

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

African Day of Standardisation: 29th June 2022

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”.

Background Information

Initiated in 2013, and celebrated annually among ARSO members at the national level, and collectively at the continental level, every June during the ARSO Week and General Assembly Events, the African Day of Standardisation aims to raise awareness among African Policy makers, Leaders, Regulators, Industry, Academia, Consumers and the entire African Citizens on the benefits of Standardisation and to celebrate the milestone of African Standardisation. This is also a platform that provides trade related information which facilitates the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement by State Parties.

The AfCFTA, one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063 was established by the African Union with the following main objectives:

- (i) create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, and thus pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the Customs Union;
- (ii) expand intra-African trade through better harmonization and coordination of trade liberalization and facilitation across the RECs and across Africa in general.

As a recall, the AfCFTA currently has 54 (including all the 42 ARSO Members) out of 55 African Union Member States as signatories and 44 have ratified it.

To mitigate the problem of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs) in Africa with reference to the provisions of the AfCFTA TBT Annex 6, there has been a notable and a forceful effort and appropriate priority by the African leadership and the Standardisation Community, with regards to common standards, certification and quality regulations and advocating for Mutual Recognition Arrangements with a clear goal of obtaining a Common Regulatory Framework, and with a “One Standard-One market policy”. This includes:

- Synergy with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to support and promote activities with regard to development, harmonisation and implementation of standards for identified priority products being traded under the AfCFTA as per the projected standards to be harmonised by ARSO in the context of the 4,547 HS6, Tariff lines for the AfCFTA.
- Partnership with development partners to support standards harmonization activities for priority sectors

For the 2022 African Day of Standardisation, the workshop has been organised with 4 Sessions, and with Plenary sessions with Presentations and discussions by Moderators, discussants and Experts, with the main purpose being to, highlight:

1. the need to ensure that the Standards harmonisation activities address the priority Sectors and Interests of both the RECs, Member States and the Continent, based on the traded products, and trade volumes and on sectors which impact on the continent's sustainable development.
2. The need for inclusivity in the Standardisation process, targeting all the RECs, member States (including the non-member States), the SMEs and Industries, as Standardisation is meant to increase productivity, export diversification and trade in Africa, and in the Context of AfCFTA Agreement.

The Sessions will highlight various milestones in the Harmonisation of African Standards and Conformity Assessments, including the International Standards, under the highlighted areas, and offering launching platform to increase opportunities for the implementation of the Sustainable standards.

Interpretation (English-French) will be provided during the sessions.

Session 1 – Impact of harmonised African standards in promoting the pharmaceutical industry's growth

Venue: Hilton Hotel

Time: 08:30 am – 09: 30 am

1. Background

Researches have shown that for the pharmaceutical industry, about 95.9% of Africa's imports of medicinal and pharmaceutical products, originate from outside the continent (Karisha Banga, et al. 2020), this is equivalent to \$17billion of imported pharmaceutical preparations and products.

If Africa is the only pharmaceutical market where genuinely high growth is still achievable, value of Africa's pharmaceutical industry jumped to USD 28.56 billion in 2017 from just USD 5.5 billion a decade earlier (Holt *et al.*, 2015; Goldstein Research, 2020). That growth is continuing at a rapid pace and is projected to be worth USD 56 billion to USD 70 billion by 2030.

When COVID-19 outbreak happened, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reports indicated the pandemic as the largest threat to global economy since the financial emergency of 2008–2009, as COVID-19 had severely demobilized the global economy. For Africa, it came in as a wakeup call, as it was demonstrated by the endemic reliance on imports, the breakdowns in supply chains associated with lockdown measures.

Furthermore, this new experience strengthened the case for developing intra-African regional value chains and unlocking the continent's business potential, with a positive shift from global to a more regional and local supply chain in the pharmaceuticals to foster manufacturing, trade, industrialisation and sustainable development.

