

- i. ensuring Gender Equality, the UN seeks to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere and ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership.
- ii. facilitate the adoption and strengthening of sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.



SDG 5
GENDER EQUALITY
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



The UN GENDER MILESTONES

1. 1975 - Mexico City 1st Women's Conference
2. 1979 adoption of CEDAW,
3. 1980 Copenhagen 2nd Women's Conference,
4. 1985 Nairobi 3rd Women's Conference
5. 1995 Beijing 4th Women's Conference which adopted instruments such as the Convention the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Vienna Declaration on Human Rights, The Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, Beijing Platform of Action, the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Humans, and the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The commitment to gender equality can be traced to the 1948 United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights which states **“Rights and freedoms will not be limited by a person's gender and establishes that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”.**

Initiatives in Africa

Africa Agenda 2063

ASPIRATION 3: An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law, and a continent where democratic values, culture, practices, universal principles of human rights, **gender equality**, justice and the rule of law are entrenched

ASPIRATION 6: An Africa where Development is People-Driven, Unleashing the Potential of its Women and Youth; **Has full gender equality** in all spheres of life.

The African Union has also developed **Gender Policy and its Action Plan** that provides for a framework that accelerates the realization of gender equality, fairness between men and women, non-discrimination and fundamental rights in Africa.

This commitment is reinforced by the **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)** and the Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development adopted by the Heads of State and Government in 2006.



FOR SDGEA: African leadership reaffirm their commitment to: the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 (L) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as well as other existing commitments, principles, goals and actions set out in the various regional, continental and international instruments on human and women's rights.

Initiatives in Africa

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) - introduced the **African Gender and Development Index (AGDI)** in 2004 with the aim of supporting member States to measure the gap in the relative status of African men and women and to assess the progress made in implementing government policies that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It published yearly.

Gender mainstreaming also supports delivery on range of sustainable development imperatives linked to the 2030 Agenda. Indeed, gender mainstreaming embodies the most important promise of the 2030 Agenda: to leave no one behind. The 2030 Agenda also makes clear that there can be no sustainable development without gender equality.

UNIDO - 2018



Source: UNDP, 2018.

Gender and the AfCFTA Opportunities

African women are a powerful force for development, whose strength and leadership remain critical to the ultimate success of the AfCFTA.

There is therefore the deliberate need to facilitate gender mainstreaming under the AfCFTA by analysing the gender dynamics for women in the formal and informal economy.

This needs a deliberate move to identify gender-specific barriers, including standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessments, confronting female traders, producers, entrepreneurs.

▪ Opportunities

The AfCFTA framework agreement includes an objective of **gender equality (Article 3(e))** in an integrated continental market, and already, the Agreement:

- recognises the importance of gender equality and improving export capacity of informal suppliers, MSMEs, women/youth.
- is Projected to increase exports of female-dominated sectors in manufacturing and agriculture and value addition along value chains and to increase intra-African exports in labour-intensive industries, low-skilled wages, dominated by Women SMEs
- focuses on strengthening regional value chains, customs cooperation, trade facilitation
- Provides Mechanisms to address non-tariff barriers under TBT Annex 6 and SPS Annex 7, and gender Mainstreaming in the process remains key building block to the realisation of full benefits from Trade opportunities under the AfCFTA Agreement and the transformative promise of the AfCFTA, by the African women.

- *Gender sensitive Standardisation/certification, under TBT Annex 6 and SPS Annex 7, remains a key pillar for increased productivity and competitiveness of women-owned businesses.*

Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo, Director of the Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA (2021)- highlights that, **under the AfCFTA Agreement, specific continental frameworks are needed to address gender-based barriers which will guarantee that trade opportunities reach and benefit every African.**

- Beyond the inherit economic disadvantage, women remain vulnerable to high levies, bribes, harassment, confiscation of goods and violence, especially in **Africa's informal cross-border trade** where they make up 70 per cent of merchants.

Gender Agenda in Standardisation and the Initiatives

Given the role Standards play in all spheres of life including the socio-political and economic Governance and Policy issues, Manufacturing, Trade, and entirely all aspects of life, there is increased call to ensure that the Gender Agenda is considered in standardisation with respect to governance and leadership, programmes, activities, strategies, policies, projects, Capacity building, and the content and development of the standard processes.

Although standards have implications for both women and men, they are rarely examined for their gender dimensions. This has had severe consequences in the past leading to non-gender responsive standards and products that do not meet the women needs.

