



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**between**

**THE SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL STANDARDS  
ORGANIZATION**

**and**

**THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR  
STANDARDIZATION and  
THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR  
ELECTROTECHNICAL STANDARDIZATION**

**Memorandum of Understanding** between,

**The South Asian Regional Standards Organization** (hereafter referred to as "SARSO"), a specialized body of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) with registered office in 116/A, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh,

on the one part,

and

**The European Committee for Standardisation** (hereafter referred to as "CEN"), an international non-profit organizations established under Belgian law with registered office in 17 Avenue Marnix, B-1000 Brussels (Belgium),

and

**The European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation** (hereafter referred to as "CENELEC"), an international non-profit organizations established under Belgian law with registered office in 17 Avenue Marnix, B-1000 Brussels (Belgium),

On the other part,

hereinafter referred to individually as "the Party" and" or collectively as "the Parties".

WHEREAS:

- a) CEN and CENELEC are two of the three European Standardization Organizations (ESOs) whose main objective is to remove trade barriers for European industry and consumers. The mission of CEN and CENELEC is to foster the European economy in global trading, the welfare of European citizens and the environment. In application of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012, CEN and CENELEC have the institutional authority to propose, adopt and edit European Standards (ENs) for products and services brought on the European market;
- b) SARSO is a regional Standards Organization and has been established to achieve and enhance coordination and cooperation among SAARC member countries in the fields of standardization and conformity assessment and

is aimed to develop harmonized standards for the region to facilitate intra-regional trade and to have access in the global market. The SARSO has been established after the Agreement on the 'Establishment of South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO)' entered into force with effect from 25 August 2011 after ratification by all member States of SAARC.

- c) The Parties promote the international harmonization of standards in the framework of ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission);
- d) The Parties wish to remove technical barriers to trade, to promote standardization as a means to facilitate trade and improve market access, and to improve economic, scientific and technical exchanges; to ensure the compatibility and inter-changeability of supplied products and their safety for human life, and to promote environmental protection;
- e) The Parties have expressed their mutual desire to further develop their cooperation in the field of standardization;
- f) The Parties agree to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of their respective members;

THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and other considerations, the Parties hereby have agreed the following:

#### Article 1 – Objectives

The Parties establish this Memorandum of Understanding with the following goals:

- To promote and enhance communication between the Parties leading to a better mutual understanding of their activities, priorities, and roles;
- To exchange views and experience regarding standardization in support of regional economic integration, based on a strong commitment to and alignment with ISO and IEC;
- To contribute to and promote the use of international practices, regulations and standards, whenever possible; and
- To encourage cooperation in order to avoid duplication of work efforts as much as possible.

#### Article 2 – Areas of cooperation

Respectful of their legal environment and mission, the Parties agree to carry out the following cooperation activities:

- i. To enhance the mutual understanding of the development of standards in Europe and in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC);
- ii. To enhance the mutual understanding of the articulation between quality infrastructure and the economic integration process at regional level, including the links between voluntary standardization and policies or regulations aiming to remove technical barriers to trade;
- iii. To collaborate in support of ISO or IEC strategic and technical activities, based on a commonly agreed interest;
- iv. To keep each other informed about the most recent developments of standardization work and related issues, including the policy framework governing standardization in the SAARC and Europe;
- v. To provide upon specific request information in English regarding published standards and other standardization deliverables, including responsible technical bodies and related contact points, understanding that such information would not cover the full text of standards and other standardization deliverables;
- vi. To strengthen bilateral cooperation on Intellectual Property matters related to standardization (such as: copyright, patents and trademarks), with the objective to ensure the understanding and respect of the applicable legal framework and obligations in the SAARC and Europe;
- vii. To foster the uptake of ISO and IEC standards, working together to identify existing and potential alignment between the adoption of international standards in Europe and in the SAARC; and
- viii. To facilitate the exchange and possible adoption of European or SAARC "homegrown" standards or other standardization deliverables, that are not resulting from the identical adoption of ISO or IEC standards, in full respect of applicable rules and obligations. .

### Article 3 – Cooperation modalities

The Parties agree to implement the cooperation in the areas identified under Art. 2 by:

- i. Organizing regular meetings to exchange views on strategic matters and review progress achieved in the cooperation. The Parties shall coordinate as much as possible the schedule of meetings held under this Agreement with other international events, e.g. the ISO General Assembly or IEC General Meeting;
- ii. Exchanging information and experiences on standardization, as well as textbooks and other training materials on standardization;

- iii. Exchanging work programmes and other relevant corporate documentation;
- iv. Establishing a list of fields of common interest regarding the standardization work developed at ISO and IEC level, and agreeing on appropriate communication routes in order to support the Parties' contributions to international standardization;
- v. Arranging practical trainings and study visits;
- vi. Organizing public events or developing effective and efficient channels to communicate with and educate the general public about standardization-related issues;
- vii. Developing appropriate contractual arrangements as required to enable the adoption of one Party's deliverables by another Party, in full respect of each Party's applicable rules and obligations.

Should a Party request the other Party/ies to engage in specific cooperation activities requiring ad-hoc financial resources, unless otherwise agreed, the requesting Party will bear the related expenses.

#### Article 4 – Communication modalities

The Parties will respectively assign a contact person in their organization, who will act as a focal point for channeling exchanges.

In order to ensure efficient communication, each Party shall timely notify the other Parties any change of contact person.

Day-to-day communication will be carried out via e-mails.

#### Article 5 - General Terms and Conflict Resolution

The Parties recognize that the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and cooperation activities falling within its scope is dependent on the availability of necessary funding and resources. The Parties resolve to undertake activities only where the required budget and resources are available, without liability of any Party to the others.

All activities under this Memorandum of Understanding are undertaken on a voluntary basis and within the scope and capabilities of the Parties.

The Parties undertake to solve amicably any problem arising under or relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

#### Article 6 – Commencement, Amendment and Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on its signing by the last of the signatories.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force for a period of five years and may be extended for additional five years upon written confirmation by all Parties.

The present Memorandum of Understanding may be amended anytime upon mutual written consent by the Parties. The amendment shall be annexed to this Memorandum of Understanding.

Each Party can terminate this Memorandum of Understanding anytime with six months' written notice to the other Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Memorandum of Understanding is signed by the authorized representative of each Party in three copies, each written in English language, and all of them being original.

Vincent LAFLECHE  
CEN President  
Date:

Bernhard THIES  
CENELEC President  
Date:

Dr. Shahzad Afzal (Ph.D.)  
SARSO Director General  
Date:

*Signature*

European Committee for  
Standardization (CEN)

*Signature*

European Committee for  
Electrotechnical  
Standardization(CENELEC)

*Signature*

South Asian Regional  
Standards Organization  
(SARSO)