



# Report to WTO TBT Committee

June 2017

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## **IEC activities in developing and industrializing countries**

**March 2017 – June 2017**

This report to the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee highlights the activities of the IEC, its Members, Affiliates and Regional Centres related to increasing the participation of developing and industrializing countries in IEC International Standardization and Conformity Assessment activities.

### **IEC Regional Centre activities**

#### **IEC Africa Regional Centre**

The IEC Africa Regional Centre ([IEC-AFRC](#)), located in Nairobi, Kenya, is the focal point for the IEC in Africa, helping to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, and enhance participation and membership of countries in the region.

#### ***Continuing visits to African countries of the IEC***

IEC-AFRC continued to tour Africa in order to support the electrotechnical standardization work of countries in the region. From March 2017 to June 2017, IEC-AFRC visited Sudan and Tanzania.

#### ***Workshop by ECOWAS Harmonization Technical Committee on Electrotechnical Standards, Accra, Ghana, 20-22 February 2017***

IEC-AFRC participated in an Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) workshop aimed at studying 49 IEC International Standards for harmonization purposes and two drafts standards proposed by the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE).

The participants agreed to present the 49 IEC International Standards without any deviation to the ECOWAS Technical Management Committee at its next meeting for recommendation for national adoption by the ECOWAS member states participating in IEC work.

#### ***Annual meetings of the SADC TBT Cooperation Structures, Manzini, Swaziland, 13-17 March 2017***

IEC-AFRC participated in the annual meeting of the SADC TBT Cooperation Structures in Manzini. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is an inter-governmental organization whose goal is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient productive systems, deeper co-operation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security among 15 Southern African member states. To deal with Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) issues, SADC has put in place the SADC TBT Cooperation Structures.

IEC-AFRC updated the SADC TBT Cooperation Structures meeting participants on IEC and IEC-AFRC activities in the SADC region. It was also the opportunity for IEC to meet with representatives from Angola, Mozambique and Swaziland.

#### ***AFSEC workshop and World Power and Electricity conference Africa, South Africa, 27-29 March 2017***

IEC-AFRC participated in the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC) workshop on the implementation of IEC International Standards that have been recommended to AFSEC members for adoption.

#### ***Côte d'Ivoire NEC workshop with the support of France NC in the framework of the IEC Mentoring Programme, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 24-26 April 2017***

IEC-AFRC participated in the Ivorian National Electrotechnical Committee (NEC) workshop held in the framework of the IEC Mentoring Programme between Côte d'Ivoire NEC and France National Committee (NC). The workshop aimed to enhance the stakeholder's awareness and commitment and build the Côte d'Ivoire NC's capacity to become an IEC Associate Member in the near future. More than 200 participants from different stakeholder groups attended the workshop.

### ***Morocco NC Forum on Electrotechnology, Casablanca, Morocco, 18 May 2017***

IEC-AFRC participated in the COMELEC (Morocco NC of the IEC) forum on Conformity Assessment Systems. 80 delegates from a wide range of stakeholders attended the forum, including the NEC Secretary and NEC President from Senegal. The forum focused on the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, together with the challenges and opportunities to adopt them at the national level. The forum was supported by Fabio Gargantini, an expert from the IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE) who has participated in a number of capacity building IEC Affiliate Conformity Assessment Status (ACAS) events.

### ***African Utility Week, Cape Town, South Africa, 16-18 May 2017***

IEC-AFRC participated in the African Utility Week, an annual conference and trade exhibition of energy and water utilities for the African continent. It was also the occasion for the IEC to meet with representatives from the National Committees of IEC Members and Affiliates in Africa. As evidenced during the African Utility Week, there is a great deal of work going on in the region to light up Africa. The IEC-AFRC Officers will follow up on building awareness with the representatives of IEC Members and Affiliates in Africa, so that they can further participate in bringing solutions through IEC International Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems.