2. Role of implementing harmonised African standards in the pharmaceutical industry

To achieve the Africa we want, means all for one, various actors to speak with one voice on the use of harmonised African standards and improve the technical regulatory capacity. This means all African countries to be involved in the *harmonisation, adoption and implementation of the African standards and technical regulations linking to the implementation of the AfCFTA*

Therefore, below are a few benefits among the many Africa will experience by implementing the harmonised African standards are:

- ❖ Strategic selection of essential medicinal products for local production
- ❖ Pricing of locally produced products that governments and people could afford
- ❖ Health security – an uninterrupted supply of essential medicines and medical devices
- ❖ Innovation for development of formulations that are suitable for local conditions
- ❖ Facilitation for development of medical products for diseases which are neglected at the international level but are of significant interest at national, sub-regional and continental levels
- ❖ Gaining competitiveness and recognition for international accreditation of local industries in the manufacture of medical products.
- ❖ Create the basis for harmonization of medicines regulations and mutual recognition of regulators to facilitate intra-African trade in pharmaceuticals and medical devices.
- ❖ Form the basis for governments to formulate public procurement contracts with producers

It is in this regard, ARSO has partnered with various stakeholders, namely the African Export-Import Bank (**Afreximbank**) and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (**ITFC**) under the umbrella of the Arab-Africa Trade Bridges Program (AATB) to harmonise standards for the Pharmaceuticals sector.

This harmonisation work is being done through different ARSO technical committees, among others:

- **ARSO/TC 74**, HealthCare Services
- **ARSO/TC 78**, Medical devices and equipment
- **ARSO/TC 80**, Pharmaceutical and medicinal products
- **ARSO/TC 82**, African Traditional Medicine
- **ARSO CACO SC TR (WG5)**, ARSO CACO Technical Regulation Sub-Committee Working group 5 on Pharmaceutical and medical devices

In a period of almost 2 years, ARSO has approved **126** standards and regulatory guidelines. ARSO projects to approve approximately 300 standards by the year 2023.

Example of a few standards that were harmonised to respond to the Covid 19 pandemic:

- ❖ ARS 1692:2021, Medical devices — Medical face masks — Specification
- ❖ ARS 1694:2021, Medical respirators — Specification
- ❖ ARS 1693:2021, Community face coverings — Guide to minimum requirements, methods of testing and use
- ❖ ARS 1693:2021 Disinfectants Sanitizers Specification
- ❖ ARS 1653:2021 Disinfectants Quaternary ammonium based Specification

The work being done under these technical committees has demonstrated that not only the standards being harmonised, once adopted and implemented, will change for the better the quality, safety and trade on the continent, it will also put Africa on an undeniable high level globally.

3. Purpose of this session

The purpose of this session is to discuss the African regulatory landscape in the pharmaceutical sector and the need for harmonised African Standards and conformity Assessment, as the quality infrastructure will be vital in maintaining competitiveness and strengthening regional pharmaceutical supply chains, with the contribution of standards and regulatory cooperation for access to essential medical goods, and supporting local production.

In particular, the session will focus on the on-going standardisation initiatives, the challenges, the gaps and recommendations on addressing them; as well as the contribution of standards and regulatory cooperation for access to essential medical goods, and supporting local production and manufacturing, factoring in the lessons from COVID-19 and best way forward and Giving a better understanding the high potential for the continent to tap into the production of medicines and vaccines to contribute to addressing health gaps in the continent and increasing GDP growth.

It is by this, that a session was organised during the celebration of the African Day of Standardisation happening on 29th June 2022, in Yaoundé, Cameroon as one of the ARSO 28th General Assembly events.

4. The Objective of this session

The session aims to:

- (i) Shed light on trade and investment opportunities that could be generated by the implementation African harmonised standards especially for the intra-African trade
- (ii) Increase awareness on the status of the pharmaceuticals sector in Africa
- (iii) Provide African multilateral development stakeholders with key ideas on how standards and conformity Assessment can facilitate the Manufacturing and trade in the sector for Africa
- (iv) Address the gaps and challenges on African healthcare policy and regulatory stakeholders, with a focus on the profound socio-economic impacts
- (v) Address the need for all African countries to ensure compliance of imports with safety standards

5. Structure of the session and contribution guide for discussants

5.1 Moderator:

Mr Katima Temba, Head of Certification Divisional - South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) and Secretary - ARSO CACO

5.2 ARSO Presentation

Topic: “The Impact of harmonised African standards in promoting the Pharmaceutical industry’s growth”
- Mrs. Sandra Umugwaneza

5.3 Discussants

- Hon. Michael Okyere Baafi, MP (Ghana’s Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry - in charge of Industry)
- Mr. Temwa Gondwe, Senior Manager, Intra-African Trade Initiative – Afreximbank
- Erin S. Crowley, Chief Scientific Officer, Q Laboratories, Past President, AOAC International
- Prof. Alex Dodoo, Director General Ghana standards Authority (GSA) and ARSO President-Elect

