

Theme: “IMPLEMENTING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT (AfCFTA): Made in Africa-One Standard-One Market” and Uncloaking the Continent from the COVID-19 Grip through Standardisation.

Africa : As the Beauty and the productivity of continent is locked down from the world and unto itself by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and with many speculations and questions flying over, and with a date with the destiny of 1 July 2020, fast approaching, is standardisation part of the unlocking strategies???



**Repositioning Of ARSO Within the AfCFTA: ARSO Secretary General Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana leading the ARSO Council in the discussions and debates on the strategies for executing the ARSO Mandate (Standards and conformity Assessment harmonisation and promotion of Mutual Recognition Arrangements) under the TBT Annex 6 of the AfCFTA Agreement at the 61st ARSO Council Meeting, Lusaka, Zambia, 20<sup>TH</sup> – 22<sup>ND</sup> November 2019.**

The WTO encourages Harmonization, use of equivalence and mutual recognition in the bilateral free trade agreements, such as the AfCFTA. This is based on the fact even when standards in different countries have been harmonized, the free flow of trade is inhibited if products are subjected to redundant testing and certification requirements in multiple export markets, this calls for harmonised Conformity Assessment systems. But even with harmonised standards and conformity Assessment regimes, without Mutual recognition arrangements of accreditation and certification systems, then harmonised standards and conformity assessment systems will not be effective enough. The WTO TBT Agreement under Article 6.3 strongly also encourages WTO Members to enter into negotiations with other Members for the mutual acceptance of conformity assessment results through Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) and facilitate the international concept and goal of “Certified Once, Accepted Everywhere”. This is made possible through a network of mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) among international accreditation bodies (WTO 1994). Mutual recognition of accreditation and certification systems facilitate access to both domestic and international markets; provides the technical underpinning to domestic and international trade by promoting cross-border stakeholder confidence and acceptance of accredited test data and certified results, and will be instrumental in facilitating the free movements of Goods and Services and costs cutting as envisaged under the AfCFTA Protocol. The AfCFTA TBT Annex 6 provisions on standards, Conformity Assessments and accreditation indicate the need for harmonization and mutual recognition between the State parties, with the role of ARSO in the process defined.



For Africa, from the 1980 Lagos Plan of action, 1991 Abuja Treaty to the AfCFTA Agreement, a forceful effort at streamlining African regulatory frameworks with regards to common standards, certification and quality regulations at the regional and continental levels has been an appropriate priority for African leaders, trade and standards policymakers, with a clear goal of obtaining testing, certification, and registration of quality systems one time, and in one market, accepted everywhere. The ARSO Conformity Assessment Programme (ACAP) under the RSO Conformity Assessment Committee (ARSO CACO) aims at establishing various tools and capacity building for Good Conformity Assessment Practices (testing, certification, inspection, market surveillance, laboratory accreditation and calibration) A based on recognized harmonized standards, and facilitating Mutual Recognition Arrangements and Mutual Equivalence Arrangements, among African countries. **The anticipated standards to be harmonised by ARSO is comparable to the 4,547 HS6, Tariff lines for the AfCFTA. Under the 2017 – 2022 Strategic Plan, the target were 90 Standards however 120 standards have been harmonised between 2017 and 2019, surpassing the Target.**

## Word from the Editorial team.

In the words of Ross Kennedy, chief executive of Zimbabwean hospitality group Africa, Albida Tourism, nature continued to show off her power and influence over our lives. At a time when the world is in trouble



the Zambezi River and the Victoria Falls display immense beauty, rugged power and a glorious snub to the current negatives, also thrust upon humanity by the COVID-19 pandemic....It has been quite some time since anyone witnessed the majesty and intensity of this level of water flowing over the Victoria Falls, with the last period of such floods being ten years ago. "What a sad and disappointing irony it is, that at this time that one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World is at its absolute finest, the world is in lockdown and very few if any will get to witness or experience this iconic destination in all its splendour (<https://www.bizcommunity.co.zw/Article/238/373/203081.html>). The

African Union in study titled "The Impact of Coronavirus on the African Economy" and released in early April 2020, indicates that the Covid-19 could cost Africa \$500bn, damage in tourism and aviation sectors. The study highlights that the continent's 2020 GDP growth which had been projected at 3.4% will fall by between 4.18% (GDP growth of -1.1.%) . – 4.51% (GDP growth -08%), The study indicates that the negative growth would be due to a "disruption of the world economy through global value chains, the abrupt fall in commodity prices and fiscal revenues (as there is expected to be a decline of foreign direct investment (FDI), tourism receipts and remittance flows) and the enforcement of travel and social restrictions (<https://www.bizcommunity.africa/Article/410/595/202904.html>). The world all over, led by the World Health Organization (WHO) is looking for solutions to slow-down and stop the COVID-19. In the words of Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the WHO, "This is a time for facts, not fear. This is the time for science, not rumours. This is a time for solidarity, not stigma. ARSO as a standardization Organisation, therefore stands with the Global Community to offer the standardization solutions to slow down and stop the CODIC-19. Through centuries and withstanding the test of time, Standards have proven to be documents of facts based on scientific evidence. It is at this moment, therefore, than ever before, that the standards and the related quality infrastructure organizations are called upon to ensure safe the production of quality and safe products to unlock Africa for the World and the world for Africa, but most importantly, also, unlock Africa for Africa (for SMMEs, Traders, Producers, fisheries) ahead of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, when the real Trade among African State Parties under the AfCFTA is expected to begin real trade among themselves.

### In this edition, covering January – March and April, read more on

1. Mitigating the Disruptive COVID-19 Pandemic: The Role of the Standardisation Community: Message from ARSO SG
2. The 2020 diary of the ARSO Secretary-General
3. The views of the ARSO President on the ARSOO 2020 WEEK Theme: **Implementing The African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) Made in Africa-One Standard-One Market"**
4. Doing Standardization Business online: ARSO Online meetings
5. Standards for COVID-19: learn about the free standards offered by ARSO members and the stakeholders to manage COVID-19, including the ARSO FDARS 1470: 2019
6. The Focus on African Traditional Medicine in light of the WHO 1978 Almaata Declaration, ATM Strategy 2014-2023 and the Madagascar Artamisia Covid-Organics (Covid-19 "Traditional Cure") and the ARSO Document on the Contributions of ATM in the fight against the COVID-19
7. The 2020 Events and physical meetings, including the 2019-2020 Essay competitions, WTO TBT Committee Meeting, Meeting with IGAD officials, Halal 2020 Dubai Expo benchmarking missions, and many more;
8. Furthering cooperation (COLEACP, African Academy of Sciences)
9. Postponed and Scheduled ARSO Activities between March – June 2020, including the 26<sup>th</sup> ARSO GA Events.
10. Opinion on the Implementation of AfCFTA as 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 approaches and How the African Standardisation Community are preparing Africa to commence the real trade with itself, through the ARSO JAG and SMC.
11. Focus on the AfCFTA Secretariat and congratulatory message to the New Secretary-General, Mr. Wamleke Mene
12. ARSO standards Harmonisation - "Certified Once, Accepted Everywhere" and the 120 standards harmonised so far under the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.
13. News from the member States, including Malawi MBS being declared the best Parastatal in Malawi
14. Fulfilling the call by AU (CAMoT 2014) to African countries to join ARSO by 2017 – Morocco and Djibouti finalises ARSO membership process.
15. Congratulatory messages to newly appointed ARSO Members DG's –AGANOR/Gabon, Zanzibar/ZBS.
16. ARSO Pictorials – ARSO in pictures.



**A continent's Beauty, productivity and trade is locked-down from the world and unto itself by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The ARSO FDARS 1470: 2019 Hand Sanitizers (alcohol based) – Specification, among other standards, is part of the solution.**



03 JUNE 2020  
16:30-18:30 CET  
VIRTUAL PANEL

**Standards and Conformity Assessment Approaches in African, Caribbean and Pacific Regions: Fight Against COVID-19**

Mrs. Merewalesi Falemaka, Permanent Representative and Ambassador, Permanent Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum to the United Nations, WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva

Mr. Mamadou Traore, Commissioner, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, Secretary General, The African Organization for Standardisation (ARSO)

Mr. Deryck Omar, Chief Executive Officer, CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)

Dr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Managing Director, Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agribusiness, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Register [here](#)  
TII.UNIDO.ORG

With the Covid-19 pandemic, declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the WHO, intensifying globally, including in Africa and in the face of such an alarming situation that is exacting a heavy toll on countries' health-care services and threatening the World Economy, the ARSO Fraternity joins African leaders, under the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the International Community, under the WHO in recognising all the efforts being put in place to control the pandemic and is rendering itself to offering the standardisation initiatives for the management of the Pandemic. Further ARSO appreciates the WHO political advocacy on COVID-19 around the globe, and the naming of 6 global envoys with Africa represented by Dr. John Nkengasong, the **Director** of the **Africa CDC**; Dr Samba Sow, Director General of the Centre for Vaccine Development in Mali; and Prof Maha El Rabbat, former Health Minister of Egypt. ARSO highlights the initiatives of the WHO's Regional Office for Africa in hosting a virtual 'hackathon' bringing together 100 leading innovators to pioneer creative local solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic and to address critical gaps in the regional response, with proposals including the provision of Quality and Safe personal protective equipment (PPE).



**ARSO highlights that the demand for safe and quality Personal Preventive Equipment (PPE) measures (face masks,**

*sanitizers, safe water and soaps, medical gloves, clinical electrical thermometers, medical waste management and disposal) has offered yet a more concrete evidence of the enduring role of standards and the related quality infrastructure components (technical regulations, conformity assessment regimes (testing, certification, inspections), metrology, accreditation, market surveillance and quality assurance), in enhancing Government policy objectives, not only in trade of products and services, but also in Public Policy, human health, Safety and environmental management. ARSO is cognizant of the fact that, in the world-over, including Africa, many standardization institutions are playing a key role in quality assurance of the medical products needed for the management of the COVID-19 pandemics. ARSO commends the African Standardization Community, including the National Bureau of Standards and Certification Bodies that have taken leadership role to offer, free of charge, the necessary standards and guidelines for the manufacture, testing and certification of the much needed Covid-19 preventive measures and products. ARSO highlights (as published in this bulletin) the 12 standards of ANOR/Cameroon; 14 Standards of KEBS/Kenya; 2 standards, NI 12510: 2020, CODINORM, /Cote D'Ivoire; 6 standards, RBS Rwanda Standards; 5 Standards, SAZ/Zimbabwe; 3 Standards, IMANOR/Morocco; 2 Standards ANNMC/Niger; 24 standards, South Africa/SABS; 8 Standards UNBS/Uganda; 4 Standards TBS/Tanzania; and 4 standards, MBS/ Malawi; 27 Standards EOS/Egypt.. ARSO takes note of the initiatives by: ISO to make its 20 standards freely available, (<https://www.iso.org/covid19>); AFNOR for the AFNOR Spec – Barrier masks , **for the requirements for making new protective masks and feely available.** ARSO also highlights the respective European Standards by CEN CENELEC, IEC (<https://www.eu-esf.org/covid-19/4517-covid-19-en-standards-available-free-of-charge>), The ASTM (<https://www.ifai.com/2020/04/01/astm-providing-free-access-to-covid-19-related-standards/>), the SAC- China, among other stakeholders for availing standards for the mitigation of the disruptive COVID-19. Further in noting therefore, that need for standards comparison and harmonisation is also correspondingly growing, and in taking into consideration the already existing and shared **ARSO FDARS 1470: 2019 Hand Sanitizers (alcohol based) – Specification**, ARSO appreciates the need for new collaborative initiatives and rapid implementation of the necessary interventions in a timely manner and at the appropriate scale to stop or slow down such pandemics while minimizing economic, public and social impacts, with the participation of the Private Sector/Industry. I wish to highlight the **ARS 1651: 2018 - Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP)**, which is used by AAS, to support Organisations to access their compliance against the requirements of the Standard, to receive award funds quickly and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic sooner and efficiently: <https://www.aasciences.africa/covid-19-updates>.*

The COPVID-19 provides, yet another impetus for the need of effective Quality Infrastructure at the national, regional and Continental levels (with effective Quality Policies) in Africa as per the directives already laid out in various Continental and International policies, including the Abuja Treaty, The Lagos Plan of Action and currently, the AfCFTA Protocol (TBT Annex 6 and SPS Annex 7), as well as the WTO TBT/SPS Agreements. Although the Central Secretariat staff continues to work from home as per the WHO guidelines on social distancing and the Government of the Republic of Kenya's Public Health Policy, in addition to ARSO Constitution in such emergencies, official ARSO programmes and activities are operated virtually and the staff remain in virtual contact with all member States and stakeholders. Various events, highlighted in a section of this bulleting, have been cancelled and highlighted in this Newsletter, including the 26<sup>th</sup> ARSO General Assembly events pushed forward to 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020. **The ARSO President message on theme of the 2020 General Assembly events is highlighted in this bulletin. Stay Safe - ARSO FDARS 1470: 2019 Hand Sanitizers (alcohol based).**



**26<sup>th</sup> February 2020** – Kampala, Uganda – The Secretary General joined the ANSI at the Non-sewered Sanitation Standards in Action: from Adoption to Impact session at the AfWA 2020 Congress in Kampala, Uganda, which was held under the theme “Breaking new grounds to accelerate access to water and sanitation for all in Africa”. ANSI supported ARSO to have the ISO 30500:2018 - Non-sewered sanitation/next generation toilets and the ISO 24521:2016, together with ISO 24510:2007 ISO 24511:2007, relating to Safer drinking water and wastewater services, harmonised as African standards.



**8<sup>th</sup> February 2020** – ARSO Secretary General, left, holds discussions with the US Embassy in Nairobi officials on standards and conformity assessment harmonisation in cosmetology sector. ARSO is currently in discussions with the PCPC-USA on harmonization of African standards and conformity Assessment in Cosmetology and Wellness Sector under the ARSO THC 12.



**20<sup>th</sup> February 2020** – The Secretary General, 3<sup>rd</sup> right, together with the ARSO Council members met with the ESMA-UAE Officials in Dubai, when the ARSO Council (sponsored by ESMA-UAE) visited Dubai for the Dubai Halal Expo 2020 between 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 for Regulatory Framework benchmarking activities. With a Muslim population of 250m and projected to grow to over 385m by 2030, the growth of the Islamic economy/ Islamic" commerce and the promise of tapping into this market for facilitating intra-African trade, the Policy Makers and the standardisation Community are keen to tap into this market with effective Regulatory Framework to facilitate trade.



**6<sup>th</sup> March 2020** - At the ARSO Central Secretariat, the Secretary General hands over the Chairmanship of the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) to AFRAC, represented by Dr. Celestine Okanya, the President of ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System (ECORAS). ARSO has been Chair since 2013. PAQI ([www.paqi.org](http://www.paqi.org)) was officially inaugurated on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013 by the Director for Trade and Industry, African Union Commission. The PAQI Institutions are the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), the Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS), the African Electro technical Standardisation Commission (AFSEC) and

RSO. The Secretariat is Hosted by the ARSO in Nairobi, Kenya. Currently PAQI is facilitating the development of African Quality Policy. The new PAQI Chairperson is scheduled to visit to the AUC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the AfCFTA Secretariat in Ghana, once things normalises after the COVID-19.



**12<sup>th</sup> March 2020** – UNBS Headquarters Kampala, Uganda. The Secretary General, front-left, met and discussed with the UNBS Officials on the logistics for the hosting of the 26<sup>th</sup> ARSO GA Events at the Serena Hotel, Kampala, Uganda, under the theme: **“IMPLEMENTING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT (AfCFTA) Made in Africa-One Standard-One Market”**. The events, to be held on **22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June 2020**, pending evolving global situation of the COVID-19, will include the **62<sup>nd</sup> ARSO Council** and the **5<sup>th</sup> ARSO Champions meetings**, **One day Forum/Workshop for the 8<sup>th</sup> Africa Day of Standardisation** and the **Opening Ceremony for the 26<sup>th</sup> ARSO General Assembly Events**, the **26<sup>th</sup> ARSO General Assembly**, **Continental Standardisation Essay Competitions**, the **Made in Africa Expo and Industrial visits**.