Why Standards Matter to women: Since Trade and Industrialization are basically two sides of the same coin (as Industrialization facilitates trade, and trade facilitates industrialization), Quality Infrastructure (Standards, Technical Regulations, Conformity Assessment, Metrology, Accreditation), which has gained recognition as an integral part of Industrial, Economic and Trade Policy of key Free Trade Areas Agreements, including the AfCFTA) and countries across the world, remain the invisible architecture and an essential pillar and a building block for achieving sustained trade and industrialization and in the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.

Women in Africa, through SMEs are the engines of Industrialisation and Trade.

1. **UNECE WP.6 Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization - Global “Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development”**

Initiative and focuses on the role of standards:

- *as a way of furthering equal participation by both genders in economic decision-making;*
- *as instruments for women’s health, safety, and wellbeing;*
- *as tools for sustainability reporting.*

2. **Acknowledges** the pervasiveness and influential / impactful role of standards in society that the outcomes for men and women are not, explicitly addressed during the standards development process;

3. **Recognises** that the content of standards and engaging in the standards development process are opportunities for women’s empowerment

4. **Expresses** the need and commitment to work towards:

- *gender inclusive standards development organizations;*
- *gender responsive standards;*
- *gender balance at all levels of the organization (including in governing bodies);*
- *enhanced expertise to create and deliver gender inclusivity.*

