



REPORT OF THE 18th MEETING OF THE IEC/ISO/ITU WORLD STANDARDS COOPERATION (WSC)

Meeting held at the ISO Central Secretariat (Geneva) on 22 February 2019

List of participants:

IEC

President	Mr. James M Shannon
President-Elect	Dr. Yinbiao Shu
Vice-President and SMB Chair	Dr. Ralph Sporer
General Secretary	Mr. Frans Vreeswijk
Secretariat	Ms. Katharine Fraga

ISO

President	Mr. John Walter
Vice-President (policy)	Mr. Scott Steedman
Vice-President (technical management)	Ms. Sauw Kook Choy
Secretary-General	Mr Sergio Mujica
WSC Secretary	Mr. Henry Cuschieri

ITU

Deputy to the Director of the Standardization Bureau (TSB)	Dr. Reinhard Scholl
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Guests/observers

Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC)	Ms. Arancha González
ISO President Elect	Mr. Eddy Njoroge
Advisor, ITC	Mr. Alexander Riveros

Regrets received from

ITU, Director Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB)	Dr. Chaesub Lee
ITU Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) Chairman	Dr. Bruce Gracie
ITU, Director Radiocommunication Bureau	Mr. Mario Maniewicz

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

The ISO President and Chair of the 18th WSC meeting, Mr. John Walter, opened the meeting at 10:00 and welcomed the participants. He extended a warm welcome and special thanks to the ITC Executive Director, Ms. Arancha Gonzalez, the speaker invited to lead discussions under agenda item 2.

Agenda item 2: Session led by ITC Executive Director Ms. Arancha Gonzalez

On behalf of the WSC members, Mr. Walter reiterated the honour of receiving Ms. Arancha Gonzalez and handed her the floor.

The main points of Ms. Gonzalez' presentation are presented in **Annex A**.

Agenda item 3: Approval of the draft agenda: document WSC 180

WSC approved the draft agenda.

Agenda item 4: WSC Workshops

4.1 Academic Day 2019 – ISO lead: document WSC 181

Mr Mujica introduced document WSC 181, advising that the Academic Day would take place on October 11 following the ICES workshop on October 10. He noted that the proposed topics of the ICES workshop are either *the role of education about standardization in the era of the new industrial revolution*, or *addressing the needs of new generations of students and standardization professionals in Smart Society and Technology*. He noted ISO's opinion that either of these topics would be suitable for the World Academic Day.

Dr. Steedman noted that WSC may want to repurpose the goal of the Academic Day, as it is currently not focused on future challenges. He noted that measures to show the value of standards have not yet been developed and put in place, so this should be a top priority. He added that, in his opinion, no-one has taken a holistic-enough view on the topic, and the much larger intangible value of standards as a tool to show the growth of trade. He recommended the effort focus on harder areas to measure such as socio-economic and environmental value.

Mr. Mujica noted that some nationally-based studies exist, but there is no comprehensive study at the international level.

Dr. Steedman urged the need to shape a world standards research programme to tackle this issue, and to broaden the base of consultation. Mr. Mujica added that this could be done as a cooperative effort with other organizations, and Ms. Choy recommended capturing the data, once available, as part of the WEF Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) so as to raise its visibility and prominence.

WSC noted the update provided by Mr Mujica and proposed to consider setting up a task group to look into the ideas shared during the meeting, with a view to shaping a strategy. This could include commissioning an academic study.

4.2 International trade agreements – IEC lead

Mr Vreeswijk recalled the idea of a workshop with APEC but reported that, ultimately, this idea did not come to fruition. He informed the WSC that the CEOs have been discussing other opportunities. No suitable opportunity has been identified yet. He welcomed suggestions and indicated this issue would continue to be worked on behind the scenes.

WSC noted the update provided by Mr Vreeswijk.

4.3 Exchange of ideas for possible 2020 workshops – ITU lead

It was noted that ITU has offered to contact their Saudi Arabian member to investigate opportunities to have a side event under the auspices of the WSC at the G20 meeting taking place in Riyadh in 2020.