### **IEC Asia-Pacific Regional Centre**

The IEC Asia-Pacific Regional Centre (IEC-APRC), located in Singapore, has a twofold mission: to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems as well as enhance participation of all countries in the region in the IEC work; and to provide additional staff support to IEC Technical Committees and Subcommittees in the same way the IEC Central Office does at present.

### ***Capacity building on IEC International Standards in India and Sri Lanka, November, 2016***

In November 2016, a roadshow was organized in India and Sri Lanka, to provide capacity building and raise awareness on IEC International Standards. Presentations on IEC activities were given in New Delhi, Bangalore and Colombo. More than 100 participants attended each event, with the audience composed mainly of engineers, technical librarians and students using or interested in IEC International Standards. It was also an opportunity for the IEC to get valuable feedback on the way IEC International Standards are used in Sri Lanka and India, from both a practical and technical perspective.

### ***ASEAN regional fora on standards and quality, Brunei Darussalam, Brunei, 23-28 April 2017***

IEC-APRC participated at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ASEAN ACCSQ) meeting which was held in Brunei Darussalam on 23-28 April 2017. One of the key items shared at the meeting was the new IEC Basecamp website which serves as a one-stop shop of multimedia and print tools to support the IEC community. The ACCSQ also felt that the updates from IEC would be useful for the regulators of electrical and electronic equipment in the region and requested IEC-APRC to participate at the next regional meeting of the regulators. IEC-APRC also had a meeting with the focal point and stakeholders of the IEC Affiliate in Brunei Darussalam to encourage active participation.

### ***FISUEL symposium on safety of electricity users, Bali, Indonesia, 10-11 May 2017***

IEC-APRC participated at the symposium of the International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users (FISUEL) in Bali on 10-11 May 2017 which was attended by about 100 participants from more than 10 countries. The IEC gave a background of its activities, together with a co-presenter from the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia, who shared on the IEC International Standards on electrical installations and their use in the region. The presentations provided better awareness of what the IEC offers and the benefits of using its electrical installation Standards to ensure safety. FISUEL is an association with key objectives of promoting electrical safety at an international level, and encouraging contact and sharing of experiences between countries with a common goal of increasing the level of safety in electrical installations.

### **IEC Latin America Regional Centre**

The IEC Latin America Regional Centre (IEC-LARC), located in São Paulo, Brazil, is the focal point for the IEC in Latin America, helping to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, and enhance participation and membership of countries in the region.



### ***CANENA annual meeting, Toronto, Canada, 22-23 February 2017***

The IEC provided its annual report to the Council for Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards of the Nations in the Americas (CANENA) members, focused primarily on the new IEC Masterplan, including new areas for technical development and international cooperation.

### ***CROSQ meeting, Saint John, Antigua and Barbuda, 13-14 March 2017***

The IEC-LARC reported to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) members and provided an update on IEC activities. Discussions also centered on developing an IEC-CROSQ MoU.

### ***COPANT-PASC joint annual meeting and workshop, Vancouver, Canada, 30 April - 3 May 2017***

The IEC President presented a report highlighting aspects of the new IEC Masterplan, including new fields of technology, areas for international and regional cooperation, the IEC Affiliate Country Programme and the IEC Young Professionals Programme. The IEC Ambassador and Chair of the IEC SyC (Systems Committee) on LVDC presented the LVDC and Energy Access highlighting the Systems Evaluation Group (SEG) and SyC work and challenges.

There was the proposal of a Work Plan between the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT), the Forum of IEC National Committees of the Americas (FINCA) and IEC-LARC for greater participation in IEC work. The IEC has also been asked to provide support with COPANT Strategic Priority #3: Promoting Effective Conformity Assessment Services, and Strategic Priority #4: Fostering and Strengthening Regional Collaboration and Cooperation.

## **IEC Affiliate Country Programme**

The [IEC Affiliate Country Programme](#) is aimed at developing countries that do not yet have the necessary infrastructure and technical expertise to participate in IEC activities as a Member. Participants join the Programme free of charge on invitation by the IEC General Secretary and CEO.

