



EXECUTIVE BOARD

Forty-seventh Session

QUESTIONNAIRE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
 REQUESTING OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO¹



1. Name of organization

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
 Organisation internationale de Normalisation

2. Address of headquarters

Secrétariat Central
 1, rue de Varembé
1211 Genève 20

3. Addresses of all branch or regional headquarters

None

4. Membership

(a) Total number of persons

54 Member Bodies (national standards organizations)

(b) Do these persons pay directly or are their subscriptions paid by affiliated organizations?

Subscriptions are paid directly by the Members

(c) List of affiliated organizations, giving their country, and the total number of persons belonging to each

Member Bodies

Australia	Standards Association of Australia	SAA
Austria	Oesterreichischer Normenausschuss	ONA
Belgium	Institut Belge de Normalisation	IBN
Brazil	Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas	ABNT
Bulgaria	Institut de Normalisation, Mesures et Appareils de Mesure	ISMIU
Canada	Canadian Standards Association	CSA
Ceylon	Bureau of Ceylon Standards	
Chile	Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Tecnológicas y Normalización	INDITECNOR

¹ Information supplied by the applicant organization on 20 March 1970.

Colombia	Instituto Colombiano de Normas Técnicas	ICONTEC
Cuba	Dirección de Normas y Metrología	
Czechoslovakia	Úřad pro Normalizaci a měření	CSN
Denmark	Dansk Standardiseringsraad	DS
Finland	Suomen Standardisomisliitto r.y.	SFS
France	Association Française de Normalisation	AFNOR
Germany	Deutscher Normenausschuss	DNA
Ghana	Institute of Standards and Industrial Research	ISIG
Greece	Comité Hellénique de Normalisation auprès de la Chambre Technique de Grèce	ENO
Hungary	Magyar Szabványügyi Hivatal	MSZH
ICAITI	Instituto Centroamericano de Investigación y Tecnología Industrial (ICAITI)	ICAITI
India	Indian Standards Institution	ISI
Indonesia	Jajassan "Dana Normalisasi Indonesia"	DNI
Iran	Institute of Standards and Industrial Research of Iran	ISIRI
Iraq	Iraqi Organization for Standardization	IOS
Ireland	Institute for Industrial Research and Standards	IIRS
Israel	Standards Institution of Israel	SII
Italy	Ente Nazionale Italiano di Unificazione	UNI
Japan	Japanese Industrial Standards Committee	JISC
Korea, Dem. P. Rep. of	Committee for Standardization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	CSK
Korea, Rep. of	Korean Bureau of Standards	KBS
Lebanon	Lebanese Standards Institution	LIBANOR
Malaysia	Standards Institution of Malaysia	SIM
Morocco	Service de Normalisation Industrielle Marocaine	SNIMA
Netherlands	Nederlands Normalisatie-instituut	NNI
New Zealand	Standards Association of New Zealand	SANZ
Pakistan	Pakistan Standards Institution	PSI
Peru	Instituto Nacional de Normas Técnicas Industriales y Certificación	INANTIC
Philippines	Bureau of Standards of the Philippines	KP
Poland	Polski Komitet Normalizacyjny	PKN
Portugal	Repartição de Normalização	IGPAI
Romania	Oficiul de Stat Pentru Standarde	OSS
Singapore	Singapore Industrial Research Unit	SIRU
South Africa, Rep. of	South African Bureau of Standards	SABS
Spain	Instituto Nacional de Racionalización del Trabajo	IRATRA

Sweden	Sveriges Standardiseringskommission	SIS
Switzerland	Association Suisse de Normalisation	SNV
Thailand	Centre for Thai National Standard Specifications	CTNSS
Turkey	Türk Standardlari Enstitüsü	TSE
UAR	Egyptian Organization for Standardization	EOS
United Kingdom	British Standards Institution	BSI
United States of America	United States of America Standards Institute	USASI
USSR	Komitet Standartov, Mer i Izmeritel'nyh Priborov pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR	GOST
Venezuela	Comisión Venezolana de Normas Industriales	COVENIN
Yugoslavia	Jugoslovenski zavod za Standardizaciju	JZS