**4th June 2020**

## Webinar

### Harmonization of African Standards in the Virtual Space:

#### Prospects and Opportunities for Africa

**PRESIDING MODERATOR**  
Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana,  
Secretary General, ARSO



**KEY SPEAKERS & TOPICS**



**Mrs Chinyere Virginia Egwuonwu**, (Director, Standards Development Directorate, SON)  
Coordinating Time Zones and Human Resources for Virtual Standardization Meetings



**Dr. Oswald Chinyamakobvu**, TBT/QI Expert - AUC/DTI  
Contracting African Space & Time to Accelerate Standards Harmonization & Conformity Assessment in Africa



**Dr. Jean Paul Bakoué Karama**, Directeur de la Normalisation et de la Certification, ABNORM  
Why Use the Virtual Space for Standards Harmonization: Synopsis



**David Eboku**, Manager, Standards Department, UNBS  
Tools and Experiences of Holding Virtual Technical Committee Meetings for Standardization



**Dr. Shady Nabil Hammouda** Egypt, THC 03 Chairperson  
Creating the Virtual Working Space for Standards Harmonization: Features and Experiences with the Microsoft SharePoint



**Reuben Gisore**, Technical Director, ARSO  
Guidelines for Conducting Virtual ARSO Technical Committee Meetings 2020



**Dr Sadvir Bissoon**, Executive, SABS  
Expanding the Standards Expert Network Through the Virtual Space

**JOIN US FOR THE ZOOM MEETING ON THE 4TH OF JUNE 2020 from 1430HRS EAT (1330HRS CAT, 1230HRS WAT)**

For the Link Contact us on [arso@arso-aran.org](mailto:arso@arso-aran.org)  
Translation will be provided...



**4 June 2020 14.30hrs - 16.30hrs East African Time - Webinar on the Harmonization of African Standards in the Virtual Space – Be part of the Virtual standardisation Community.**

**Moderator:** by Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, Secretary General, ARSO:  
**Panellists:** Dr. Paul Jean Karama - CORDINORM/Burkina Faso - Why Use the Virtual Space for Standards Harmonization: Synopsis; Dr. Oswald Chinyamakobvu, TBT/QI Expert - AUC/DT - Contracting African Space and Time to Accelerate Standards Harmonization and Conformity Assessment in Africa: Benefits and Opportunities; Chinyere Virginia Egwuonwu, Nigeria - Coordinating Time Zones and Human Resources for Virtual Standardization Meetings; David Eboku, Manager, Standards Department, Uganda National Bureau of Standards - Tools and Experiences of Holding Virtual Technical Committee Meetings for Standardization; Dr. Shady Nabil Hammouda, Housing and Building National Research Centre, Egypt, THC 03 Chairperson - Creating the Virtual Working Space for Standards Harmonization: Features and Experiences with the Microsoft SharePoint; Dr Sadvir Bissoon, Executive, South African Bureau of Standards -Expanding the Standards Expert Network Through the Virtual Space; Reuben Gisore, Technical Director, ARSO - Guidelines for Conducting Virtual ARSO Technical Committee Meetings 2020; Summary and Way Forward - Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, Secretary General, African Organization for Standardization.

## “IMPLEMENTING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT (AfCFTA) Made in Africa-One Standard-One Market” – Understanding the ARSO 2020 General Assembly Theme. Mr. BOOTO à NGON Charles, ARSO President.

The ARSO General Assembly composed of the entire membership is the supreme Organ of ARSO and meets once every year to review the progress of the Organisation and set the strategic direction as per the 5-year strategic plan, currently the 2017-22 ARSO Strategic Plan. The ARSO 2020 General Assembly events earlier scheduled to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> June 2020, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Uganda in Kampala, Uganda has been rescheduled to 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020, under the theme “**IMPLEMENTING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT (AfCFTA) Made in Africa-One Standard-One Market**”.



The Theme of the 2020 ARSO General Assembly brings into focus the role of Product Standards and their conformity regimes in facilitating trade in a Free Trade Area, where though tariffs on trade in commodities are eliminated via trade agreements among the nations that conclude the agreements, the problem of nontariff barriers (especially Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs with regards to Standards, Technical Regulations, and Accreditation, Conformity Assessment and Metrology measures) remains a challenge and an obstacle to their goals, therefore, making many FTAs to adopt industrial and trade policies which encourage one Standard, one Test accepted everywhere in a One Market. We at ARSO, highlight that under the AfCFTA, which prioritises on the Made in African Products to boost the intra-African Trade, the TBT Challenge will still remain an issue, given that under the TBT Annex 6, article 3: “**the State Parties reaffirm their rights and obligations under the WTO TBT Agreement in respect of the preparation, adoption, and application of standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and related activities**”, (AfCFTA Annex 6). Under this article, given that regulatory capacity and technical capability among African countries are still a major challenge, there is bound to be great challenges for the free movement of Goods and services under AfCFTA, as the challenge of mandatory regulations, based on national standards, set by governments to meet their objectives regarding health, safety, and the environment, will still prevail.

The theme emphasises the ARSO regulatory policy towards simplicity, transparency, harmonization, equivalence in regulations and leveraging on the benefits of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRMs) where the African countries will recognise one another’s testing and certification requirements as acceptable, and supplemented with increased Capacity Building and Awareness Creation, among African Policy Makers, Institutions, Consumers, Traders and general citizens. As a policy instrument, the AfCFTA Agreement, under the TBT Annex 6 and SPS Annex 7, addresses the TBTs and SPS issues, and binds all State parties to commit to their progressive elimination and calls for cooperation in their development, harmonisation and implementation. This still remains the core mandate of ARSO.

The theme also gives the African Policy Makers and Standardisation community opportunity to think about the strategies for promoting the African SMEs and the Made in Africa Products. I bring to your attention the UNCTAD Policy Brief, No. 27, August 2013, that confirms that virtually all cases of high, rapid and sustained economic growth in modern economic development (Asia and Europe are cited) have been associated with SMEs driving the industrialization and manufacturing Agenda and African economies are likely to replicate those convergence dynamics by boosting the SMEs and the Made in Africa Products through effective Quality Infrastructures and policies, as already been underlined by the African Union SME Strategy and Master Plan 2017-2021; the UN General Assembly’s 74th Plenary of 6th April, 2017 declaration of 27th June as Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day; the 25 July 2016, UN Resolution A/RES/70/293, proclaiming 2016-2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and the Sep 27, 2016, G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa. **Currently, ARSO is preparing a Made in Africa Guideline and Policy document. Given long-term socioeconomic trends, the African Continental Free Trade Area allows space for leveraging the dynamism of the African market and the development of the African Regional Value Chains supported by Made in Africa Products, and the role of ARSO and standardisation is central to this process.**



Finally, I reiterate that the Office of the ARSO President, remains committed to the WHO policies for the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic and commends all the ARSO member States and Stakeholders in their active role in helping their respective Governments and Citizens in offering the standardisation solution to the COVID-19. I wish you God’s protection and stay safe.

**In this File Picture, The ARSO President, Mr. BOOTO à NGON Charles, left, with the Secretary General, Dr. Nsengimana meets Mr. Booto DOUM GARGOUM Minister of cooperation with the Islamic Community in Younde,, Cameroon on 17th April 2019.**

## ARSO Adopts to the new ways of doing Standardization Business: The power of Digital Connectivity, optimized by ITU Standards.

As most Organisations have adopted to the Stay at Home policy during this COVID-19 Pandemic, the Digital platforms have been the hidden hero of the COVID-19 crisis and in the words of Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau, Global networks are being taxed to the limit. Operators and platforms are reporting huge surges in traffic, as the world transitioned almost overnight to online working, schooling, shopping and socializing. The Standardization Community appreciates the fact that ITU understood that the digital resources were going to be absolutely critical in this global health emergency, and moved quickly to set up the [REG4COVID platform](#) to serve as a repository of emergency actions that the digital community around the world is taking to ensure the continued availability, accessibility and resilience of networks and resources. The crisis has underscored the urgent need for global digital cooperation and the need to close the Digital divide especially in the developing countries. The ARSO ITU and ARSO IEEE 4IR Cooperation come into focus. ARSO and ITU signed a cooperation Agreement in June 2019 at the 25th ARSO GA in Nairobi, Kenya. **Dr Chaesub Lee, Director Telecommunication standardisation Bureau, ITU, in the picture making a presentation on digital opportunities for Africa, at the 61st ARSO Council in November 2019 in Lusaka, Zambia.** *ARSO joins ITU in celebrating the 2020 World Telecommunication & Information Society Day, 17 May 2020 under the theme "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" and wishes to identify with the message of the ITU Director General. "We need to coordinate and redouble our efforts to connect everyone to the global digital economy, and that for those connected, more must be done to ensure that connected life is safe and trustworthy (ITU).*



### A Review of ARSO Online Meetings with Stakeholders to Push the African Standardisation Agenda.

#### Various Dates in March - April 2020 – PTB Germany - Upgrading of Quality Infrastructure in Africa



Under its Sub-Saharan Africa Working Group 9.35, PTB has continued in the Planning, preparation, implementation and coordination of international cooperation projects concerning metrology, standardization, testing, quality assurance, accreditation and certification in the region of Sub-Saharan Africa. In the programme, Strategic advice is rendered to the African Union Commission (AUC) to coordinate the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) area. Awareness creation for quality infrastructure as a cross-cutting topic is continued and the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) organisations are supported to fulfil the requirements arising from AfCFTA Annex 6 (Technical Barriers to Trade). Technical consultancy is provided to develop Pan-African approaches for the harmonization and approximation of standards, of technical regulations and of conformity assessment, ensuring the participation of the regional economic communities to support an effective and efficient implementation of the AfCFTA. Tailor-made tools are used to sensitise stakeholders. The methodical approach is based on different concepts of capacity building, organisational development and policy advice, and is mainly focused on the AUC and on PAQI. **Under current discussions with ARSO, PTB will be supporting 16 TCs under the revised ASHAM, according to the priorities identified by RECs connected to the UNECA study, including, Textiles and Leather Sector (ARSO/TC, Leather, leather products and accessories; ARSO/TC, Textiles, textile products and accessories; ARSO/TC, Footwear and accessories); Building and Civil Engineering Sector (ARSO/TC, Built environment (Building Codes, Smart, Green, Efficient; ARSO/TC, Road, Rail, Air and Water Transport Infrastructure; ARSO/TC, Wood and timber products; ARSO/TC, Building and construction materials); Chemistry & Chemical Engineering Sector (ARSO/TC, Cosmetics and related products; ARSO/TC, Plastics and related products; ARSO/TC, Agrochemicals and ARSO/TC, Organic and Inorganic Chemicals (e.g., Adhesives and resins); Agriculture and food products (ARSO/TC, Cereals, pulses and derived products; ARSO/TC, Apiculture (Apiary and apiary products; ARSO/TC, Meat, poultry, eggs and related products; ARSO/TC, Live animals (husbandry, welfare, grading, housing, identity; ARSO/TC, Food packaging and labelling).**

#### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, - 1600HRS - ARSO-PCPC Introductory Skype discussions



Personal Care Products Council (PCPC), with a commitment to Cosmetics Regulation, Safety, quality and innovation is a leading national trade association representing the global cosmetics and personal care products industry. ARSO and the PCPC are in discussions on facilitating standards harmonisation under the ARSO THC 12-1 on Cosmetology and beauty to promote safe beauty and wellness products and trade in Africa, as the sector is known to face dangerous and counterfeited products with devastating effects, including serious skin and liver/kidney diseases and cancer. The Sector also is source of Job creation and SMEs development

in Africa and employs more women and youth (<https://www.personalcarecouncil.org/video-gallery/>), hence its strategic importance to the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.

4th March 2020, 1400 - 1600HRS - Online Discussion on the 2020 Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF), way forward. The



ARSO Secretary General has been involved in a discussion with the Afreximbank and the African Union on the IATF 2020 which was scheduled to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in Kigali, Rwanda with a focus of having a standardization forum during the event focusing on **Africa's Industrialisation, Manufacturing and SMEs and the made in Africa products**. Though now postponed to next year, 2021, IATF is a key event for boosting trade in Africa. No other event brings together more professionals, traders, and producers under one roof. **The 2020 IATF's theme will focus on the newly-launched African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) - a single market for goods and services across 55 countries, aimed at boosting trade**

**and investment. In 2019, the event was held in Cairo, Egypt in December 2019, with a one-day Standardisation forum, co-organised by ARSO and Afreximbank and where ARSO members participated.**

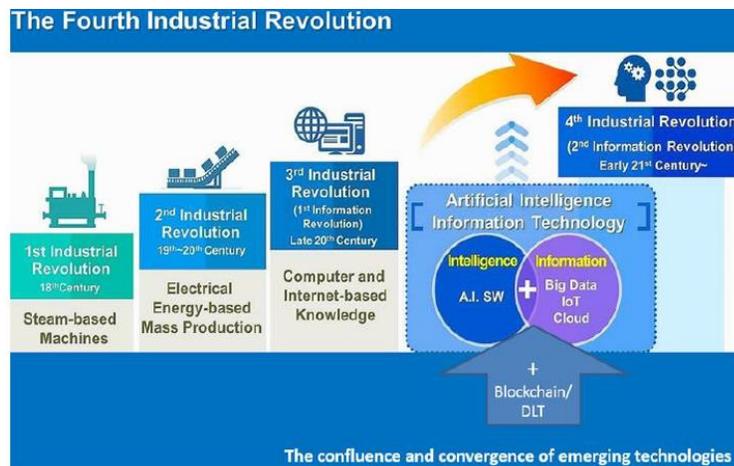
5th March 2020, 1130 - 1230HRS - ARSO-UL Skype meeting on Planning for Workshop for ARSO member NSBs during June 22 - 23. The ARSO Secretary General held a Skype meeting with the Underwriters Laboratories Standards



team on the logistics for an earlier planned Capacity Building Workshop for the ARSO members during the 26th ARSO General Assembly Meeting on 22nd – 23rd June 2020, in Kampala Uganda, based on the UL Standards opportunity research and study. The Underwriters Laboratories Standards team signed an agreement with ARSO on September 18, 2019, in Cape Town, South Africa, strengthening its relationship and agreement to work together. With this agreement, UL Standards shared access to 37 ARSO member countries.

