

International Update

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International

1. What role can International Standards play in the implementation of the Paris Agreement?

International Standards can be used as tools to help implement the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. This is the message of a side event organized by ISO and the IAF (International Accreditation Forum) as part of the 23rd Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP23) in Bonn, Germany.

COP23 has started with the aim of clarifying the enabling frameworks that will make the Paris Agreement fully operational and the support needed for all nations to achieve their climate change goals. For the many countries that have ratified the agreement, the time for implementation has begun.

“The devastating climatic events the world has recently had to face show us how urgent it is to act now and to take concrete measures to protect our planet and our society. Voluntary International Standards developed with consensus by experts around the world are solutions that can have a practical and positive impact on our daily lives. They provide guidance to businesses as well as organizations from the public or private sector in addition to policy makers to support their efforts to reduce their environmental impact,” says ISO Secretary-General, Sergio Mujica.

“Environmental and climate protection have been solidly anchored in German standardization for many years. There is also agreement at the international level that standardization is an important factor in the realization of UN sustainability goals,” says Christoph Winterhalter, Executive Board Chairman of DIN, the German National Standards Body.

“Concrete projects that are driving us forward at the moment focus largely on the consequences of climate change. This includes raising the standards committees’ awareness of the need to adapt to the consequences of climate change and the need for standardization in support of adaptation to climate change. Examples of this include vulnerability assessment, a vulnerability analysis which deals with the impact of climate change on organizations, as well as the issue of climate finance, i.e. investment and financing related to climate change.”

ISO is developing new international framework standards to assist non-state actors in meeting climate targets aligned with the Paris Agreement. The ISO-IAF joint side event highlighted the role of these new standards, as well as a harmonized global approach for accreditation, to facilitate the acceptance of verification between economies, build confidence and strengthen governance and transparency in future adaptation activities.

This side event will focus on well-known standards such as ISO 14001 (environmental management), ISO 14065 (greenhouse gas validation and verification) and ISO 50001 (energy management). Standards such as these help to open world markets for clean energy and energy-efficient technologies and support climate change adaptation and mitigation schemes.

It will show how environmental management and energy management, and new framework standards, will support parties and non-state actors in facilitating global or local climate actions.

ISO standards currently under development will also be highlighted, such as ISO 14090 on a framework for climate change adaptation, ISO 14080 on a framework for climate action and ISO 14097, which focuses on climate finance.

Monitoring climate change, quantifying greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promoting good practice in environmental management and design are just some of the ways in which ISO International Standards help organizations address climate change.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2246.html>

2. WTO members start review of Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement

WTO members started their regular three-year review of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, proposing ideas on how to improve implementation of the Agreement at a TBT Committee meeting on 8-9 November. They also discussed 61 trade concerns, including seven new ones concerning processed food, household appliances, automobiles, toys, tobacco, cyber security and solid waste.

8th Triennial Review

Every three years, members use the "triennial review" process to evaluate how they are applying the TBT Agreement. The review is driven by members' proposals for new work, relating to specific topics addressed by the Committee. The aim of the review is to improve implementation of the TBT Agreement based on members' experiences (for instance, by developing guidelines or best practices), and to set a plan for future work by the Committee during 2019-2021.

Since October 2017, three proposals have been put forward under the ongoing review. Two have come from South Africa (G/TBT/W/452 and G/TBT/W/453) and one from the United States (G/TBT/W/451).

South Africa's first proposal aims at making discussion of specific trade concerns (STCs) more efficient. It also seeks to enhance developing countries' participation in Committee meetings, develop best practice for national coordination through domestic TBT committees and promote the use of ePing by Enquiry Points. The second proposal by South Africa focuses on "certificates of free sale", documents that stipulate whether products meet the domestic regulatory requirements of the exporting member and which are available for sale in the domestic market of the exporting member. The US proposal on transparency seeks to improve the accuracy and availability of Enquiry Point contact details. The review process is scheduled to be completed in November 2018.

