

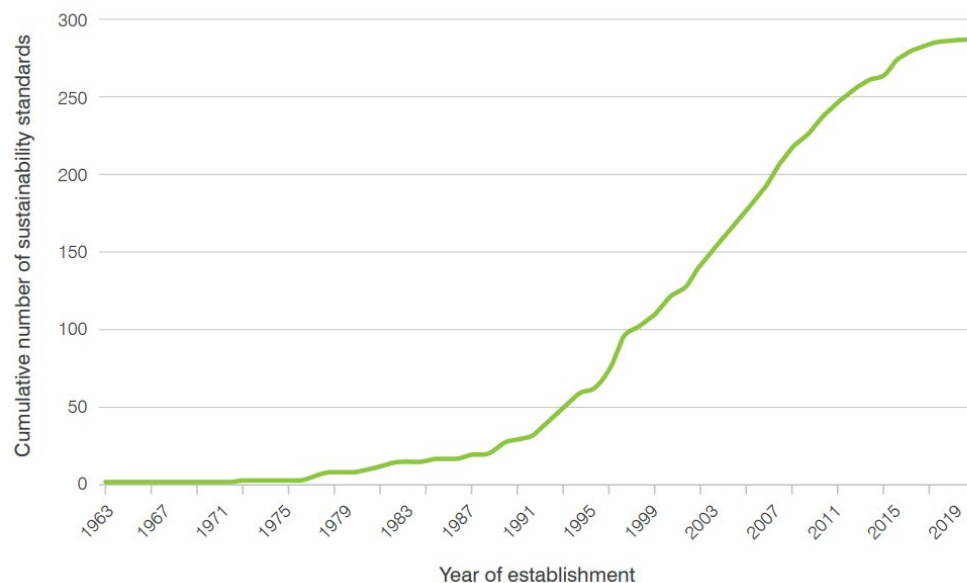
Sustainability Standards and Regulations

Aarhus Convention
8th meeting of the Task Force on Access
to Information and International
Workshop on Product Information

Regina Taimasova, Advisor on
Sustainability Standards and Value Ch

Sustainability standards –what are they?

- ‘Specifying requirements that producers, traders, manufacturers, retailers or service providers may be asked to meet, relating to a wide range of sustainability metrics, including respect for basic human rights, worker health and safety, the environmental impacts of production, community relations, land use planning and others.’ (UNFSS)
- Led by non-profit associations and companies
- Complement national standards; technical norms and SPS; ISO standards



Sustainability standards and regulations

Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (adopted in 2009, amended in 2018)

- Commission has so far formally recognised 15 voluntary and national certification schemes

EU Regulation on deforestation -free supply chains (in force since June 2023)

- (Preamble) “In order to recognise good practice, certification or other third -party verified schemes could be used in the risk assessment procedure. They should not, however, substitute the operator’s responsibility as regards due diligence.”

Proposal to amend the EU Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (UCPD)

- adding new practices to the existing black list of prohibited unfair commercial practice, such as:
 - displaying a sustainability label which is not based on a certification scheme or not established by public authorities.