18th March 2020, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM – ARSO – IEEE on line meeting on the 4th Industrial Revolution prospects for Africa. The 4IR: Left behind during the past industrial revolutions Will this time be different? And what must Africa Governments and stakeholders do...what is ARSO doing:

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)—characterized by the fusion of the digital, biological, and physical worlds, as well as the growing utilization of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, robotics, 3D printing, the Internet of Things, block chain and advanced wireless technologies, among others presents significant opportunities as well as challenges



for Africa (Landry Signé, , 2020), and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement offers a unique opportunity to enhance governance around the 4IR. This with aligned policies and procedures, the continent can adapt to the rapid changes of the 4IR and leverage it to accelerate participation in global value chains. The key issue for policymakers and the standardization community is how to position African economies to benefit from the 4IR while managing the challenges that it presents. **FROM Poverty reduction, labour transformations, Agriculture, Medicine and many other fields, Policy Makers and Experts believe that the Fourth Industrial Revolution and digitization is transforming Africa into a global powerhouse with many African countries taking the opportunities of 4IR to transform their economies (Njuguna Ndung'u and Landry Signé, 2020).**

[https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-fourth-industrial-revolution-and-digitization-will-transform-](https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-fourth-industrial-revolution-and-digitization-will-transform-africa-info-a-global-powerhouse/)

[africa-info-a-global-powerhouse/](https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-fourth-industrial-revolution-and-digitization-will-transform-africa-info-a-global-powerhouse/). The Kenyan Example of M\_PESA has demonstrated the transformational power of formal financial services through mobile phones, reaching the underserved, including women, who are important drivers for sustainable poverty eradication. Digitization has also resolved information asymmetry problems in the financial system and labor market, thus increasing efficiency, certainty, and security in an environment where information flow is critical for economic growth and job creation. With fintech, digitization has gone beyond the financial sector to affect the real sector and households, transforming product designs and business models across market segments (Njuguna Ndung'u, 2018). In West Africa and Kenya, block chain has enabled efficient verification of property records and transactions, and expanded access to credit in some previously informal sectors of the economy (Samuel Gebre, , Bloomberg, June 13, 2018). In Ghana Agri-based companies, Farmerline and Agrocenta offer farmers mobile and web technology for agricultural advice, weather information, and financial tips. Zenvus, a Nigerian startup, measures and analyzes soil data to help farmers apply the right fertilizer and optimally irrigate farms (Simeon Ehui, 2018). The "Sparky Dryer," a dehydration machine invented by a Ugandan engineer, uses biofuel to dehydrate produce and reduce food waste. African entrepreneurs and startups are also using the Internet of Things to help farmers optimize productivity and reduce waste through data-driven "precision farming" techniques ((Harriet Kariuki, 2018). About 27,000 public health workers in Uganda use a mobile system called mTrac to report medicine stocks. The SMS for Life program, a public-private partnership, reduces medicine shortages in primary health care facilities by using mobile phones to track and manage stocks levels of malaria treatments and other essential drugs (Amsterdam: Access to Medicine Foundation, 2016). Rwanda became the first country to incorporate drones into its health care system, using autonomous air vehicles to deliver blood transfusions to remote regions. During the West African Ebola outbreak in 2014, WhatsApp became an easy method of dispersing information, checking symptoms, and communicating under quarantine (Millicent Atieno, Innov8tiv, 2017). Illness detection and pharmaceutical production have most immediately benefited from digitization. AI is being slowly implemented

To take advantage and offer standardisation solution, ARSO is collaborating with IEEE on institutional coordination regarding the African Standardization Strategy for the 4th Industrial Revolution under the IEEE-SA Industry Connections Project. **Initial activities focus on developing a strategy and roadmap. The collaboration also entails the deployment of Embedded Computing for Internet of Thing (IoT) Systems IEEE Blended Learning Program (IBLP-IOT-01). The 2nd phase of the IoT Systems IEEE Blended Learning Program (IBLP-IOT-01), is expected to roll out in May 2020, with participation of Experts from the ARSO members. The first phase ran from October 2019-March 2020. Currently ARSO members and the Central Secretariat are participating in the IEEE 4IR Landscape Study Questionnaire, to review the succes of the Blended Learning Program and map out strategies for further capacity building activities for the ARSO members.**

Having signed an Agreement of Cooperation in June 2019, ARSO and ITU is cooperating in furthering the digital standardization Agenda in Africa. In November 2019, Dr. Chaesub Lee, Director of ITU Telecommunication standardization Bureau made a presentation and discussions at the 61st ARSO Council on the standardisation work of ITU especially in regards to key standardisation work, traceability of products, and conformity assessment, making linkages to the AfCFTA Agreement and opportunities, and how can take advantage of the opportunities of the 2020-2023 ITU Strategic Plan focusing on how technological advances in the coming 10 years will contribute to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and enhancing the 4IR opportunities for Africa in Trade and Manufacturing, Infrastructure, Finance, Communications, and Health Care systems.

### March 25 at 16:30 (GMT+3) (9:30am EDT) - ANSI ARSO Call on cooperation Standards Alliance 2.

The impact of universal access to WASH (Safe Water and adequate Sanitation) on global health would be profound. There is the potential to save the lives of the 829,000 people who currently die every year from diseases directly caused by unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene practices. It will help drive progress towards the SDGs concerned with poverty, work and economic growth and gender equity (Hutton et al. 2015/WHO/UNICEF 2019). Under the ARSO/THC 09-3 Technical Working Group on Drinking Water Supply and Wastewater Systems with the involvement of about 108 Experts, including Standards, Conformity Assessment Officers, Regulators and Water and Sanitation Experts from 32 African countries (Algeria, Botswana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Congo Brazzaville, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Seychelles, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe, ANSI supported the harmonisation of the ISO Sanitation standards, as African Standards, and which are being adopted by the ARSO member States. To facilitate their adoption, ANSI and ARSO are discussing a further collaboration, **Standards Alliance Phase 2, which includes among other things**, the development of the Conformity Assessment for the certification and implementation of the non-sewered standards. ANSI Sanitation recently released "Sanitation Standards Explained in 2 Minutes" on non-sewered sanitation standards and how they can improve the global sanitation crisis, for sharing with stakeholders. English (<https://youtu.be/TvGZQ3z7hZg>) and French ([https://youtu.be/dfRki\\_tK4WA](https://youtu.be/dfRki_tK4WA)). ARSO members will also participate in the Virtual trainings on ISO 30500 and ISO 24521 scheduled for mid-2020, under UNDP capacity-training network, through the ANSI - Cap-Net UNDP partnership. Important links:



- Materials, such as flyers and PowerPoints: <https://sanitation.ansi.org/Resources>
- National Adoption Map (see which countries have already adopted!): <https://sanitation.ansi.org/Standard/StandardAdoptionMap>
- Event photos, including past ARSO Technical Committee meetings: <https://sanitation.ansi.org/Photos>
- Reinvented toilet technologies are available here: <https://sanitation.ansi.org/RTTech>

### 21<sup>ST</sup> April 2020 - ARSO - AeCDI Online Meeting from 1500HRS EAT

There is a growing excellence and innovation in ICTs and e-commerce in Africa and the need to accelerating the



adoption of a continent-wide e-commerce platform, and the associated administrative and regulatory frameworks supporting this trend, is attracting the attention of Policy makers and the African standardisation community. AeCDI is a multi-stakeholder group of African professionals and business people with a vision to develop and implement an e-empowerment programme that will enhance intra and inter African trade. The AfCFTA has the advantage and the potential of being one of the biggest markets in the world and there is the need to bring added value to this market by unleashing latest and tailored technologies that enable digital trade and economy to flourish

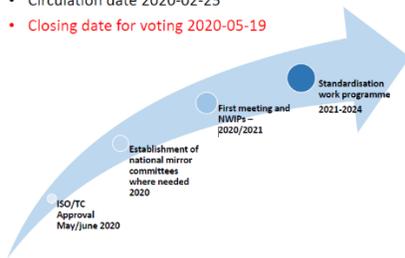
at local, regional and continental levels. ARSO signed an MoU with AeCDI in 2018 (pictured). ARSO and the AeCDI initiatives in harmonisation activities of key service standards that would facilitate e-commerce systems among African Countries as crucial step towards accelerating the adoption of a continent-wide e-commerce platform as well as associated administrative and regulatory frameworks supporting digital trade.

## 23rd April 2020 – ISO Webinar/Virtual Zoom Meeting on the creation of the new ISO Technical Committee on Biodiversity proposed by AFNOR.

AFNOR proposes a new topic of standardization on the concepts of biodiversity. While biodiversity issues are mentioned in some standards dealing with environmental management or social responsibility, there is no dedicated standardization work yet. The aim of this standardisation programme is to build a framework for action to consistently mobilize actors from all countries who are concerned or could be affected by biodiversity issues (political power, economic actors, civil society, etc.).

### 3-7 Proposed planning

- ISO/TS/P 285
- Circulation date 2020-02-25
- Closing date for voting 2020-05-19



Standardization in the field of Biodiversity is aimed at developing requirements, principles, framework, guidance and supporting tools in a holistic and global approach for all relevant organizations, to enhance their contribution to Sustainable Development. The need is fueled by the Growing awareness for preservation, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity; the need to develop a holistic and global approach of protection, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity for organizations or communities and to take into account the interactions between the

various issues of biodiversity while at the same time contribute to UN SDGs: SDG 13 "Climate action", SDG 14 "Life below water", SDG 15 "Life on land". **The ISO vote on this NWIP closes on 19 May 2020, and ARSO brings this awareness to its members for the participation.**

**27th April 2020, 2.30PM - Online E-Conference on Standards and Safe Trade during and post COVID19- 27 April 2020,**



**facilitated by Trade Mark East Africa, with the key question, *How can African countries create a coordinated approach to ensure that essential goods are not only y traded safely and quickly across African borders, but also meet the necessary safety standards and technical regulations?*** The need for Effective Quality Infrastructure in Africa was reiterated, in addition to the need for participation of the Continent in international standardisation to facilitate adoption and implementation; collaborative efforts at the

harmonization of African standards and conformity assessment and establishment of Mutual recognition arrangements for test results and certification; and adherence to various Continental and International policies, including the Abuja Treaty, The Lagos Plan of Action and currently, the AfCFTA Protocol (TBT Annex 6 and SPS Annex 7), the WTO TBT/SPS Agreements on the need for Effective Quality Infrastructure to set Africa ready, for standardisation mitigation of such pandemic outbreaks, in future.

### Online Standards Harmonisation activities

The ARSO online standardisation activities has continued with the following highlights on various standards



for harmonisation and the discussion on the comments from Experts from different countries, to establish openness, transparency and consensus.

- (i) **29th January 2020 - ARSO THC 08-4 Task Group 4 - Automotive Technology and Engineering**
- (ii) **30th January 2020: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM - Sustainability standards – Forestry, ARS/AES 03: Forestry — Sustainability and Eco-labelling— Requirements. The implementation of Maturity Model Certification under the Eco Mark Africa Programme and the sustainability standard**
- (iii) **18th March 2020 - 2nd ARSO THC 07 - Textile**

and Leather (WG 1- Leather, leather products and accessories and, WG-2 Textiles, textile products and accessories) Standards Harmonisation Meetings. **25th March 2020 : 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM - ARSO THC 05 Chemical and Chemical Engineering Meeting, Planned Work in view of COVID - 19 . Stay Safe, wash hands and use sanitizers as per the ARSO FDARS 1470: 2019 Hand Sanitizers.**



### Role of Afreximbank in African Standardisation.

Afreximbank currently supports the standardisation activities of the ARSO THC 08-4 Task Group 4 - Automotive Technology and Engineering. The Afreximbank (Gwen Mwaba, 2017), in its five year strategic plan, themed "IMPACT 2021: Africa Transformed", has as a primary objective to promote intra-African trade, conceived and conceptualized around three main pillars, namely; CREATE, CONNECT and DELIVER with an ancillary pillar known as measure. Under this pillar, the bank will work towards bringing down trade barriers, particularly, dealing with the problem of the multiplicity of standards across the continent, and facilitating the establishment of internationally accredited Inspection and Certification Centres that will support African exports to meet both the domestic and international market standards. Afreximbank has also supported the development of the Africa Quality Policy together with the PTB-Germany. In this File Picture, Mr. Gainmore Zanamwe of Afreximbank addressing ARSO Experts in a Standardisation and Technical Regulations Workshop in South Africa in 2018.

and finally and most importantly to work with others to by 2019.

## Standards for COVID-19: Coalition of the Standardisation Community in providing Solutions to the COVID-19 Pandemic - ARSO FDARS 1470: 2019 Hand Sanitizers (alcohol based) – Specification.

**AFRICAN ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION (ARSO)**

A message on Corona Virus (COVID-19) safety measures to our Members, Stakeholders and the larger ARSO fraternity:

Ref : FDARS 1470 : 2019 Hand sanitizers (alcohol based) — Specification

Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer

Cough and/or sneeze into your elbow and avoid use of handkerchief, instead use disposable tissue

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water

Keep a safe distance of 1 meter (5 feet) and/or avoid crowded places

Work from home where possible/Stay home and avoid unnecessary movement

#Covid-19 #StayHomeStaySafe #WeShallOvercome

Across the Globe, the Standardisation Community are offering free of Charge standards and conformity Assessment for the manufacturing of Safe and Quality Personal Protection Equipment which are needed as the COVID-19 Pandemic evolves rapidly and uncertainly. ARSO has expedited the **Standards approval for medical and pharmaceutical products, and urged the African NSBs to make medical standards freely available and create customs 'Green Lanes' for super-fast clearance of medical supplies. Already ARSO has recommended** fast-tracking of its draft Standard, the FDARS 1470-2019 for hand sanitizers (alcohol-based).

### The ARSO FDARS 1470: 2019 Hand Sanitizers (alcohol based) – Specification at a glance

This African standard prescribes the requirements and methods of test for alcohol based instant hand sanitizers. The standard does not cover non-alcohol-based hand sanitizers. The alcohol contained within hand sanitizers, when rubbed on the surface of skin is effective in killing 99.9% of dangerous germs on the skin. The type of alcohol used in most hand sanitizers is ethyl alcohol. Ethyl alcohol is the active ingredient in most hand sanitizers. A concentration of 60% to 95% alcohol in hand sanitizing product is recommended. However, there are also non-alcohol-based hand sanitizers which can be effective in killing germs. For instance, Benzalkonium Chloride (BAC) has been proven effective in killing 99.9% of germs. The Standard was prepared by the ARSO Technical Harmonization Committee Number 5 on Chemistry and Chemical Engineering (ARSO/THC 05). The FDARS 1470-2019 specification is being used, by African countries, as an interim measure for fabrication of sanitizer.

#### The FDARS 1470-2019 is referenced to

1. AOAC Official Method 942.06 Alcohol by Volume in Distilled Liquors Pycnometer Method
2. Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on Cosmetic Products
3. ISO 862, Surface active agents — Vocabulary

### ARSO MEMBERS STATES RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

To help mitigate the virus and ensure people have access to the safe, essential products they rely on, many African Bureau of Standards and Certification Bodies have played the greatest role to help mitigate the virus and ensure people have access to the safe, essential products they rely on and in providing the necessary awareness, standards and guidelines for the public and the local manufacturers to avail the preventive regiments (face masks, sanitizers, safe water and soaps, medical gloves, clinical electrical thermometers), as indicated below:

South Africa/SABS - <https://www.sabs.co.za/COVID19-SABS-Mark/index.asp>



1. SANS 490 SANS 490, Disinfectant alcohol-based hand-rub
2. SANS 1330- SANS 1330, Waterless hand cleaners
3. SANS 1828-Cleaning chemicals for use in the food industry
4. SANS 1853- Disinfectants, detergent-disinfectants and antiseptics for use in the food industry
5. SANS 2231- Bactericidal efficacy of alcohol based products intended for general use
6. SANS 54885 - Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics - Application of European Standards for chemical disinfectants and antiseptics
7. SANS 11193-1:2010- Single use - medical examination gloves- Specification for gloves made from rubber latex or rubber solution.
8. SANS 50455 series Medical gloves for single use - Part 1: Requirements and testing for freedom from holes,
9. ANS 50455-2 Medical gloves for single use Part 2 - Requirements and testing for physical properties, SANS 50455-3 Medical gloves for single use Part 3: Requirements and testing for biological evaluation and SANS 50455-4 Medical gloves for single use Part 4: Requirements and testing for shelf life determination
10. SANS 1228-Abrasion resistant polymeric gloves - lined type
11. SANS 68-Single use sterile rubber surgical gloves
12. SANS 53795- Surgical drapes, gowns and clean air suits, used as medical devices for patients, clinical staff and equipment - General requirements for manufacturers, processors and products, test methods, performance requirements and performance levels
13. SANS 50149- Respiratory protective devices - Filtering half masks to protect against particles - Requirements, testing, marking
14. SANS 50136-Respiratory protective devices - Full face masks - Requirements, Testing Marking
15. SANS 1886-1- Medical devices Part 1: Medical face masks
16. SANS 1886-2- Medical devices Part 2: Medical Respirators
17. SANS 10264-1 - Disaster management – Terminology and implementation
18. SANS 10264-2 - Disaster management – All –risk emergency operation planning
19. SANS 22322 - Societal security – Emergency management – Guidelines for public warning
20. SANS 22301 - Security and resilience - Business continuity management system - Requirements
21. SANS 22313 - Security and resilience — Business continuity management systems — Guidance on the use of ISO 22301
22. SANS 23601 - Safety identification – Escape and evacuation plan signs
23. SANS 31000- Risk management- guidelines
24. SANS 22316- Security and Resilience - Organizational resilience - principles and attributes

Rwanda/RSB -

[https://www.rsb.gov.rw/index.php?id=34&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Bnews%5D=503&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=849ebee3b5b8d21e86890d3c76b7765](https://www.rsb.gov.rw/index.php?id=34&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=503&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=849ebee3b5b8d21e86890d3c76b7765)

"In a bid to complement the Government efforts related to protective measures set in place to fight against the spread of COVID-19 virus; RSB is pleased to share with Manufacturers, Importers, Exporters, Traders, Regulators, Government Ministries, Consumers and the general public in general; National, Regional and International Standards which contribute to combat COVID-19 crisis. These standards are freely available and can be downloaded from RSB website at [www.rsb.gov.rw](http://www.rsb.gov.rw) or at ISO [www.iso.org/covid19](http://www.iso.org/covid19)."

