Form 1: Proposal for a new field of technical activity

Circulation date: 2017-06-18 Closing date for voting: 2017-10-10	Reference number (to be given by Central Secretariat)
Proposer: SIS Swedish Standards Institute	**ISO/TS/P** TS/P267

A proposal for a new field of technical activity shall be submitted to the Central Secretariat, which will assign it a reference number and process the proposal in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives (part 1, subclause 1.5). The proposer may be a member body of ISO, a technical committee, subcommittee or project committee, the Technical Management Board or a General Assembly committee, the Secretary-General, a body responsible for managing a certification system operating under the auspices of ISO, or another international organization with national body membership. Guidelines for proposing and justifying a new field of technical activity are given in the ISO/IEC Directives (part 1, Annex C).

The proposal (to be completed by the proposer)

Title of the proposed new committee (The title shall indicate clearly yet concisely the new field of technical activity which the proposal is intended to cover.)
Social Responsibility

Scope statement of the proposed new committee (The scope shall precisely define the limits of the field of activity. Scopes shall not repeat general aims and principles governing the work of the organization but shall indicate the specific area concerned.)

Standardization in the field of social responsibility*

      *As defined in ISO 26000:
Social responsibility
responsibility of an organization for the impacts of its decisions and activities on society and the environment, through transparent and ethical behaviour that
- contributes to sustainable development, including health and the welfare of society;
- takes into account the expectations of stakeholders;
- is in compliance with applicable law and consistent with international norms of behaviour; and
- is integrated throughout the organization and practised in its relationships

Excluded: areas that are dealt with by other technical committees

NOTE: This TC will only develop ISO deliverables in areas that are outside the scope of other existing ISO Technical Committees. Therefore, the main focus areas are general methods for social responsibility management, Human Rights, Fair Operating Practices, Consumer issues Sustainable Consumption, and Community Involvement and Development.

Proposed initial programme of work (The proposed programme of work shall correspond to and clearly reflect the aims of the standardization activities and shall, therefore, show the relationship between the subject proposed. Each item on the programme of work shall be defined by both the subject aspect(s) to be standardized (for products, for example, the items would be the types of products, characteristics, other requirements, data to be supplied, test methods, etc.). Supplementary justification may be combined with particular items in the programme of work. The proposed programme of work shall also suggest priorities and target dates.

The proposed TC SR would continue to build on the success of ISO 26000:2010 Guidance on Social Responsibility, a standard that has been adopted as national standard in more than 80 of the ISO member countries. Many additional ISO deliverables have been developed, in for example project committees, based on ISO 26000 and a new TC SR can help companies and other organizations better understand and use exiting and additional standards in the field of social responsibility. The programme of work is focused on combining areas that have been standardized or are in need of standardization:

ISO 26000:2010 Guidance on Social Responsibility:
Maintain and act on results of systematic reviews
Guidance and promotion, including the existing linkage documents between ISO 26000:2010 and other international documents UN Global Compact, OECD MNE Guidelines, IIRC, UN Sustainable Development Goals and Global Reporting Standards. Develop new linkage documents, most urgently with UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

IWA 26:2017 Using ISO 26000 guidance on social responsibility in ISO Management systems:
Maintain and act on any input from relevant stakeholders
IWA 9:2011 Framework for managing sustainable development in business districts
Maintain and act on any input from relevant stakeholders

Future work related to two standards closely related to ISO 26000, (which were developed in project committees that have been disbanded):
ISO 20400:2017 Sustainable Procurement – Guidance (AFNOR/ABNT)
ISO 20121:2012 Event sustainability management system (BSI).
Maintain and act on any input from relevant stakeholders

Future work related to Guides in connection with ISO 26000: ISO Guide 82:2014 Guidelines for integrating sustainability in standards and ISO Guide 71:2014 Guide for addressing accessibility in standards
Note : the development of guides is a matter usually under TMB responsibility and this is just a proposal to be approved by TMB

New Work Item Proposals:
Any new work item needs to be approved by the ISO committee members. However a preliminary list will be discussed with members and relevant stakeholders in order to develop a market relevant business plan and may contain the following :

1. New Work Item Proposal: Self-declaration of Social Responsibility – Guidance

2. New Work Item Proposal: Social Responsibility for SMEs and SMOs – Guidance

3. New Work Item Proposal: Social Responsibility Audits – Guidance

Indication(s) of the preferred type or types of deliverable(s) to be produced under the proposal (This may be combined with the "Proposed initial programme of work" if more convenient.)

This TC will consider all types of ISO deliverables; including requirements, guidance and specifications.

A listing of relevant existing documents at the international, regional and national levels. (Any known relevant document (such as standards and regulations) shall be listed, regardless of their source and should be accompanied by an indication of their significance.)