### **IEC Mentoring Programme for Affiliates**

The IEC is pleased to report the establishment of a new partnership in the Mentoring Programme for Affiliate Countries between [Senegal](#) and [France](#). The IEC Affiliate country and its mentor have committed for a period of two years to reinforce the National Electrotechnical Committee (NEC) through a number of activities, including identifying and reaching out to relevant stakeholders, national adoptions and implementation of IEC International Standards, establishing mirror technical committees and participating in IEC work.

This partnership adds to those previously established between [Afghanistan–Malaysia](#), [Bhutan–Sweden](#), [Côte D'Ivoire–France](#), [DR Congo–France](#), [Ecuador–Mexico](#), [Ethiopia–Germany](#), [Gambia – Netherlands](#), [Mongolia–Germany](#), [Namibia–UK](#), [Peru–Mexico](#), [Rwanda–Austria](#), [Uruguay–Norway](#) and [Zambia–Austria](#).

In the context of the Mentoring Programme, two recent country visits were organized. One was held in Côte d'Ivoire 24-26 April 2017 with the presence of the IEC NC Secretary of France (see IEC-AFRC section above). The other saw the IEC NC Secretary of Sweden visiting his counterpart in Bhutan from 27-31 March 2017. The Swedish delegation participated in a workshop on standardization priorities and strategy with technical committee members, awareness workshops with local stakeholders, as well as visits to local stakeholders.

### **IEC Affiliate Conformity Assessment Status (ACAS)**

As part of its commitment to involve developing countries in all aspects of IEC work, including Conformity Assessment Systems, the IEC is pleased to report that following [Rwanda](#) signature of the [ACAS Declaration](#) earlier this year, its NEC has begun the ACAS e-Learning course available online at [/www.iec.ch/affiliates/acas/e-learning/](http://www.iec.ch/affiliates/acas/e-learning/) and has already progressed to the advanced levels.

## Update on participation

Shortly after the establishment of its NEC, Madagascar selected IEC Technical Committee 34: Lamps and related equipment, as its first IEC TC of interest. The Madagascar NEC will now have access to the working documents of IEC TC 34, and the possibility of submitting comments on the technical documents while they are still in development.

Botswana has submitted comments on two IEC International Standards of IEC TC 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems. These comments were forwarded to the Secretary of the technical committee.

IEC Affiliate countries are showing further interest in IEC work through the national adoptions of IEC International Standards. Four countries have declared additional adoptions: [Bhutan](#), [Botswana](#), [Ecuador](#) and [Ghana](#)

## International collaboration

### ARE Energy Access Investment forum 2017 and Off-grid B2B matchmaking event – 22-23 March 2017

IEC participated as a panellist in the annual Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE) forum for energy access investment, which took place in Lisbon, Portugal, on 22-23 March 2017.

ARE is an official partner of the IEC Affiliate Country Programme since 2014. Its mission is to bring access to electricity to all by 2030, therefore meeting the UN SDG 7. ARE is a partner of UN-SE4ALL, with a multi-stakeholder approach, and focuses on 4 areas: policy dialogue, private sector, capacity building and finance access.

This year, the forum was held at the EDP (Portuguese Energy Company) which has electrification projects in Guinea Bissau, Benin, Brazil and Mozambique. The forum was attended by 230 participants from 60 countries (5% from America, 6% from Asia, 36% from Africa and 53% from Europe).

The IEC Affiliate Executive Secretary was invited to share IEC's experience in a panel on Technical Assistance for Rural Electrification. Other panellists came from SNV (Netherlands Development Organization); Schneider Electric, GIZ, UNOPS (UN Office of Project Services) and was moderated by ABB Spain.

It gave the IEC the opportunity to exchange with other organizations on the best way to bring technical support to developing countries for them to implement their rural electrification programmes. IEC also emphasized the need for International Standards that are not always taken into account, even though they remain a major component of any national quality infrastructure. IEC will continue to support the SE4ALL initiative and intensify its collaboration with ARE.