Gender Agenda in Standardisation and the Initiatives

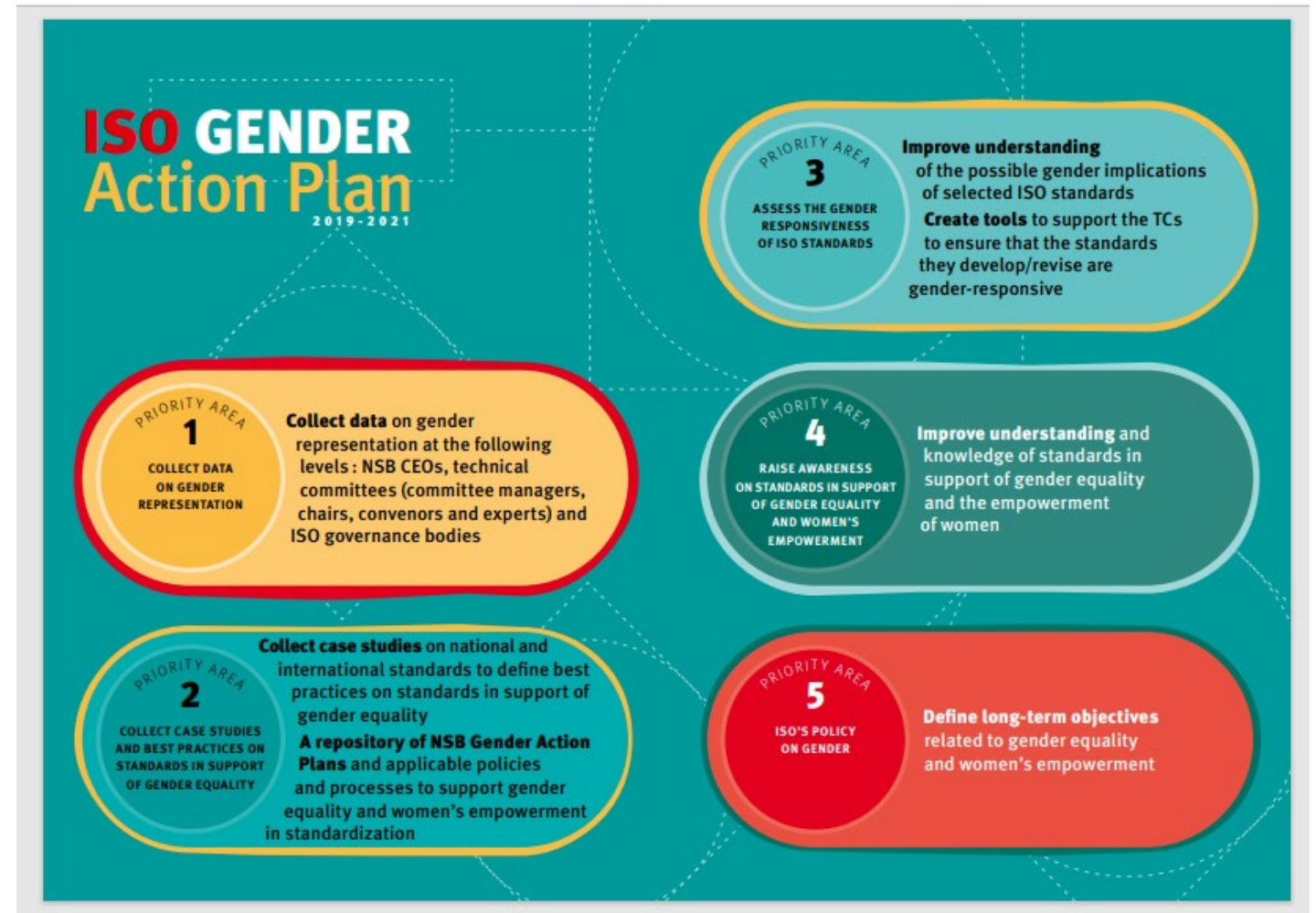
2. ISO Gender Action Plan - 2019

Purpose

- Deepen the understanding of gender representation in ISO work;
- Assess the gender implications of standards, and ensure that ISO work and activities include a gender perspective.

Priority areas

- i. Collect and analyse data on gender representation;
- ii. Collect case studies and best practices on standards in support of gender equality;
- iii. Assess the gender responsiveness of ISO standards;
- iv. Raise awareness of standards in support of gender equality;
- v. ISO policy on gender



ARSO INITIATIVES

ARSO initiatives and support

ARSO in 2018 joined the International Community as a Signatory of the **UNECE WP.6 Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization - Global “Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development”**

Why is this important to ARSO

1. to facilitate partnership among standards bodies (including ISO – Gender Action Plan), governments, UN (UNIDO, UNECA), the civil society, academia, and other key stakeholders for gender equality.
2. To facilitate the championing of the representation of women in standards development and harmonisation process
3. To facilitate the empowering of women through the outcome of the Standardisation process through the development gender responsive standards
4. To facilitate women participation in the ARO Standardisation Work
5. To create more awareness among its member States on the need for Gender Responsive Standards and why women involvement in Leadership, to ensure gender balance.
6. To engage with the African Governments and policy makers and the Standardisation community for responsive Policies that influence Standardisation in priority sectors, like Agriculture, Textile and Leather, Pharmaceuticals and SMEs that impact Women’s lives.

Gender Agenda in Standardisation and the Initiatives

ARSO initiatives and support

- i. **ARSO is a Signatory to the Global Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development.**
- ii. ARSO Programmes, Projects, Policy documents and Constitution that don't discriminate against women.
- iii. **Inclusion of Women in ARSO staff, Leadership and Goodwill Ambassadors (H.E. Dr. Bibi Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim GCSK, CSK, former President of the Republic of Mauritius) and Dr. Eve Gadzikwa, the Director General SAZ, and Immediate Former ARSO President (2016-2019),**
- iv. Promotion of gender balance in its Technical Committees and their leaderships;
- v. Open participation of both Male and female students in the ARSO Continental Gender Essay Competitions;
- vi. Promotion of African SMEs and Made in Africa Products of Genders;
- vii. **Appointment of Ms. Margaret Lungu, formerly of Zambia Bureau of Standards and currently with African Union; and Ms. Thabisa Mbungwana, formerly of South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) and currently with the SADC Secretariat, as lead Consultants in the development of the ARSO Strategic Plan 2022-2027.**



Her Excellency, Prof. (Mrs) Aminah Gurib-Fakim, GCSK, CSK, PhD. Accredited for the promotion of Quality Infrastructure and ARSO within the AU and the African Leadership platforms.



Gender Agenda in Standardisation and the Initiatives

1. A Gender Policy Document, which was considered by the 65th ARSO Council in November 2021, with specific objectives being:



ARSO-AfDB Project.

Currently ARSO is implementing a four-year Project (since February 2022) sponsored by the AfDB on the Harmonisation and Certification of African Standards for Dairy, Horticulture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Products.

One of the outcomes of the project is to ensure a 40% participation of Women as Experts and also to ensure that Women Enterprises are certified to improve their productivity, competitiveness and increased access to market.

65th Council Directive to members

REQUESTED Member States to initiate procedures to identify women and youth enterprises, trainers and auditors to participate in the activities of the project in order to utilize the 40 % opportunities allocated to them in the project.