Correspondent Members

Barbados	Economic Planning Unit
Cyprus	The Ministry of Communications and Works of the Republic of Cyprus
Ethiopia	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Hong Kong	Federation of Hong Kong Industries
Kenya	Ministry of Works
Kuwait	The Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Madagascar	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Expansion Rurale et du Ravitaillement
Malta	Department of Industry, Standards Laboratory
Syria	Industrial Testing and Research Centre
Tunisia	Direction de l'Industrie, Secrétariat d'Etat au Plan et à l'Economie Nationale

- (d) Note various types of membership such as associate members, with numbers and pertinent facts

ISO has two categories of members, namely the Member Bodies and the Correspondent Members. According to the ISO Constitution, the Member Bodies are the only members of the Organization. The category of Correspondent Member was decided upon in accordance with resolutions of the ISO Council and is governed by those resolutions.

The Member Bodies are the national standards bodies most representative of standardization in their respective countries. Each country can be represented in ISO by only a single Member Body.

The category of Correspondent Member was created to comply with the needs of countries interested in standardization but not yet having any national standards bodies. When such bodies are set up and commence to function they are invited to change their status within ISO from that of Correspondent Member to Member Body.

Although a large number of international organizations (about 250) are in liaison with ISO Technical Committees they are not regarded as members of ISO, and do not share in its obligations or privileges.

5. General purposes of the Organization

The aim of ISO is to promote the development of standards in the world with a view to facilitating the international exchange of goods and services, and to developing mutual co-ordination in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological and economic activity.

6. (a) What is the primary function of the Organization?

The primary function of ISO is to establish international recommendations which are standardization documents, intended to be adopted by the ISO Members in their national standards. As means to this end, ISO may:

- (1) take action to facilitate the co-ordination and unification of national standards and issue necessary recommendations to Member Bodies for this purpose;
- (2) set up international standards provided that, in each case, no Member Body dissents;
- (3) encourage and facilitate, as occasion demands, the development of new standards having common requirements for use in the national or international spheres;
- (4) arrange for the exchange of information regarding the work of its Member Bodies and of its Technical Committees;
- (5) co-operate with other international organizations interested in related matters, particularly by undertaking at their request studies relating to standardization projects.

(b) Secondary functions

ISO has no secondary functions unconnected with its main task. However, among such related activities the following may be mentioned:

(1) The Development Committee (DEVCO) whose field is:

Definition of the developing countries' needs in the area of standardization and the study of any means by which these needs can be met.

(2) The Standing Committee for the Study of the Principles of Standardization (STACO) whose primary duty is:

To advise the Council on the principles, methods and techniques necessary to achieve the best results in ISO's work of standardization. For this purpose it:

considers the problems which may be submitted to it and, if possible, proposes solutions;

encourages ISO Member Bodies to promote in their respective countries the study of the general principles of standardization; and

demonstrates the economic and technical advantages of promoting standardization at the international level which can then be applied by different countries in different industries.

(3) The Standing Committee for the Study of Scientific and Technical Information on Standardization (INFSCO), whose scope is:

To advise the Council on methods and procedures for the compilation and dissemination of scientific and technical information on standardization, in particular on:

an agreed common international classification and coding system for standards;

application of mechanized means of processing, storage and retrieval of information relating to standardization;

the education and training of standardization specialists;

to give technical assistance on the methods to be used by the ISO Technical Information Centre at the Central Secretariat;

to render methodological assistance on the exchange of information, publications, exhibitions, lectures and films on standardization.

(4) The International Standards Steering Committee for Consumer Affairs (ISCA)

Unlike the four previous committees, ISCA does not come under the authority of the ISO Council. Although set up in 1967 on the initiative of ISO and its sister organization, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), ISCA also includes the four following organizations as full members, on the same footing as ISO and IEC:

the International Centre for Quality Promotion (CIPQ);

the International Federation of Purchasing (IFP);

the International Labelling Centre (ILC);

the International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU).

The scope of ISCA is:

(a) to determine the needs of consumers in the field of international standardization;

(b) to study and possibly initiate measures within the framework of ISO and IEC to satisfy those needs;

(c) to follow up the progress made in the application of the measures it has taken.

7. (a) Does the organization advocate any special health measures or procedures?

No.

(b) Has the organization any special reservations as to treatment or health procedures?