ITU noted that contacts in Saudi Arabia welcome this idea and that, if supported by WSC, ITU would be happy to work on the details. The WSC welcomed the offer from ITU. The Chair urged action to be taken soon to fix the details.

Recalling the presentation by Ms. Gonzalez and the ensuing discussion, Mr. Mujica commented that SMEs could be a very interesting topic. He also echoed Ms. Gonzalez' advice that providing something tangible and practical that the audience can take away would be extremely beneficial.

WSC noted the update provided by Dr. Scholl.

Agenda item 5: World Standards Day

5.1 WSD 2019 – ITU lead

Mr. Scholl reminded the WSC members that the ITU proposed the theme of "Video standards create a global stage" was approved at the 2018 WSC meeting. He noted that there will be a video competition aimed at zooming in on videos that imagine the future of video.

5.2 Theme for 2020 – IEC Lead: document 182

Mr. Vreeswijk noted that, at the 2018 WSC meeting, participants noted a preference for exchanging ideas on possible themes, as opposed to receiving a concrete proposal.

The communications teams in the three organizations have worked together on coming up with themes for discussion by the WSC. The themes they have shortlisted are:

- Standards enable global trade
- Standards protect the planet
- Standards defend against disasters

The WSC reviewed the details provided for each of the options and agreed to pursue the second option: Standards protect the planet.

Agenda item 6: Three-year rolling plan for WSC activities – document WSC 183

Mr Mujica introduced document WSC 183, noting the planned activities. At the suggestion of the Chair, the WSC considered incorporating some of the suggestions shared during Ms. Gonzalez' presentation, in particular the areas of women in standards, and SMEs (in the context of the opportunities around the 2020 G20 meeting that the ITU is pursuing. It was recommended that the letter thanking Ms. Gonzalez for her time and her insights specifically mention that these important items will be built into the organizations' respective strategies.

WSC noted the update provided by Mr. Muijca.

Agenda item 7: Review of lessons learned from 2018 activities – IEC lead: document WSC 184

Mr Vreeswijk introduced document WSC 184 pointing to the initiatives that had taken place in 2018 while IEC held the Chair and Secretariat of the WSC. The Secretary provided a recap of the 2018 activities led by ISO.

WSC noted the update provided by Mr Vreeswijk.

Agenda item 8: Date of next meeting

WSC agreed that the next WSC meeting would take place on Friday 21 February 2020. WSC noted the tentative date for the 2021 WSC meeting as Friday 26 February.

Agenda item 9: Any other business

The Chair noted that no additional agenda items had been presented when the agenda was reviewed at the start of the meeting but used this point in the agenda to express his regret that more ITU colleagues could not be present at the meeting. He noted that the group missed seeing Dr. Lee, who could not attend for the second consecutive year in person (in the previous year Dr Lee participated remotely). While appreciative of Dr. Scholl's participation, the Chair noted that the success of WSC depends on the engagement and commitment of the highest levels of the organizations.

Mr. Shannon also expressed his disappointment and noted that the success of WSC relies on strong participation.

Dr. Scholl assured the WSC that ITU, and Dr. Lee remain committed to WSC and that, in his opinion, Dr Lee is leading the effort for practical cooperation among the three organizations and repeated that Dr. Lee's absence was due to a family issue. He added that Mr Maniewicz or colleagues from the Radiocommunication Sector could not participate because the crucial "Conference Preparatory Meeting" ahead of this year's World Radiocommunication Conference took place at the same time. Lastly, Dr. Scholl indicated that Dr Gracie gave his apologies; because no other meeting in Europe took place, it was difficult to justify an overseas trip.

The Chair concluded by asking Dr. Scholl to convey the WSC's best regards to Dr. Lee, and to make sure he knew that the WSC had been looking forward to seeing him and to engaging him in the discussion.

Agenda item 10: Close of meeting

Having concluded all business on the agenda, at 12:00 Mr Walter thanked all the WSC members for their active participation and closed the meeting.