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- i. To Create awareness on the need for Gender Responsive Standards
 - ii. To Create awareness on the strategic importance of Standards as tools for ensuring Gender Equality
 - iii. Facilitate Gender mainstreaming in AfCFTA Standardisation Strategies, under TBT Annex 6 and SPS Annex 7, as building block to the realization of full benefits from Trade opportunities under the AfCFTA Agreement and the transformative promise of the AfCFTA, by the African women
 - iv. To better understand the challenges and opportunities in facilitating gender responsive standardisation.
 - v. To facilitate better understanding on the factors that influence Gender responsive standards and standardisation outcomes.
 - vi. To facilitate understanding of how standards are tools for gender equality and women's empowerment.
 - vii. To facilitate better understanding of the various global, regional and national initiatives to ensure gender responsive standardisation.
 - viii. To facilitate a better understanding of the opportunities offered by the AfCFTA Agreement to facilitate Trade and economic policies that ensure Gender responsive Trade and standardisation.
 - ix. To motivate Governments and Policy makers, NSBs and the Private sector to facilitate Gender responsive programmes and action plans.
 - x. To ensure benchmarking with International Best Practices and programmes for Gender Mainstreaming in Standardisation.

Gender Agenda in Standardisation and the Initiatives

ARSO initiatives and support

ARSO Continues to create more awareness on the need for the involvement of Women in standardisation Issues and for Gender Mainstreaming in Standardisation. On 27th October 2021, under the Theme: Mainstreaming Gender in Standardisation Moderator – and on the Topic: “The Gender Agenda in Standardisation: The gender dimension of standards and mainstreaming gender in the development and implementation of standards. Why it Matters!!!”.



27th Oct 2021
1430 HRS EAT

WELCOME TO THE ARSO MONTHLY WEBINAR

The Gender Agenda in Standardisation
"The Gender dimension of standards and mainstreaming gender in the development and implementation of standards. Why it Matters!!!"

Hosted & Moderated by
Dr Hermogene Nsengimana,
Secretary General - ARSO



SPEAKERS



"The Gender Agenda in Standardisation Strategies: The Gender Dimensions in the Standardisation Programmes and why it matters to ensure Gender Equality and Gender-responsive outcomes".
– **Dr. Eve Gadzikwa**, ISO Gender Champion for Africa and the Arab States region and the Director General, Standards Association of Zimbabwe



Mainstreaming Gender in Standardisation, the Development and Implementation of Standards : Key entry points for integrating gender into Standardisation Policies, Strategic Plans, Programmes by the Standardisation Stakeholders, including the Governments and National Bureau of Standards – The case of the UNECE Global Gender Responsive Standards Initiative
– **Ray Walshe**, Lead of UNECE Gender Responsive Standard Initiative's Expert Group on Network Development , United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



The Gender dimension as an integral part of standards development - Inclusion of Gender indicators and criteria from the preliminary and drafting stages to ensure Gender Responsive Standards to support gender equality through standardisation-The ISO Perspective and Gender Action Plan
– **Mr Nathan Taylor**, Secretary of the ISO/IEC Joint Advisory Group on Gender Responsive Standards



The role of Gender in sustainable development and Global Governance of Trade: Establishing Strategies, Structures and Capacities for Promoting Gender Equality and the Importance of Integrating a Gender Lens in Standardisation and Trade Policies
– **Nadia Hasham**, Trade and Gender Lead, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Register Here
<https://tinyurl.com/arsogender>
Interpretation Provided - English and French

WWW.ARSO-ORAN.ORG

The ARSO Webinar Gender Lens – Women Panellists July 2021 – November 2021











29th 14th June 2021 – **Dr. Pauline Wairimu**, Chairperson, Africa Medical Devices Forum, participating in the ARSO Webinar as a **Panelist**



27th October 2021: **Ms. Nadia Hasham**, Trade and Gender Lead, UNECA, participating in the ARSO Webinar as a **Panelist**