5.4 Contribution Guide discussants

Objective (1) and (ii): Contribution by Hon. Michael Okyere Baafi, MP (Ghana’s Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry - in charge of Industry)

- i) What are the investment opportunities for the pharmaceutical industry in Africa and how Africa can generate enough resources for the growth of this industry?
- ii) What are the policy measures that should be put in place for the development of a self-resilient pharmaceutical industry in Africa looking at how Ghana has developed the African Traditional Medicine sector?

Objective (1) and (ii): Contribution by Afreximbank, Mr. Temwa Gondwe, Senior Manager, Intra-African Trade Initiative

- i) As an organization of innovative structures to deliver financing solutions that are supporting the transformation of the structure of Africa’s trade, what are the benefits of pharmaceuticals local production and how can the Quality Infrastructure enhance it?
- ii) What can be done to promote accelerating industrialization and intra-regional trade, thereby sustaining economic expansion in Africa?

Objective (iii) and (v): Contribution by AOAC/ Erin S. Crowley, Chief Scientific Officer, Q Laboratories, Past President, AOAC International

- i) How can Conformity Assessment Programmes help ensure the increase of safe and quality local manufacturing, but also make sure imported goods meet safety and other standards in the pharmaceutical industry
- ii) When do you think is the right time to strengthen global resiliency and Africa’s in particular, as we look to achieve more sustainable economic development?
- **Objective (iii):** Contribution by Ghana standards Authority (GSA) - Prof. Alex Dodoo, Director General GSA, Ghana and ARSO President-Elect.

- i) What is the importance of the Regulatory Coherence for the Pharmaceutical Industry – Challenges and the role of the Regulatory Authorities
- ii) Address the gaps and challenges African healthcare policy and regulatory stakeholders, with a focus on the profound socio-economic impacts

The panel will end with a Question and Answer session where participants will be allowed to ask questions and clarifications.

6. Contact

In case of any query please do not hesitate to contact, Mrs. Sandra Umugwaneza and Mr. Philip Okungu on sandrau@arso-oran.org and okungupm@arso-oran.org respectively.

Session 2 – Using standards to underpin the value addition and access to market for Agriculture and Food products

Venue: Hilton Hotel

Time: 11:30-13:00

1. Background

Value addition is one of the important components of nutritional security and helps to increase the value of primary agricultural commodities through a particular production process. For that matter the farm to fork principles has a big impact in ensuring food quality and safety standards are met throughout the food value chain hence avoidance of post-harvest losses, transportation storage, industrialization, employment generation, export, extended availability of produce, foreign exchange earnings, product diversification and easy market access.

Farmers and food producers face challenges in accessing markets to sell their goods due several issues ranging from limited knowledge in modern agriculture practices, storage conditions and infrastructure, transportation and nowadays regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedure which are initially established to regulate the markets but sometimes end up also creating obstacles to trade because of their divergency.

Given the sensitivity of the food sector with regards to health, safety and quality of products, everyone has a part to play, thus stakeholders, partners and private sectors need to join hands and put in place mechanisms to reduce the above-mentioned challenges. Among the mechanisms thought about at African Regional level is harmonization of standards and Conformity Assessment for the sector and building capacity of all stakeholders involved in the food value chain hence to facilitate the intra-African trade.

2. Role of harmonised African standards in agriculture and food products

ARSO is promoting harmonization of African standards and Conformity assessment systems focused on facilitating the production and trade of Agricultural and food products, in the context of the AfCFTA Agreement. The harmonization of standards is being done through eight main sectors namely fish and fisheries products, milk and milk products, horticulture, Coffee, cocoa and tea, live animals, animal feeding and agriculture and biotechnology with the support of experts from African Countries member of ARSO. To ensure the effective implementation of the African harmonized standards ARSO is also facilitating in the capacity building of MSMEs for certification, auditors, and certification bodies to comply with the requirements of the standards.

Apart from the development of standards, ARSO continues to engage stakeholders in the development of training modules, Certification guidelines, Value Addition Modules, Conformity Assessment Checklists and Audit Instructions, outreach Materials and as well as in awareness creation.

