

TMB Communiqué

No.65– June 2020

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JUNE 2020 TMB MEETING

1. ISO/CS update on COVID-19 measures

Background: On 26 March 2020, the Technical Management Board (TMB) met remotely to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the technical work. The TMB recognized the challenges that committees are facing during this unprecedented situation and passed [TMB Resolution 28/2020](#) to support committees in this context. The exceptional measures passed in this resolution are continuously updated and communicated on a dedicated ISO Connect [page](#).

On 8 May 2020, the ISO Secretary-General informed ISO Members and the technical community, [by a circular letter](#), that it had been decided that all ISO governance and technical meetings planned until 31 August 2020 would be held virtually or postponed until after that date. This date has now been extended to **30 September 2020** and is continually reviewed by ISO/CS with the support of the ISO President's Committee.

What this means for you: Please consult the ISO Connect dedicated [page](#) on a regular basis to keep up-to-date on the exceptional measures related to the COVID-19 crisis.

2. Strategic Advisory Group on Machine Readable Standards (MRS)

Background: The SAG on MRS completed its final report which was approved by [TMB Resolution 11/2020](#). At its June 2020 meeting, TMB passed a resolution to make their recommendations based on the outcomes of the report. The final report and recommendations will be submitted to Council at their next meeting in September 2020. These recommendations include the creation of a strategic project supporting the development of ISO SMART Standards (ISO Standards Machine Applicable, Readable and Transferable) based on the roadmap developed by the SAG on MRS.

What this means for you: Are you interested in knowing more about the development and next steps of ISO SMART Standards? Then make sure to read the September edition of the TMB Communiqué.

NEWS

3. ISO Documents – eCommittees replacement to start for all committees in September

Background: The ISO eCommittees replacement project aims to replace the solution that is used today for the management of technical and governance committee working documents. The new solution ensures the integrity and traceability of the existing content. The new platform was launched with TMB-nominated committees in January 2020 with progressive on-boarding of their full committee structures, including most of JTC1 committees. The final pilot on-boarding session which took place in June confirmed the solution with respect to its capacity to host all ISO documents centrally and allow experts to access these, offering users with a seamless experience for ISO related document management. This enhanced user experience is further strengthened by the inclusion of AFNOR and DIN hosted committee documents on the platform.

What this means for you: Starting end September through to November 2020, committees will be on-boarded to the new tool by committee structure. Dates for each on-boarding session will be communicated to Committee Managers, Convenors and Chairs of each TC, SC in the committee structures late August. A variety of resources such as training opportunities will be available as part of the on-boarding process.

By the end of 2020, all ISO committee working documents will be available from ISO Documents. More information on the project (including the list of Committees and Working Groups participating to the pilot) is available [from this page](#). Should you have any questions, please contact Javier Linares, linares@iso.org (Project Manager) or Kirsi Silander, silander@iso.org (Product Owner).

4. Online Standards Authoring

Background: Since April 2018, following the TMB Resolution [39/2017](#) and in line with their respective Presidents' goals to achieve more common IT systems, IEC and ISO have been working together to provide a harmonized and unique platform at international and regional (such as CEN/CENELEC) levels for the online authoring of standards. The new online collaborative authoring tool will provide enriched online commenting for standards development purposes and progressively also include a superior commenting collation toolset.

A pilot of the tool which focuses on standards authoring and working group commenting, hosted by ISO, will start in Q4 2020. The pilot will be composed of CEN-CENELEC, IEC and ISO Working Groups. Joint IEC/ISO Change Management work has resulted in a common vision statement and should ensure the coordinated onboarding of pilots across all organizations.

What this means for you: A call for pilot candidates has been addressed to the TMB. This is a unique opportunity for standards developers to contribute to the creation of an online standards authoring environment to work efficiently and collaboratively offering new value-added products and services, relevant for the world of tomorrow. More information on pilot profiles the project team is seeking, [please see here](#).