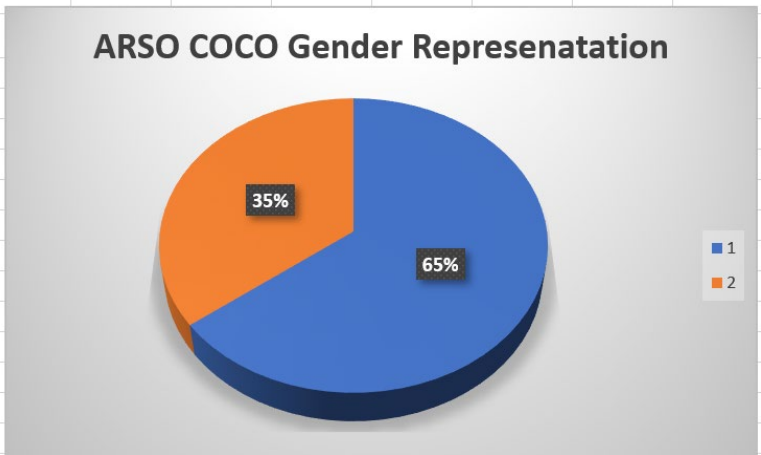
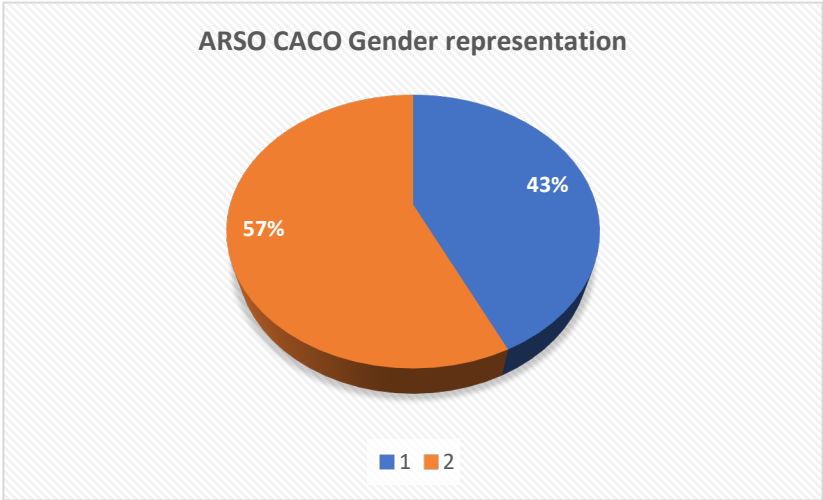


23rd September 2021: **Sandra Uwera**, Executive Director, COMESA Business Council, participating in the ARSO Webinar as a **Panelist**

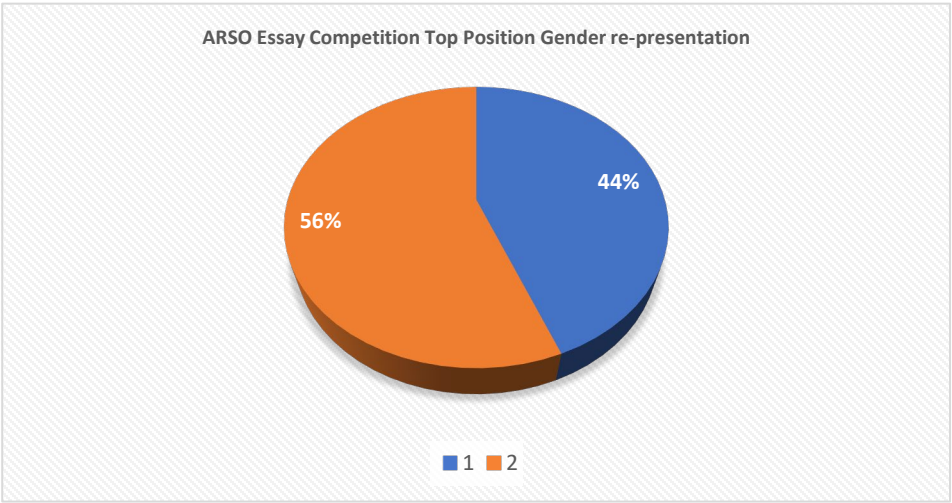
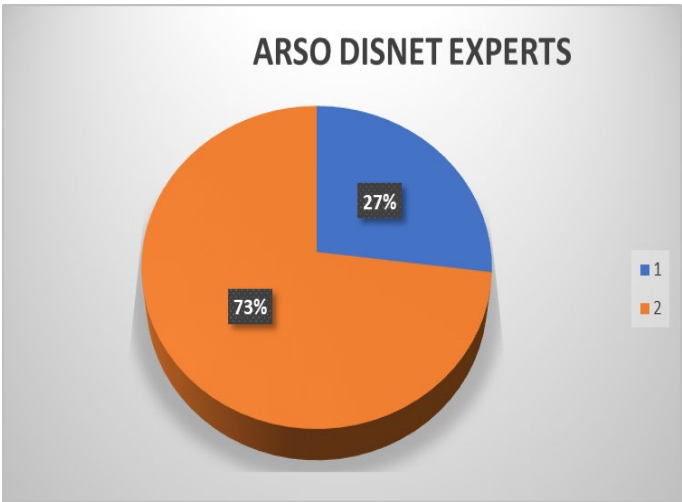
 <p>27th October 2021: Dr. Eve Gadzikwa, Director General, SAZ/ZIMBABWE, participating in the ARSO Webinar as a Panelist</p>	 <p>29th October 2021 - Dr. Barbara Sigona, PTB Head of Section 9.35 Sub Saharan Africa, International Cooperation, participating in the ARSO Webinar as a Panelist</p>	<p>SPEAKERS</p> <p>Why is SDG 5 (Gender Equality) important for Africa's growth and transformation? Agenda and the opportunities within the ARSO Agreement – Dr. Walshe, The Industrial Development Expert - United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)</p> <p>Focus on the Private Sector - Facilitating SMEs Competitiveness, business innovation and formalisation of growth-oriented enterprises and start-ups - Standardisation Challenge and Strategy for SMEs in Africa – Sandra Uwera, Executive Director - COMESA Business Council</p> <p>Standards SME South & Africa - Building SME awareness, participation and uptake of standards - A European perspective – Nadia Hasham, Director - SME - Small Business Standards / CEN-CENELEC Partner Organisation</p>
 <p>November 2021 - Ms. Abeer Sedky, General manager of international & technical relations department at Egyptian Organization of standardization & Quality (EOS, Egypt), participating in the ARSO Webinar as a Panelist</p>	 <p>30th November 2021 – Mrs. Chinyere V. Eke (Mrs.), the former Director, Standards Development, SON (Nigeria), participating in the ARSO Webinar as a Panelist</p>	 <p>23rd September 2021 - Ms. Maitane Olabisi, Director SBS/Small Business Standards/CEN CENELEC Partner Organisation, participating in the ARSO Webinar as a Panelist</p>
 <p>17th November 2021 - Dr. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, UNECA, participating in the ARSO Round Table Webinar, at the IATE 2021, as a Panelist</p>	 <p>Roundtable Moderator: Eleni Giokos</p>	 <p>23rd September 2021 - Ms. Eke (Mrs.), Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO, participating in the ARSO Webinar as a Panelist</p>