No.

8. Can officially designated representatives speak authoritatively for the membership on matters concerned with the stated purposes of the Organization?

The Secretary General, appointed by the Council, is the chief administrative officer of the Organization. He directs the Central Secretariat which includes all the staff deemed necessary to carry out the technical administrative work assigned to it by the Council.

From the administrative viewpoint, the Secretary General ensures liaison between the Member Bodies and the Council, receives the subscriptions, governs expenditure, disseminates information of interest to Members and, in general, represents the Organization vis-à-vis other international organizations.

From the technical viewpoint, the Secretary General co-ordinates the activities of the Technical Committees created within the Organization by the Member Bodies.

Under the authority of the Council, the Secretary General draws up Directives for guiding the Member Bodies and the Technical Committees in their work and he makes sure that these Directives, the Rules of Procedure and the Constitution of ISO are adhered to.

It is the responsibility of the Secretary General to inform, on the one hand, the Member Bodies as a whole and the Council on the work done by the Technical Committees, and on the other, the said Technical Committees on the work done by other international organizations dealing with related problems.

9. Specify interest with respect to the work of WHO

WHO is endeavouring to improve nutrition, housing, sanitation, leisure-time activities, economic conditions and working conditions as well as other aspects of environmental health. To carry out this task successfully, work of standardization is called for in various fields. WHO has undertaken some of this work itself, while it also co-operates with other international organizations engaged in standardization, such as ILO, FAO, IAEA and ISO, in similar or closely related fields.

The sectors of common interest to ISO and WHO are relatively numerous and tend to increase constantly. Technical co-operation in the form of liaison between certain ISO Technical Committees and WHO bodies exists both in basic and scientific fields as well as in fields which are sometimes very practical and concrete. The interest shown on both sides is even very considerable, especially in regard to everything relating to environmental, occupational and food health.

The present status of such liaisons is as follows:

Category A

- ISO/TC 12 - Quantities, units, symbols, conversion factors and conversion tables
- ISO/TC 34 - Agricultural food products
- ISO/TC 37 - Terminology (principles and co-ordination)
- ISO/TC 43 - Acoustics
- ISO/TC 81 - Common names for pesticides
- ISO/TC 84 - Syringes for medical use and needles for injections
- ISO/TC 94 - Personal safety, protective clothing and equipment (the different categories A, B and C correspond to the different sub-committees)

Category B

- ISO/TC 5 - Pipes and fittings
- ISO/TC 54 - Essential oils
- ISO/TC 75 - Stretchers and stretcher carriers
- ISO/TC 76 - Transfusion equipment for medical use
- ISO/TC 77 - Products in asbestos cement
- ISO/TC 85 - Nuclear energy

Category C

ISO/TC 23 - Agricultural machines
ISO/TC 30 - Measurement of fluid flow in closed conduits
ISO/TC 47 - Chemistry
ISO/TC 48 - Laboratory glassware and related apparatus
ISO/TC 61 - Plastics
ISO/TC 69 - Application of statistical methods
ISO/TC 88 - Pictorial markings for handling of goods
ISO/TC 91 - Surface active agents
ISO/TC 97 - Computers and information processing
ISO/TC121 - Anaesthetic equipment and medical breathing machines

Below are some examples of WHO Divisions and units directly concerned by liaison work with ISO Technical Committees:

(a) Environmental Health Division: ISO/TC 85 (work on air and water pollution, background radioactivity)

Community Water Supply: ISO/TC 5 (health aspects of the use of PVC piping for drinking-water transport; technological study of plastic materials used in making pipes and fittings for water transport).

The Environmental Health Division recently asked for information on the work of several ISO Technical Committees with a view to studying the advisability of setting up a liaison in the field of ergonomics and industrial medicine.

(b) Division of Health Protection and Promotion

Occupational Health: ISO/TC 94 (the Joint ILO/WHO Committee on Occupational Health which met in June 1968 established permissible levels of exposure to toxic substances as well as various critical exposure levels). Safety concentration zones for 24 industrial and agriculture chemical products are now being recommended. It would seem that ISO has a part to play in the field of standardization of measurement equipment and methods.