1. RS EAS 789:2013;Instant hand sanitizers — Specification
2. RS 383: 2018, Antiseptics based on chlorhexidine gluconate — Specification
3. RS EAS 878: 2017, Antibacterial bathing bar — Specification
4. RS EAS 812-1:2015 Liquid hand wash — Specification — Part 1: Synthetic and combined (soap and synthetic) hand wash
5. RS EAS 186: 2013, Toilet soap — Specification
6. RS ISO 13688:2013 Protective clothing – General requirements



KEBS/Kenya - <https://www.kebs.org/>;

[https://www.kebs.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=671&Itemid=558](https://www.kebs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=671&Itemid=558)

1. KS EAS 794:2013 –Determination of the microbiological inhibition of cosmetic soap bars and liquid hand and body washes
2. KS EAS 812-1 for Hand Wash
3. KS OIML R114:1995 – Clinical electrical thermometers for continuous measurement
4. Ks OIML R115:1995 – Clinical electrical thermometers with maximum device
5. KS EAS 789:2013, Instant hand sanitizers - Specification
6. KS 2636:2016, Surgical masks - Specification
7. KS\_ISO\_10282\_2014 Single-use sterile rubber surgical gloves – Specification
8. KS\_ISO\_10651\_5\_2006 Lung ventilators for medical use — Particular requirements for basic safety and essential performance
9. KS\_ISO\_11193\_1\_2008 Single-use medical examination gloves - Part 1: Specification for gloves made from rubber latex or rubber solution
10. KS\_ISO\_11193\_1\_2008\_Amd\_1\_2012
11. KS ISO 11193-2: 2006 - Single-use medical examination gloves - Part 2 : Specification for gloves made from poly(vinylchloride)
12. KS\_ISO\_80601\_2\_74\_2017 Medical electrical equipment
13. KPAS 2917\_2020 Reusable cloth mask — Specification
14. KPAS 2918\_2020 Critical care ventilators — Specification
15. KS\_ISO\_13688\_2013 Protective clothing — General requirements

**Cote D'Ivoire/CODINORM/** - <https://www.codinorm.ci/>

1. **NI 12510: 2020** -Masques barrières - Guide d'exigences minimales, de méthodes d'essais, de confection et d'usage (Fabrication en série et confection artisanale).
2. **NI 8568 : 2020** Gel hydro - alcoolique specification

**ANNMC/NIGER**

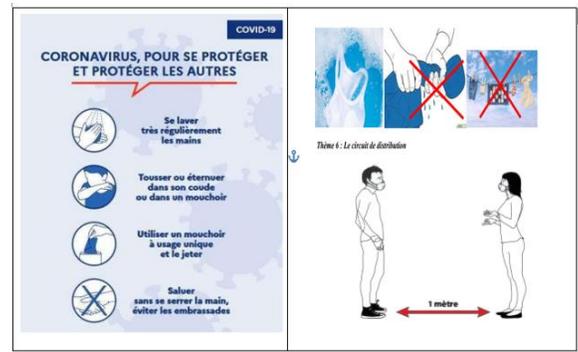
1. Guide Nigerien de Confection de Masques Barriers
2. Guide Nigerian de production de gels hrdo-alcooliques

**ANOR/Cameroon -**

<https://www.anorcameroun.info/index.php/article/view/des-normes-camerounaises-au-service-de-la-lutte-contre-le-covid-19>

Cameroon convened a meeting of Technical Committee 29 - Pharmaceutical and medical engineering on April 13, 2020. The objective of the meeting, attended by the ANOR Director General and ARSO President, as well as the Ministers of Mines, Industry and Technological Development, was to develop Cameroonian Standards emergency procedure on hydro-alcoholic gels, barrier masks, gloves, protective devices and protective clothing. 14 standards (LISTED BELOW) were adopted, approved and made mandatory by order of the Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development N° 000096 / MINMIDT of April 13, 2020 where any product imported or manufactured locally had to be accompanied by a Certificate of Conformity, to these standards, issued by the ANOR, due during the customs clearance procedure or during the controls carried out by the ANOR in liaison with the administrations concerned.

1. NC 2969, Gants de protection – Exigences générales et méthodes d'essai
2. NC 2970 – Masques barrières : Guides d'exigences minimales de méthodes
3. NC 2971 – Masques à usage ; fabrication en série et confection artisanale
4. NC 2972 – Appareil de protection respiratoire – Demi-masques filtrants contre les particules-Exigences, essais, marquage et sa feuille d'instruction
5. NC 2973 – Protection individuelle de l'œil: spécifications
6. NC 2974 – Vêtements de protection : Exigences de performances et de méthodes d'essai pour les vêtements de protection contre les agents infectieux
7. NC 2975 – Vêtements et champs chirurgicaux – Exigences et méthodes d'essai- partie 1 : champs et casaque chirurgicaux
8. NC 2976 – Vêtements et champs chirurgicaux – Exigences et méthodes d'essai partie 2 : Tenues de bloc
9. NC 2977 – Gants médicaux non réutilisables-partie 1 : détection des trous- Prescriptions et essais
10. NC 2978 – Gants médicaux non réutilisables-partie 2 : Exigence et essais pour propriétés physiques
11. NC 2979 - Gants médicaux non réutilisables-partie 3 : Exigence et essais pour évaluation biologique
12. NC 2980 - Gants médicaux non réutilisables-partie 4 : Exigence et essais relatifs à la détermination de la durée de conservation
13. NC 2981 – vêtements de protection à utiliser contre les particules solides – Partie 1 : Exigence de performance des vêtements de protection contre les produits chimiques offrant une protection au corps entier contre particules solides transportées par l'air (vêtements de type 5)
14. NC 2982 – Hand Sanitizers (alcohol based) - Specification



**SAZ/Zimbabwe -** <http://saz.org.zw/>; <http://saz.org.zw/saz-on-covid-19/>

1. ARS-SAZ HS 1470: 2020 – Hand Sanitizers (Alcohol Based) Specification (Interim Standards)
2. ZWS 657:1998 – Respiratory Protective Devices – Full Face Masks for Special Use
3. ZWS ISO 45001 – Occupational Health
4. Engineering Tests: ISO 10651-3:1977 - Portable Ventilators (for use in emergency and transport)
5. ISO 10652-3:1997 – Emergency ventilators (Installed in rescue vehicles)
6. 1. Fluke Temperature generator (Metrology well) 2. Intra-Red (IR) Temperature gun
7. Laboratory Test: 1. Sanitizers 2. Masks 3. Protective Clothing
8. Certification: 1. Product Mark Certification 2. Systems Certification

**WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS**  
Ensuring high quality products in the fight against COVID-19

Manufacturers can help save lives by ensuring that the Sanitizers, Masks, Ventilators and other Personal Protective Equipment they manufacture in a suitable environment and according to the prescribed national standards.

Producers can also assure their customers that products are tested by a reputable laboratory.

**Get your products tested and certified today**

TESTING	CERTIFICATION
Hand Sanitizers (Alcohol Based)	Respiratory Protective Devices – Full Face Masks for Special Use (ZWS 657)
Hand Sanitizers (Dry Wipes, Soapless)	Full Face Masks for Special Use (ZWS 657)
Detergent – Disinfectants (Isopropyl)	HIV and Malaria Standard (ZWS 100)
Portable ventilators (for use in emergency and transport) – ISO 10651-3:1977	Emergency ventilators (Installed in rescue vehicles) – ISO 10652-3:1997
1. Fluke Temperature generator (Metrology well) 2. Intra-Red (IR) Temperature gun	1. Sanitizers 2. Masks 3. Protective Clothing
	1. Product Mark Certification 2. Systems Certification

We are happy to assist in testing the safety and quality of your products, ensuring that they are safe and healthy for everyone. For all our services, please contact us at [info@saz.org.zw](mailto:info@saz.org.zw)

**IMANOR/MOROCCO -** <https://www.imanor.gov.ma/equipements-de-protection/>

"STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID19"

In order to contribute to the fight against the pandemic Covid-19, the IMANOR mobilized its staff and stakeholders to develop reference standards covering protective equipment. Thus the following technical specifications were developed and published:

1. **NM & T / 21.5.200:** Masks nonwoven fabric
2. **NM & T / 21.5.201:** Protective masks reusable cloth
3. **NM & T / 21.5.204:** Protective Visors

Another technical specification for protective suits nonwoven fabric is being validated and will be published shortly. IMANOR also established three certification schemes respectively covering masks nonwoven fabric, protective masks reusable cloth and protective visors. The balance sheet certified companies achieved so far is as follows:

1. Protective masks cloth nonwoven **48** certified **companies** for a production capacity of over **7 million masks / day**
2. Protective masks reusable cloth; **85 companies** certified for a production capacity of about **2 million masks / day**
3. Protective visors: **5** certified **companies** for a production capacity of about 150,000 visors / day



More than **150 companies** engaged in the protection of their equipment certification process.

Technical specifications, lists and updates of the certified companies that produce protective equipment and other relevant information are available on a web page dedicated to the standardization and certification of equipment to protect against the virus. Access to this information is via two links:

- For protective masks <https://www.imanor.gov.ma/certification-des-masques-de-protection/>
- For visors Protection: <https://www.imanor.gov.ma/certification-des-visieres/>



### Malawi/MBS

1. MS 48: 2006, Carbolic soap – Specification
2. MS 49: 2006, Toilet soap – Specification
3. MS 52:2006, Liquid toilet soap – Specification
4. MS 66: 2019, Antibacterial liquid soap - Specification



### UGANDA/UNBS <https://www.unbs.go.ug/>

1. US EAS 789: 2013, Instant hand sanitizers — Specification
2. US 1625:2015, Anti-bacterial and Anti-viral instant hand sanitizers— Specification
3. US 1693:2017, Disinfectants/sanitizers — Specification
4. US 1709:2017, Disinfectants/sanitizers based on iodophors — Specification
5. US 1710:2017, Disinfectants/sanitizers based on glutaraldehyde for general use — Specification
6. US 2552:2020;Non-medical face mask — Specification
7. US EN 149:2001+A1; Respiratory protective devices — Filtering half masks to protect against particles — Requirements, testing, marking.
8. US EN 14763:2019+AC 2019; Medical face masks — Requirements and test methods.

UNBS also certifies companies to produce sanitizers to protect consumers from buying sanitisers that do not comply with standards and are harmful to their health, in the wake of COVID-19. UNBS together with officials from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in charge of COVID19 relief food quality checks are working 7 days a week, to ensure that Ugandans get good quality food.



### EOS/Egypt

1. **Standard No. 6576 / 2008** : Breathing tubes intended for use with anaesthetic apparatus and ventilators
2. **Standard No. 6892 / 2009**: Tracheal Tubes And Connectors
3. **Standard No. 7014-1 / 2009**: Lung ventilators – Part 1: Particular requirements for critical care ventilators
4. **Standard No. 7014-3 / 2009**:Lung ventilators – Part 3: Particular requirements for emergency and transport ventilators
5. **Standard No. 7415-1 / 2011**: Respiratory therapy equipment - Part 1:- Nebulizing systems and their components (EN 13544-1:2007/A1:2009)
6. **Standard No. 7415-2 / 2011**: Respiratory therapy equipment - Part 2:- Tubing and connectors (EN 13544- 2:2002/A1:2009)
7. **Standard No. 5613-1 / 2006**: Medical electrical equipments part 1: general requirements for safety
8. **Standard No. 7390 / 2011**:Essential requirements for Medical devices and their accessories Standard No. 382-1 / 2005
9. **standard no. 382-2 / 2005**: ethyl alcoholpart 2 : the materials used for conversion of ethyl alcohol
10. **Standard No. 8048 / 2016**: Liquid hand wash
11. **Standard No. 4158 / 2019**: liquid synthetic detergent for general purposed
12. **Standard No. 5754 / 2006**: iodine disinfectants (biocides) used in farms and its related
13. **Standard No. 5753-1 / 2006**: disinfectants (biocides) with different stimulators part 1: food disinfectants (biocides) with gold stimulators
14. **Standard No. 5753-2 / 2006**: disinfectants (biocides) with different stimulators part 2: disinfectant with gold stimulators used in farms and it's related
15. **Standard No. 5753-3 / 2006**: disinfectants (biocides) with different stimulators part3: disinfectants (biocides) with silver stimulators used for disinfection of solid surfaces
16. **Standard No. 5753-4 / 2006**: disinfectants (biocides) with different stimulators part 4: disinfectants (biocides) with palladium stimulators used for disinfection of ballast water, municipal solid wastes
17. **Standard No. 5753-5 / 2006**: disinfectants (biocides) with different stimulators part 5: disinfectants (biocides) with platinum stimulators used for disinfection of swimming POOL, shower water, and personal home tools.
18. **Standard No. 1595-1 / 2018**: Rubber gloves for medical use Part : 1 single- use sterile rubber surgical gloves-specification.
19. **Standard No. 1595-2 / 2005**: rubber gloves used for medical purposes part 2 single – use medical examination gloves made from rubber latex or rubber solution
20. **Standard No. 6930 / 2009**: Respiration protective devices - Filtering half masks to protect against particles- Requirements , testing, marking
21. **Standard No. 7803 / 2014**: surgical masks – requirements and test methods
22. **Standard No. 7411 / 2016**: surgical drapes, gowns and clean air suits, used as medical devices for patients, clinical staff and equipment- general requirements for manufacturers, processors and products, test methods, performance requirements and performance levels
23. **Standard No. 6486 / 2019**: medical devices - quality management systems - requirements for regulatory purposes
24. **Standard No. 7588-1 / 2018**: Clinical thermometers Part 1 : Metallic liquid-in-glass thermometers with maximum device
25. **standard no. 7588-2 / 2018**: clinical thermometers – part 2 : phase change type (dot matrix) thermometers
26. **Standard No. 7167 / 2011**: Clinical thermometers- Performance of infra-red ear thermometers (with maximum device).

### Need for harmonisation

Noting the varied national standards on the COVID-19, ARSO is cognizant of that the need for standards comparison and harmonisation is also correspondingly growing, and in taking into consideration the already existing and shared ARSO FDARS 1470: 2019 Hand Sanitizers (alcohol based)

– Specification, is engaging with its development partners to harmonise the African Standards for unique solutions and preparedness for such pandemics in Future.