Specific trade concerns

WTO members discussed a total of 61 specific trade concerns, seven of which are new. Below is a summary of the new concerns:

1. Viet Nam – Cybersecurity

Japan, the United States and New Zealand expressed concerns about possible inconsistencies in Viet Nam's Draft Cybersecurity Law with the TBT Agreement, and asked Viet Nam to base its requirements on international standards and avoid placing excessive burdens on industry.

Viet Nam said that written comments and questions from members were sent to the competent agencies. Viet Nam welcomed further discussions with interested members.

2. China – Solid waste

As of the end of 2017, China will ban imports of a variety of solid waste to the country (including plastics, paper and textiles waste). China said that the new measure is part of a policy framework and an effort to better regulate solid waste. The measure is aimed at addressing risks of pollution from solid waste, and seeks to protect the environment and human health, China added. A six month transition period has been provided, and China said it had further clarified the scope of the measure based on comments from WTO members.

The European Union, Japan, the United States, Australia and Canada questioned the broad scope of the measure, and whether it applied to domestic operators in the same way as foreign operators. They asked China for a longer transition period of up to five years.

3. India – Toys

India has amended its laws on toys and is requiring that conformity assessment and laboratory tests be carried out by laboratories accredited by India. This urgent measure was taken to protect the safety of children in light of sub-standard toys on the market, India said.

The European Union, China, the United States, Mexico and Canada were concerned that this measure supplanted India's previous approach of accepting tests undertaken in the country of manufacture, according to international standards, with a more trade restrictive approach based on national standards of the Bureau of Indian Standards. As a result of the measure, toys had to wait up to ten months to be tested at approved Indian laboratories. Concerns were also raised about transparency, and members said the measure entered into force without notification to the WTO or a reasonable transition period.

4. China – Processed food

The European Union, the United States, Guatemala and Singapore expressed concern that the new certification requirements for processed foods notified by China will impose additional burdens for their industries. They recognised the need for China to ensure that food on its market was safe, but also believed that other less trade restrictive measures could be adopted, especially for certification of low-risk food and beverages. China indicated that it will postpone the enforcement of the new measure until October 2019.

5. Ecuador – Household refrigerating appliances

Colombia expressed concern that the recent technical regulation imposed by Ecuador for refrigerating appliances was more trade restrictive than necessary, and did not follow the transparency provisions of the TBT Agreement. Colombia asked Ecuador to indicate the deadline for submitting comments and requested a transition period of nine months. Ecuador responded that the new regulation was in line with the TBT Agreement, and expressed readiness to discuss the issue further.

6. Viet Nam – Automobiles

Japan, the United States and Thailand asked Viet Nam to postpone the implementation of its new regulations on automobiles, as there was uncertainty about the quality certification required from importers. Members asked Viet Nam to notify the measure, and provide an opportunity for comments. Viet Nam said that concerns raised would be conveyed to its competent agencies, and welcomed further bilateral discussions.

7. European Union – Tobacco products

Cuba expressed concern with the European Union's plans to establish a traceability system for tobacco products. The EU said it would address Cuba's questions bilaterally.

Source: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/tbt_15nov17_e.htm

3. Australian Commonwealth Government releases foreign policy White Paper

The Australian Federal Government released a foreign policy White Paper on Thursday 23 November, 2017. During the development process, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade received submissions from the public expressing their interest in, and contributions to, Australia's foreign policy and place in the international community. Standards Australia provided a submission during this development phase and welcomes the release and publication of the White Paper.

The White Paper establishes Australia's priorities, agenda and international relationships that are intended to support strong national security, prosperity and international engagement. The Paper address challenges, highlights opportunities and discusses influential players in the international sphere. Standards are discussed for their contribution to economic integration and support for the strong trade outlook traditionally employed by Australia.

To download the White Paper and find out more about the implications of its release, visit:

<https://www.fpwhitepaper.gov.au/>

4. G20 countries show restraint in new trade restrictions, despite economic uncertainties

The WTO's eighteenth monitoring report on Group of 20 (G20) trade measures, issued on 9 November, shows that G20 economies introduced fewer trade-restrictive measures compared to the previous review period. The estimated trade coverage of these restrictions recorded during the period of mid-May 2017 to mid-October 2017 slightly exceeded the coverage of trade-facilitating measures.

