



Cooperation Agreement between ISO and SARSO

The parties to this Agreement are:

The **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**, at Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland,

and

the **South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO)**, at 116IA, Tejgaon Industrial Area, 1208 Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Considering ISO/Council Resolution 26/1992 relating to cooperation with regional standards organizations,

Considering ISO/Council Resolution 11/2016 and with concurrence from SAARC Member States approving the present ISO-SARSO cooperation Agreement,

Considering the agreement on the establishment of South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) dated 03 August 2008,

ISO, represented by its Acting Secretary-General, Mr. Kevin McKinley
and

SARSO, represented by the Director General, Dr. Syed Humayun Kabir, have agreed to the following:

1. Basis for cooperation

Pursuant to the above referenced SARSO Agreement, the national standards bodies members of SARSO have agreed on the following objectives for SARSO:

- 1) To promote and undertake harmonization of national standards of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Member States with a view to removing the technical barriers to trade and facilitate flow of goods and services in the region.
- 2) To develop SAARC standards on the products of regional/sub-regional interest.
- 3) To encourage the use of international standards published by international organizations such as ISO, IEC, etc. through adoption, where appropriate, as SAARC Standards.
- 4) To encourage exchange of information and expertise among the National Standards Bodies of the Member States in the fields of Standardization and Conformity Assessment.
- 5) To facilitate capacity building among the Member States in the fields of Standardization and Conformity Assessment by way of training, workshops, seminars etc.

- 6) To act as a source of information for the Member States on standards, regulations, conformity assessment.
- 7) To present the common interests of the Member States in the various international standardization organizations.
- 8) To establish mutually beneficial cooperation with the relevant international and regional organizations as per relevant SAARC guidelines.

In this context, this agreement aims to strengthen the cooperation between ISO and its members in the South Asia region and to support the practical realization of the above objectives for the mutual benefit of ISO, SARSO and the South Asian Countries.

2. General exchange of information at the Secretariat level

The ISO Central Secretariat shall provide the SARSO Secretariat with access, via web-based references, to the following documents:

- The ISO Strategic Plan and ISO Action Plan for developing Countries (APDC) and their yearly implementation plans, as well as other general policy documents;
- The ISO technical work programme indicating states of progress and target dates;
- Full access to the text of ISO standards to facilitate the discussion, technical review and, ultimately, the adoption of ISO Standards as regional standards by the members of SARSO where appropriate. Such regional adoptions can only be published as an endorsement notice. They cannot contain any parts of the text of the original ISO standards they refer to. SARSO as well as SARSO members not members of ISO cannot sell ISO Standards. However, SARSO members which are members of ISO can do so in accordance to ISO's copyright and commercial policy.
- Proposals for new fields of technical activity;
- Working documents and meeting reports prepared for CASCO, COPOLCO, DEVCO and REMCO meetings.

The SARSO Secretary shall regularly issue to the ISO Central Secretariat:

- The directory of SARSO members;
- The SARSO Action Plan indicating its work programme with states of progress and target dates;
- Resolutions of SARSO and the SARSO TMB, linked to standardization and conformity assessment activities; and
- Access to the SARSO website.

Further exchange of available general information shall be possible subject to agreement between the SARSO Secretary and the ISO Central Secretariat.

3. Representation at annual meetings

Under this Agreement, ISO has a standing invitation to attend and report on key ISO initiatives at the annual SARSO meeting, and SARSO has a standing invitation to attend and report on key SARSO activities at the annual ISO General Assembly. The ISO Central Secretariat and the SARSO Secretariat may indicate a designee from among their officers to fulfill this role as necessary.

4. SARSO members' participation in and use of ISO technical work

SARSO commits to encourage its members, through an adequate level of membership, to actively participate in ISO technical work relevant to their national interests. In addition, SARSO commits to encourage its members that are also ISO members to promote the use of ISO standards either directly or via national adoption (where appropriate), taking into account the implementation of the policy for the distribution of ISO publications and the protection of ISO's copyright—ISO POCOSA in its latest version.

5. Additional areas for cooperation and contribution

In addition to the above, SARSO encourages its members that are also ISO members to contribute to the following ISO activities:

- Studies on the economic and social benefits of standardization;
- Innovative areas of new ISO standardization work;
- Cooperation between ISO and IEC;
- Promotion of the benefits of standardization and conformity assessment;
- Understanding the relationships between ISO standards and technical regulations;
- Capacity building of standardization and conformity assessment infrastructures and technical assistance in developing countries;
- Enhancing the participation of developing countries in ISO technical work;
- Development of ISO information technology tools supporting standards development;
- Education and training programmes related to standardization and conformity assessment.

When relevant, SARSO may organize regional awareness-building and cooperation on the above issues and associate ISO as relevant.

6. Implementation, amendment and duration of this agreement

The implementation of this agreement shall be monitored by the ISO Secretary-General and the SARSO Director General, who shall issue progress reports to their appropriate governance

Without prejudice to article 10, this agreement may be cancelled with three months prior written notice by either party to the other.

Either party may propose to the other party an amendment of this agreement at any time. If such proposal is received, the receiving party shall respond with their views within 60 days from the date of receipt of the proposal.

7. Dispute settlement

In the event of a dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Cooperation agreement or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof, IEC and SARSO will use their best efforts to resolve the dispute through direct negotiation, including through escalation to a committee between the IEC Secretary General and the SARSO Director General, or their respective representatives. Both parties commit to give full and sympathetic consideration to any proposal for amicable settlement from each other.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, duly authorized representatives of the respective parties, have signed this cooperation agreement in the English language, in two (2) originals.


Mr. Kevin McKinley
IEC Acting Secretary-General


Mr. Nicolas Floury
IEC Acting Deputy
Secretary-General


Dr. Syed Humayun Kabir
SARSO Director General

Date: 2016.04.29

Date: 2016-04-14

Date: 2016.05.08

Place: Bermer

Place: Geneva

Place: Dhaka



International Organization for Standardization
Organisation internationale de normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации

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Kevin McKinley
Acting Secretary-General

Ref. Council 2016

Date: 2016-04-29

Dr. Syed Humayun Kabir
Director General
South Asian Regional Standards
Organization (SARSO) Secretariat 116/A,
Tejgaon Industrial Area
BD - DHAKA-1208
Bangladesh

Dear Dr Kabir,

I am pleased to inform you that the ISO Council has adopted a resolution whereby it approves that cooperation agreement between SARSO and ISO (Council Resolution 11/2016, attached).

I have therefore signed the relevant Agreement between our two Organizations, two copies of which are enclosed. I would ask you to kindly sign and return one copy to me.

We, at the ISO Central Secretariat, look forward to further cooperating with SARSO in the framework of the attached agreement.

Kind regards,

Kevin McKinley

Enclosures