## Opinion on COVID-19 and African Traditional Medicine



**THE WTO ALMA-ATA' DECLARATION OF 1978 AND WHO TRADITIONAL MEDICINE STRATEGY 2014–2023: ARTAMISIA COVID-ORGANICS (COVID-19 "TRADITIONAL CURE") - COULD THE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE HOLD KEY TO HUMAN PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS, AFRICA IN PARTICULAR? - FOCUSING ON THE ARSO TC 13, ISO 249 AND THE WTO DIRECTIVES OF ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND THE RELATED REGULATORY FRAMWORKS (STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY ASSESMENT).**

As the World Health Organization (WHO) confirms that there is no proof of a cure for Covid-19, Madagascar's President (left), on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020, launched a traditional herbal remedy for the COVID-19, putting in light the



question **"Could traditional African medicine change the course of history"**. Baptised Covid-Organics, the tonic is derived from Artemisia, the **most powerful antiviral plants grown in Madagascar, and currently typically consumed as an infusion**, when it comes to treating COVID-19, is a plant with proven efficacy in treating malaria as well as other indigenous herbs. Dr Charles Andrianjara, Malagasy Institute of Applied Research (Imra), which developed the tonic, agreed that Covid-Organics should be used for prevention. But what are the **potential benefits of this plant, scientific studies and tests needs to be undertaken to prove its efficacy**. According to Catherine Hill, an epidemiologist and former department head at the Institut Gustave Roussy in Villejuif, France: "The fact that artemisia has

effects on viruses similar to the novel coronavirus makes a strong case for initiating studies. The renowned Max Planck Institute in Germany, which has received 18 Nobel prizes since 1948 and publishes 15,000 papers each year, launched an in vitro trial on 8 April, in collaboration with the US Company ArtemiLife and Danish researchers. According to Cornet-Vernet, **around 10 African countries have already agreed in principle to perform clinical trials** focused on artemisia, including Benin, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Rwanda (<https://www.theafricareport.com/26599/coronavirus-the-miracle-remedy-touted-by-madagasars-rajoelina/>). Given that for a millennia, with 80% – 90 % of its population depending on TM for their primary healthcare, Africa has had a tradition of using herbal medicine to heal the sick with herbal or animal-derived remedies, handed down through generations. The respiratory nature of Covid-19 renders it possible to be treated through inhalation remedies such as those deployed in African Traditional Medicine procedures. Inhalation therapy allows conveying drugs directly into the airways. The devices used to administer inhaled drugs play a crucial role in the management of obstructive lung diseases such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (Sorino et al., 2020). Studies on the effects of steam inhalation on nasal patency and on nasal symptoms resulted in alleviation of cold symptoms and increased nasal patency (clearance) in a significantly higher percentage of patients in the actively treated group than in the placebo-treated group (Ophir et al., 1987; Vora et al., 1993). The use of inhalation techniques for the treatment of respiratory diseases has a long history in the African continent. When steam and essential oils are combined they form a very potent way to help treat some ailments, especially those of the respiratory tract, nose and sinuses. Since the extraction of essential oils is not always possible, the traditional procedure involves the steaming of leaves, barks, roots or fruits which have the most essential oils. Common medicinal plants with therapeutic essential oils include: Eucalyptus globules, Cymbopogon citratus, Artemisia afra, Ocimum gratissimum, Tea tree (Melaleuca alternifolia), Clove (Eugenia caryophyllata, Syzygium aromaticum), Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis), Cypress (Cupressus sempervirens), Ginger (Zingiberaceae officinale), Peppermint (Mentha piperita), Black pepper (Piper nigrum) among others. **Whatever the remedy, whether Traditional Medicine (TM) or Conventional medicine, the priority is the same: to protect and save as many lives as possible and offer people the guarantee of a new tomorrow."**

With a global trade estimated at US\$ 83 billion dominated mainly by western herbal medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Ayurveda, while Africa with its wealth in biodiversity makes it a bio-prospecting hotspot (WHO 2003), the need for making traditional medicine truly mainstream and incorporating its knowledge into modern healthcare, by ensuring it meets modern safety and efficacy standards, remains a subject of global priority, in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The WTO **Alma-Ata' Declaration of 1978** and resolved to cooperate the TM in the health care systems in developing countries if the objective of the "Health for All by the Year 2000" was to be realized. Subsequently, the OAU (African Union) Heads of State and Government declared the period 2000 - 2010 as the African Decade on African Traditional Medicine. In 2013, WHO developed and launched 'WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014–2023 that aims at building the knowledge base and formulating national policies; strengthening safety, proven quality and effectiveness through regulation; and, promoting universal health coverage by integrating T&CM services and self-health care into national health systems. **The WHO Regional Office for Africa has developed model guidelines that the Member States can adapt or adopt, as basis for the incorporation of African traditional medicine in their Healthcare**

systems. The Office also declared 31st August every year as African Traditional Medicine Day to affirm the continent's shared commitment to promoting rational Traditional Medicine practices. The date coincides with 31 August 2000 when the Ministers of Health adopted the relevant resolution at the 50th session of the [World Health Organisation](#) (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Developing Standards for TCM is therefore key, and of utmost importance, to:

- (i) **Ensure the quality and safety of TCM products and/or services**
- (ii) **Improve patient safety and satisfy their expectations and requirements**
- (iii) **Facilitate the use of TCM in a more scientific, safer and efficient manner**
- (iv) **Comply with relevant legislation**
- (v) **Boost TCM enterprises and the country's economic growth**

**This brings into sharp focus the role of ARSO TC 13 on African Traditional Medicine (10 developed standards and 22 under development) and the ISO/TC 249 Traditional Chinese medicine (with 50 published standards and 40 under development) focusing on quality and safety of raw materials, manufactured products and medical devices and of informatics, including service standards limited to involving the safe use and delivery of devices & medicine. The WHO has already given the directives and acceptance. The WTO Alma-Ata' Declaration of 1978 and the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014–2023.** ARSO TC 13 aims to address:

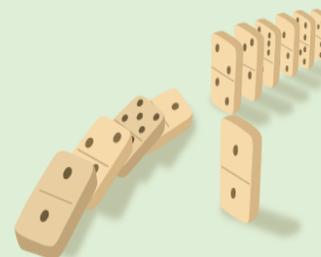
- (i) **Quality issues:** Adulteration, misidentification of plant, faulty collection and preparation, incorrect formulation process thus affecting quality and purity of herbal medicines
- (ii) **Processing and harvesting issues:** Indiscriminate harvesting, poor agriculture and propagation method, poor pre and post-harvest practices, and lack of processing techniques – hence substandard quality of herbal drugs.
- (iii) **Quality control related issues:** Standardization, poor quality control procedure and lack of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). Lack of awareness regarding the guideline among growers and manufacturers, lack of implementation and regulation of the guideline are also frequent in small and medium scale industries.
- (iv) **Administrative issues:** Lack of regulation and controlling authority in herbal sector, lack of proper monitoring and controlling.
- (v) **Infrastructure related issue:** Lack of processing technique, trained personal, sophisticated instrument, utilization of modern techniques, facility to fabricate instrument locally are the major problems.
- (vi) **Pharmacovigilance:** Proper pharmacovigilance in herbal sector is the need of time to find the toxicological data and adverse drug reaction of herbal drugs. Adverse reactions, contraindications, interactions with other drug, food and existing orthodox pharmaceuticals need to be monitored properly.
- (vii) **Clinical trial:** Since the safety continues to be a foremost issue with the use of herbal remedies therefore, clinical trials are necessary to understand the safety and efficacy of these drugs before introduced them in global market.

For this purpose, the following ARSO ATM standards are currently under consideration having been identified as priority standards by the committee on African Traditional Medicine:

1. **WD-ARS 958:2014, Consumer guidance on good preparation and use of African traditional medicine**
2. **WD-ARS 960:2014, Procedures for processing medicinal plants**
3. **WD-ARS 964:2014, Certification of herbal medicine production facilities Apart from remedies taken by oral means.**

## A message on COVID - 19 safety measures to Members, Stakeholders and ARSO fraternity

for more info. visit: <https://www.arso-oran.org/standards-for-covid-19/>



**#Social Distancing, #Saves Lives, #Stay Safe**



See most of the COVID-19 standards used by ARSO members States and read more about the Contributions of African Traditional Medicine (document prepared by ARSO) on this site: <https://www.arso-oran.org/standards-for-covid-19/>.

## The ARSO 2019-2020 African Youth Continental Essay Competition.

The 2019-2020 ARSO Essay competition is ongoing at the national level among the member States under theme "The role of Standardisation in resolving and addressing the socio-economic issues



for the Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons and creating durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa". The theme is based on the AU declaration of the 2019 as the African year of addressing refugee issues under the theme "Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement" by the African Union at the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) held at the headquarters of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 10th – 11th February 2019.



The theme commemorates the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention, as well as, the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the 2009 AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention). The United Nations estimates that the number of people displaced by conflict (including refugees, internally displaced people, and asylum seekers) worldwide is at its highest since the end of World War II, at over 70 million, with Africa hosting over one third of this total, including 6.3 million refugees and 14.5 million internally displaced people. Two African countries, South Sudan and Somalia, are among the top five sources of refugees in the world. African countries, especially Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, also host the most refugees in the world. (UNHCR 2018). Under the theme, ARSO draws the world's focus on existing international and continental conventions (1951 UN Refugee Convention, the UN 1967 Protocol, the UN 2016 Global Refugee Compact, the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention, and the 2009 AU Kampala Convention) meant to deal with the refugee problems and makes the case that a strong standardisation system creates a virtuous cycle of positive impacts on economic and societal challenges on a global scale. Already, standardisation, is a key pillar in the implementation of the 20 goals and 174 targets of AU Agenda 2063; and the 17 Goals and

169 targets of the SDG 2030, within its People, Planet, Prosperity Peace and Partnership strategy, focusing on poverty and hunger, Security and Safety, accountable public institutions, legal justice, health, water and sanitation, education, gender equality, and climate change. All impact positively to the lives of refugees. The recognition and awards ceremony will be done at the ARSO WEEK 2020. Many member States have developed national mobilization strategies in their countries. In the picture, Mr. ISO Secretary General Sergio MUJICA is handing certificate of Participation in the 2018-2019 ARSO Standardisation Essay Competition to KEBS/Kenya in June 2019, at the ARSO 2019 ARSO Week, in Nairobi, Kenya.

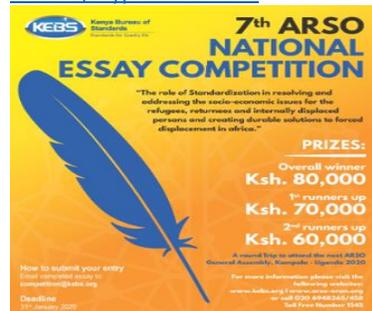
**Nigeria-** <https://son.gov.ng/6th-arso-continental-essay-competition-2018-2019-edition-2>

**Tanzania-** [http://www.tbs.go.tz/index.php/highlights/view/7th\\_arso\\_continental\\_essay\\_competition](http://www.tbs.go.tz/index.php/highlights/view/7th_arso_continental_essay_competition)

**Uganda/UNBS -**

### Kenya/KEBS-

<https://www.facebook.com/kebs.org/photos/a.130046227068112/3137053359700702/?type=1&theater>



**7th ARSO NATIONAL ESSAY COMPETITION**

"The role of Standardization in resolving and addressing the socio-economic issues for the refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and creating durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa."

**PRIZES:**

- Overall winner **Ksh. 80,000**
- 1<sup>st</sup> runner up **Ksh. 70,000**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up **Ksh. 60,000**

A round trip to attend the next ARSO General Assembly, Kisumu (Uganda 2019)

For more information please visit the following website: [www.kebs.org](http://www.kebs.org) or email [info@kebs.org](mailto:info@kebs.org) or call 020 4498245 / 456 (Toll Free Number 1456)

**How to submit your entry**  
Email completed entry to: [competition@kebs.org](mailto:competition@kebs.org)

**Deadline**  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

### Zambia/ZABS -

<https://www.facebook.com/zabszm/posts/have-you-already-submitted-your-essay-for-the-arso-essay-competition-if-not-here/1948328065312696/>



**7th ARSO National Essay Competition**

**Theme:**  
"The role of Standardization in resolving and addressing the socio-economic issues for the Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons and creating durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa"

**How to submit your entry**  
Email completed entry to: [info@zabs.org.zm](mailto:info@zabs.org.zm) or [marketing@zabs.org.zm](mailto:marketing@zabs.org.zm)

**Deadline:**  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

**Prizes:**

- Overall Winner **ZMW 3,500**
- 1<sup>st</sup> runner up **ZMW 2,500**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up **ZMW 1,500**

**For more information contact:**  
Mulenga Chikwanda on 0976064700 or Nzali Chaha on 0977755491.

### Zanzibar/ZBS -

<https://www.zenishoppazz.com/en/announcements/places/anndetails.php?node=87037036245&a=Nafasi%20za%20Masomo%20Zanzibar%20University%20mwaka%20wa>



**ZANZIBAR BUREAU OF STANDARDS**  
Standards . Quality . Life

**ZBS ZANZIBAR**

**TAAJIBU YA VIVANGO ZANZIBAR (ZBS)**

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ESSAY COMPETITION**

**%20masomo%202018/2019**

## Events and Meetings

### 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Harnessing the Islamic Economy in Africa to boost Intra-African Trade under the AfCFTA. ARSO Council Benchmarking Mission at the Halal 2020 Dubai Expo - UAE.

With the world's fastest-growing population, projected to be 1.9bn, by 2050, and with a Muslim population of 250m and projected to grow to over 385m by 2030, and the fact that Africa remains the



world's largest untapped Islamic commerce (Spanning across Halal fast moving consumer goods (FMCG - halal-certified food, beverages, spices and sauces), Islamic finance (banking, insurance, bonds and capital markets, investment and trade opportunities) and halal (sharia-compliant goods and services (Tourism, Fashion, cosmetics and film and media promotion, The Economist Intelligence Unit, 2015,)), has drawn the attention of Trade Experts, Policy Makers and the standardisation Community, as the reality that ISLAMIC Economy could be one of the best strategies of promoting intra-African trade, under the AfCFTA Agreement, as well as prompting the African SMEs as per the **the**

**AUC(SME) Strategy and Master Plan 2017-2021.** For the African standardisation Community, the issues standardisation and regulatory framework, including the varied standards and conformity assessment procedures remain a great concern. At the 61<sup>st</sup> ARSO Council Meeting held in Lusaka, Zambia, and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Zambia, through ZABS, Dr. Abdulla Abderqader Al Maeni, Director General, Emirates Authority for Standardisation and Metrology, (ESMA), who participated as a Guest Speaker on Halal Trade industry and its impact in developing countries, alongside Dr. Rehab Faraj Al Ameri, the Secretary General of International Halal Accreditation Forum-IHAF, extended an ESMA-sponsored invitation to the ARSO Council to attend the Dubai Halal Expo 2020, from 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> February 2020. **The Expo was attended by the Council Representatives from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.** *The activities included participation at the 5th Global Halal Industry Platform: Toward Global Halal Trade Opportunities which took place from 16th to 17th February 2020 at the Conrad Hotel Dubai, to explore the best Halala regulatory practices; a visited the Gulfood 2020 Exhibition at the Dubai World Trade Center, where worldwide food industries were represented and issues on Halal certification systems in agro-processing, packaging and labelling of processed food products, were highlighted; and the a meeting among the Council members themselves on halal certification without violating WTO principle of non-discrimination with exchange of information on the progress made so far in different countries such as Nigeria and Tanzania.*

### 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - 5th ATPC Steering Committee Meeting: Strategy to work with ARSO/PAQI Institutions on the TBT Annex 6.