A total of 16 new trade-restrictive measures were adopted by G20 economies during the review period (mid-May 2017 to mid-October 2017), including new or increased tariffs, export restrictions and local content measures. This is an average of just over three restrictive measures per month compared to six during the previous review period (mid-October 2016 to mid-May 2017).

G20 economies also implemented 28 measures aimed at facilitating trade during the review period, including eliminated or reduced tariffs and simplified customs procedures. At an average of almost six trade-facilitating measures per month, this represents a similar level compared with the previous review period and for the whole of 2016.

The estimated trade coverage of import-facilitating measures implemented by G20 economies (US\$27 billion) is slightly lower than the estimated trade coverage of import-restrictive measures (\$32 billion). This is a reversal from the previous report where the estimated trade coverage of import-facilitating measures was more than three times larger than that of import restrictive measures.

Commenting on the report, Director-General Roberto Azevêdo said:

"G20 members have shown restraint in implementing trade-restrictive measures, despite continuing economic uncertainties. This is positive news and it shows again that the global trading system is working. Nevertheless, the threat of protectionism remains and so I urge G20 countries to redouble their efforts to avoid implementing new trade restrictions and to reverse those measures that are currently in place."

"The G20's continued support for open and mutually beneficial trade is essential and I hope that we will see this leadership once more at 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in December. This meeting will be an important opportunity to continue improving the global trading environment. Our last two ministerial conferences have delivered major trade reforms such as the Trade Facilitation Agreement, the elimination of agricultural export subsidies, and the expansion of the Information Technology Agreement. Indeed, this report highlights the impact of this work, finding that the additional import-facilitating measures implemented in the context of the expanded Information Technology Agreement amounted to around US\$300 billion."

The initiation of trade remedy investigations in the review period represented more than 50% of trade measures recorded. However, the amount of trade covered by these is relatively small (US\$29 billion for trade remedy initiations and US\$1 billion for terminations). Initiations of trade remedy actions outpaced terminations by a ratio of three to one, marking the highest gap between initiations and terminations since 2012. The main sectors affected by trade remedy initiations during the review period were electrical machinery and parts thereof, organic chemicals and paper products. The main sectors where trade remedy duties were terminated were organic chemicals, iron and steel and man-made filaments.

The G20 economies are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Key Findings

- G20 economies applied 16 new trade-restrictive measures during the review period (mid May 2017 to mid-October 2017), including new or increased tariffs, export restrictions and local content measures. This equates to an average of just over three restrictive measures per month compared to six during the previous review period.

- G20 economies also implemented 28 measures aimed at facilitating trade over this review period, including eliminated or reduced tariffs and simplified customs procedures. At almost six trade-facilitating measures per month, this remains broadly equivalent to the previous period and to the trend observed for the whole of 2016.
- It is nevertheless worth noting that the trade coverage of trade facilitating measures during the review period (US\$27 billion) is markedly lower than the previous period (US\$163 billion). The coverage of trade-restrictive measures also fell during the review period, reaching US\$32 billion, down from US\$47 billion in the previous period.
- Therefore, despite the low number of trade restrictions recorded, their estimated trade coverage (US\$32 billion) actually exceeded the estimated trade coverage of import facilitating measures by a slight amount (US\$27 billion). This is a reversal of the findings of the previous report where the estimated trade coverage of import-facilitating measures was more than three times larger than that of import-restrictive measures.
- The import-facilitating measures implemented during the review period in the context of the ITA Expansion Agreement are estimated at around US\$300 billion or 2.5% of the value of G20 merchandise imports.
- On trade remedy measures, the review period saw a moderate decline in initiations of investigations by G20 economies and a significant decline of terminations, compared to the previous review period and to the whole of 2016. Initiations of trade remedy actions outpaced terminations by a ratio of three to one, marking the highest gap between initiations and terminations since 2012. Initiations of trade remedy investigations represent over 50% of all trade measures recorded during the review period.
- Transparency and predictability in trade policy remains vital for all actors in the global economy. The G20 should show leadership in reiterating their commitment to open and mutually beneficial trade as a key driver of economic growth and a major engine for prosperity.
- Faced with continuing global economic uncertainties, the G20 should seek to continue improving the global trading environment and including through working together to achieve a successful outcome at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in December.