(c) Division of Public Health Services

Health Laboratory Services Unit: ISO/TC 84-48

(d) Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Food Additives: ISO/TC 34 (in regard to participation in the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, i.e. the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the work of WHO deals with problems concerning the health of the consumer) (food additives, pesticide residues, wholesomeness of food, nutrition). The Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives has established acceptable levels for residues due to antibiotics in human nutrition and proposed appropriate analytical methods to facilitate control.

The Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology is also responsible for the International Pharmacopoeia and works for the Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations.

(e) Data Processing: ISO/TC 97 (Sub-committees 4, 5, 6 and 7)

(f) Terminology: ISO/TC 81

10. Officers

President of ISO (1968-1970): Mr Faruk Sünter (Turkey); Vice-President of ISO (1970-1972): Dr Peza Shayegan (Iran); Treasurer (1969-1971): Mr Jean-Claude Hentsch; Secretary General: Mr Olle Sturen.

The total number of senior officers in the Central Secretariat is 15. It should be noted however that ISO is a largely decentralized organization and it is estimated that 90 per cent. of its work is done by its Member Bodies, and in particular by those responsible for the Secretariat of a large number of Technical Committees. The Member Groups engaged in the work of ISO generally do this over and above their "national" responsibilities. Consequently, it is impossible to evaluate even approximately the number of senior or even junior paid staff who are carrying on the work of ISO.

11. Structure

The General Assembly consists of the delegates nominated by the Member Bodies and is convened at least once every three years.

The first General Assembly was held in Paris on 7 July 1969 and the following ones took place in New York (1952), Stockholm (1955), Harrogate, United Kingdom (1958), Helsinki (1961), New Delhi (1964), and Moscow (1967). The next meeting will be held in Ankara, in September 1970.

The Council is composed of the President and the representatives of Member Bodies elected by the membership. It meets at least once a year to manage the activities of the Organization and report to the Member Bodies. The Council appoints the Treasurer, Secretary-General and Members of the Executive Committee. It elects the Vice-President of ISO. The last meeting of the Council was held in Geneva, in September 1969, and the next will take place in Ankara, in September 1970.

The Executive Committee, consisting of the Vice-President and from three to seven other representatives of Member Bodies, is responsible for supervising the work of the Central Secretariat. It is responsible to the Council. The Committee can meet more frequently than the Council, according to requirements. The last meeting of the Executive Committee took place in September 1969 and the next will be held in Geneva, in April 1970.

The directing bodies vote according to two procedures: through official representatives during meetings and by letter ballot for questions submitted to the vote between meetings.

12. Finances

The budget of the ISO Central Secretariat is derived in particular from the Members' subscriptions, whose amount varies from one country to another. The 1970 budget is Sw.fr. 3 870 000, about 16 per cent. of which is covered by the sale of publications. However, this budget gives only a very incomplete idea of the size of the Organization. As most of the work of ISO is done by the Member Bodies themselves, an appreciable part of their budgets covers in reality expenses incurred on behalf of ISO. In regard to the expenses of the Central Secretariat, 65 per cent. represents salaries of staff and social benefits, while the remainder is accounted for to a large extent by rent, postal, telegraph and telephone charges, and printing supplies.

13. History

The International Federation of National Standardizing Associations, known by the initials ISA, which was created in 1926, grouped together the national standardizing associations of some 20 countries. ISA laid the foundations for international co-operation in the field of standardization and worked very actively for the unification of the national standards of its Members.

ISA officially ceased work in 1942 although, as early as 1939, certain countries, because of circumstances, had been obliged to withdraw from the Organization.

The United Nations Standards Co-ordinating Committee (UNSCC), consisting of the national organizations of 18 allied countries, succeeded the old ISA in 1944. Its aim was to co-ordinate the activities of the national industries of its members but it was essentially a temporary war-time organization.

On 14 October 1946 the representatives of the Members of UNSCC held a meeting in London with representatives of the standardization bodies of certain non-member countries of UNSCC, with a view to:

- (a) discussing and approving the constitution of a new international organization whose object would be to facilitate the international co-ordination and unification of industrial standards;
- (b) establishing recommendations concerning the technical work to be undertaken by the new Organization.

The discussions which took place between the 64 delegates of 25 countries led to the setting up of the International Organization for Standardization, ISO, and the provisional General Assembly of the new body took place on 24 October 1946, in London.

