ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:
SOUTH AFRICAN CASE STUDY

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OVERVIEW

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2. Development of standards

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    3.2   Memorandum of Understanding
    3.3   South African Standard Development Process
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WHY STANDARDIZE?

- Conformance to standards ensures quality and consistency.
  - Products or services being accepted Internationally, therefore preventing barriers to trade.

- To enhance competitiveness and provide the basis for consumer protection, health and safety.

- Simplification
  - Economical processes, practices and therefore making the products or services available at cost effective rates.

- To bring together and harmonize the experience and expertise of all interested parties such as the producers, sellers, buyers, users and regulators of a particular material, product, process or service.
  - Interoperability of systems (competing equipment manufacturers can agree on a particular standard i.e WIMAX)

DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS

- Developed by consensus

- In Technical committees

- Balanced representation – users, manufacturers, regulators, the State and other interested parties, in particular people with disabilities

SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

- South African National Standards (SANS) – represents the needs of the local stakeholders

- Shared costs of participation is between the committee members and the SABS

SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS(SABS)

Responsible for the promotion and maintenance of standardization and quality in connection with commodities and the rendering of services:

- publishing national standards (SANS) which it prepares through a consensus process in technical committees, provides information on national standards of all countries as well as international standards

- testing and certifies products and services to standards

- developing technical regulations (compulsory specifications) based on national standards, monitors and enforces compliance with such technical regulations

- monitoring and enforces legal metrology legislation

- promoting design excellence

- providing training on aspects of standardization.

(cont) ICASA

ICASA , is responsible for the regulation of broadcasting, postal and telecommunications services. ICASA's key functions are to:

- make regulations that govern broadcasting and telecommunications;

- issue licenses to providers of telecommunication, broadcasting and postal services;

- plan, control and manage radio frequency spectrum;

- monitor the environment and enforce compliance with rules, regulations and policies;

- hear and decide on disputes and complaints brought by industry or members of the public against licensees and

- protect consumers from unfair business practices, poor quality services and harmful or inferior products.

ICASA/SABS COMMITTEE

- An MoU exists between ICASA and SABS on the generation and/or adoption of Telecommunications and Broadcasting Standards.

- A person designated by ICASA heads the Committee.

- Secretarial and other support functions are provided by SABS.

- Developed standards must be approved by the ICASA Council before publication by SABS as dual numbered SABS/ICASA standards

- Standards generated or adopted by this committee are provided to ICASA by SABS in electronic format

- ICASA and SABS may print and sell hard copies of these standards in accordance with their own pricing structures.

SOUTH AFRICAN STANDARD DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Proposed Standard

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STANSA Working Groups

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STANSA Technical Committee

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Standard Liaison Committee

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ICASA

↓

Public

↓

Adoption by ICASA

STANDARDIZATION PROCESS

❖ Standard Development Process

- Any person or organization may request a new project or standard in writing

- A project leader, usually in conjunction with a working group, prepares one or more working drafts of the standard, which are preliminary documents

- Once the working group members have finalized their task, a committee draft (CD) is presented to the technical committee (TC)

STANDARDIZATION PROCESS (cont)

- Any of the above steps can be performed repeatedly until consensus is reached within the Committees

  - The proposed standard/s will not proceed further if there is a sustainable objection

- On acceptance of the draft by the Technical Committee, the Chairperson signs for Standards

- The Standards are passed to Standards Liaison Committee for Approval

- When approved the standard is then sent to ICASA

- ICASA publishes them for public comment

- A comment period of 60 days is normally required in terms of the WTO

- Public hearing can be arranged if there are pressing issues

- If no issues then the standard is adopted

STANDARDIZATION PROCESS (cont)

❖ Essential requirements to be included in standards

- Protection of the communications networks from harmful interferences

- Electromagnetic compatibility requirements

- User safety

- Interoperability of terminal equipment with public communications network equipment for the purpose of establishing, modifying, charging for, holding and clearing real or virtual connection

❖ Benefits of Standardizations

- Improving the quality (fitness for purpose) of goods and services

- Maintaining and improving the quality of life of society, by paying attention to such matters as safety, health and the environment

- Providing a framework within which to facilitate and encourage trade among willing partners

CONCLUSION

- members co-operation of SABS and ITU should encourage sector ICASA eliminates potential conflict and disagreement on the adoption of standards

- and bodies responsible for standards development in developing member States to co-operate regarding standards development

THANK YOU

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