Source: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/trdev_08nov17_e.htm

ISO

1. A New Work Item Proposal – Water Efficient Products – Banding

Standards Australia has put forward a New Work Item Proposal to ISO on **Water Efficient Products – Banding**.

The scope of the proposed new work is as follows:

To develop an international standard for Water Efficient Products - Test Requirements, Water Efficiency Banding to indicate water efficiency of water-using fittings and appliances, for consumer labelling and other purposes, based on relevant standards and requirements from Australia and supporting countries and other ISO members' national standards.

The scope of the ISO standard will cover the following:

- *Water efficiency bandings for the specified plumbing products and appliances.*
- *Key test requirements for individual plumbing products and appliances and determination to derive a water efficiency banding.*

The ISO band classification table can be added to each country's own water efficiency label design.

- It is proposed that a new Project Committee be developed to manage this work
- Standards Australia has received strong support from Australian stakeholders in putting together this initiative and is appreciative of all contributions.

If you would like any further information please contact Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Brett Lovett, brett.lovett@standards.org.au.

2. A New Work Item Proposal – Community Scale Resource Oriented Sanitation Treatment Systems

ISO have received a New Work Item Proposal from the United States national standards body (ANSI) on **Community scale resource oriented sanitation treatment systems**.

The scope of the proposed work is as follows:

The international standard will define requirements and test methods to ensure safety, performance, and sustainability of community-scale resource-oriented fecal sludge treatment units that serve approximately 1,000 to 100,000 people. The standard will apply to treatment units that (a) primarily treat human excreta, (b) are able to operate in nonsewered and off-grid environments, and (c) are prefabricated. The standard will not apply to sanitation treatment units requiring sewer infrastructure or electric grid access. Additionally, treatment units to which the standard will apply exhibit resource recovery capability (e.g., energy, drinking water, fertilizer) and are capable of being energy independent or energy net positive.

The standard is intended to ensure the general performance, safety, and sustainability of such units. The standard will exclude installation, selection and maintenance and operation of such units.

The NWIP proposes the development of a new project committee to manage this work, while liaising with relevant existing committees, including ISO TC 275.

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders for this proposal. For more information on the proposal, or to make a submission, please contact the relevant Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Ron Pulido ron.pulido@standards.org.au by Thursday, 25 January 2018.

3. New International Standards to Reduce Mining Accidents

There's no question that mining has been made safer over the years, but mines are still one of the most hazardous places to work. The causes can be numerous, from explosive dust and toxic gases to collapse of mine shafts, and the consequences severe, with thousands of fatalities each year.

When an incident does occur in a mine, it can be hard to understand precisely what's happened. Because many factors are at play, a wide range of accidents can occur. A key step in preventing these accidents is to classify them by type and by cause, and that's where ISO 19434 comes in.

Developed by the ISO technical committee on mining (ISO/TC 82), Seyed Reza Hosseini, Convenor of the working group on classification of mine accidents (WG 6), explains that the standard represents a new direction for their work: *"Until now ISO mining standards mostly looked at safety features for machinery. ISO 19434 looks at the accidents themselves, giving each accident a code that indicates its causes and consequences."*

With the entire industry working to further improve the safety of their operations, there are clear advantages of a unified system to understand the main types of accidents. Using the classification given in ISO 19434, one can identify whether accidents have occurred due to human error or other causes. It gives a shared understanding on key issues, as Reza points out: *"This International Standard defines not only the main types of accidents but, importantly, provides information about the nature of any injuries that have occurred, defining their location and to what degree personnel are affected."*

With the publication of ISO 19434, a long-standing need has been addressed for a comprehensive mine accidents classification system that could present a standard scheme for all factors associated with the accidents. That will enable full analysis based on both software systems and manual assessment. By presenting a common understandable language for communication between all parts involved in safety, health and environment issues in mines, the hope is that working conditions can continue to improve across all operations in the mining sector.