The 5th ATPC Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) was held on 19th -20th February 2020 at the East African



Community Secretariat Headquarters. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Hassan Hussein who represented, H.E Albert Muchanga the AU Trade and Industry Commissioner and Ms. Khadija Jarik, First Secretary at the Canadian Embassy in Ethiopia, representing Global Affairs Canada (GAC). The objective of the meeting was to review (i) ATPC's activities during 2019 and (ii) ATPC's 2019 Annual Work Programme and budget and (iii) the ATPC Annual Report for 2019. The meeting highlighted the results achieved in 2019 and the planned activities for 2020 and 2021. **Due to ARSO's critical role in the Pan**

**African Quality Infrastructure and implementation of Annex 6 of the AfCFTA,** ATPC will support sensitization and implementation of the AfCFTA TBT and SPS annexes, 6 and 7, respectively, at the national level in collaboration with REC's and PAQI institutions. Engage more with the private sector especially national chambers of commerce, African SMEs and regional value chain actors on the AfCFTA and trade policy issues. The meeting was attended by representatives ARSO, AUC, AfDB, COMESA, CTPL, ECCAS, Global Affairs Canada, ODI, PACCI, SEATINI-UGANDA, SRO-CA, SRO-EA, SRO-SA, TRAPCA, UMA and UNECA.

**25th – 27 February 2020, Geneva, Switzerland – ARSO, as an Observer member, joins the world on global TBT discussions at the WTO TBT Committee meetings, represented by KEBS, Ms. Esther Ngari**



With 30 ratifications and 55 signatories by State parties, critically, strong political will continues to back progress towards implementation of the AfCFTA, however, though Trade and policy Experts Agree that by this trend, Africa might be entering a new phase in its pursuit to boost intra-African trade, deepen regional integration and expand its horizon in international trading systems, through the AfCFTA Trade Deal, they unanimously agree that this would only happen if the AfCFTA can be shaped as a comprehensive legal framework suitable for 21st century Free Trade Areas challenges, including designing a continental scheme to deal with Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs - Standards, technical regulations and Conformity assessment regimes, as major inconsistencies among countries' and Regions' (RECs) Standards, technical regulations and Conformity assessment regimes, as a major obstacle for trade, remain. The NTBs Annex 5, TBT Annex 6 and SPS Annex 7 of the AfCFTA Agreement already is designed for this. The WTO TBT Committee, that meets three times a year (March, June and November) serves as a platform to discuss concerns that may arise on regulatory and trade issues and ensures that regulations, standards, testing and certification procedures do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade.

ARSO was admitted as an Observer member in November 2015 and going forward, ARSO's participation at the WTO TBT Committee will be crucial in light of the operations of the AfCFTA Agreement TBT Annex 6 and SPS Annex 7, and in the context of article 3 of the Annex 6 (TBT), where State parties have reiterated their TBTs obligations and rights under the WTO TBT Agreement. **Ms. Esther Ngari, the KEBS/Kenya Director of Standards Development and Trade, presented the ARSO TBTs' report on its activities to promote pan-African harmonization of national technical regulations, standards and Conformity Assessment.** The ARSO Secretary General has on several occasions joined panel debates on WTO African Regional Workshops to offer strategies and perspectives on how African Governments and Policy Makers can draw upon the Continental Quality Infrastructure to promote trade through pan-African harmonization of TBTs and Common Regulatory Frameworks. Note also the initial 2016 report, published by the tralac, <https://www.tralac.org/news/article/9570-ars0-activities-for-the-implementation-of-the-wto-tbt-agreement.html>

**5th March 2020 - Optimizing Returns from Intra-African Trade in Livestock and Livestock Products under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). ARSO-IGAD discusses the harmonisation of Standards in livestock products.**

ARSO, IGAD, the AU IBAR and the ICPALD are currently holding discussions on the strategies for optimizing Returns from Intra-African Trade in Livestock and Livestock Products under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The cooperation is pushing for an agenda on the basic principles for trade (standards for trade, for food safety, animal health etc) to be harmonized with the existing national/regional/continental framework(s). The Cooperation is focused on strengthen the governance structure(s) (vet services, quarantine and food safety services, in the IGAD countries in order to sustain a quality of services within the national government(s) and line ministries / regulatory bodies. The cooperation is underlining which commodity (ies) ((milk, meat and live animals.) is (are) of interest for each of the IGAD Member States. Key to the discussions are the existing regulatory (policy and acts) and institutional (organizational) status; Inspection and control- compliance and enforcement; Implementation status of SPS agreement (risk assessment/equivalence, regionalization, transparency, harmonization



and dispute settlement); Inter-sectoral / ministry collaboration, and standards development/harmonisation and application. *IGAD Officials at a meeting at the ARSO central Secretariat.*

**New Cooperation**

**11th February 2020 - ARSO – COLEACP MOU. Promoting Agribusiness and Food Security in Africa.**



COLEACP is the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) and is a civil society organisation established in 1973 by stakeholders in the international fruit and vegetable trade and is committed to sustainable Agriculture. One of its activities, include support for ACP producers and exporters to meet SPS regulations and standards through a comprehensive programme of technical assistance. The ARSO Standards harmonisation activities are carried under the ARSO THC 02 on Agriculture and Food Products, which has been subdivided into 23 Technical Committees under the revised ARSO African Standards Harmonisation Model, in consultation with the RECs.

[https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/COLEACP\\_SPS\\_activities.pdf](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/COLEACP_SPS_activities.pdf). ARSO and the COLEACP signed an MoU on 11th February 2020 focusing on the standardisation activities in Agriculture and Food products with a focus on improving in Agricultural productivity and trade in Africa and strengthen the African SMEs to implement internal food safety management systems, among others.

## 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - ARSO – AAS MoU – Prompting Research and Good Financial Management Standards in Africa.



ARSO signed an MoU with the African Academy of Science on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 with an objective of to establishing a framework for cooperation in strengthening reserach systems on the African Continent through the devevelopment and implementation of a Pan African Standard for Good Research Management Practice (GRMP) and its Conformity Assement systems to benefit research management landscape in Africa. ARSO and the AAS have collaborated in the harmonisation of the African

Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP) standard, the ARS 1651: 2018 - Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP), Requirements, launched on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa. The AAS has developed the GFGP Certification Scheme (CS) which is AAS's private certification scheme and governed by a Scheme Governance Committee (SGC), for which ARSO is a member. The role of the Committee is to ensure that different needs and expectations of all stakeholders affected by the GFGP Certification activities are fairly and equitably addressed by the Governance of the Scheme. The Scheme details the requirements for Certification Bodies to undertake compliance certification audits to certify organizations are operating in compliance to the new GFGP standard, which is expected to be be utilized globally. The expectation is for ARSO, within 1-2 years, to submit the GFGP standard as a new work item to the International Standards Organization (ISO) for progression to become an ISO standard. When GFGP becomes an ISO standard, the scheme will then become a public scheme under the auspices of the appropriate ISO standards for establishing and maintenance of an ISO Certification Scheme and appointment of ISO Certification Bodies. *Capacity building for the implementation of the Good Finance Grant Practice (GFGP) standard for 10 countries is underway.* So far the GFGP Standard has been adopted by **Rwanda, Kenya and Ghana. Botswana, Nigeria and Uganda are in progress of adopting it.**

In Supporting grant-makers and organizations to quickly respond to the Covid-19 pandemic AAS is already calling on Organisations to access their compliance against the requirements of the global standards for Good Financial and Grant Practice, ARS 1651: 2018 - Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP), to receive award funds quickly and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic sooner and efficiently. Find more: <https://www.aasciences.africa/covid-19-updates>; <https://globalgrantcommunity.com/>

### POSTPONED AND SCHEDULED ARSO EVENTS

The following ARSO events which were earlier scheduled between March and June 2020, remain postponed, till further communication from the Central Secretariat:



1. 26<sup>th</sup> ARSO General Assembly Events, earlier scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and have been rescheduled to 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

2. The All African Day of Standardization and Made in Africa Expo earlier scheduled to take place in Accra, Ghana on 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

3. The ARSO THC 03, Building and Construction (WG 2- Flooring, Wall Finishing

and Roofing, THC 03-8 Building and Construction Materials) Standards Harmonisation Meeting earlier scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya on 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020.

4. The THC 07, Textile and Leather (WG 1- Leather, leather products and accessories and, WG-2 Textiles, textile products and accessories) Standards Harmonisation Meetings earlier scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya on 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
5. The ARSO-ANSI-ISO-National Standards Bodies (NSB) leadership-training workshop earlier scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 29-30 April 2020.
6. The ARSO THC 05, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering earlier scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya on 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
7. The ARSO THC 08-4 on Automotive Technology and Engineering Standards Harmonisation Meeting earlier scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya on 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
8. ARSO/THC 02-6 on Cocoa Sustainability Standards Harmonisation meeting earlier scheduled to take place in Accra, Ghana on 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## Opinion on the Implementation of AfCFTA

### 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020: Setting the date with destiny: How is the African Standardisation Community preparing Africa to commence real trade with itself?

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has brought economic lock down to most African countries, as in the world over, the 2019 AfDB's African Economic Outlook report projected Africa's GDP growth to accelerate to 4.1



percent in 2020 but only if growth will have industrial activities to spur intra-African Trade, through the elimination of the applied bilateral tariffs in Africa, keeping rules of origin simple, flexible, and transparent, **and of most relevance to NTBs Annex 5, TBT Annex 6 and SPS Annex 7 of the AfCFTA Agreement, and the African Standardisation Community, is the development of Strategies for the removal of all nontariff barriers on goods and services, especially the Technical Barriers to trade that has been a great hindrance to the free movement of Goods and Trade in Africa. On the**

**same, Gerhard Erasmus, 2019, in an article Dealing with Non-Tariff Barriers under the AfCFTA: What are the Prospects?,** agree that the elimination of tariffs could, over time, substantially increase intra-African trade, however, the true benefits will only be realised when procedures and rules to remove Africa's numerous NTBs (customs clearance delays, restrictive licensing processes, certification challenges, uncoordinated transport related regulations and corruption, restrictive government practices or their toleration, customs and administrative entry procedures, specific limitations, and charges on imports and mostly Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, (Standards, Technical Regulations, Conformity Assessment (Inspection, Testing and Certification procedures) Accreditation and Metrology) are put in place as proposed under Annex 5 NTBS, Annex 6 TBTs and SPS Annex 7, SPS.

The role of the RECS TBT/SPS secretariats and the African Standardisation Community (PAQI (ARSO, AFRAC, AFSEC, AFRIMETS) and National Quality Infrastructures (National Bureaus of Standards, National Metrology Institutes, and National Accreditation) will certainly determine how far NTBNs/TBTs stand on the way of the AfCFTA Goals. For the standardisation Community, ARSO and the RECs (CEMAC, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and UMA) with the participation of officials of African NSBs, AFREXIMBANK, PTB, TMEA, TRIPARTITE Secretariat and UNECA., had in November (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>) 2019 agreed to amend the Principles and Procedures for Harmonization of African Standards (ASHAM) to incorporate two key structures: **(a) The Joint Advisory Group (JAG) and (b) the Standards Management Committee (SMC)** to ensure greater cooperation meant to facilitate a Common Regulatory Framework in the continent to address the NTBs/TBTs. **The nomination of Experts to the JAG and CMS by the RECs Secretariat and the State parties (ARSO Members) is ongoing, and set to conclude by 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020, and for constitution by the 26<sup>th</sup> ARSO General Assembly.**

### Operationalisation phase of the AfCFTA Agreement 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019-1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 : Focusing on the AfCFTA Secretariat - Congratulations to the AfCFTA Secretary General, Mr. Wamkele Mene.

With the launching of the operational phase of the AfCFTA during the 12th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Niamey, Niger on 7 July 2019 and with the establishing of the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana, as hosted by the Government of the Republic of Ghana; the focus on the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement gained momentum and the African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government during their 33rd Ordinary Session held from 09 - 10 February 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, demonstrated determination to take rapid action to effectively operationalise the AfCFTA by electing its new **Secretary General, Mr. Wamkele Mene**. Mr. Wamkele Mene, first Secretary General of the AfCFTA) was sworn-in on 19 March 2020 at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in the presence of H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E Albert M. Muchanga AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry and H.E Edward Xolisa Makaya, the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the African Union and Chairperson of the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC). The Ceremony was also attended by H.E. Mrs. Amma Adoma Twum-Amoah, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana to the AU, representing the host country of the AfCFTA Secretariat and H.E. Mr. Zakario Maiga, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Niger, representing the Champion of the AfCFTA process. The Secretary General is expected to provide leadership and technical support to AfCFTA Secretariat and overall management of the day-to-day functioning of the Secretariat. He will be responsible for the management of the AfCFTA Secretariat, implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and strategic collaboration; stakeholders' engagement; and resources mobilization for the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement. Mr. Mene reiterated that the Africa Continental Free Trade Area offers Africa an opportunity to confront the significant trade and



economic development challenges of our time including under-developed industrial regional value chains; and high regulatory and tariff barriers to intra-Africa trade amongst others. (<https://au.int/en/speeches/20200319/statement-he-mr-wamkele-mene-occasion-swearing-secretary-general-afcfta>). **Given the Strategic role of ARSO on the implementation of the AfCFTA, ARSO joins the African Union and the International Community, in congratulating H.E. Mr. Mene on his appointment as the First Secretary General of the AfCFTA and looks forward for greater cooperation as per TBT Annex 6 of the AfCFTA Agreement, with ARSO being an implementing Agency. Dr. Nengimana and Mr. Mene have already held discussions on how the two organisations will work for the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement. Prof. Alex Dodoo, the current Director General of Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), and the appointed ARSO AfCFTA Secretariat Ambassador, will play a pivotal role.**

Prior, Mr. Mene served as South Africa's Chief Negotiator in the AfCFTA negotiations, and also negotiated on behalf of South Africa at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). He holds an LL.M in Banking Law and Financial Regulation from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He also holds an M.A. in International Studies & Diplomacy from the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London, alongside a B.A. Law from Rhodes University.

## 12th February 2020 – “Certified Once, Accepted Everywhere”. The Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) Meeting in Addis Ababa.

The WTO encourages Harmonization, use of equivalence and mutual recognition in the bilateral free trade agreements, such as the AfCFTA. This is based on the fact that even when standards in different countries have



been harmonized, the free flow of trade is inhibited if products are subjected to redundant testing and certification requirements in multiple export markets, this calls for harmonised Conformity Assessment systems. But even with harmonised standards and conformity Assessment regimes, without Mutual recognition arrangements of accreditation and certification systems, then harmonised standards and conformity assessment systems will not be effective enough. The WTO TBT Agreement under Article 6.3 strongly also encourages WTO Members to enter into negotiations with other Members for the mutual acceptance of conformity assessment results through Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) and facilitate the international concept and goal of “Certified Once, Accepted Everywhere”. This is made

possible through a network of mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) among international accreditation bodies (WTO 1994). For Africa, from the 1980 Lagos Plan of action, 1991 Abuja Treaty to the AfCFTA Agreement, a forceful effort at streamlining African regulatory frameworks with regards to common standards, certification and quality regulations at the regional and continental levels has been an appropriate priority for African leaders, trade and standards policymakers, with a clear goal of obtaining testing, certification, and registration of quality systems one time, and in one market, accepted everywhere. For this, the PAQI which a platform for the African Quality Infrastructure Institutions, comprising African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), the Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS), the African Electro technical Standardisation Commission (AFSEC) and ARSO, was officially inaugurated on 30th August 2013 by the Director for Trade and Industry, African Union Commission. The AfCFTA TBT Annex 6 provisions on standards, Conformity Assessments and accreditation and provides cooperation mechanisms for the PAQI Institutions to deliver a common regulatory framework for Africa through harmonised Standards, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Mutual recognition Arrangements.