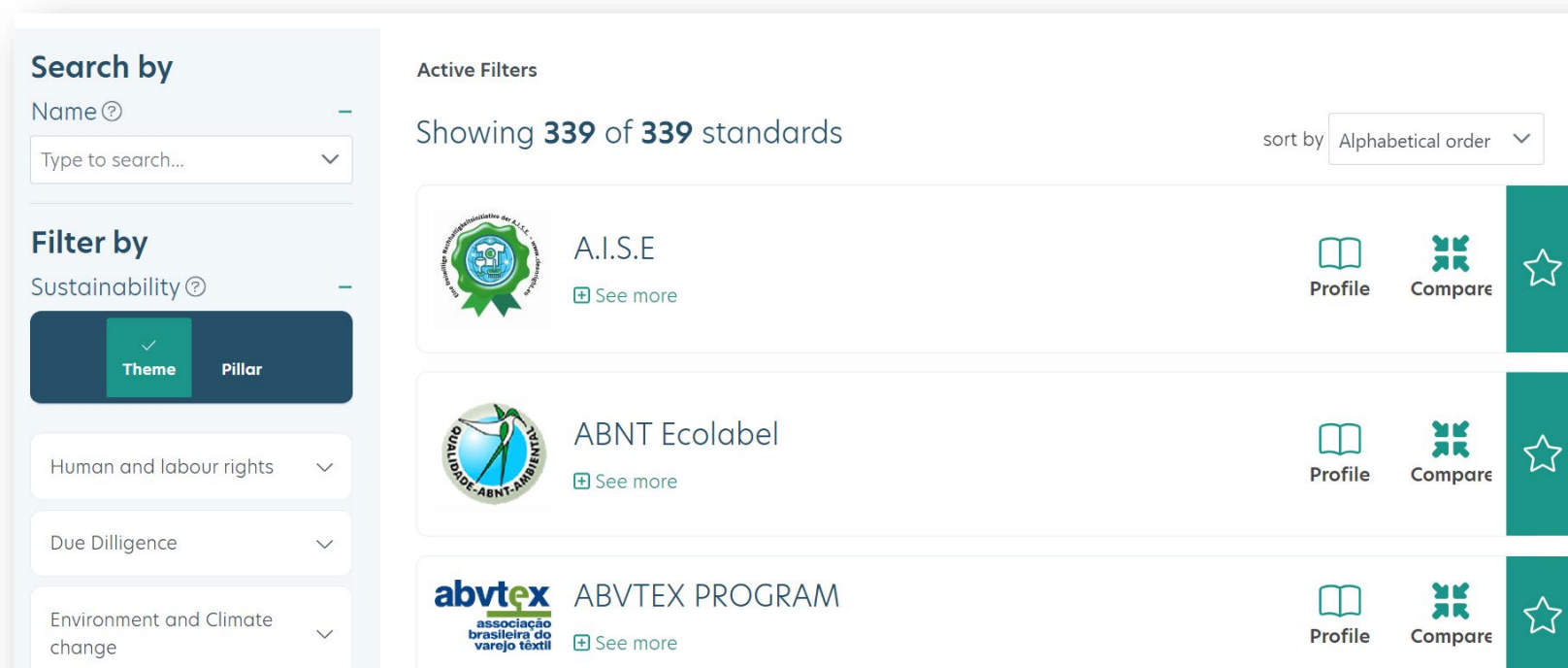
Switzerland – Indonesia FTA (signed in 2018)

- Switzerland grants reduced tariffs on sustainably produced Indonesian palm oil by 40% within a fixed quota, using four sustainability standards to certify compliance:
 - Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Identity Preserved (IP)
 - RSPO Segregated (SG)
 - International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) PLUS Segregated
 - Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG) based on RSPO IP/SG

ITC Standards Map database

<https://standardsmap.org/en/home>

- World's largest database on sustainability standards
- Global Public Good
- 300+ sustainability standards, codes of conduct, audit protocols
- Applicable to 80+ sectors
- Users from 192 countries
- Customized platforms for partners



The screenshot displays the ITC Standards Map database interface. On the left, there is a search and filter sidebar. The 'Search by' section includes a 'Name' dropdown menu with a search input field. The 'Filter by' section is titled 'Sustainability' and features two main categories: 'Theme' (selected) and 'Pillar'. Under 'Theme', three filters are visible: 'Human and labour rights', 'Due Dilligence', and 'Environment and Climate change'. The main content area shows 'Active Filters' and indicates 'Showing 339 of 339 standards'. A 'sort by' dropdown menu is set to 'Alphabetical order'. Three standard entries are listed:

- A.I.S.E.**: Includes a logo, a 'See more' link, and buttons for 'Profile', 'Compare', and a star icon.
- ABNT Ecolabel**: Includes a logo, a 'See more' link, and buttons for 'Profile', 'Compare', and a star icon.
- ABVTEX PROGRAM**: Includes a logo, a 'See more' link, and buttons for 'Profile', 'Compare', and a star icon.

ITC work on standards and regulations

Sustainability standards

- Awareness raising on sustainability standards
- Tailored capacity building for MSMEs in developing countries and LDCs on compliance with sustainability standards

Regulations

- Awareness raising
- Self-assessment and tailored capacity building for suppliers
- Policy advice
- Tools and platforms