ISO TC 82 *Mining*, is responsible for the development and maintenance of ISO 19434. Standards Australia is a participating member of ISO/TC 82.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2242.html>

4. ISO 30500 to boost global health in places without sewers

In many places around the world, rural and urban populations have to use toilets that aren't connected to mains sewers. In many cases, city planners are working hard to address this by investing in infrastructures. But for millions of people, non-sewered systems are the only option and with waterborne diseases posing major risks to human health, it's important to get it right. That's where an upcoming Draft International Standard comes in.

ISO 30500, *Non-sewered sanitation systems – Prefabricated integrated treatment units – General safety and performance requirements for design and testing*, seeks to provide general safety and performance requirements for the product design and performance testing of non-sewered sanitation systems for prefabricated integrated treatment units. It will apply to any integrated sanitation system that is not attached to a sewer.

In an integrated system like the ones covered by ISO 30500, the frontend collects, conveys and fully treats the specific input within the non-sewered sanitation system, to allow for safe reuse or disposal of the generated solid, liquid and gaseous output. The crucial distinction of this International Standard is that the backend is not connected to a networked sewer system.

ISO 30500 will contain criteria for the safety, functionality, usability, reliability and maintainability of non-sewered sanitation systems, as well as the system's compatibility with environmental protection goals. It excludes guidelines for selection, installation, operation and maintenance procedures, or management of non-sewered sanitation systems, and neither incorporates nor substitutes for manufacturers' instructions and user manuals.

Improving public health is just the beginning

It's a straightforward fact that human waste contains numerous germs. As the perfect habitat for bacteria, viruses, fungi, worms and other pathogens, human waste needs to be treated carefully to avoid risks to health. The outputs of sanitation systems that meet ISO 30500's requirements will be free of these pathogens; thus the standard will help protect individuals, communities and resources such as drinking water from pollution and outbreaks of potentially lethal diseases.

It additionally enables the development of stand-alone non-sewered sanitation systems that promote economic, social and environmental sustainability. This can be achieved by minimizing resource consumption (particularly water use) and enabling the production of useful by-products, such as liquid and solid nutrients, water for reuse, material for the generation of fuel and other reusable outputs, depending on the system.

Benefits for manufacturers

With the publication of ISO 30500, manufacturers of non-sewered sanitation systems gain from the wide range of well-established benefits that International Standards bring. First among these is the time and resource savings that go with following a tried-and-tested formula agreed to by industry experts. Once the fundamentals have been taken care of, it leaves more time for further development of the features that really make a product stand out in the marketplace.

Creating a level playing field among manufacturers has the twofold advantage of reassuring consumers and stimulating competitive innovations on a technically solid, industry-wide base. At the same time, International Standards are a great facilitator of cross-border trade, as they provide an internationally recognized system that favours compatibility and consistency while giving customers the reassurance of the ISO name. That same recognition is also a help when it comes to marketing, since the ISO brand is trusted the world over.

In a sector where regulations may vary significantly by country, or even municipality, manufacturers can feel more secure with their innovation, research and development in sanitation systems. If they so choose, they can promote their systems towards the public, users and clients as being ISO 30500 certified.

Better policy for user protection

The new standard can also provide a sound basis for the development of national or local regulation for non-sewered systems. That's because, in common with all ISO standards, ISO 30500 represents best practices and reflects the consensus of regulators, manufacturers and users from across the world. That makes International Standards a useful resource when developing regulations, and gives regulators the benefit of the consolidated opinion of experts without having to call on their services directly. It will enable regulators and government to tap into a constantly updated source of information and experiences. And more than anyone else, its toilet users in non-sewered areas who are going to experience the widest benefits. The requirements of the standard will drive innovation, meaning better toilets will be available in areas where infrastructure such as plumbing and electricity are not feasible. In homes and communities, users of toilets that conform to the standard can be sure their non-sewered sanitation systems will be reliable, safe, hygienic, odour-free, and may even produce by-products that can be reused by the community. When this happens, everyone wins!

