

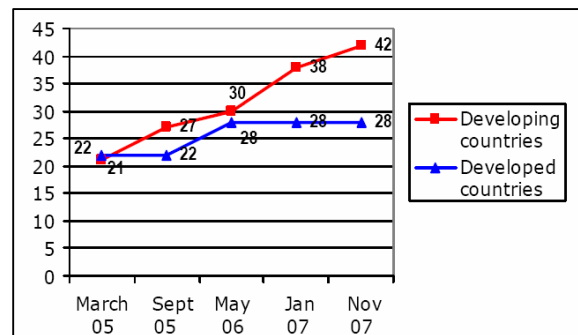
Record participation for 5th meeting for ISO Working Group on Social Responsibility



The breadth of international support for the development of the future ISO 26000 standard giving guidance on social responsibility was demonstrated at the 5th plenary meeting of the ISO Working Group on Social Responsibility (WG SR), held in Vienna, Austria, on 5-9 November 2007.

The meeting, which was hosted by the Austrian Standards Institute (ON), was held with the support of the Austrian Government and Austrian Development Agency (ADA), together with the United Nations Global Compact and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Participants to the Vienna meeting were officially welcomed by: Dr. Walter Barfuss, Dmitri Piskounov, and Dr. Hans Winkler. It attracted the record participation of some 400 experts and observers representing the following interests: industry; government; labour; consumers; nongovernmental organizations; and service, support, research and others.

The number of developing country members has almost doubled since the beginning of the process and exceeds the number of developed country members.



"The Vienna plenary has attracted the highest number of participants in the WR SR's history," pointed out the WG Chair, Mr. Jorge E.R. Cajazeira, nominated by the ISO member for Brazil (ABNT) at a media conference held to raise awareness of the work. "This indicates that importance of the work, which is very different from typical technical standardization and addresses issues that are relevant and important to society."



From left: Sophie Clivio, ISO/CS, Staffan Söderberg, Vice Chair of ISO/TMB/WG SR, Dmitri Piskounov, UNIDO Managing Director - Programme Development and Technical Cooperation Division, Dr. Hans Winkler, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Walter Barfuß, President of the Austrian Standards Institute, Jorge E. R. Cajazeira, Chair of ISO/TMB/WG SR, Kristina Sandberg, Secretary of ISO/TMB/WG SR

More than 7,200 comments were received from the WG SR's experts on the third working draft of ISO 26000 (before Vienna). Enough key issues were resolved at the meeting to enable the work to be launched to produce a fourth working draft (WD.4). This draft is being developed by a new Integrated Drafting Task Force (IDTF), established at the Vienna meeting, with balanced stakeholder representation.

Staffan Söderberg, WG SR Vice Chair nominated by the ISO member for Sweden (SIS), commented: "The Vienna WG SR meeting will be remembered as the last meeting where we drafted in silos and the first meeting where our 400 experts made way for integrated drafting building on the important foundations laid by the previous task groups. It is a strong sign of the growing consensus among the different stakeholder groups making up the WG SR."

Objectives of the Vienna Meeting

The two key objectives of the Vienna meeting were:

1. To resolve enough key topics and comments and agree on proposals to advance the document after the Vienna meeting with a more integrated approach to the full document; and
2. To refine the operational framework of the Working Group in order to further enhance participation, as well as the accountability and efficiency of the process.

Principal Achievements of the Vienna Meeting

Establishment of the Integrated Drafting Task Force (IDTF)

At the Vienna meeting the WG SR agreed on the establishment of an Integrated Drafting Task Force (IDTF) with the mandate to draft the next working draft (WD.4) of ISO 26000 with an integrated approach to the full document. The terms of reference of the IDTF are to review the full text of the ISO 26000 drafts including revised texts from drafting teams of the Standard Setting TGs, review and revise the ISO 26000 drafts in an integrated manner, based on comments received, and compile comments received from consultations.

Jonathon Hanks, South Africa was appointed as IDTF Convenor. Members include:

- Convenors and Co-Convenors of Standard Setting TGs.
- 2 experts from each stakeholder category, one from developed and one from developing country (as far as possible), to be nominated by the stakeholder groups, including at least one who has been involved in the drafting teams of the Standard Setting TGs. 2 alternates shall also be nominated by the stakeholder groups, considering developing countries.
- 1 representative from the Editing Committee.
- 1 expert from ILO (in accordance with MoU).
- 1 expert from UNGC (in accordance with MoU).
- 1 representative of the ISO Central Secretariat.
- 2 Secretaries, appointed by the WG SR Chairs.
- Observers: 1 expert per established WG SR language Task Forces

Task Group 1 (TG 1), *Funding and Stakeholder Engagement*

TG1 successfully met its targets for the Vienna meeting:

- To develop strategies to maintain the support from ISO/DEVCO;
- To evaluate the administration process for contribution to and nomination for support from ISO/WG SR Trust Fund; and
- To agree on way forward for strengthening the ongoing partnership with UN Global Compact.

Thank you to the following three companies for their contributions to the SR Trust Fund:



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The funding from these organizations made it possible for TG1 to accept six applications for SR Trust Fund funding for the Vienna meeting: one NSB-expert, consumer, developing country; two NSB-experts, labour developed and developing countries; and three D-liaisons, NGO from Brazil, South Africa and Malaysia.

Task Group 2 (TG 2), *Communication*

TG2 targets for the Vienna meeting were to enhance communication initiatives and develop new communication tools to respond current demands and foster participation in the ISO/WG SR activities.