It is in this regard, ARSO has partnered with various stakeholders, namely African Development Bank (AfDB) and Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) to harmonise standards for the development of the agriculture and food products sector.

Currently, ARSO has published 297 harmonized standards in Agriculture and food products and additionally 380 standards that are in process of being harmonized as well as 275 materials will be developed to support in the implementation of harmonized African standards.

This harmonisation work is being done through different ARSO technical committees, among others:

1. ARSO/TC 02, Apiculture and pollination services
2. ARSO/TC 03, Fish, fisheries and aquaculture
3. ARSO/TC 04, Milk and milk products
4. ARSO/TC 05, Horticulture
5. ARSO/TC 06, Coffee, cocoa, tea and related products
6. ARSO/TC 07, Meat, poultry, eggs and related products
7. ARSO/TC 08, Food additives
8. ARSO/TC 09, Spices, culinary herbs and condiments
9. ARSO/TC 10, Food hygiene
10. ARSO/TC 11, Contaminants and toxins in foods and feeds
11. ARSO/TC 12, Cereals, pulses and derived products
12. ARSO/TC 13, Oilseeds, edible fats and oils
13. ARSO/TC 14, Food packaging and labelling
14. ARSO/TC 15, Nutrition and foods for special dietary uses
15. ARSO/TC 16, Sugar, starch and confectionery
16. ARSO/TC 17, Animal feeding, feeds and feeding stuffs
17. ARSO/TC 18, Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
18. ARSO/TC 19, Seed and propagation materials
19. ARSO/TC 20, Tobacco and similar products
20. ARSO/TC 21, Pesticide residues
21. ARSO/TC 22, Agrochemicals
22. ARSO/TC 23, Live animals
23. ARSO/TC 63, Drinking water supply and sanitation systems
24. ARSO/TC 79, Veterinary drugs
25. ARSO/TC 83, Agriculture and biotechnology

Example of a few standards that were harmonized for agriculture and food product

Cassava

1. ARS 835:2016, Fresh sweet cassava — Specification
2. ARS 837:2016, Fresh cassava leaves — Specification
3. ARS 838:2016, Cassava flour — Specification
4. ARS 839:2016, Dried cassava chips — Specification
5. ARS 840:2016, High quality cassava flour — Specification

Sorghum

6. ARS 462:2016, Sorghum — Specification
7. ARS 468:2016, Sorghum flour — Specification

Millet

8. ARS 463:2016, Pearl millet grains — Specification
9. ARS 469:2016, Millet flour — Specification
10. ARS 857:2016 Finger millet grains — Specification

Dry Beans

11. ARS 861:2016 Fortified maize flour – Specification
12. ARS 864:2013, Dry beans — Specification
13. ARS 865-2014 Green grams — Specification
14. ARS 869-2014, Dry whole peas — Specification
15. ARS 872-2014, Dry soybeans — Specification

Maize

16. ARS 461:2013, Maize grains (Corn) — Specification
17. ARS 466:2013, Milled maize products — Specification

Vegetables

18. ARS 927:2018, Fresh kales (leafy vegetables) — Specification

Animal

- 19. ARS 1105:2018, Good agricultural practices for poultry farms
- 20. ARS 1108:2018, Good agricultural practices for beef cattle farms

3. Purpose of session 2

This session will therefore discuss the TBT and SPS effects on Agricultural Trade in Africa and the standardization need for the Sector to facilitate value addition creation and market access for agricultural products.

4. Objectives of this session

The main objective of this session is to offer a platform for discussions on:

- i. The trade effects of SPS measures and TBTs on value added Agricultural and food products, focusing on the opportunities and challenges of the full liberalization of trade under the AfCFTA Agreement
- ii. Understanding the challenges faced by farmers and producers in increasing the value of primary agricultural products and emerging opportunities in agriculture business.
- iii. Role of different stakeholders involved in agriculture production and value addition
- iv. How harmonization and implementation of standards and conformity Assessments can facilitate access to market and increase intra-African Trade in Agricultural Products for food security within the continent

5. Structure of the session and contribution guide for discussants

5.1 Moderator:

- Dr. Simplicie Nouala, Head – Division of Agriculture and Food Security, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment- African Union Commission