ISO 30500 is being developed by ISO PC 305 *Sustainable non-sewered sanitation systems*. Standards Australia is a participating member of this project committee.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2245.html>

5. New Draft of ISO 50001 energy management standard

Since 2011, organizations have been able to follow a systematic approach in achieving continual improvement of energy performance, including energy efficiency, energy use and consumption, thanks to ISO 50001.

Like all International Standards, ISO 50001 has come under periodic review to ensure that it continues to meet the rapidly changing needs of the energy sector. This work is being carried out by the ISO technical committee responsible for energy management and energy savings (ISO/TC 301), whose secretariat is held by ANSI, ISO's member for the USA, in a twinning arrangement with the ISO member for China, SAC. Deann Desai, Professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Convenor of the working group tasked with revising the standard, helps to explain the changes included in the revision.

“Perhaps the most important change for the 2018 version is the incorporation of the high-level structure, which provides for improved compatibility with other management system standards.” The high-level structure (HLS) is a simple and effective concept. *“Because organizations often implement a number of management system standards, the use of a shared structure, as well as many of the same terms and definitions, helps to keep things simple,”* explains Prof. Desai. This is particularly useful for those organizations that choose to operate a single (sometimes called “integrated”) management system that can meet the requirements of two or more management system standards simultaneously.

Prof. Desai continues: *“There are other improvements in the 2018 version to help ensure that the key concepts related to energy performance are clear for small and mid-sized businesses (SMEs).”* This is important in encouraging uptake of the use of management system standards by SMEs, which sometimes assume that the benefits of International Standards mostly apply to multinational businesses. That's not the case, with SMEs around the world using ISO standards to build customer confidence and reduce costs across all aspects of their business, including meeting regulation requirements.

With energy efficiency playing such a key role in meeting social and environmental targets for all sizes of business, promoting uptake of ISO 50001 is also an important part of Prof. Desai's work. She explains a number of different initiatives that have helped increase the use of ISO 50001 around the world, including the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The Clean Energy Ministerial is a global awards programme that recognizes leading organizations for their energy management achievements and use of ISO 50001 to address energy and climate challenges. Organizations certified to ISO 50001 are invited to submit case studies for recognition. If that sounds like your organization, then you should know that the Clean Energy Ministerial is now accepting entries for its 2018 Energy Management Leadership Awards.

The Draft International Standard ISO/DIS 50001 was approved in November 2017, and the new version of ISO 50001 is expected to be published in 2018. Standards Australia is a participating member of the maintenance committee for ISO 50001, ISO TC 301 *Energy management and energy saving*.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2248.html>

1. International Standard looks to curb theft of personal data

The July 2017 breach of Equifax, a large US credit bureau, exposed the social security numbers, birthdates and addresses of 143 million people. Yahoo last month – just prior to its acquisition by Verizon – shared new intelligence that a data breach in 2013 thought to have affected a billion users had in fact compromised all three billion Yahoo user accounts.

21st Global Standards Collaboration Meeting (GSC-21)

The increasing prevalence of high-profile data breaches has motivated countries worldwide to investigate potential reforms to policy and regulation. One of the best-known examples is the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation to come into force in May 2018, with global implications.

Privacy has taken on new dimensions in our hyper connected world. The need to protect personal data is increasing in urgency with the digital transformation of sectors such as healthcare and financial services. More and more organizations are processing personal data, all of them dealing with an increasing amount of this data.

Personal data custodians have received new guidance from IEC, ISO and ITU – the three leading international standards bodies – in the form of an International Standard providing a 'Code of Practice for the Protection of Personally Identifiable Information'.

The voluntary standard, ISO/IEC 29151 | ITU-T X.1058 provides a valuable point of reference to government and industry as they intensify their bid to guarantee the protection of personal data. It establishes the objectives of data-protection controls, specifies the controls required and provides guidelines for their implementation. It shows how arrangements of these controls can meet the requirements identified by organizations' risk and impact assessments relevant to the protection of personal data.

An Annex integral to ITU X.1058 provides an extended set of controls for personal data beyond the standard's augmented provisions of ISO/IEC 27002.

