

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

ECOWAS COMMISSION



COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE ECOWAS 8th meeting of the Technical Management
Committee (TMC) for Standards Harmonization**

9th - 14th October 2017,

BAMAKO, MALI

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REPORT

1. Opening Ceremony

The eighth (8th) meeting of Technical Management Committee for standard harmonization of ECOWAS (TMC) was held in Bamako, Republic of Mali from 9th to 14th October 2017.

The following countries and institutions participated in the meeting:

- Republic of Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Republic of Cabo Verde
- Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
- Republic of The Gambia
- Republic of Ghana
- Republic of Guinee
- Republic of Guinee Bissau
- Republic of Liberia
- Republic of Mali
- Republic of Niger
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Sierra Leone
- Helén Keller International
- ECOWAS Commission

Absent:

- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (THC5 secretariat – apologies)
- Republic of Niger (THC2 chair – apologies)
- Federal Republic of Nigeria (THC5 chair and THC1 secretariat – apologies)
- Togolese Republic (TMC member – apologies)

Delegates at this meeting were composed of members of the TMC: Directors of National Standards Bodies, bureaus of the Technical Harmonization Committees (THC1, THC2, THC4 and THC5), representative of institutions as listed above. (*The list of participants is attached as **Annex A***).

The opening ceremony began with the welcome address by the 1st deputy of the Mayor of the commune II district of Bamako, Mr. Fodié Salim TRAORE who expressed his pleasure and welcome the participants to Bamako. He recalled the importance of such process in the lives of people and sustainable development. He encouraged the members to maintain the good work and reiterated the support and commitment of the commune of Bamako.

The Chairman of the TMC, Dr. Justin NICKAF, Director of Planning, Research and statistic of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) on behalf of the Director General SON, Mr. Osita ABOLOMA, welcomed the participants to the meeting. He recalled the importance of standards and their harmonization as to protect people and environment and to increase productivity and drive innovation. He wished the meeting fruitful deliberations.

Benny

In his address, the representative of Helen Keller International (HKI), Mr. TOUAORO Zaoro, on behalf of the Vice President Africa of HKI and all the partners expressed his appreciations to the ECOWAS Commission for supporting food fortification in Member States. He congratulated the government of the Republic of Mali and AMANORM for their commitment and actions in food fortification. He stated that, the efforts must be maintained in the further steps such as dissemination of standards and reinforce inspection. He wished the participants a good session and reiterated the commitment of HKI to the improvement of the nutritional and economic status of West Africa through food fortification.

The Director of Industry, Mr. LAWSON-HECHELLI Mensan on behalf of the ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Industry and Private Sector Promotion, Mr. Kalilou TRAORE, thanked the government of Mali for hosting the Member States and the Ministry of Industrial Development, for his efforts made even beyond Mali. He conveyed the apologies of the Commissioner for his inability to attend this meeting. He thanked the Members States for their continuous positive response to ECOWAS Commission and for their efforts and commitment in this work. He made mention to the adoption of the ECOSHAM and ECOQUAL by the authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS. He recalled that the ECOSHAM process started almost four years ago with six committees that are all operational now. He explained the objective of this TMC meeting which is to review and finalize over 30 drafts Harmonized Standards proposed by the THCs after the same exercise done on about 30 ECOSTAND in July in Accra. It is expected that those finalized ECOSTAND will be ready for submission to the Ministerial meeting and are expected to be validated. He also recalled that the last Council of Ministers of ECOWAS held in Monrovia in June has adopted the structure of the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure as suggested by the Conference of Ministers in Charge of Quality. He concluded by recognizing the work done by THCs and TMC in order to have standards that reflect our realities. He wished the participants successful deliberations.

The meeting was graced by His Excellency Mr. Mohamed ALY AG IBRAHIM, Hon. Minister of Industrial Development of Mali, warmly welcome the participants in Mali. He congratulated ECOWAS Commission and the commissioner for the organization of this important meeting which is in line with the priority of our region. He stated the importance of harmonized standards in the reduction of technical barriers to trade and the enhancement of competitiveness. He thanked ECOWAS and its partners such as UNIDO and European Union for the implementation of West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP) and their engagement in the development of the region. In this regard, he stated that the continuity and reinforcement of the WAQSP will contribute in the development of our Quality Infrastructure. He encouraged the TMC to sustain the effort to fulfill the objective of the meeting and wished all the participants a successful meeting. He declared the meeting opened.

2. Adoption of the draft Agenda - Self-Introduction by Members – setting up of the bureau

- Adoption of the draft Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted with the introduction of A.O.B. (*copy attached as Annex B*).

- Self-Introduction by Members

There was self-introduction by members of the TMC and present THC's bureaus.

- Setting of the bureau

The bureau of the meeting was elected:

Chairman: Federal Republic of Nigeria (TMC Chair)

Rapporteur: Burkina FASO (French), Cabo Verde (Portuguese) and Liberia (English).

3. Presentation of ballot reports from THC's – Discussions & Challenges - Review of the Final Draft Harmonized Standards for Approval by TMC

The TMC chair explained the procedures to be used in the meeting. The main item was discussion and finalization of final drafts harmonized standards presented by THC1, THC2, THC4 and THC5 for submission to The Ministers in Charge of Quality for validation.

THC chair of Committee 1 – Agricultural Product, THC's secretaries Committee 2 – Food Products, Committee 4 – Building and Construction Materials, and representative of the secretariat of Committee 5 – Electrotechnical, presented ballot reports, each draft standard, and comment where existing.

