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Working Party on Technical Harmonization
and Standardization Policies

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Item 8(b) of the provisional agenda

Environmental Management Standards

Summary of the main results of
the Tenth Annual Meeting of ISO/TC 207)

The present document is circulated to provide information to delegates on the recent activities of ISO Technical Committee 270 "Environmental Management". It has been prepared on the basis of information provided by Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Secretary to ISO TC 207, who is also contributing to Working Party activities as a Rapporteur on Quality.

This document is reproduced in the form and language in which it was received by the secretariat.

1. ISO/TC 207 held its tenth plenary meetings in Johannesburg, South Africa from 10 to 16 June 2002. Some 300 participants from Member bodies from 55 countries, as well as 7 Liaison Organizations attended the sessions.

2. The tenth plenary meeting of ISO/TC 207 set forth a few challenges for the future and approved 25 resolutions, which included:

- Supporting the ongoing work of ISO/TC 207's Subcommittees (SCs) and Working Groups (WGs),
- Establishing a new Working Group addressing Climate Change standards,
- Approving an ISO/TC 207 Sector Policy,
- Approving the need for TC 207 to share leadership/secretariat responsibilities between Developed and Developing Countries for all new TC activities (twinning),
- Supporting the ongoing activities of the NGO Task Group,
- Supporting the ongoing work of the Developing Countries Contact Group and Spanish Translation Task Force (TF), including a request to ISO/CS to expand the number of ISO/TC 207 documents whose Spanish translations are officially endorsed by ISO,
- Establishing a New Ad hoc Group on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to review the recommendations of the ISO Committee on Consumer Policy (COLPOCO) Resolution 20/2002, existing Corporate Social Responsibility guidelines, and the potential application of existing ISO standards,
- Encouraging TC/SC and WG leaders to adhere to the ISO/IEC Directives re: timely delivery of the TC 207 products, and
- Continued cooperation with ISO/TC 176, ISO/CASCO (Committee on Conformity Assessment), and ISO Committee on Development Country Matters (DEVCO).

3. The ISO/TC 207 SCs and WGs had a productive series of meetings during the week. Major highlights from SC/WG reports presented to the final plenary are summarized below.

Future Vision Task Force

4. In 2001 ISO/TC 207 established a Future Vision Task Force (FVTF) to prepare a new draft strategic plan for the Technical Committee and to assist in the preparation of the ISO presence during the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In Johannesburg the FVTF provided its interim results. An outline for the ISO/TC 207 strategic planning process was presented and accepted by the plenary meeting of ISO/TC 207. The key element of strategic planning by ISO/TC 207 is the application of a clear process to deal with 'horizon issues'. These are issues where a potential market need for international standards exists. Via workshops, ad hoc groups, and the establishment of liaison with relevant external bodies, ISO/TC 207 can explore the feasibility of these subjects. Finally, the official New Work Item Proposal process will indicate whether there is real market need to start standardization work. In this way ISO/TC 207 can show its pro-active responsiveness to external developments.

SC1, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

5. During its meetings, SC 1, inter-alia:
 - confirmed its existing interpretation procedure for ISO 14001 (“Environmental management systems-Specifications with guidance for use”) for a further two years, reminding its members to compile any interpretation queries that they receive (along with answers to those queries) and forward them to the SC 1 Secretariat;
 - confirmed by resolution WG 1’s conclusion that Annex A of ISO 14001 should be retained for this revision cycle.
 - considered comments received on the CD.1 (committee draft) versions of the revisions of ISO 14001 and ISO 14004.

SC2, ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING AND RELATED INVESTIGATIONS

6. During the SC2 meeting, members of the TC were updated on the status of ISO 14015 (“Environmental Management-Environmental assessment of sites and organizations”) and ISO 19011 (“Guidelines on quality and environmental auditing”), the activities of the ad hoc group on the applicability of ISO 19011 to other types of verifications and on the liaison with ISO/CASCO.

7. ISO 14015 was published on 15 November 2001, following unanimous approval of the FDIS (final draft international standard). ISO 14015 provides guidance on the environmental assessment of sites and organizations (EASO). The basic aim of an EASO is to establish the relationship between the environmental aspects of an enterprise or location, and the environmental issues (risks/opportunities) and their ensuing business consequences (financial or other), e.g. as part of the preparations for a proposed business transaction.

8. ISO 19011 is the first joint standard of the ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 series and it provides guidelines for the auditing of quality and/or environmental management systems. It covers issues such as terminology, the principles of auditing, managing audit programmes, the conduct of audits and the competence of auditors.

9. The FDIS was launched for final ballot on 13 June 2002 and the International Standard can should be published in October 2002. ISO 19011 will replace 6 different standards on auditing. ISO 19011 will assist all those organizations that have implemented both EMS and QMS (whether or not that implementation was integrated), and want to combine the audits of these management systems.

10. SC2 accepted the report on the applicability of ISO 19011 to the verification of GHG (“greenhouse”) emission reduction projects and published environmental reports. The conclusion of the report was that ISO 19011 provides a useful framework and has several strengths such as the overall systematic approach of auditing. However, to be fully applicable to the verification of GHG emission projects and environmental reports, additional guidance on the competence of auditors and on methodologies for verifying data is necessary. The report is a useful starting point for the newly established

ISO/TC 207/WG 5 on Climate Change.

11. Finally, SC2 was updated on the liaison activities with CASCO/WG 21 that is responsible for the preparation of ISO 17021 (“general requirements for bodies providing assessment and certification of management system”), the standard that will combine the current ISO Guides 62 and 66 and will contain the requirements for management systems certification. In the current working draft of ISO 17021 numerous references to ISO 19011 are included e.g. for the evaluation of the competence of certification auditors and the conduct of certification audits.