During that meeting, the Constitution and Rules of Procedure of ISO were unanimously adopted and it was decided that ISO should commence to function on an official basis as soon as the provisions had been ratified by 15 national standardization bodies. The fifteenth ratification was received by the provisional Central Secretariat on 23 February 1947: ISO had been created.

The Constitution and Rules of Procedure were subsequently ratified by other national standardization bodies which had participated in the work of the London conference. These organizations were automatically admitted as new Members of ISO, and later on other national standardization bodies applied for membership and were admitted to ISO.

14. Activities

ISO is the international organization specialized in the development of international recommendations on standards.

ISO deals with the most varied fields, except that of electricity. For everything concerning the latter the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), affiliated to ISO since 1949, acts as Electrical Division of ISO although it has retained its autonomy.

The technical work of ISO is performed by a large number of Technical Committees, each specialized in the field entrusted to it by the Council.

The Technical Committees comprise a delegation from each of the Member Bodies wishing to form part of the said Technical Committees. Each Technical Committee has a Secretariat, a function taken over by a Member Body which is designated by the Council and which observes

strict impartiality. This Member Body has also its own delegation in the same way as the other active Members of the Technical Committee. It is responsible for the smooth running of the work and submits an annual report on the results obtained.

Each Technical Committee works in close collaboration with other Technical Committees which have common interests, as well as with all circles concerned, including other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations, which may express some special interest in part or whole of the field in which it works.

At present ISO has 130 Technical Committees and nearly 170 Sub-Committees as well as some 600 working groups and committees. On the whole, more than 400 meetings are held every year in which some 12 000 delegates participate. As most of these meetings last more than one day it is estimated that on the average three ISO meetings take place every working day.

ISO has been granted consultative status with the United Nations and most of its specialized agencies and subordinate bodies whose work is of importance for ISO. In particular, ISO enjoys consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (Category II) and the Regional Commissions; consultative status (Category A) with UNESCO; consultative status with UNCTAD, ILO, FAO, ICAO, ITU, WMO, IMCO and IAEA. An application for the same status with UNIDO was recently submitted. Moreover, ISO maintains relations with a certain number of intergovernmental organizations which have no formal status in their consultative relations such as, for example, UPU, GATT, BIRPI, OIML, etc.

Almost all the intergovernmental and other organizations are in liaison with several ISO Technical Committees in whose work they participate, often actively. More than 200 international non-governmental organizations are in liaison with ISO Technical Committees; some of these organizations have even relationships with several Technical Committees. The total number of liaisons of this type exceeds 400.

15. Publications

The chief publications of ISO are naturally its International Recommendations, at present more than 1200, the number published yearly now exceeding 350. The other main ISO publications are:

- Constitution and Rules of Procedure (which appears at irregular intervals, according to requirements);
- ISO Memento (annual publication);
- ISO Catalogue (annual publication with quarterly supplement);
- ISO Index (list of draft recommendations; quarterly publication);
- ISO Bulletin (ISO news and bringing up-to-date of the Memento - monthly publication);
- ISO Annual Report (yearly publication, the first edition of which will appear in April 1970);
- General information on the ISO Member Bodies (published every three years);
- Directives for the technical work of ISO (irregular publication, appearing according to requirements; the seventh edition, now in force, dates from 1966);
- Information on the ISO Technical Committees (irregular publication, appearing according to requirements; edition now in force is that of 1968);
- Guide for the presentation of ISO Recommendations (irregular publication, appearing according to requirements - the edition at present in force is that of 1965);
- ISO News (news sheet; appears three to four times monthly).

16. Documentation¹

ISO Constitution and Rules of Procedure

ISO Memento 1970

ISO Catalogue 1970

Information on the ISO Technical Committees (doc. ISO/TC (GS-38) 39)

Directives for the technical work of ISO (doc. ISO/DIR (GS-20) 20)

General information on the ISO Member Bodies (doc. ISO/INF-4)

ISO News, issue of 18 March 1970 (sample copy)

Bulletin for February 1970 (sample copy)

ISO/R 1186-1970 - Pressure in brake-lines and braking efficiency

¹ Held by the Secretariat.