**PAQI held its 15th Joint Committee Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 12th February 2020 under the theme, upgrading of African Quality Infrastructure within the AfCFTA to consider the following activities; (i) the Africa Quality Policy (AQP) which has been finalised and translated into Arabic, French and Portuguese, and will be submitted to the AUC for further adoption; The African SPS Stocktaking document which has been finalised and translated with 200 copies to be printed for stakeholders; (iii) the TBT Stocktaking Document 2020, currently being prepared for a final version to be shared by stakeholders; (iv) Consideration of the inception report of the Joint cassava value chain Project; (v) The Implementation of certification schemes and the requirements for scheme owners with AFRAC developing the concept and guidelines. The meeting also discussed the strategies to position the PAQI in the AfCFTA and on how to deal with the technical regulations in the implementation of the AfCFTA agreement.**



African Experts for the ARSO THC-02 – TC 6, Coffee, cocoa, tea and related products. Nairobi Kenya, 3-7 February 2020.

Although global tariffs have been reduced, there has been a rise in the use of other mechanisms including voluntary export restraints; production subsidies; import quotas; and a wide range of non-tariff barriers, including those related to standards and conformity assessment mechanisms, are used by countries across the globe to deny access of goods to national markets. Trade protection that restricts competition or restrains circulation of products in international markets reduces global efficiency and slows economic advance.

The scope of a standard is an important criterion for their influence on Value Chains. In general, standards can have national, regional (e.g. African), or international (ISO) scope. Even though a national standard is publicly available, foreign market actors have more difficulties to apply the standard than domestic market actors (Blind 2004). In some cases, the adaptation costs for foreign market actors are prohibitive (Blind and Jungmittag 2005). For Africa, Heterogeneity of standards and Conformity Assessment regimes, developed by different countries and regions make trade contentious and costly (OECD and WTO 2012). But these difficulties can be circumvented through harmonization of national standards into international or regional ones (OECD, WTO, and UNCTAD 2013). Standards that are harmonized in a regional agreement increase trade flows between the partners (Chen and Mattoo (2008)), as harmonised standards are specifications with global consensus and increase the openness of economies and governance of Value Chains, as the supply and demand of the concerned goods and services are as large as possible and economies of scale can be exploited (Blind 2004). By fragmenting the prospective markets for products that could otherwise be produced and marketed on a global scale, the lack of recognised harmonized standards reduces the economic advantages of free-flowing single and larger markets. Harmonization entails the revision or interpretation of different standards in such a way as to render them equivalent. International harmonization of standards enables manufacturers to produce more efficiently for a larger, combined market, like the single African market envisaged under the AfCFTA deal.

The anticipated standards harmonised by ARSO is comparable to the 4,547 HS6, Tariff lines for the AfCFTA, as per the table below:

**Number of Harmonized Standards in Comparison to Tariff Lines in Integration Units**

Integration Unit	No. of Tariff Lines	No. of Standards	Product Standards	% of Tariff Lines	% Deficit
COMESA	6,903	305	250	3.6	96.4
EAC	5,440 HS6	1,500	500	9.2	90.8
ECOWAS	5,899	100	60	1.0	99.0
SADC	6,420 HS8	100	90	1.4	98.6
SACU	7,902 HS8	—	—	—	—
UEMOA	5,544 HS10				
AfCFTA (ARSO)	4,547 HS6	1,345	537	11.8	88.2

References: COMESA (Cheelo et al., 2012); EAC (Karingi et al., 2016; KAM, 2017); ECOWAS & UEMOA (de Roquefeuil, 2013; Laski et al., 2014); SADC & SACU (Edwards et al., 2008; Cheelo et al., 2012); AfCFTA (UNECA, 2018).

**3-7 February 2020: The Importance of the Cocoa Regional Value Chains - ARSO THC 02-6 on sustainable cocoa Standards Meeting.**

Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, the Secretary General of UNCTAD, in the 2019 UNCTAD Economic Report for Africa, states that the cocoa industry provides one of the most telling examples of how the AfCFTA could support structural transformation, paving the way for the vision enshrined in Agenda 2063, through the development of agro-

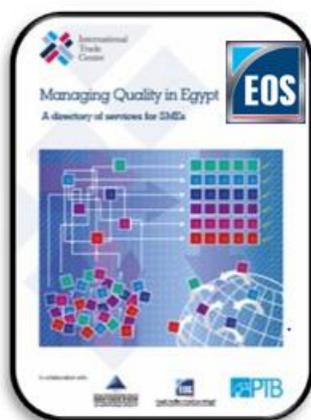
processing regional value chains for the continent's strategic commodities. He points out that the African smallholders produce 75 per cent of cocoa beans worldwide, but Africa accounts for only 20 per cent of the world's total grinding which amounts to about \$112 billion. He observes that the regional value chains in the cocoa industry that could create high value-added products are challenged by insufficient economies of scale (regulatory framework), logistical challenges, poor infrastructure, as well as high levels of tariff protection. He agrees that the cooperation between producers across different regional economic communities and standardized rules of origin and common regulatory Framework across the continent, as agreed in the AfCFTA, could bolster competitiveness of African inputs into the cocoa industry value chain. The same is true for many of the other promising value chains across Africa.

**Under its THC – 02, TC 06, Coffee, cocoa, tea and related products as led by Experts from Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana Fastrack Procedures, African Experts are undertaking the harmonisation of sustainable Cocoa Standards. The Experts met in Nairobi, Kenya at the Safari hotel to consider different standards on Cocoa, including the SRS 1001, Sustainable Cocoa — Part 1: Requirements for Cocoa Farmer as Entity/Farmer Group/Cooperative Management System and Performance; SRS 1002, Sustainable Cocoa — Part 2: Requirements for Cocoa Quality and Traceability and SRS 1003, Sustainable Cocoa — Part 3: Requirements for Cocoa Certification Scheme**

## ARSO MEMBERS STATES NEWS

### Egypt/EOS- Egyptian Organisation for Standardisation and Quality (EOS)

Releasing a new amendment for National Quality Infrastructure Book. The National Quality Infrastructure is the institutional framework that establishes and implements the practice of standardization, including conformity assessment services, metrology, accreditation and market surveillance. The book is prepared to describe briefly the pillars of the National Quality Infrastructure in Egypt, and the services of the entities and institutions. The book highlights a technical quality infrastructure as a combination of initiatives, institutions, organizations, activities and competent persons. It includes a national quality policy and institutions to implement it, a regulatory framework, quality service providers, enterprises, customers and consumers (who include citizens as “consumers” of government services). The book was presented in collaboration with the International Trade Centre, the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), the EOS and the Engineering Export Council of Egypt as a guiding hand for exporters and importers to enhance trade exchange.



### Malawi - Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)

**MBS named the best parastatal in Malawi in 2019.** <http://mbsmw.org/2020/01/28/mbs-named-number-one-performing-parastatal/>.



In the year 2019, the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) was named the most outstanding performing parastatal. This was announced on 19<sup>th</sup> December at Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe by the Chief Secretary to the Government, Mr Lloyd Muhara who presided over the ceremony. Speaking after receiving the award, MBS Director General, Mr Symon O Mandala said that the good news came as a

result of a team of dedicated staff that is geared to serve Malawi better knowing quality in standards translates into social and economic development of the country. The MBS was also recognized for adherence to most of the proposals by the Public Sector Reforms Commission (PSRC), which falls under the Office of the President and cabinet (OPC) and also for its quick response to issues of quality on certain products as raised by members of the general public.

## Membership

### 39 Members Strong - Djibouti and Morocco formalises ARSO membership The Kingdom of



**Morocco** The African Union (CAMoT 2014) had requested all African Countries to join ARSO by 2017 to facilitate the implementation of the AfCFTA. **With the Republic of Djibouti and the Kingdom of Morocco**, both Signatory State parties to the AfCFTA Agreement, **joining ARSO, the ARSO membership now standards at 39 African Countries out of 55 all of which have signed the AfCFTA Agreement.** The Kingdom of Morocco, through its Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya and the **Service de Normalisation Industrielle Marocaine/ Institut Marocain de Normalisation (IMANOR) joined ARSO** after signing the necessary Instruments for the ARSO membership, in February 2020. Since 2010, Morocco has been running Halal Product Conformity Assessment/Certification systems, in consultation with the Halal Conformity Bodies (HCBs) and the High Council of Oulemas that represents the highest religious Authority in Morocco. This

is crucial for the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement, as the African Standardization Community and the Trade Experts/Policy Makers appreciate the Halal/Islamic economy as a strategy for improving-intra African trade under the AfCFTA.

**The Republic of Djibouti** signed the instruments of ARSO membership in October 2019, awaiting formal admission during the 26<sup>th</sup> ARSO General Assembly events slated for November 2020 in Kampala, Uganda. Out of the 30 African Countries which have ratified the AfCFTA Agreement 22 are ARSO members. This sets a positive environment for cooperation among ARSO members to achieve a common regulatory framework for Africa, under the AfCFTA. The need for the cooperation of all African countries, under ARSO, for harmonised regulatory Framework to promote the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement, as provided for under the TBT Annex 6 and SPS Annex 7, remains critical as the African Continent prepares to begin trading under a Single Market, in July 2020, within the AfCFTA trade deal.



### **Congratulations: New Appointments at the ARSO Member States:**

**Due to their Mandate and Influence on the establishment of the Legal and Institutional Framework for Regulatory Compliance, the National Bureau of Standards in Africa have a decisive influence on the question "to what degree Technical Barriers to Trade presents a stepping stone or rather a stumbling block towards the implementation of a African Continental Free Trade Area?."**

#### **Gabon/AGANOR: Mr. Abdu Razzaq Guy KAMBOGO is the New Directeur General of the Agence Gabonaise de Normalisation (AGANOR).**



Created by Decree No. 0227/PR/MIMT of 23 June 2014, the Agence Gabonaise de Normalisation (AGANOR) is a state-owned industrial and administrative institution, under the Minister for Industry. AGANOR is the national body for standards, conformity assessment and metrology. Born on September 6, 1974 in Akiéni, in the province of Haut-Ogooué in Gabon, the former Extraordinary Ambassador and Plenipotentiary, High Representative of Gabon to the Kingdom of Morocco from March 2013 to January 2018 and former Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Francophonie and Regional Integration, and Married, Mr. Abdu Razzaq Guy KAMBOGO was appointed the Director General of AGANOR on 31<sup>ST</sup> January 2020. With an Economic and financial administration experience and knowledge,

Mr. KAMBOGO has a rich background. From 06 August 2008 to 28 October 2009, he served as Director General of the National Centre for University Works (CNOU). From 21 August 2007 to March 2013, he was Director of the Programme of Institutional Support and Development of Human Resources (PAI-DRH) at the Ministry of Budget, Public Accounts, Public Service, responsible for the Reform of the State. From May 2001 to 06 August 2008, he served at the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Economy, Finance, Budget and Privatisation as Chargé d'Etudes de Cabinet. November 2001 - November 2004: Consultant (Managerial Organisation (Managerial and Structural Organisation), Commercial and Marketing Director, SAT TV Group. July 2002 - November 2004: Consultant (Management Organisation, structuring and programme schedule)/ Director of Programming TV channel Teleafrica and Telegabon. He has vast experience in project Management having implemented: the General States of National Education in 2010, as an expert member of the Preparatory Committee. The development and implementation of the Treasury Public Accounting Package, as Assistant to the ASTER Project Coordinator (February 2006-August 2008). He was made a Knight in the Order of Gabonese Merit. The Grand Cordon of Wissam Alawite was also awarded to him by King Mohammed VI at the end of his diplomatic mission in the Kingdom of Morocco. **Since taking over as head of the Gabonese Standards Agency, Mr. Abdu Razzaq Guy KAMBOGO has pushed a participatory and innovative dynamic policy in order to raise the Quality Infrastructure at the heart of the development of the Gabonese economy. He holds a bachelor's degree in the 'B' series (Economic and Social Sciences obtained in 1994 at leon Mba National High School); a Master's degree in SME and Environmental Management (Bac 6), obtained in 2001 at the University of Quebec in Trois-Rivières, Canada. Between 1994 and 1998, he graduated from the School of International Business Studies (HECI) in Rabat, Morocco.**

#### **Zanzibar/ZBS - Rahima Ali Bakar, Director General of Zanzibar Bureau of Standards**



Rahima Ali Bakar (born October 1988. ), is a Director General of Zanzibar Bureau of Standards, She hold master of Agriculture in food Security and agricultural development from Kyungpook National University , Daegu, South Korea. Prior to her appointment as Director General of Zanzibar Bureau of Standards in 2020, she was a Director of Quality Management at Zanzibar Bureau of Standards.

**ARSO welcomes you all to the ARSO Fraternity and assures you of its support as you implement the National Standardization Agenda of your various governments, in line with the African Development Agenda.**

**2021 ALL AFRICAN DAY OF STANADISATION – KINSHASHA, DR CONGO  
ARSO WEEK 2020 WITH UNBS – NOVEMBER 2020, KAMPALA UGANDA**



**Dr. Ben Manyido, Director General, Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) welcomes delegates to the 26<sup>th</sup> ARSO General Assembly Events to be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Uganda, through the UNBS.**

**DR Congo/OCC Set to Host the 63<sup>rd</sup> ARSO Council in Kinshaha, DR Congo at adate to be announced**



**Mr. Pierre Célestin RISASI TABU wa M'SIMBWA, the OCC Director General, would be welcoming the Standardisation Community and Policy Makers to an All African Day of Standaisation in Kisasha , DR Congo, possibly in March**



**2021. Before the COVID-19 outbreak, wich pushed the 26<sup>th</sup> GA events from June to November 2020, the OCC was scheduled to host the 63<sup>rd</sup> Council in November 2020. The 2020-All African Day of Stanadardisation was supposed t be held in Accr, Ghana in March 2020.**

**Further communications and confirmtions to be made by the Central Secretariat**



**African Women in Standardisation. Currently ARSO has joined the international standardisation Community, led by the UNECE, in agitating for gender responsive standards. This is taking into consideration the Greater role standardisation play in Trade, Agriculture and services how women are more involved, in these activities through the MMSEs/MSEs.**

**File picture from the 57<sup>th</sup> ARSO Council in Khartoum, Sudan, in November 2017. Then ARSO President, Dr. Eve Gadzikwa (centre) with Ms. Rahba Mouhammed, Secretary to the ARSO THC 13, African Traditional Medicine, standing right, with Sudanese ladies in Standardisation.**

## ARSO Standards Harmonised under the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

Under the 2017 – 2022 Strategic Plan, the target were **90 Standards** however **120 standards** have been harmonised surpassing the Target.