12. With the publication of ISO 14015 and the expected finalization of ISO 19011 in October 2002, the work programme of SC2 is completed.

SC3, ENVIRONMENTAL LABELLING

13. ISO/TR 14025 (“Environmental labels and declarations - Type III environmental declarations”) was published in 2000 and needs to be reviewed by March 2003. SC 3/WG 4 was given a mandate at the 2001 plenary to investigate gaps and additional needs related to TR 14025 and develop a report that could be forwarded to the “P” members along with a letter ballot regarding the future of the technical report.

14. In order to complete this mandate, SC 3/WG 4 met on 10,11 and 13 June 2002 to finalize the report. The report now only requires final editing before it is completed. It will be circulated later this year with a letter ballot regarding whether or not to commence standardization. If the result of that ballot is positive, SC 3/WG 4 will meet in the first quarter of 2003 to begin development of a WD (working draft). However, if the ballot result is negative, TR 14025 will be withdrawn and SC 3 will go into recess.

SC4, ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

15. During this plenary ISO/TC 207 SC 4 sponsored a workshop on industry's experience with implementing ISO 14031 and the results achieved once implemented.

SC5, ENVIRONMENTAL LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA)

16. ISO/TC207/SC5 discussed its future strategy, guided by a brainstorming exercise conducted last year by a Task Force created in 2001 in Kuala Lumpur.

17. The three major elements of the future strategy are outlined below:

1. *The need to increase the readability of the standards on LCA (while keeping the technical content, the requirements, and the consensus achieved intact).*
 - Several proposals for the revision of the 14040 series of standards (on life cycle assessment) were raised. Consequently, SC5 decided to create an ad-hoc group with a mandate to develop a path forward leading to the revision of these standards. The

mandate included the need to address comments received by end of September 2002. SC5 held its plenary meeting during which it concluded that the LCA family of documents

have now been completed.

- i. ISO 14040 (“Environmental Management-Life Cycle Assessment-Principles and Framework”) has been confirmed for a further period of five years.
 - ii. ISO/TS 14048 (“Environmental Management-Life Cycle Assessment- Data Documentation Format “) was published in English in April 2002 (the French version is in the publication process).
 - iii. The final version of the ISO/TR 14047 (“Environmental Management-Life Cycle Assessment- Examples for the Application of ISO 14042”) has been received by the SC5 secretariat. It will be sent to ISO/CS for publication, after an editorial review of the text.
2. *The need to address LCA applications in relation to Design for Environment, Eco-labelling, Life Cycle Management, etc.*
 3. *The need to continue efforts to coordinate Guidance and Training activities for LCA applications in industry, specifically in Developing Countries*

TCG, Terminology Coordination Group

18. ISO/TC 207/TCG held its first meeting in Johannesburg, 10 to 14 June 2002.

19. ISO 14050 (“Environmental Management-Vocabulary”) was published as an International Standard on 1 May 2002. Following that publication, and in keeping with the resolutions from the ISO/TC 207 Plenary meeting in 2001, the necessary steps will be taken to have Committee ISO/TC 207/SC 6 deleted from the list of ISO committees.

20. Having taken over SC 6’s commitments, the TCG reports directly to ISO/TC 207. Eight tasks for the TCG were identified, and coordinators were assigned to each task.

21. The Following is the current list of tasks:

- “Generic/umbrella” terminology
- Problems arising from translation of standards
- TC207/WG5 terminology (“climate change”)
- TC207/SC1 terminology (revised 14001 and 14004)
- TC207/WG4 terminology (“communication”)
- TC207/SC3/WG4 terminology (“type III environmental declarations”)
- Addition of Spanish terms to the TermBank
- A terminology guidance document

WG3, INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS INTO PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

22. ISO/DTR 14062 (“Environmental management - Integrating environmental aspects into product design and development”) has been circulated by the ISO/TC207 Secretariat to ISO/TC207 member bodies for ballot and comments. The ballot was concluded in mid-March 2002.

23. The amended final draft was sent at the beginning of June to the ISO Central Secretariat for publication (expected by the end of the year). With the publication of the ISO/TR 14062, the ISO/TC 207 WG3 "Design for Environment" has achieved its task and has been disbanded by ISO/TC207.

WG4, ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

24. The main issue for WG4 was to discuss the comments received on the second Working Draft of ISO 14063. Given the fact that many member countries had only one expert present, WG 4 decided to address all comments at the WG session. In addition, WG 4 discussed general issues including a long and intense discussion about the "Principles of Environmental Communication". The WG decided to form a Task Group to further elaborate on the language regarding the principles. This will be concluded before the end of July.

24. Review of the current draft and the rest of the comments will continue at the next meeting.

WG5, WORKING GROUP 5 ON CLIMATE CHANGE

25. ISO TC207 Working Group (WG) 5 on Climate Change was established at the tenth plenary meeting with a mandate to develop international standard(s) for measuring, reporting and verifying "greenhouse" (GHG) emissions at entity- and project-levels. The WG, jointly led by Malaysia and Canada, subsequently held their first meeting on 10, 11 and 13 June 2002. Following a preliminary analysis of the new work proposal and potential seed documents, WG5 established the following four ad hoc groups (AHG) to further analyse and develop preliminary "best practice" requirements in specific technical and integrative areas:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Co-ordinators</u>
ISO TC207 WG5 AHG1	Entity Measurement	Brazil, USA
ISO TC207 WG5 AHG2	Project Measurement	India, Japan
ISO TC207 WG5 AHG3	Verification	Czech Republic, UK
ISO TC207 WG5 AHG4	Cross-cutting Subjects	Ecologia, Germany

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