Should you have any questions, please contact Patrice Canonne, canonne@iso.org (Project Manager) or Monica Ibido, ibido@iso.org (Product Owner).

5. ISO Meetings – Introduction of a meeting planner feature

Background: To support the ISO Community, ISO/CS has created a dedicated task force representing several departments to identify and implement relevant and innovative solutions responding to challenges faced by the technical community within the current worldwide lockdown. This initiative has already resulted in the release of a new time planner for virtual meetings organised via the ISO Meeting app.

What this means for you: Meeting Organizers can now select the date for their virtual meeting and the system will automatically retrieve and suggest the best suitable times based on the time zone of members and liaisons participating to the committee/working group in the Global Directory. [Step by step instructions](#) are available to meeting organizers directly from the ISO Meetings platform or from [ISO Connect](#). Should you have any questions, please contact helpdesk@iso.org.

6. L.D. Eicher Award 2020 – Winner

Background: The Lawrence D. Eicher Award was created to recognize committees with outstanding performance. It provides an opportunity for the winning committee to demonstrate their achievements and raise awareness of their work, both inside and outside ISO. The 2020 winner has been selected by the TMB at its June 2020 meeting and will be announced in September 2020.

The nominees for the 2020 award are:

1. **TC 5/SC 2** on Cast iron pipes, fittings and their joints
2. **TC 34/SC 18** on Cocoa
3. **TC 39/SC 4** on Woodworking machines

4. **TC 45** on Rubber and rubber products
5. **TC 46/SC 1** on Archives/records management
6. **TC 61** on Plastics
7. **TC 94/SC 14** on Firefighters' personal equipment
8. **TC 150** on Implants for surgery
9. **TC 210** on Quality management and corresponding general aspects for medical devices
10. **TC 229** on Nanotechnology
11. **TC 267** on Facility management
12. **TC 301** on Energy management and energy savings
13. **PC 305** Sustainable non-sewered sanitation systems

What this means for you: Are you interested in learning who the winner is for 2020? Then make sure to read the September edition of the TMB Communiqué. If you think your committee could be the next winner of the L.D. Eicher award, keep an eye out for the call for nominations which will be launched in early 2021 or contact tmb@iso.org for further information.

7. Task Force 14 on ISO Virtual Standards development process (IVP)

Background: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and the fact that all committees are working 100% virtually until further notice, the call for candidates to take part in pilots within the IVP project has been cancelled and a new project proposal (*ISO Virtual – accelerating and supporting the transition from physical to virtual meetings*) to support the acceleration of a transition towards more virtual work is being developed. The aim is to use the lessons learned from the ongoing IVP pilot (led by ISO/TC 301/WG 15) and feedback from the COVID-19 crisis, to review the current rules, policies and technical needs. This will ensure that our standards development process and tools are optimal for virtual work.

What this means for you: Are you interested to know more and follow-up on the evolution of ongoing activities and projects to address virtual work? Then stay tuned and don't forget to read the September edition of the TMB Communiqué. If you have any questions contact Mélanie JACOB (Project Manager) jacob@iso.org.

8. Strategic Advisory Group on Accessibility

Background: The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) on Accessibility was created in September 2018 with [TMB Resolution 99/2018](#). The SAG was created to explore how to bring together information on accessibility and how to best share it with the technical community. It is estimated that over a billion people around the world have some form of disability. ISO needs to encourage the development of standards that take into account the widest range of users and ensure that these can access products, goods and services.

As well as working on mapping all existing accessibility deliverables (which will allow committees and working groups to find existing work on accessibility), the SAG is preparing its final report and recommendations to submit to the TMB in September 2020.

What is means for you: The mapping can be found on the [Accessibility page](#) on ISO Connect and look out for the next Communiqué for news on the SAG's final report. If you have any questions or feedback please contact the Secretary of the SAG on Accessibility, Mikaela Sampson at sampson@iso.org.