### THC 07: Textiles and Leather

- (1) ARS 1551:2017, *Textiles and textile merchandise — Terms and definitions*
- (2) ARS 1552:2017, *Standard methods of garment measurement — Code of practice*
- (3) ARS 1553:2017, *Men's and women's leather belts — Specification*
- (4) ARS 1554:2017, *Ladies fashion handbags — Specification*
- (5) ARS 1555:2017, *Leather gloves — Specification*
- (6) ARS 1556:2017, *Chrome tanned bend outsole leather — Specification*
- (7) ARS 1557:2017, *Vegetable tanned bend outsole leather — Specification*
- (8) ARS 1558:2017, *Children's school shoes with direct injection*
- (9) ARS 1559:2017, *Men's open shoes — Specification*
- (10) ARS 1560:2017, *Men's closed shoes — Specification*
- (11) ARS 1561:2017, *Women's open shoes — Specification*
- (12) ARS 1562:2017, *Women's closed shoes — Specification*
- (13) ARS 1563:2017, *Children's shoes 0-2 years — Specification*
- (14) ARS 1564:2017, *Children's shoes above 2 years and up to 6 years — Specification*
- (15) ARS 1565:2017, *Sports shoes — Specification*
- (16) ARS 1566:2017, *Disposable diapers for infants — Specification*
- (17) ARS 1567-1:2017, *School wear fabrics — Part 1: Basic requirements*
- (18) ARS 1567-2:2017, *School wear fabrics — Part 2: Blazer fabrics*
- (19) ARS 1567-3:2017, *School wear fabrics — Part 3: Polyester/wool blend fabrics*
- (20) ARS 1567-4:2017, *School wear fabrics — Part 4: Polyester/viscose blend fabrics*
- (21) ARS 1567-5:2017, *School wear fabrics — Part 5: Polyester/cotton blend fabrics*
- (22) ARS 1567-6:2017, *School wear fabrics — Part 6: Shirting and blouse fabrics*
- (23) ARS 1567-7:2017, *School wear fabrics — Part 7: Fabrics containing textured yarns*
- (24) ARS 1567-8:2017, *School wear fabrics — Part 8: Warp knitted fabrics*
- (25) ARS 1568-1:2017, *School clothing — Part 1: General requirements for school clothing*
- (26) ARS 1568-2:2017, *School clothing — Part 2: Blazers*
- (27) ARS 1568-3:2017, *School clothing — Part 3: Trousers and shorts*
- (28) ARS 1568-4:2017, *School clothing — Part 4: Shirts*
- (29) ARS 1568-6:2017, *School clothing — Part 6: Dresses, tunics and gyms*
- (30) ARS 1568-7:2017, *School clothing — Part 7: Slacks and skirts*
- (31) ARS 1568-9:2017, *School clothing — Part 9: Knee highs and socks*
- (32) ARS 1568-10:2017, *School clothing — Part 10: Jerseys and cardigans*
- (33) ARS 1568-12:2017, *School clothing — Part 12: Tracksuits*
- (34) ARS 1568-13:2017, *School clothing — Part 13: Athletic wear*
- (35) ARS 653:2019, *Textiles — Sanitary towels — Specification*
- (36) ARS 658-1:2019, *Textiles — Socks — Part 1: Mens and womens socks — Specification*
- (37) ARS 658-2:2019, *Textiles — Socks — Part 2: Commercial and sports hose — Specification*
- (38) ARS 1569:2019, *The labelling and marking of textiles and household textile articles*
- (39) ARS 1570:2019, *Printed labels for textiles*
- (40) ARS 1571:2019, *Textiles — Woven cement sacks*
- (41) ARS 1572:2019, *Textiles — Disposable adult diapers — Specification*
- (42) ARS 1573-1:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 1: Basic requirements for piece-goods and made-up articles*
- (43) ARS 1573-2:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 2: Winter sheeting, sheets and pillowcases*
- (44) ARS 1573-3:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 3: Cotton sheeting, sheets and pillowcases*
- (45) ARS 1573-4:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 4: Polyester-and-cotton sheeting, sheets and pillowcases*
- (46) ARS 1573-5:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 5: Terry towelling, towels, and other terry weave articles*
- (47) ARS 1573-6:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 6: Cotton curtain fabrics*
- (48) ARS 1573-7:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 7: Cotton curtain lining*
- (49) ARS 1573-8:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 8: Bedspread fabrics and bedspreads*
- (50) ARS 1573-9:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 9: Cotton flannelette duster fabric and dusters*
- (51) ARS 1573-10:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 10: Cotton ticking*
- (52) ARS 1573-11:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 11: Featherproof fabrics*
- (53) ARS 1573-12:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 12: Kitchen cloth fabric and kitchen cloths*
- (54) ARS 1573-13:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 13: Cotton huckaback towelling and towels*
- (55) ARS 1573-14:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 14: Cotton table-cloth fabric, table-cloths and table napkins*
- (56) ARS 1573-15:2019, *Textiles — Woven cotton and similar household fabrics and articles — Part 15: Cotton dishcloth fabrics and dishcloths*
- (57) ARS 1574:2019, *General requirements for woven textile piece-goods and household articles*
- (58) ARS 1575:2019, *Textiles — Reusable sanitary towels — Specification*

### 8.2 ARSO THC 02, Agriculture and Food Products June 2018

- (59) ARS 457:2018, *Barley — Specification*
- (60) ARS 886:2018, *Fresh pineapples — Specification*
- (61) ARS 884:2018, *Fresh tomatoes — Specification*

- (62) ARS: 921:2018, *Fresh onions — Specification*
- (63) ARS 903:2018, *Fresh melons — Specification*
- (64) ARS 885:2018, *Fresh citrus fruits — Specification*
- (65) ARS 890:2018, *Passion fruit — Specification*
- (66) ARS 888:2018, *Fresh mangoes — Specification*
- (67) ARS 887:2018, *Fresh avocados — Specification*
- (68) ARS 889:2018, *Fresh papaya — Specification*
- (69) ARS 891:2018, *Fresh sweet pepper — Specification*
- (70) ARS 922:2018, *Headed cabbages — Specification*
- (71) ARS 927:2018, *Fresh kales (leafy vegetables) — Specification*
- (72) ARS 930:2018, *Fresh chillies — Specification*
- (73) ARS 942:2018, *Fresh carrots — Specification*
- (74) ARS/AES 05:2018, *Aquaculture — Catfish — Sustainability and ecolabelling — Requirements*
- (75) ARS/AES 06:2018, *Aquaculture — Tilapia — Sustainability and ecolabelling — Requirements*
- (76) ARS 1100:2018, *Production and handling of food crops — Good agricultural practices*
- (77) ARS 1101:2018, *Production and handling of maize (corn) grains — Good agricultural practices*
- (78) ARS 1102:2018, *Production and handling of rice — Good agricultural practices*
- (79) ARS 1103:2018, *Production and handling of cassava — Good agricultural practices*
- (80) ARS 1104:2018, *Dairy production farms — Good agricultural practices*
- (81) ARS 1105:2018, *Poultry production farms — Good agricultural practices*
- (82) ARS 1106:2018, *Tilapia production aquaculture farms — Good aquacultural practices*
- (83) ARS 1107:2018, *Freshwater aquatic animal production farms — Good aquaculture practices*
- (84) ARS 1108:2018, *Beef cattle production farms — Good agricultural practices*
- (85) ARS 1109:2018, *Production and handling of fruits and vegetables — Good agricultural practices*

#### **ARSO THC 02-1, Beehive Products and Pollination Services**

- (86) ARS 1401:2018, *Crude and refined beeswax — Specification*
- (87) ARS 1402:2018, *Beehives — Specification*
- (88) ARS 1403:2018, *Extracted honey — Specification*
- (89) ARS 1404:2018, *Folding and fixed beehive stands — Specifications*
- (90) ARS 1406:2018, *Tangential type honey extractor — Specification*
- (91) ARS 1408:2018, *Layout for honey processing plant*
- (92) ARS 1411:2018, *Radial type honey extractor — Specification*
- (93) ARS 1414:2018, *Fumigant strips for treatment of honeybees*
- (94) ARS 1415:2018, *Solar wax extractor — Specification*
- (95) ARS 1416:2018, *Beeman's kit — Specification*
- (96) ARS 1418:2018, *Honey processing unit — Technical requirements*
- (97) ARS 1419:2018, *Honey — Specification*
- (98) ISO 12824:2016, *Royal jelly — Specifications* (Recommended for adoption through notification)

#### **THC 05, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering**

- (99) ARS 489:2018, *Toilet soap — Specification*
- (100) ARS 490:2018, *Laundry soap — Specification*
- (101) ARS 493:2018, *Safety wood matches — Specification*
- (102) ARS 496-1:2018, *Synthetic detergent powders — Part 1: Performance-based household*
- (103) ARS 496-2:2018, *Synthetic detergent powders — Part 2: Composition-based household hand wash*
- (104) ARS 496-3:2018, *Synthetic detergent powders — Part 3: Composition-based machine wash*
- (105) ARS 502:2018, *Compound fertilizers — Specification*
- (106) ARS 505:2018, *Ammonium sulphate — Specification*
- (107) ARS 1472:2018, *Cleaning chemicals for use in food industry*
- (108) ARS 1476:2018, *Acidic liquid toilet cleaners — Specifications*
- (109) ARS 1483:2018, *Calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN) fertilizer — Specifications*
- (110) ARS 1487:2018, *Potassium chloride (muriate of potash) fertilizer — Specification*
- (111) ARS 1488:2018, *Potassium sulphate (sulphate of potash) — Specification*

#### **THC 12-2, Service: Financial**

- (112) ARS 1651:2018, *Good Financial Grant Practice — Requirements*

#### **THC 03, Building and Civil Engineering**

- (113) ARS 670-1:2019, *Compressed earth blocks — Part 1: Definitions, classifications specifications*
- (114) ARS 670-2:2019, *Compressed earth blocks — Part 2: Earth mortars*
- (115) ARS 670-3:2019, *Compressed earth blocks — Part 3: Test methods*
- (116) ARS 670-4:2019, *Compressed earth blocks — Part 4: Code of practice for production and construction*
- (117) ARS 1306-1:2019, *Guide for concrete — Part 1: Materials and testing*
- (118) ARS 1307:2019, *Guideline for energy efficiency in buildings*
- (119) ARS 1308:2019, *Guidelines for structural design for heavy duty pavement constructed of concrete or clay paving units*
- (120) ARS 1336:2019, *Guidelines for laying of precast concrete or clay paving units*

## ARSO PICTORIALS



**8th February 2020** – ARSO Secretary General Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, left, and The Technical Director, right, Meets with the Officials from the American Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.



**8th February 2020** – The ARSO Central Secretariat staff, led by the Secretary General, discusses with the officials from the American Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.



**PAQI delegates at the 15th Joint Committee Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 12th February 2020**



**6th March 2020** - ARSO Central Secretariat, the ARSO Secretary General, right, with Dr. Celestine Okanya, the President of ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System (ECORAS), and Mr. Reuben Gisore and Ms Nadine Umutoni, during the handing over ceremony of the PAQI Presidency to AFRAC.



**PAQI –RECs and RECs Officials in a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, discussing among other things the African Quality Policy.**



**19th – 20th February 2020** - 5th ATPC Steering Committee Meeting: Strategy to work with ARSO/PAQI Institutions on the TBT Annex 6.



20th February 2020 – The ARSO President, addressing the delegates at the Dubai Halal Expo 2020 and the Regulatory Framework benchmarking activities.



17th February 2020 – Group Photo of ARSO Council Officials after the 5th Global Halal Platform forum at the Dubai Halal Expo 2020 Group Photo.



20th February 2020 – Dr. Eve Gadzikwa, Director General of SAZ, Zimbabwe and the immediate past ARSO President, addressing the delegates at the Dubai Halal Expo 2020 and the Regulatory Framework benchmarking activities.



Dr Eve Gadzikwa receiving an Halal Product Souvenir from Dr. Yousef Al Saadi Conformity Affairs Department Director Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology at the Dubai Halal Expo 2020.



ARSO Secretary General receiving an Halal Product Souvenir from Dr. Yousef Al Saadi Conformity Affairs Department Director Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology, at Dubai Halal Expo 2020.



The ARSO President, addressing the delegates at the Dubai Halal Expo 2020 and the Regulatory Framework benchmarking activities.



18th February 2020 - ARSO Council officials after the training on Halal certification.



ARSO and ESMA Official pose for a Group Photo.



**26th February 2020** – Kampala, Uganda – Dr Canisius Kanangire, the Secretary General of African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) addressing delegates at the AfWA 2020 Congress in Kampala, Uganda, which was held under the theme "Breaking new grounds to accelerate access to water and sanitation for all in Africa".



**26th February 2020** – Kampala, Uganda – Dr. Nsengimana, right, following the proceedings at the at the AfWA 2020 Congress in Kampala, Uganda.



**26th February 2020** – Kampala, Uganda – Honorable David Mahlobo, Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Republic of South Africa, addressing Delegates at the at the AfWA 2020 Congress in Kampala, Uganda.



**26th February 2020** – Kampala, Uganda, Mr. El Hadji Abdourahmane, left, the Directeur Général Association Sénégalaise de Normalisation (ASN), Senegal, and the Chair of the ARSO/THC 09-3 Technical Working Group on Drinking Water Supply and Wastewater Systems, participating in the panel discussions, under the theme "Breaking new grounds to accelerate access to water and sanitation for all in Africa" at the AfWA 2020 Congress.



**26th**

**February 2020** – Kampala, Uganda, delegates at the AfWA 2020 Congress, are taken through a video session developed by ANSI Sanitation titled "Sanitation Standards Explained in 2 Minutes" on non-sewered sanitation standards and how they can improve the global sanitation crisis, -English (<https://youtu.be/TvGZQ3z7hZg>) and French ([https://youtu.be/dfRki\\_tK4WA](https://youtu.be/dfRki_tK4WA)).



**26th February 2020** – Kampala, Uganda, Traditional Dancers at the opening Ceremony of the African Water Association (AfWA) 2020 Congress, held under the theme "Breaking new grounds to accelerate access to water and sanitation for all in Africa".



File Picture of PAQI Stakeholders meeting in June 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss among other things, the African Quality STOCK-Taking activity on the Status of Quality Infrastructue in Africa and the Strategy to strenthen and improve it.



In this File Picture, ISO President (then – President-Elect) Mr. Eddy Njoroge, presenting Certificate to a University Student who emerged one of the winners in the 2018-2019 ARSO Essay Competitions at the 2019 ARSO WEEK in Nairobi, Kenya.



File Picture of PAQI Stakeholders meeting in July 2019 in Abuja Nigeria in a Consultative Meeting on the discussion of the African Quality Policy.

Lusaka, Zambia, 20TH – 22ND November 2019 : 61st ARSO Council Meeting, held under the theme Repositioning Of ARSO Within the AfCFTA



Masego Marobela (Mrs), ARSO Vice President, Vice Chairperson of the ARSO Champions and the BOBs Managing Director, Botswana addressing delegates at the meeting.



Ms. Margaret Lungu, then Acting Executive Director of ZABS, addressing delegates at the meeting.



ARSO Secretary General addressing delegates at the meeting.



Mr. M. KAMFWAMFWA from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Zambia, addressing delegates during the Official Ceremony of the 61st Council Meeting.



Ms. Chinyere V. Egwuonwu, of SON, Nigeria, giving vote of thanks, on behalf of the Council, during the opening ceremony of the 61st Council Meeting.



GSA/Ghana Delegation at the 61st Council Meeting..



Dr. Abdulla Abderqader Al Maeni, ESMA, Director General, Dubai, United Arab Emirates leading discussions and presentation on the opportunities of Halal Economy for the implementation of the AfCFTA Goals.



Delegates at the 61st Council Meeting in a group Photo.



Dr. Chaesub Lee, Director Telecommunication standardization Bureau International Telecommunication Union (ITU), leading discussions and presentation on the opportunities on key ITU standardisation work making linkages to the AfCFTA Agreement and opportunities for the implementation of the AfCFTA Goals.



Dr. Rehab Faraj Al Ameri, 2nd right, Secretary General International Halal Accreditation Forum- IHAF, United Arab Emirates makes contributions to discussions during the 61st Council Meeting.



Delegation follow proceedings at the 61st Council Meeting.

Kenyan



ARSO Secretary General, left, pose in a group photo with Dr. Rehab Faraj Al Ameri, Dr. Chaesub Lee and Dr. Abdulla Abderqader Al Maeni at the 61st Council meeting.



The Burkina Faso Delegation follow proceedings at the 61st Council Meeting.



The Tanzania and South African Delegations follow proceedings at the 61st Council Meeting



.. The Nigerian and Rwanda Delegations follow proceedings at the 61st Council Meeting.