### IEC LVDC conference for electricity access, Nairobi, Kenya, 22-23 May 2017



In collaboration with AFSEC (the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission) and KEBS (the Kenya Bureau of Standards), the IEC organized the first international conference on Low Voltage Direct Current (LVDC) as a solution for electricity access in developing countries.

The conference was attended by participants representing governmental and funding agencies, investors, insurance companies, power utilities, equipment manufacturers, project implementers and technical experts active in the area of energy access. The feedback from participants will now allow regulators and systems administrators to benchmark different LVDC solutions and will enable IEC newly established System Committee on LVDC for energy access (SyC LVDC) to start its standardization work.

The programme brought together high level speakers coming from the African Energy Commission (AFREC), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Lighting Program, the Global Off-grid Lighting Association (GOGLA) as well as from national standards bodies and private companies. The keynote speaker was the President of the Namibian IEC National Electrotechnical Committee who is the General Manager of the Namibia Electricity Control Board and also AFSEC First Vice-President. His keynote presentation gave an overview of the situation of electricity access in Sub-Saharan Africa, and specifically in Namibia. He emphasized the need for Africa to achieve the UN SDG 7 by 2030 by exploiting its renewable energy resources. He pointed out that Microgrids and LVDC systems will be a solution and that the need for standardization is urgent. He concluded by encouraging the participants to play an active role in standard and regulation development as well as compliance issues.

More about the conference speakers: <https://www.lvdconference.com/speakers/>

More information about the conference at: [www.lvdconference.com/](http://www.lvdconference.com/) and [Click to join our LinkedIn group](#)

## IEC webinars

In order to further improve services to IEC Members and Affiliates, the IEC is offering monthly webinars on a pilot basis since January 2017. The main objective is to train IEC National Committees staff and experts on a number of topics related to the IEC structure, operations and work, and to provide updates on what the IEC is doing in specific areas. The topics are chosen based on the feedback received following a survey among all IEC Members.

In May 2017, the IEC held a webinar on Part 1 of the ISO/IEC Directives which describes the procedures for IEC technical work. Participants were provided with an overview of the Directives which cover topics such as the establishment of IEC technical committees and subcommittees (TC/SCs), participation in the work of TC/SCs, obligations of Participating members, holding a TC/SC secretariat and the principal stages in the development of International Standards.

Several webinars have already been held, the first one in January on the IEC Systems approach, the second one in February on [IEC work for LVDC](#), and in March on the role of National Committees (NCs) and how to increase stakeholder involvement in IEC work. The webinars are open to all IEC Members and Affiliates.

### About the IEC

The IEC is the world leading organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies – collectively known as “electrotechnology”. The IEC also administers 4 global Conformity Assessment Systems, IECEE, IECEx, IECQ and IECRE.

They cover testing, certification and approval of equipment, systems, components and in selected areas services and personnel to its International Standards.