5.2 Presentation by ARSO

Topic: The impact of “Harmonisation of African standards in agriculture and food products – Case of case of Dairy, Horticulture, Fisheries, fish and fisheries products, milk and milk products, Coffee, cocoa and tea, live animals, animal feeding and agriculture and biotechnology – **Mrs. Liliane Kamanzi**

5.3 Discussants

- Mr. Omar Saidi Shabaan - The Minister for Trade and Industry of Zanzibar
- Ms. Nana Pokua - ARSO CACO representative
- Mr. Reuben Gisore - ARSO Technical Director

5.4 Contribution guide for the discussants

Objective 1: Contribution by Mr. Omar Saidi Shabaan - The Minister for Trade and Industry of Zanzibar

- i) Are there initiatives, incentives, and strategies to support the value addition of agricultural production in order to grasp the opportunity of the trade liberalization under the AfCFTA Agreement. What are the entrepreneurship policies and strategies to motivate and improve quality of agriculture products?

Objective 2: Contribution by Ms. Nana Pokua - ARSO CACO representative

- ii) Does Africa have adequate Quality infrastructure to support in the verification/assurance of the safety and quality of agricultural products prior to putting them on the targeted market

Objective 3&4: Contribution by Mr. Reuben Gisore - ARSO Technical Director

- iii) What should be the role of partners in supporting farmers and manufacturers to improve and increase their products, regarding accessing targeted markets?
- iv) Do African MSMEs have required technological infrastructure and innovation in the whole value chain, skills and competence of farmers and producers to ensure safe and quality products on regional and international markets

The panel will end with a Question and Answer session where participants will be allowed to ask questions and clarifications.

6. Contact

In case of any query please do not hesitate to contact, Mrs. Liliane Kamanzi and Mr. Philip Okungu on lilianek@arso-oran.org and okungupm@arso-oran.org respectively.

Session 3 – Implementing harmonised standards to spur the development of the African Automotive Industry

Venue: Hilton Hotel

Time: 14:00 -15:30

1. Background

The automotive industry is a relatively sophisticated industry, but with sub-Saharan Africa's rapidly expanding market and automotive trade deficit of \$16.3 billion, According to (Madden, 2020), worldwide, Africa has 40% share of 14 million used vehicles imported from the European Union, Japan and the United States. The high demand for these vehicles was attributed to their low prices and the absence of a sizeable middle-class population. However, these imported used vehicles are often of poor quality and are highly susceptible to failing roadworthiness tests in the exporting countries (UNEP, 2020).

Consequently, these vehicles contribute to air pollution which hampers efforts to combat climate change. In fact, emissions from these vehicles are a major source of small particulates and nitrogen oxides which are responsible for urban pollution (Africa Business, 2020). 25% of energy-related greenhouse emissions across the globe are caused by vehicles. As a result, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the continent is slowed down.

It is evident that these imported vehicles are not only environmental hazards but also a leading cause of road accidents within the continent (UNEP, 2020). It is unfortunate that Africa has the highest road traffic fatality rates where about 250,000 people die annually. By 2030, the number is projected to rise to 514,000 according to the World Health Organization (World Health Organization, 2020).

Furthermore, other technical challenges are still being observed mainly linked but not limited to:

- Old auto assembling plants that need to be resuscitated and or establish new ones in Africa which are great opportunities for job creation and industrialization in the Continent
- Low level of adherence to standards by stakeholders
- Multiplicity of standards, mainly private, in the sector and low level of domestication of harmonised standards by member Countries to prevent duplication of standards and ensure uniform standards in the Continent particularly for trade under the AfCFTA.
- Technological related challenges linked to e-mobility. This includes automotive engineering as well as charging infrastructure, energy and environmental issues and urban planning aspects.
- The parts manufacture is of similarly small scale, imposing a large burden on consumers with little economic benefit.
- Lack of a Regulatory policy frame-work for the Automotive Industry for formulation and development of Engineering Solutions for the wider good of Africa

Environmental imperatives and safety requirements are two critical issues facing the automotive industry worldwide. There is need, for Africa, for harmonising and adopting stringent emission standards, and progressing towards technical alignment with international safety standards.

It is important that ways are found to efficiently attract investment, which are more appropriate for lower income countries. Few larger countries such as Nigeria and Kenya have embarked on plans to develop domestic automotive production. Some of these plans run the risk of encouraging low volume, inefficient production which provides little value added or employment.