In the area of the proposed scope of this TC SR there are hundreds of local, regional and international documents that are relevant to an organization wanting to improve their performance in Social Responsibility. Some of the most significant documents are listed in for example Annex A of ISO 26000:2010 (approximately 100 references) and its bibliography (more than 150 references), and the bibliographies of the other existing standards mentioned in the proposed work programme.

Since publication of ISO 26000 in 2010 there have been many new international documents produced or updated, some examples are:

- The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld
- United Nations guiding principles for business and human rights: https://business-humanrights.org/en/un-guiding-principles
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises https://www.oecd.org/corporate/mne/

A statement from the proposer as to how the proposed work may relate to or impact on existing work, especially existing ISO and IEC deliverables. (The proposer should explain how the work differs from apparently similar work, or explain how duplication and conflict will be minimized. If seemingly similar or related work is already in the scope of other committees of the organization or in other organizations, the proposed scope shall distinguish between the proposed work and the other work. The proposer shall indicate whether his or her proposal could be dealt with by widening the scope of an existing committee or by establishing a new committee.)

Managing social responsibility involves a holistic integrated approach towards a broad range of issues with the aim to contribute to sustainable environmental, social and economic development. The proposed TC SR will therefore need to discuss several issues that are currently within the scope of other TCs but will only produce deliverables that are within the scope of TC SR.

Annex A to this document describes the seven core subjects and 37 issues that constitute the main approach of ISO 26000:2010. An organization behaving in a socially responsible manner should identify in which of these issues the organization has a relevant and significant impact, taking stakeholder interests and international norms of behaviour into consideration.

ISO already has several TCs that produce standards and other deliverables that help organizations manage several of these issues which is why these are excluded from the proposed TC SR. Three of the seven core subjects (number 1,3 and 4) are excluded from the proposed TC SR and **four** (number 2,5,6 and 7) are proposed to be included:

1. Organizational governance (part of ISO/TC 309 Governance of organizations)

2. **Human Rights**

3. Labour Practices (part of other work items in ISO, e.g. ISO/PC 283 Occupational health and safety management)

4. The Environment (part of ISO/TC 207 Environmental Management)

5. **Fair Operating Practices**

6. **Consumer Issues**, only the issue of sustainable consumption is included

7. **Community Involvement and Development**

If the proposed TC SR identifies social responsibility issues in need of standardization that are close to the scope of other TCs, it will first discuss with the concerned TC and suggest a joint working group. Examples of other TCs that could be interested in working together on social responsibility issues include quality management, environmental management, organizational governance, sustainable cities and communities, security and resilience, risk management, food safety, energy management.

None of the existing TCs are foreseen to be able to expand their scope to include the scope or work programme proposed for the new TC SR.

A listing of relevant countries where the subject of the proposal is important to their national commercial interests.

This proposal was developed after having consulted stakeholders in several ISO member bodies.

The proposer, SIS/Sweden, is willing to carry the TC SR Secretariat and is open for proposals for future twinning.

The number of countries with an interest in this new TC SR is estimated to be similar to that former Working Group Social Responsibility 2005-2010, 100 countries, especially those more than 80 countries that have adopted ISO 26000 as national standard, the many countries that have adopted ISO 20121 Event Sustainability Management system, and the more than 35 countries that recently finalized ISO 20400 Sustainable Procurement – Guidance.

A listing of relevant external international organizations or internal parties (other ISO and/or IEC committees) to be engaged as liaisons in the development of the deliverable(s). (In order to avoid conflict with, or duplication of efforts of, other bodies, it is important to indicate all points of possible conflict or overlap. The result of any communication with other interested bodies shall also be included.)

Internal ISO liaisons:

The new TC SR could establish liaison with ISO/TC 309 Governance of organizations, ISO TC/207 Environmental Management, ISO/TC 34 Food management, ISO/TC 159 Ergonomics, ISO/TC 176 Quality Management and quality assurance, ISO/TC 268 Sustainable Cities and Communities. These technical committees all have ISO deliverables that refer to ISO 26000 and social responsibility.

External liaisons:

During the development of ISO 26000 approximately 40 international organizations were D-liaisons to the process. In the process of developing ISO 20400 at least seven D-liaisons participated. Similar for ISO 20121.

Most of these more than 50 international organizations are likely interested in participating in a new TC SR. Examples are Global Reporting Initiative, UN WG on Business and Human Rights, OECD, WHO, European Commission, ISEAL.

A simple and concise statement identifying and describing relevant affected stakeholder categories (including small and medium sized enterprises) and how they will each benefit from or be impacted by the proposed deliverable(s).

