



ISO Report to the 51st Meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology Strasbourg, France 17–21 October 2016

[ISO](#) is an independent, non-governmental international organization with a membership of 163 national standards bodies. Through our members, we bring together experts to share knowledge and develop voluntary, consensus-based, market-relevant International Standards that support innovation, facilitate trade and provide solutions to global challenges. We have published more than 21000 International Standards and related documents, covering almost every industry.

Highlights from the ISO General Assembly, 2016

The [ISO General Assembly Week in China](#) took place 10 to 14 September 2016 in the China National Convention Centre in Beijing, with key meetings also held in the prestigious Great Hall of the People in front of Tiananmen Square.

As usual a range of governance and other meetings were held: President's Committee, Council, Committee on developing country matters (DEVCO), Technical Management Board, the General Assembly, and an Open Session hosted by the Standardization Administration of China (SAC).

We heard from high-profile speakers such as Prof. Michael Braungart (Germany) on the circular economy; and World Bank Director Ms Cécile Fruman on trade competitiveness and standards. We engaged with regional standards organizations in a panel discussion on a regional engagement strategy for ISO, and with representatives of international organizations - including ITU, IEC, BIPM, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ITC and the World Bank Group – to discuss the role of standards as a passport for international trade and development.

We elected a new ISO President, John Walter (Canada) for 2018-2019, and a new Vice-President Finance Bronwyn Evans (Australia) for 2017-2018 as well as new Council Members for 2017-2019.

As a final highlight to the week, Chinese Premier, Mr Li Keqiang attended the Open Session along with other Chinese ministers and regional government representatives, all of whom stressed the importance of standards to drive China's economic and social development.

It was a high profile week, well publicized across media outlets in China and beyond, giving wide and extensive coverage to ISO and its activities.

ISO Strategy 2016-2020

A leader in our field and supported by a broad member base, we enjoy a strong governance, code of ethics and standards development process. The [ISO Strategy 2016 - 2020](#) builds on this solid foundation to define our strategic directions to guide the organization in its decisions over a five-year period. Engaging stakeholders and partners is one of our strategic directions, implemented by, amongst others, seeking sound collaboration with key global and regional partner organizations, such as OIML, and engaging the best experts in a continually growing list of relevant subject areas.

The ISO Strategy 2016 - 2020 also serves as the basis for the [ISO Action Plan for Developing Countries 2016 - 2020](#). This addresses issues specific to ISO's work with developing countries, which represent over three-quarters of ISO members.

ISO and OIML co-operation

OIML is an important partner for ISO. The two organizations co-operate at different levels through various agreements.

1. Memorandum of Understanding concerning liaisons and co-operation between OIML and ISO

The scope of this MoU covers the relationship between the OIML and ISO in matters of relevant technical cooperation, conformity assessment, standards development and practices. Annex B to the MoU lists over 60 liaisons between OIML committees and ISO committees, including CASCO (*Committee on conformity assessment*) and COPOLCO (*Committee on Consumer Policy*). Amongst the numerous ongoing technical developments in the ISO platform, it is worth mentioning the following, of interest to OIML:

- CASCO – The revision of ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*, is progressing. The project has completed the Committee Draft stage, and the Draft International Standard (DIS) ballot should be initiated in the following weeks. OIML is actively involved in its development.
- COPOLCO – This committee confirms the long term need of a co-operation with OIML, due to integrity of metrology uses for quantities and therefore accurate consumer information on e.g. packaging.
- ISO/TC 12, *Quantities and units* – The ISO 80000 series, *Quantities and units*, is currently being revised, some parts progressing faster than others. The second edition of this series of Standards should be published late 2017.
- ISO/TC 28, *Petroleum products and related products of synthetic or biological origin* – Subcommittees SC 2 and SC 5, both working on measurement aspects, have a number of projects under development at different stages.
- ISO/TC 30/SC 7, *Volume methods including water meters* – OIML was much involved in the development of the ISO 4062 series, *Water meters for cold potable water and hot water*, published in 2014. This committee has currently no standards under development.
- ISO/TC 43, *Acoustics* – This committee, and its SC 1, *Noise*, have a number of projects under development at different stages.
- ISO/TC 48/SC 3, *Thermometers* – Work on standards concerned by the issue of mercury in thermometers is planned to start soon.
- ISO/TC 69, *Applications of statistical methods* – In addition to a number of projects being developed by the committee and its six active Subcommittees, TC 69 plans to start working on Big Data Analytics.
- TC 85/SC 2, *Radiation protection* – A number of projects under development at different stages.
- TC 122, *Packaging* – A number of projects under development at different stages.
- TC 193/SC 1, *Analysis of natural gas* – Amongst other ongoing projects, it is worth mentioning ISO 6974-3, on the precision and bias in the determination of gas composition by gas chromatography, and ISO 20729, on the determination of total sulfur content by ultraviolet fluorescence method, both at Committee Draft stage.
- ISO/PC 294, *Guidance on unit pricing* – This Project Committee was created in 2015 to develop ISO 21041, *Guidance on unit pricing*, currently at Working Draft stage. The idea of an international unit pricing guidance standard came from COPOLCO. The unit price statement is based on a unit of measurement of weight, volume, length, area or number and needs to follow the legal units of the country adopting the standard. OIML contribution to this project would be most welcome.

The full work program of all ISO committees is accessible in the [Standards catalogue](#).

2. Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM)

Together with the BIPM, IEC, IFCC, ILAC, IUPAC and IUPAP, OIML and ISO co-operate in the development and maintenance of the Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM, ISO/IEC Guide 98-3) and derivative documents, and the International vocabulary of metrology (VIM, ISO/IEC Guide 99). The appointed ISO experts to the JCGM working groups come from REMCO (reference materials), ISO/TC 12 (quantities and units), ISO/T 37 (terminology) and ISO/TC 69 (statistics). In 2015, ISO disapproved the Committee Drafts for the revision of the GUM in two separate documents, submitting numerous technical comments for JCGM/WG 1 consideration.

3. Joint BIPM-OIML-ILAC and ISO Declaration on Metrological Traceability

The four organizations meet once a year for an informative exchange to be kept up to date with ongoing technical work and to explore possibilities for further co-operation. As usually, the 2016 annual meeting was attended by the ISO CASCO Secretary.

We thank OIML for its contributions to the technical work of ISO and look forward to continuing our co-operation.

Mercè Ferrés, ISO Coordinator for OIML

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