Moreover, what is required to develop the automotive industry in Africa as one of the key Sectors under the AfCFTA Agreement, is the broadening of the market through regional integration to allow for large-scale productive investment through establishing a Common Regulatory Framework, and this is a combined and collective effort of all relevant stakeholders.

2. Role of harmonised Standards for the automotive industry within ARSO

ARSO harmonises standards for the automotive engineering technology industry through engagement of national and regional automotive stakeholders namely automotive manufacturers, assemblers, regulators, standardisers, fuels refiners and suppliers. In the harmonisation of these standards ARSO collaborates with Regional Economic Communities standards organs, the cooperation with the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (TTTFP) is a testimony.

Harmonised standards are one of the ways for the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to widen the markets for Africa's automotive industry under the AfCFTA by creating a reliable network of automotive components and strengthening environmental performance.

The AfCFTA Strategy for the African Automotive Manufacturing Sector indicates harmonised standards by ARSO as a core stone on the automotive sector growth.

It is in this regard that ARSO has partnered with various stakeholders, namely African Union (AUC), AfCFTA, AFREXIMBANK and Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) to harmonise standards for the development of the automotive sector.

Currently ARSO has harmonised 41 standards which are to be adopted and implemented by its Member States. These standards provide product requirements, specifications and supporting information for vehicle examiners, testing equipment and facilities and requirements for combinations of vehicles.

They were harmonised in the auspices of the ARSO Technical Committee 59 (ARSO/TC59) on Automotive technology and engineering.

Example of a few standards that were harmonized for automotive sector:

1. ARS 1355-1:2021, Vehicle Standards — Specification for Vehicle Roadworthiness — Part 1: Roadworthiness of vehicles already in use
2. ARS 1362-2021, Automotive Fuels—Unleaded Petrol—Requirements and test methods
3. ARS 1363-2021, Automotive Fuels—Diesel—Requirements and test methods
4. ARS 1370:2021, Transportation of dangerous goods by road
5. ARS 1371:2021, Cross border road transport management system (XB-RTMS)
6. ARS 1595:2021 Vehicle homologation
7. ISO/IEC 18013-1:2018, Information technology — Personal identification — ISO-compliant driving license — Part 1: Physical characteristics and basic data set
8. ISO/IEC 18013-2:2020, Information technology — Personal identification — ISO-compliant driving license — Part 2: Machine-readable technologies
9. SAE J1703:2019, Motor vehicle brake fluids
10. ARS/UNECE Regulation No. 36 Rev. 3:2008. Uniform provisions concerning the approval of large passenger vehicles with regard to their general construction

11. ARS/UNECE R101REV.3:2013 concerning Uniform provisions concerning the approval of passenger cars powered by an internal combustion engine only, or powered by a hybrid electric power train

3. Purpose of session 3

This session is based on the fact that, although the automotive sector has a fairly long tradition in a few countries such as Egypt, Nigeria or South Africa, the African continent continues to play a peripheral role in an industry characterized by strong geographic concentration around key markets, and though, by global standards, the African market has largely untapped potential and is regarded as the last frontier of the automotive industry (Deloitte, 2018).

For creating more awareness on the importance of implementing harmonised standards by all sector players (manufacturers, policy makers for technical regulations, fuels refiners, inspection and licensing authorities etc.), through its major events, ARSO offers a platform for discussion on the topic where various experienced speakers present the current developments to stir up stakeholders' views and feedback.

This session also aims at creating a platform for discussion on issues around the automotive industry and put forward recommendations that will contribute to the development of the sector.

4. The Objective of this session

The Main objectives of this session are to offer an understanding of:

- (i) the current status of the Automotive Industry in Africa,
- (ii) the regulatory Framework challenges,
- (iii) the need for the effective Safe Automotive Value Chains,
- (iv) how standards and conformity Assessment facilitate the Manufacturing and trade in the sector for Africa
- (v) the current initiatives for better partnerships and cooperation.

5. Structure of the session and contribution guide for discussants

5.1 Moderator

Prof. Alex Dodoo, ARSO President-Elect/ Director General of Ghana Standards Authority.