The Annex details control objectives relevant to 'consent and choice' and the related 'participation of personal data principals', the people with whom data can be identified. They look at 'purpose legitimacy' to provide guidance as to whether or not the retention of personal data is appropriate. They encourage the pursuit of 'collection limitation' and 'data minimization' as well as the 'openness and transparency' of organizational policy with respect to personal data.

ISO/IEC 29151 | ITU-T X.1058 was developed in collaboration by the ISO/IEC standardization expert group for 'security techniques', ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27 and ITU-T Study Group 17 'building confidence and security in the use of ICTs'.

Standards Australia is a participating member of the maintenance committee ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27, with two Australian Mirror Committees.

Source: <http://www.iec.ch/newslog/2017/nr2117.htm>

2. IEC, ISO and ITU receive Primetime Emmy award for excellence in video engineering

The US Academy of Television Arts & Sciences has awarded an Emmy for outstanding achievement in engineering to the expert group responsible for 'High Efficiency Video Coding', the video compression standard that has emerged as the primary coding format for Ultra-High Definition (UHD) TV.

The Emmy honours the achievements of the ISO/IEC Moving Pictures Expert Group of ISO/IEC JTC1 Subcommittee 29 and the Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding, a team of experts representing the ITU Video Coding Experts Group of ITU-T Study Group 16.

The award is the second Primetime Emmy to recognize the prestige of the video coding work driven in collaboration by IEC, ISO and ITU.

"ITU, ISO and IEC provide the technical foundations of the extraordinary innovation that we see in video," said ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao. "I am pleased to join the US Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in celebrating the experts at the heart of this longstanding collaboration in international standardization."

"It is a real pleasure to see the work of our experts recognized in this way", said Sergio Mujica, Secretary-General of ISO. "This group, which is at the forefront of innovation and technology in video, shows how successful we can be when we work together with a common aim."

IEC General Secretary & CEO Frans Vreeswijk adds: *"My sincere congratulations to the team of experts behind this standard and a big thank you to the US Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for recognizing the importance of International Standards which are the result of fruitful collaboration between many countries and organizations."*

Video accounts for about 75 per cent of all consumer Internet traffic, a figure expected to rise to over 80 per cent by 2020. The majority of this video is coded using international standards developed in collaboration by IEC, ISO and ITU.

'High Efficiency Video Coding' (HEVC, published as ISO/IEC 23008-2 | ITU-T H.265) gains the recognition of an Emmy award for forging the path to UHD '4K' and '8K' TV.

HEVC is a significant evolution from its predecessor ISO/IEC 23008-2 | ITU-T H.265 Advanced Video Coding (AVC). The arrival of MPEG-4 | H.264 AVC in 2003 is credited with unlocking significant advances in video spanning HDTV to 3G mobile multimedia, a contribution to TV engineering recognized with a Primetime Emmy award in 2008.

HEVC was released in 2013 to support the next decade of innovation in video. HEVC uses half the bandwidth of MPEG-4 | H.264 AVC, delivering an HD viewing experience while concurrently enabling operators to utilize network capacity more efficiently. The standard has proven especially valuable in accelerating the rollout of UHD.

HEVC enables high-dynamic-range as well as wide-colour gamut coding and has been selected as the primary format for the delivery of full 10-bit UHD video. The standard's support for synthetic content, 3D and multiview enables practical applications of virtual and augmented reality.

HEVC is at play in all UHD distribution channels, from mobile broadband to satellite, cable and fibre-optic communications. The standard is supported by all UHD viewing devices, whether traditional TVs, tablets or smartphones. HEVC has been incorporated into the standards and consortium specifications of 3GPP, ARIB, ATSC, Blu-Ray, Digital UK, DVB, EBU, ETSI and the Ultra HD Forum, in addition to those of IEC, ISO and ITU.

The video coding collaboration of IEC, ISO and ITU remains as ambitious as ever. The collaboration is working towards 2020 with the aim of delivering a new video coding standard to succeed HEVC. The next-generation standard will again feature double the compression capability of its predecessor.

Standards Australia is a participating member of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 29.

Source: <http://www.iec.ch/newslog/2017/nr1917.htm>

3. IEC Catalogue now available in a mobile and computer application

Customers are able to consult the IEC Catalogue via a stand-alone application which is available for computers running Windows and Mac OS, as well as for iOS and Android tablets.