Key TG2 achievements included:

- Hosting an Open Workshop focusing on Sharing Best Practices with 12 presenters from developing and developed countries and 65 participants.
- Collected comments on the Draft ISO 26000 Communication Action Plan. The Plan is scheduled to be completed before the next WG SR meeting and will provide guidance on communicating with stakeholders and the general public, focusing on awareness raising, increasing effective participation, preparedness for adoption of ISO 26000, and strategies for communicating with decision makers.
- Agreement to establish a network of individuals who wish to share experiences and existing materials from SR in Education initiatives, for example university curricula and educational programs for young children.

Task Group 3 (TG 3), *Operational Procedures*

TG3 targets for the Vienna meeting were to develop an approval process for CD, DIS and FDIS, determine access permission for Researchers to the WG meetings, and clarify the role of experts during CD phase.

At the Vienna Meeting, TG3 approved Operating Procedures for Liaison D commenting on Committee Draft (CD), Researcher involvement in WG SR, and National input to WG SR (i.e., general, submission of experts' comments, developing national positions, comments on CD, and votes on CD). TG3 agreed to develop a single reference document following the Vienna meeting.

Task Group 4 (TG 4), *Scope, SR Context, and SR Principles*

The TG4 target for the Vienna meeting was to finalize and agree to the contents of TG 4 Clauses. The outcomes of the TG4 Vienna Meeting were:

- Approved completed revised text for Introduction and Scope for submission to the next draft
- Approved completed revised text for most TG4 definitions for submission to the next draft, for further comment. Further work ongoing on some definitions:
 - *Ethical behaviour* (pending clarity on norms/expectations)
 - *International [expectations][norms] of behaviour*
 - *Social responsibility* (pending clarity on norms/expectations and other issues)
- Established a representative drafting team to draft text using WD3rev as a basis, with consideration to general advice given by TG4 experts in Vienna

- Identified the list of Principles and approved text for most of these; text to be finalized on the remainder of these during four week period.
- Revised clause to include reference to sustainable development as overarching goal and a note regarding potential conflict between local law and international [norms] [expectations] of behaviour

Task Group 5 (TG 5), *Guidance on Core SR Subjects/Issues*

TG5 targets for the Vienna meeting were to produce a revised text based on comments received on WD 26000.3 Clause 6 and advice from the Liaison Task Force (LTF) and to resolve enough key topics (KT) to provide a basis for further drafting.

Results of the TG5 Drafting Team (DT) meetings in Vienna were:

- Extended debates on the seven SR core issues
- All the identified key topics were addressed
- Ways forward were suggested
- Seven reports on work achieved presented in TG5 Plenary
- Some texts were redrafted in Vienna (e.g. rationale for the environment, consumer issues)
- Working plan of each DT for the hand over has been discussed

TG5 developed a process to prepare for the handover process to the IDTF:

1. Revised Clause 6 text
2. A report, including
 - a. Agreed ways forward for the key topics (explaining the solution given to each KT and justifying the proposed way forward).
 - b. Main discussions in the DT, including dilemmas, conclusions and solutions.
3. WG SR N 120 part 1-5 comments on WD3 and how they have been addressed (the last column of the template will be completed with e.g. ways forward suggested or corresponding KT agreed)

Task Group 6 (TG 6), *Guidance for Organization on Implementing SR*

TG6 targets for the Vienna meeting were to produce a revised text based on comments received on WD26000.3 Clause 7 and advice from the Liaison Task Force (LTF) and to resolve enough key topics to provide a basis for further drafting.

The following TG6 priority issues and key topics were addressed and resolved in Vienna:

- Improvement for “streamlining” of sub-clauses and sub-sub-clauses
- Setting SR boundary/Supply Chain
- Stakeholder engagement
- Communication on social responsibility

- Non MSS streamlining, by identifying a list of terms clarified
- Reflect the strategic overall concept of ISO 26000 in Clause 7 by presenting a new visual format (Big Picture) for the clause
- Enhancing credibility of social responsibility activities
- SMO approach-proposal to the IDTF on how to give better guidance

Moving Ahead

The WG SR is currently at the Working Draft stage. The requirement at this stage is to build consensus among individual experts, while the next stage at which the developing standard progresses to Committee Draft status will aim to build consensus among the national standards bodies. WG SR Leadership encourages national standards bodies to begin building consensus within their respective countries among the various stakeholder groups.

The Project Plan was reviewed and revised to include a fourth Working Draft. Based on agreements from the Vienna meeting, a new Drafting Plan was developed (see WG SR N 44 rev3, Project plan ISO 26000 and WG SR N 134 rev1, Drafting plan Vienna-Santiago)

The next meeting of the WG SR will be held in September 2008, in Santiago, Chile, hosted by the national standards body, INN.

New Members

We welcome the following new countries and new D-liaison organizations to the work in WG SR: Ukraine, Bulgaria, Fair Labor Association (FLA), World Savings Banks Institute (WSBI)/European Savings Banks Group (ESBG).

ISO/TMB/WG on Social Responsibility

- You will find MORE at <http://www.iso.org/sr>
- To learn more about participating, please consult with your National Standardization body, which can be found at “Member bodies”
<http://www.iso.org/iso/en/aboutiso/isomembers/index.html>
- You will also find organizations participating in the WG under “Organization” at <http://www.iso.org/sr>
- For a free subscription to the ISO/SR Newsletter, please contact Nicki Islic, Co-Secretariat of ISO/TMB/WG/SR TG 2 Communication by e-mail at: SRnewsletter@csa.ca