5.2 Presentation by ARSO

Topic: "Implementing harmonised standards to spur the development of the African Automotive Industry"
– Mrs. Nadine Umutoni

5.3 Discussants

- H.E. Mr. Endalew Mekonen, State Minister, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration Government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia
- Ms. Millicent Njuguna –Mwangi, Regional Manager BA & Food Services at the Intertek
- Mr. Ben Hedley, Senior Programme Manager, Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN) and Africa and Caribbean Engagement - BSI

5.4 Contribution guide for discussants

Objective (i) and (ii): Contribution by H.E. Mr. Endalew Mekonen, State Minister, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration Government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia

- i) What could be the reasons for the high level of dependency on imports from outside Africa and how should all key players in the sector, tackle this issue especially manufacturers and assemblers.
- ii) On the issue of referencing standards in technical regulations as a way of easing cross border trade, do you think regulatory framework supports the manufacturing and growth of the automotive industry?

Objective (iii): Contribution by INTERTEK - Millicent Njuguna –Mwangi, Regional Manager BA & Food Services

- i) What can be done to provide required facilities and infrastructure for investors in charging stations and associated services among others as Africa's rollout of e-mobility programmes.
- ii) As INTERTEK has the Total Quality Assurance programme, what does INTERTEK do in to support manufacturers?

Objective (iv) and (v): Mr. Ben Hedley, Senior Programme Manager, Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN) and Africa and Caribbean Engagement - BSI

- i) As involved in cross continent cooperation, how do you collaborate with different stakeholders in the automotive industry in cognisance of different value chains within the sector?

The panel will end with a Question and Answer session where participants will be allowed to ask questions and clarifications.

7. Contact

In case of any query please do not hesitate to contact, Mrs. Nadine Umutoni and Mr. Philip Okungu on nadineu@arso-oran.org and okungupm@arso-oran.org respectively.

Session 4 – The Role of Sustainability Standards and Eco-Certification in promoting Sustainable development and Trade.

Venue: Hilton Hotel

Time: 16:00 - 17:00

1. Background

There is currently a rapid shift towards Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) patterns, which are intended to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems as per the UN 2015 SDG 2030, SDG 12, guidelines on Responsible consumption and production, which is key to sustainable development, and regional & international cooperation.

The 2030 Agenda, with its far-reaching and ambitious vision with its 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 targets listed as “universal policy agenda”, covering a wide range of interrelated Sustainability issues, such as transitioning to low-carbon economies, increasing production and consumption in a sustainable manner, conserving biodiversity, building human resource capacity, forging strong partnerships between stakeholders and tackling regional problems collaboratively, and addressed in various Goals.

For Africa, under its Aspiration 1, Agenda 2063, is aspiring for a Prosperous continent “Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development, while ensuring that “the environment and ecosystems are healthy and preserved, and with climate resilient economies and communities” and advocating for strategies to ensure that “Africa participates in global efforts for climate change mitigation that support and broaden the policy space for sustainable development on the continent” while speaking with “one voice and unity of purpose in advancing its position and interests on climate change”.

The two Agendas see trade as an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, but one challenge is how to make trade become a ‘sustainable engine’, with a focus on internalising social, economic and environmental concerns in trade and value chains managements, taking into account social and environmental requirements in the production process.

In response, therefore, the trade and standardisation community have **ushered in new set of standards, the Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS)** comprising eco-certification schemes, labelling programs and private standards (like **Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance and Organic certification, and ARSO's Eco Mark Africa**) as voluntary guidelines, used by producers, manufacturers, traders, retailers, and service providers to demonstrate their commitment to good environmental, social, ethical, and food safety practices, in line with the SCP patterns.

VSS come with the opportunity to make Trade more sustainable and governance of value chains in a way which enhances economic, social and environmental ‘upgrading’, i.e. a process by which negative social and environmental consequences are addressed and which contributes to better protection of social and environmental standards.

2. Role of harmonised Sustainability Standards

For Africa the 2002 Johannesburg Summit held in line with the Global Marrakech SCP process, called for the development of a 10-Year Framework of Program (10-YFP) in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns, and recommended development of the African Eco Labelling Mechanism, currently the Eco Mark Africa, to be developed by ARSO and which was launched in May 2018. Eco Mark Africa aims to facilitate the Certification of goods and services and assist African producers to access local, regional and international markets for sustainably produced goods and services, and promote Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to get certified and access markets.