An overview of each standard was done and discussed among the TMC. The ballot reports, collated comments and the voting from Member States and decisions at the THC's meetings, on each of the drafts harmonized standards were reviewed.

During the course of the meeting, the TMC chair commissioned a sub-committee comprising of Senegal, The Gambia, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana to look into the review of the directive on the formatting of standards and bring out a proposal for the TMC for consideration. The committee gave a feedback and the TMC agreed by consensus that a section on table of content should be included in every ECOSTANDS and IT tools for the generation of table of contents of Microsoft word documents should be used. It was concluded that the amended formatting with the inclusion of the table of content in the ECOSTANDS and the procedures should be updated and communicated to all THC's secretariats

a) THC 1 – Agricultural Products

The THC1 presented the ballot report on three ECOSTAND that the committee worked on. The list of the ECOSTAND Final Drafts Harmonized Standards (FDHS) ECOSTAND and comments presented by the secretariat of THC1 are captured in the **Annex C**.

The TMC approved the three ECOSTAND for validation by ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Quality.

b) THC 2 – Food Products

The THC2 presented the ballot reports of fourteen ECOSTAND (14) that the committee worked on. The list of the ECOSTAND Final Drafts Harmonized Standards (FDHS) ECOSTAND and comments presented by the secretariat of THC2 are captured in the **Annex D**.

Concerns were raised and discussion held on the rejection of Côte d'Ivoire on the balloted standards on Attieke; Following deliberations it was recommended that the THC2 align the French version to take into account editorial comment from Côte d'Ivoire.

The TMC approved the fourteen ECOSTAND (14) and recommended them for validation by ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Quality.

c) THC4 – Buildings and Construction materials

The THC4 presented the ballot reports on thirteen ECOSTAND (13) that the committee worked on. The list of the ECOSTAND Final Drafts Harmonized Standards (FDHS) ECOSTAND and comments presented by the secretariat of THC4 are captured in the **Annex E**.

The TMC approved the thirteen ECOSTAND and recommended them for validation by ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Quality.

d) THC5 – Electrotechnical

The THC5 presented the ballot reports on two ECOSTAND (2) that the committee worked on as well as 51 IEC standards. The list of the ECOSTAND Final Drafts Harmonized Standards (FDHS) ECOSTAND and comments presented by the secretariat of THC5 are captured in the **Annex F**.

The TMC approved the two ECOSTAND (2) and recommended them for validation by ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Quality.

4. Submission and consideration of 2017/2018 Activities Programs of THC1 – THC2 – THC4 – THC5

THCs secretaries presented their work plans for 2017 – 2018.

- The TMC requested THC2 secretary to make modification of their work-plan to take into consideration the listing of normative references reflected in the 14 FDHS presented. A total of 41 normative references were identified. With consideration of the previous 10 work items, a total of 51 standards are now to be worked on;
- A call was also made for THC5 to target and focus on national standards for electrotechnical products in order to avoid stringent conditions (copyright issues) which makes it difficult to base ECOSTANDs.

The TMC thereafter endorsed THC1 (12 New Work Items), THC2 (51 New Work Items), THC4 (and THC5 work program for 2017/2018. The work plans are attached as **Annex G**.^①

5. Review of the composition of the THCs

On the request of Côte d'Ivoire, a close door session was done by the TMC after consultation with Legal representative. A separate P.V. is attached to this present report as **Annex G**.

6. Presentations from ISO PC 305

Mr Abdourahmane NDIONE, of ASN (*Association Sénégalaise de Normalisation*) and Twinned Secretary of ISO PC 305 on Sustainable Non-sewered sanitation systems made a presentation on final draft international standard ISO 30500. Presentations are attached as **Annex H**

After the presentations, in response members of the TMC recognized the significance of the standard to developing countries especially as it tends to address crucial issues associated with sanitation problems. However, some of concerns raised by TMC members included:

- adoptability with the Reinvented Toilet (RIT) in heavy density population;
- accessibility and associated costs (economic model) and benefits to the vast majority of the population;

It was stressed by the presenter that the important aspect of the RIT is processing. An example of the system was displayed (Caltech's model). It was also underscored that the goal of setting up the RIT is to make sanitation as a business so that it could be sustainable through its use by customers;

The TMC expressed its interest in participating as a region and look forward to receiving the committee's draft of the standard. The TMC also urged individual NSBs to consider supporting the endeavor of M&B Gate Foundation.

7. Concerns raised / Recommendations

During the course of the meeting, the following concerns/recommendations were raised:

Concerns were raised by some TMC members on the followings:

To ECOWAS Commission

- Improve the organization of TMC meetings to avoid logistical problems (travel arrangements,...);
- TMC recommend the availability of documents and interpretation in the three official language of ECOWAS;
- Made available to THCs criteria and methodology for the proposal of New Work Item as defined by TMC at Abuja in 2012.

To Members States

- The TMC recommend the review of ECOSHAM procedures and made changes where there is a need.

8. Adoption of Meeting Report

The report of the meeting was considered and unanimously adopted as amended.

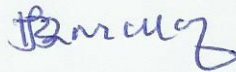
9. Closing

ECOWAS Commission expressed their thanks and appreciation to TMC for the good proceedings of the meeting. He congratulated all the committees for their work and participation of Member States in achieving the goals of developing regional standards.

10. Vote of Thanks

The members expressed their appreciations to West Africa Quality System Program for sponsoring the meeting. Also, members expressed their gratitude to the government and people of Mali for the excellent facilities placed at their disposal for the successful organization of the meeting.

Done this day, 14th October in Bamako, Mali



Dr. Justin NICKAF

Chairman