This application provides users with an ideal tool for consulting the entire bibliographical information on IEC International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports and other documents.

The search functions are identical to those on the IEC Webstore, allowing to do text search as well as search by publication reference, TC and ICS code, search parameters can be combined. It is also possible to search for IEC Publications available in French. Search results give the title, abstract, responsible TC and other publication details, such as a link to the preview.

A major advantage of this application is that it allows users to synchronize the catalogue to have access to the latest up-to-date edition. Any publication of interest can be added to a Favourites section.

Users are able to order publications via this new Catalogue. The application also gives the list of suppliers of IEC Publications (all National Committees and appointed sales outlets).

To install the IEC Catalogue on your PC or Mac you need Adobe Air. You can download it for free [here](#).

4. Keeping people at the centre of smart city initiatives

Developing smart city solutions that are citizen-centric and offer real value will be key to future success, according to experts at the World Smart City Forum held at Fira de Barcelona as part of the Smart City Expo World Congress.

Opening the Forum, Spain's Secretary of State for the Information Society and Digital Agenda, José María Lassalle Ruiz, highlighted the importance of putting people's needs at the centre of future urban development.

"Some believe that data and algorithms will soon be managing the contemporary world, but they must be used to combat inequality and poverty in our towns and cities. Today, our efforts must be focused on reconciling man and his environment," he said. Ruiz added that: "It is incumbent on our generation to ensure that technological progress is not subject to short-sighted or self-serving goals. If there is to be digital disruption, it must be social and ethical, with citizens profiting from the feedback of data and algorithms, not the other way around."

Citizen-centric urban development was underlined by many other panellists and speakers during the day, with discussions touching upon how citizens' digital footprint can be used in an ethical way to improve everyday life in cities, for example through more intelligent public transport systems or more efficient energy use.

Putting citizens at the centre was also something highlighted by UN-Habitat's Acting Chief of Office for Europe and European Institutions, Paulius Kulikauskas, who emphasized this opportunity to ensure that proper and well-organized urbanization is a key driver of sustainable development. He also welcomed the fact that urban development is now taking centre stage in many of today's most important discussions, illustrating how it touches almost all aspects of modern life.

“Ten or twenty years ago, any discussion of urban issues and urbanization in the context of the United Nations was happening in a rather empty room. We, as UN-Habitat, at times felt rather alone. The last five or six years have changed the game completely, and now every institution is involved in this discussion. If you speak about migration, you also speak about cities; if you are talking about health, you also speak about cities; and if you speak of mobility, you will be talking about cities. The discussion has finally reached different stakeholders, which we are very happy about.”

Kulikauskas added that technology and standards are some of the instruments that can enable civil society and the private sector to connect and work together in an integrated manner to address challenges and identify cities' potential.

This view was also echoed by panellist Andrew Collinge, Assistant Director, Intelligence and Analysis, at the Greater London Authority, who spoke about work to measure and improve air quality in the capital. Collinge underlined that standards can help balance the needs of cities and citizens in addition to supporting collaboration with industry groups.

The role of standards in supporting collaboration and the sharing of resources was also highlighted. Marijn Fraanje, CIO for the Municipality of The Hague, spoke of the devastating consequences cyber-attacks can have on the global shipping industry. Fraanje referenced a project in the Netherlands where the country's five biggest cities focus on different aspects of a smart city and then share findings and resources, with The Hague looking at cyber security. Sharing resources in this way, both in a national context and between cities of different countries, relies on the use of interoperable solutions and standards.

Other key takeaways from the event included the importance of getting more cities and city leaders involved in standards development to ensure the solutions developed truly reflect their particular circumstances. For this to work well, participants highlighted the need to engage cities early in the process, make the value of standards to cities clearer and ensure the standards development process is accessible to this group of stakeholders.

The World Smart City Forum was organized by the IEC, ISO and ITU, this year under the leadership of ISO, and is part of the World Smart City partnership. It brought together representatives of cities, standards development organizations, industry groups and investors to explore some of the major challenges cities face today and how international standards can help solve them.

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