For the operation of the Eco Mark Scheme, ARSO has harmonised several Agricultural Sustainability Standards, in addition three standards on sustainable Cocoa, and six African Sustainability Standards on fisheries, forestry, tourism, tilapia and the African catfish. The Scheme is based on a performance maturity model and through which companies and especially SMEs can be certified at a low performance level (bronze) and upgraded and certified to a higher performance level (silver, gold or platinum) as their performance improves. Currently, ARSO in cooperation with United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS) has developed an African Continental platform on Voluntary Sustainability to promote the cooperation with national governments to launch national platforms on sustainability standards.

They were harmonised in the auspices of the ARSO Technical Committee 59 (ARSO/TC59) on Automotive technology and engineering.

[Example of a few standards that were harmonized for agriculture and food product](#)

1. ARS AES 1_2014 Agriculture — Sustainability and eco-labelling — Requirements
2. ARS AES 2_2014 Fisheries — Sustainability and eco-labelling — Requirements
3. ARS AES 3_2014 Forestry — Sustainability and eco-labelling— Requirements
4. ARS AES 4_2014 Tourism — Sustainability and eco-labelling — Requirements
5. ARS AES 5_2014 Aquaculture — African catfish — Sustainability and eco-labelling — Requirements
6. ARS AES 6_2014 Aquaculture — Tilapia — Sustainability and eco-labelling — Requirements

It is in this regard, ARSO has partnered with UNECA to harmonise standards for the promotion of sustainable production and consumption.

At the International Level, has developed the ISO SDG TOOL, through which it presents, how for each goal, ISO standards contribute to the SDGs, including the SDG 12.

3. Purpose of Session 4

The purpose of this session is to make African stakeholders aware of the current developments in the field and encourage them to take action to make the world more sustainable and recommend the tools to do so.

4. The Objective of Session

The Main objectives of this session are to:

- (i) Offer platform for the discussions on the SCP Patterns and the influence of standardisation, especially the Sustainability Standards and Certifications and the initiatives by different stakeholders and the standardisation community (ARSO, ISO and Fairtrade).
- (ii) Highlight the importance of Sustainability Standards and Eco- Certification in the value chain management and Market Access and why they remain key elements for competitiveness in global business relations and interlinkages, and policy tools in Planet/Climate action.
- (iii) Highlight the possibilities and limitations (potentials and constraints) of VSS in making trade more sustainable, in particular with regards to developing countries development opportunities and Consumers demand for environment-friendly products.
- (iv) Create awareness on the Sustainability Standards and Certifications and their role as engines for promotion of sustainability-related products, sustainable Trade social development, and environmental conservation.

5. Structure of the session and contribution guide for discussants

5.1 Moderator

Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, ARSO Secretary General.

5.2 Presentation by ARSO

Topic: The presentation will be on the “Benefits of Eco Mark Africa for African Socio-Economic and Sustainable Development” – Mrs. Caroline Anyiso Outa, Regional Manager Mt. Kenya Region – Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and Chairperson – ARSO CACO

5.3 Discussants:

- Mr. Sergio Mujica, Secretary General, ISO
- Ms Anne-Marie Yao - Regional Cocoa Manager, Fairtrade Africa
- Dr. A, Raj, Senior Director&Head ZED, Quality Council of India (QCI)

Objective (i) and (ii): Contributions by Mr. Sergio Mujica, Secretary General, ISO

- (i) In 2021, ISO has published a communiqué on inclusion of sustainability principles in all standardisation work, what could be the reason behind?
- (ii) What are the main challenges for the implementation and compliance to standards by the SMEs and small producers?

Objective (i) and ii: Contributions and discussions by Ms Anne-Marie Yao - Regional Cocoa Manager, Fairtrade Africa

- (i) How is the Fair-trade initiatives in Africa helping the small farmers and producers conform to Standards especially sustainability standards in cocoa sector?
- (ii) Could you share examples where those standards have enabled farmers to access new markets and what are other tangible benefits?

Objective (iv): Contributions and discussions by Dr. A, Raj, Senior Director&Head ZED, Quality Council of India (QCI)

- (i) What is ZED and what are the lessons learnt in implementing ZED especially for SMEs business growth in India?
- (ii) How do you see the collaboration between QCI and ARSO in implementing ECO-MARK AFRICA?

The panel will end with a Question and Answer session where participants will be allowed to ask questions and clarifications.

6. Contact

In case of any query please do not hesitate to contact, Mr. Philip Okungu on okungupm@arso-oran.org