**IEC NC (National Committees): 83**  
Full Members: 60  
Associate Members: 23

**IEC Affiliates: 87**  
With adoption: 50  
With NEC: 54

**IEC TCs and SCs: 203**  
Technical Committees: 104  
Subcommittees: 99

**IEC Publications: 9855**  
(as per 2017-03-08)

**IEC Conformity Assessment Systems:**  
Over 1 000 000 issued certificates

## Annex A

### 83 IEC National Committees (as per 2017-06-13)

Albania	Associate Member	Kuwait	Full Member
Algeria	Full Member	Latvia	Associate Member
Argentina	Full Member	Lithuania	Associate Member
Australia	Full Member	Luxembourg	Full Member
Austria	Full Member	Malaysia	Full Member
Bahrain	Associate Member	Malta	Associate Member
Belarus	Full Member	Mexico	Full Member
Belgium	Full Member	Moldova	Associate Member
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Associate Member	Montenegro	Associate Member
Brazil	Full Member	Morocco	Associate Member
Bulgaria	Full Member	Netherlands	Full Member
Canada	Full Member	New Zealand	Full Member
Chile	Full Member	Nigeria	Associate Member
China	Full Member	Norway	Full Member
Colombia	Full Member	Oman	Full Member
Croatia	Full Member	Pakistan	Full Member
Cuba	Associate Member	Philippines, Rep. of the	Full Member
Cyprus	Associate Member	Poland	Full Member
Czech Republic	Full Member	Portugal	Full Member
Denmark	Full Member	Qatar	Full Member
Egypt	Full Member	Romania	Full Member
Estonia	Associate Member	Russian Federation	Full Member
Finland	Full Member	Saudi Arabia	Full Member
France	Full Member	Serbia	Full Member
Georgia	Associate Member	Singapore	Full Member
Germany	Full Member	Slovakia	Full Member
Greece	Full Member	Slovenia	Full Member
Hungary	Full Member	South Africa	Full Member
Iceland	Associate Member	Spain	Full Member
India	Full Member	Sri Lanka	Associate Member
Indonesia	Full Member	Sweden	Full Member
Iraq	Full Member	Switzerland	Full Member
Iran	Full Member	Thailand	Full Member
Ireland	Full Member	The Former Yugoslav	
Israel	Full Member	Rep. of Macedonia	Associate Member
Italy	Full Member	Tunisia	Associate Member
Japan	Full Member	Turkey	Full Member
Jordan	Associate Member	Ukraine	Full Member
Kazakhstan	Associate Member	United Arab Emirates	Full Member
Kenya	Associate Member	United Kingdom	Full Member
Korea, DPR of	Associate Member	United States of America	Full Member
Korea, Republic of	Full Member	Vietnam	Associate Member

## Annex B

### 87 IEC Affiliates (as per 2017-06-13)

Afghanistan	January 2007	Kyrgyzstan	December 2003
Angola	July 2002	Lao PDR	June 2002
Antigua and Barbuda	May 2002	Lebanon	November 2001
Armenia	November 2001	Lesotho	July 2005
Azerbaijan	June 2011	Liberia	November 2016
Bahamas	July 2012	Madagascar	April 2005
Bangladesh	November 2001	Malawi	November 2001
Barbados	November 2001	Mali	November 2001
Belize	April 2002	Mauritania	May 2002
Benin	November 2001	Mauritius	November 2001
Bhutan	July 2006	Mongolia	December 2001
Bolivia	November 2001	Mozambique	March 2003
Botswana	November 2001	Myanmar	November 2007
Brunei Darussalam	November 2001	Namibia	November 2001
Burkina Faso	November 2001	Nepal	November 2001
Burundi	April 2002	Niger	September 2006
Cambodia	November 2001	Palestine	April 2009
Cameroon	March 2005	Panama	April 2003
Cabo Verde	January 2017	Papua New Guinea	May 2004
Central African Republic	April 2008	Paraguay	December 2001
Chad	June 2008	Peru	September 2002
Comoros	November 2001	Rwanda	November 2001
Congo	June 2008	Saint Kitts and Nevis	September 2013
Congo (Dem. Rep. of)	November 2001	Saint Lucia	April 2002
Costa Rica	February 2000	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	January 2008
Côte D'Ivoire	September 2003	Senegal	April 2002
Dominica	May 2002	Seychelles	November 2001
Dominican Republic	August 2005	Sierra Leone	March 2003
Ecuador	April 2003	South Sudan	April 2013
El Salvador	February 2008	Sudan	April 2004
Eritrea	August 1999	Suriname	November 2008
Ethiopia	June 2002	Swaziland	June 2003
Fiji	November 2001	Syria	July 2016
Gabon	February 2007	Tanzania	November 2001
Gambia	March 2008	Togo	April 2006
Ghana	November 2001	Trinidad and Tobago	January 2007
Grenada	November 2001	Turkmenistan	December 2001
Guatemala	November 2001	Uganda	November 2001
Guinea	January 2007	Uruguay	September 1996
Guinea Bissau	November 2006	Uzbekistan	October 2015
Guyana	November 2001	Yemen	April 2002
Haiti	May 2002	Zambia	March 2002
Honduras	August 2007	Zimbabwe	November 2001
Jamaica	November 2001		





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