Relevant affected stakeholders are found in all of the seven categories of the ISO General Directory in the same way as was the case for ISO 26000, ISO/PRF 20400 (sustainable procurement) and ISO 20121:

1. Industry and commerce, including SMEs
2. Government
3. Consumers
4. Labour
5. Academy and research bodies
6. Standards application
7. Non-governmental organizations, including SMOs

These stakeholders will benefit from being able to participate in this new TC SR as they are using one or more of the existing ISO deliverables that are developed and maintained by the proposed TC SR.

An expression of commitment from the proposer to provide the committee secretariat if the proposal succeeds.

SIS is committed to provide the Secretariat if the proposal is accepted.

Purpose and justification for the proposal. (The purpose and justification for the creation of a new technical committee shall be made clear and the need for standardization in this fieldshall be justified. Clause C.4.13.3 of Annex C of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 contains a menu of suggestions or ideas for possible documentation to support and purpose and justification of proposals. Proposers should consider these suggestions, but they are not limited to them, nor are they required to comply strictly with them. What is most important is that proposers develop and provide purpose and justification information that is most relevant to their proposals and that makes a substantial business case for the market relevance and the need for their proposals. Thorough, well-developed and robust purpose and justification documentation will lead to more informed consideration of proposals and ultimately their possible success in the ISO IEC system.)

All ISO standards help companies and organizations manage and improve their contributions to sustainable environmental, social and economic development. The individual contribution to sustainable development and long term future sustainability is called the social responsibility of an organization (CSR for corporations).

In 2010 ISO membership published the world's first International Standard on Social Responsibility: ISO 26000:2010 Guidance on Social Responsibility. According to the more than 450 recommendations in this popular standard, every organization can contribute to sustainable development through certain methods and in 7 core subjects with 37 issues (see annex A).

There are many standards and tools, in ISO or outside, that offer guidance or requirements to help companies/organizations in parts of these seven core subjects of ISO 26000. ISO membership has for example already set up Technical Committees in two of the core subjects: Environment (TC 207) and Governance of organizations (TC 309).

This new TC Social Responsibility focuses on maintaining and developing ISO deliverables relating to the parts of social responsibility that are not yet covered by existing ISO standardization: methods for social responsibility management, Human Rights, Fair Operating Practices, Consumer Issues (sustainable consumption), Community Involvement and Development.

The suggested TC work programme is not intended to replace or negate existing national or international policy, regulation, legislation or international norms of behaviour, but to support it. Around the world there are hundreds of SR/CSR initiatives and there is a need to help companies and organizations, especially SMEs/SMOs, to decipher and align tools and definitions. SR/CSR is currently a booming area with lots of research and development. ISO deliverables in this field can contribute to a more predictable global market.

Signature of the proposer

Karin Lindmark, Acting Director Standardization at SIS, Swedish Standards Institute

Further information to assist with understanding the requirements for the items above can be found in the Directives, Part 1, Annex C.

Annex A:
The seven core subjects and thirty-seven issues of Social Responsibility in ISO 26000:2010

Core subjects and issues
Core subject: Organizational governance
Core subject: Human rights
Issue 1: Due diligence
Issue 2: Human rights risk situations
Issue 3: Avoidance of complicity
Issue 4: Resolving grievances
Issue 5: Discrimination and vulnerable groups
Issue 6: Civil and political rights
Issue 7: Economic, social and cultural rights
Issue 8: Fundamental principles and rights at work
Core subject: Labour practices
Issue 1: Employment and employment relationships
Issue 2: Conditions of work and social protection
Issue 3: Social dialogue
Issue 4: Health and safety at work
Issue 5: Human development and training in the workplace
Core subject: The environment
Issue 1: Prevention of pollution
Issue 2: Sustainable resource use
Issue 3: Climate change mitigation and adaptation
Issue 4: Protection of the environment, biodiversity and restoration of natural habitats
Core subject: Fair operating practices
Issue 1: Anti-corruption
Issue 2: Responsible political involvement
Issue 3: Fair competition
Issue 4: Promoting social responsibility in the value chain
Issue 5: Respect for property rights
Core subject: Consumer issues
Issue 1: Fair marketing, factual and unbiased information and fair contractual practices
Issue 2: Protecting consumers' health and safety
Issue 3: Sustainable consumption
Issue 4: Consumer service, support, and complaint and dispute resolution
Issue 5: Consumer data protection and privacy
Issue 6: Access to essential services
Issue 7: Education and awareness
Core subject: Community involvement and development
Issue 1: Community involvement
Issue 2: Education and culture
Issue 3: Employment creation and skills development
Issue 4: Technology development and access
Issue 5: Wealth and income creation
Issue 6: Health
Issue 7: Social investment