ARSO Initiatives – The Gender Perspective of ARSO Programme

ARSO Programme Gender Statistics - 2021



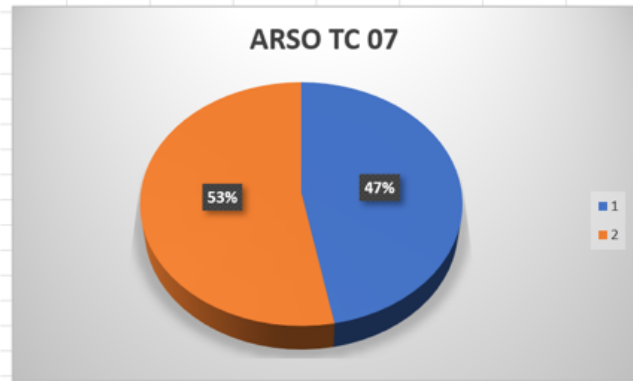
Key: 1- Female. 2 - Male



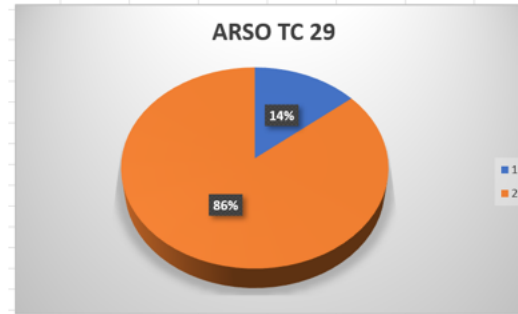
Gender Agenda in Standardisation and the Initiatives

Key: 1- Female. 2 - Male

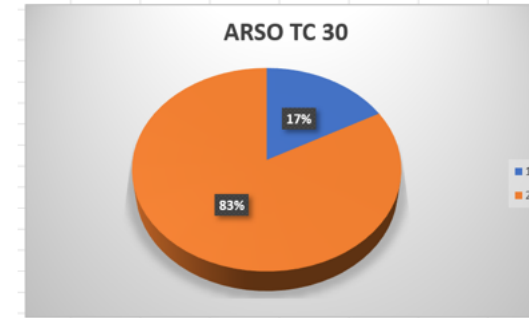
ARSO/TC 07, Meat, poultry, eggs and related products