9. ISO Gender Survey

Background: In September 2019 the ISO Council approved the [ISO Gender Action Plan 2019-2021](#) (GAP). Priority 1 of the GAP is the collection of gender data on ISO members' top management, technical committees, experts and governance bodies representatives. The goal is to understand the current gender balance as well as the participation of the next generation in ISO's activities. The survey is voluntary, but the more data we can collect the better. The data will contribute to future initiatives to enhance gender representation in standardization work and to our work to ensure that standards are gender responsive.

All responses to this survey are anonymous. No contact details are collected, and the respondents' IP address is discarded as soon as the respondent visits the survey. ISO is committed to protecting the privacy of its members and experts.

What is means for you: If you are a Chair, Committee Manager, or Project Leader you will have received a link to this survey which takes less than 2 minutes to complete. As well as completing it yourself, please forward the survey link to all the ISO experts registered in your TC, SC, PC or WG. Please do not forward this to experts in national mirror committees. If you have any questions please write to gender@iso.org.

10. Revision of the Getting started toolkits and My ISO Job Brochure

Background: ISO/CS is currently updating the "Getting Started Toolkits" for chairs, convenors and committee managers and the "My ISO Job" brochure. The documents are being updated to reflect changes in the latest version of the ISO/IEC Directives and the ISO Supplement (May 2020 editions).

What is means for you: We will make an announcement with a blog post on ISO Connect once the new versions are published and will upload them in the [Resource library](#).

REMINDERS

11. Living Lab: Committee innovation proposals

Background: Recalling TMB Resolutions [72/2015](#) and [73/2015](#), the TMB decided to continue committee innovations pilots as part of the second phase of the Living Lab Project. Committee innovations are ideas proposed by committees that will help improve their working processes and improve the status quo within the current standard development process. Ideas may be submitted to the ISO Central Secretariat using [this form](#).

These proposals are subject to approval by the Living Lab 2 TMB Task Force and when validated become pilots that the committee will manage for testing working processes. Upon completion of the testing period and provided that the outcome of the pilot is successful, the TMB will vote to implement the pilot's final recommendations and to make them "official" (i.e. by modifying the ISO Directives, issuing new guidelines, using new tools, etc.).

What this means for you: If you believe you have a good proposal for a committee innovation that would improve working processes and benefit several committees, please fill in the [form](#) and send it to us at tmb@iso.org. If you would like to know more about committee innovation proposals and current pilots, additional information is available [here](#) on ISO Connect.

12. Resource library

Background: The Technical Policy team has created a [Resource library](#) with all the information that

is useful for the technical community. Here you can find guidance documents, brochures, toolkits and other useful documents such as guidance to help you for holding virtual meetings. The library is organized by subjects and updated regularly.

What this means for you: When you are looking for advice or “how to” documents, make sure to visit the Resource library first. For suggestions on how to improve it, please send an email to tmb@iso.org

EVENTS

Cancellation of the 2020 ISO General Assembly in Abu Dhabi

Council took the decision to cancel the 2020 ISO General Assembly to be held on 23-24 September 2020 in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates). Required statutory items for decision in 2020 will be addressed by correspondence, and a virtual session for ISO members will be organized on 24 September 2020. The other meetings planned to take place during the week, such as the TMB meeting, are also being held virtually. The dates and times of these meetings have been set in coordination with the respective Chairs and their members have been informed accordingly.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact José Baltar, Head of Governance (gov@iso.org).

NEW COMMITTEES

Reminder: NSBs proposing a new committee have the option to organize a web conference session(s) to “promote” their NPs and TS/Ps and to answer any questions from ISO members. This is normally done half-way through the 12-week voting period. See the process [here](#) on ISO Connect. For information on new proposals and the stages of approval that they are in, please click on the following link: <https://connect.iso.org/x/L4AhAQ>

TMB RESOLUTIONS

TMB Resolutions (including 2020) are available on e-committees:
<https://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink?func=ll&objId=15768654&objAction=browse>