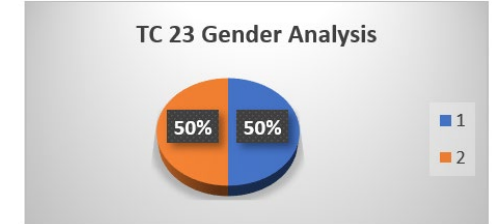
ARSO/TC 29, Road, rail, air and water transport infrastructure



ARSO/TC 30, Building and construction materials



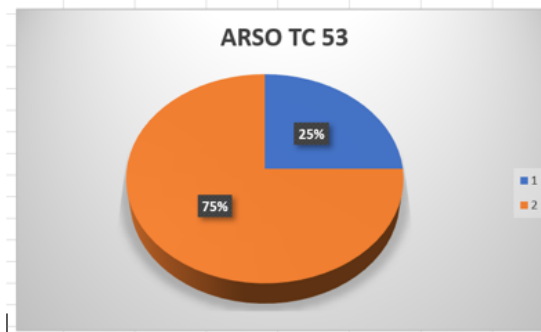
ARSO/TC 23, Live animals.



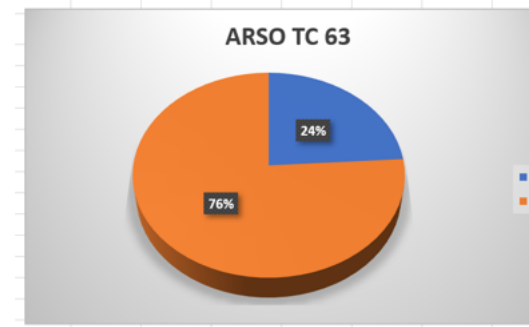
ARSO/TC 40, Cosmetics and related products



ARSO/TC 53, Textiles, textile products and accessories



ARSO/TC 63, Drinking water supply and sanitation systems



ARSO/TC 82, African traditional medicine



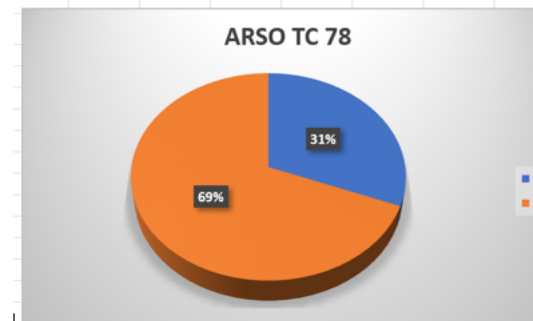
ARSO/TC 72, Cosmetology and wellness



ARSO/TC 73, Financial services



ARSO/TC 78, Medical devices and equipment scope



ARSO/TC 80, Pharmaceuticals and medicinal products



Recommendations on the Way forward

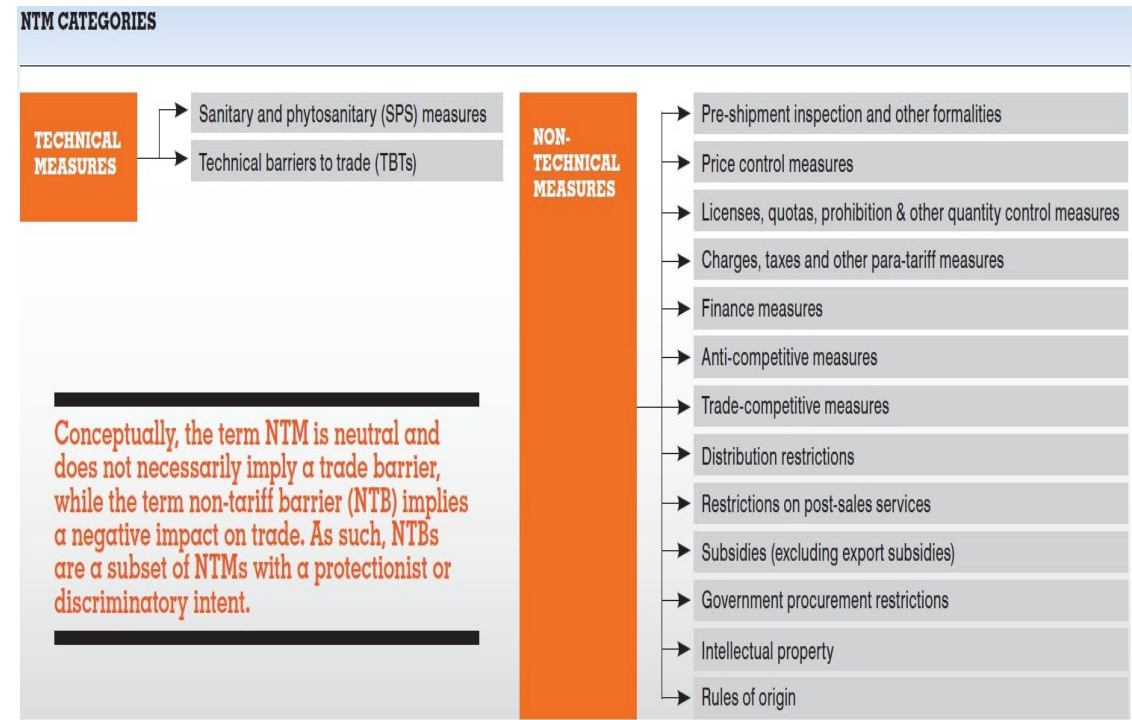
1. **Greater involvement of NSBs and policy makers on initiatives on Mainstreaming of Gender in standardisation and adoption a gender-inclusive culture as per the agenda 2063 and the UN SDGs 2030.**
2. **Greater demonstration of the importance of Gender Responsive Standards and their implementation as tools for gender equality and women's empowerment.**
3. **Increased advocacy for Gender balance in leadership and in all levels of standardisation organizations**
4. **Continuous encouragement for deliberate actions to ensure the section of Women into standardisation processes and active participation and involvement in Technical Committees.**
5. **Deliberate development of Standardisation Gender Policies, Strategies and Action Plans**
6. **Increased benefits from trade and standardisation by Women, especially in consideration of the African Free Trade Area.**
7. **Increased collaborative efforts on Gender mainstreaming Capacity building, Training, education and awareness creation on the need for Gender Mainstreaming in Standardisation.**
8. **Increased research in Trade and standardisation activities to develop Sex-disaggregated data on standardisation activities to influence positive Trade and standardisation policies and action plans that recognise and facilitate Gender responsive outcomes.**
9. **Increased Cooperation for the Implementation strategies for the TBT Annex 6 of the AfCFTA Agreement, including Harmonised African Standards, Conformity Assessment and Technical Regulations, with a gender lens.**

Save Date: 15th June 2022: **Theme:** Common Regulatory Framework and Trade

Topic: The impact of NTMs on competitiveness and productivity - The influence of regulatory/non-Tariff measures on global and Intra-African Trade – Demystifying the NTBs' Technical and Non-Technical Measures.

Sub-Topics

1. Regional value chain development and the need for Regulatory cooperation – ARSO Experience
2. Understanding the NTBs' Technical and Non-measures, and their Technical Barriers to Trade effects.
3. Technical Regulations, development and harmonisation and influence on Trade and the role of harmonized standards.
4. The WTO TBT and SPS Agreements – Their convergence and Relevance to AfCFTA Agreement.



The Concept Note
Celebrating the ARSO Milestones
ARSO-CAMEROON 2022
ARSO WEEK 2022
28TH ARSO GA EVENTS
27TH JUNE – 1ST JULY 2022



Welcome to Yaoundé, Cameroon

The Government of the Republic of Cameroon Hosts the 28th ARSO General Assembly Events, at the Hilton Hotel, Yaoundé, through the Agence Des Normes Et De La Qualité (ANOR).

Theme: “the Standards We Want – African Union Agenda 2063 and African Continental Free Trade Area: “The Role of Standardisation and Conformity Assessment During a Journey of 41 Years”.

- Join in the African Day of Standardisation Workshop, on 29th June 2022, on four sessions:

- (i) Session 1 – Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices industry
 - (ii) Session 2 – Value addition and access to market for Agriculture and Food products
 - (iii) Session 3 – Automotive Industry
 - (iv) Session 4 – Sustainability standards role within the AfCFTA.
- Witness the Inauguration of Prof. Alex Dodoo, GSA/Ghana, as the next ARSO President for the 2022-2025 Term of Office.
 - Witness the admission of Burundi, Chad and Somalia into ARSO Membership.



The Prime Minister of the Government of Republic of Cameroon, H.E. Joseph Dion Ngute, will preside over the opening Ceremony.



Thank you!

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