



International Organisation of Employers
Organisation Internationale des Employeurs
Organización Internacional de Empleadores

A light gray world map is visible in the background of the slide, showing the outlines of continents and countries.

ISO 26000

March 2014



What is ISO?

- ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is the world's largest developer of voluntary International Standards.
- Founded in 1947, it has published more than 19 500 International Standards covering most aspects of technology and business.
- ISO is also becoming increasingly active in the social sphere: ISO 26000, ISO work on Human Resources.



Development of ISO 26000

- 2001 Proposal by the ISO's Committee on Consumer Policy (COPOLCO) for the drafting of an ISO standard on Social Responsibility.
- 2004 Decision by the ISO TMB for the development of an ISO SR Standard.
- 2005-2010 Development of ISO 26000 by more than 600 experts from 99 countries.
- Sept. 2010 Vote on the draft ISO 26000.
- Nov. 2010 Publication of ISO 26000.



Objectives of ISO 26000

- to assist **all kinds of organisations** in contributing to sustainable development.
- to encourage organisations to go beyond legal compliance, recognising that compliance with law is a fundamental duty of any organisation and an essential part of their social responsibility.
- to promote common understanding in the field of social responsibility.
- to complement other instruments and initiatives for social responsibility, not to replace them.
- ▶ **Thus, ISO 26000 is a voluntary guidance standard!**



What ISO 26000 is not!

- ISO 26000 is not a management system standard.
- It is not intended or appropriate for certification purposes or regulatory or contractual use.
- Any offer to certify, or claims to be certified, to ISO 26000 would be a misrepresentation of the intent and purpose and a misuse of ISO 26000.
- As ISO 26000 does not contain requirements, any such certification would not be a demonstration of conformity.



Why is ISO 26000 relevant for Business?

- The fact that it was developed through a global consensus process has given ISO 26000 a high profile and attracted significant attention.
- It is frequently listed together with the ILO Tripartite Declaration, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the UN Global Compact as one of the main international instruments to guide business on social responsibility.
- Companies should be aware of ISO 26000 in order to respond to any potential requests from consumers, NGOs or customers.



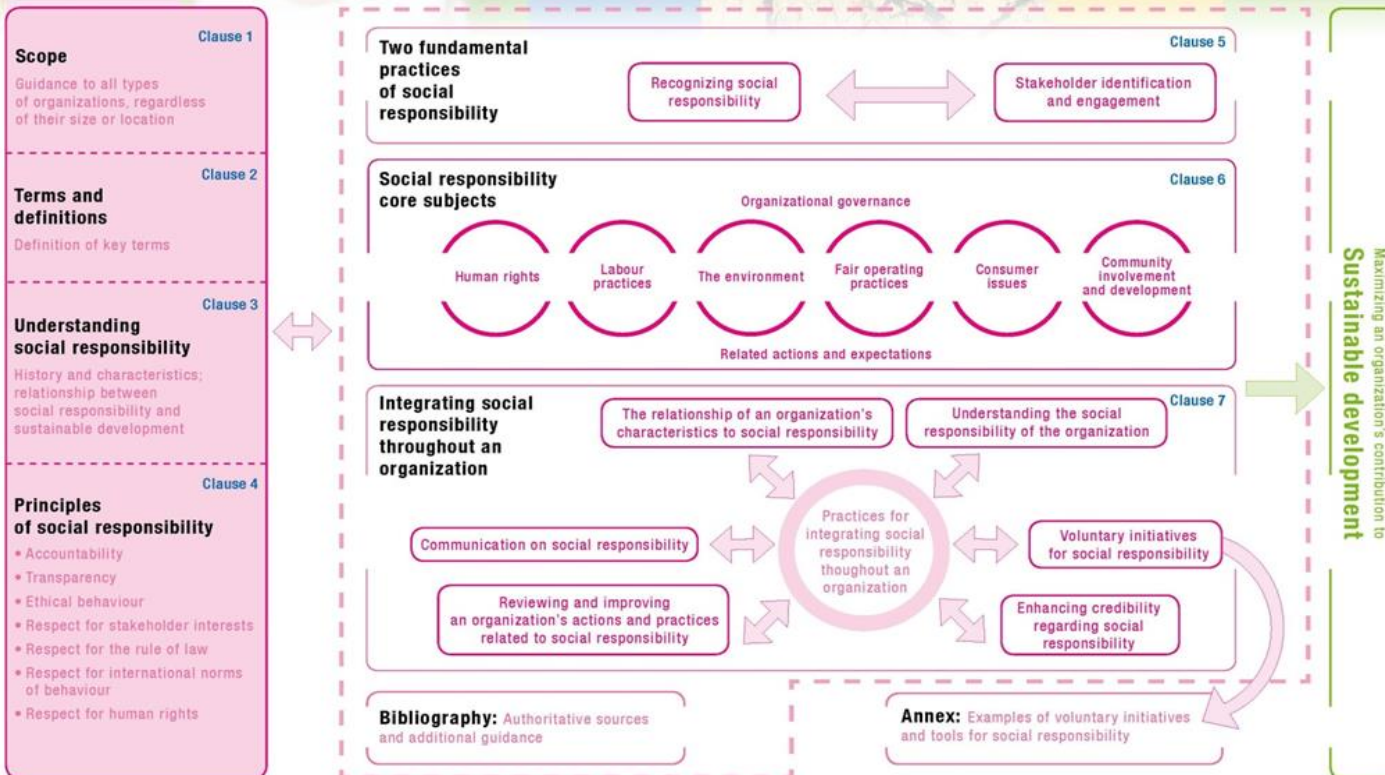
Key Content of ISO 26000

- Definition of key terms and the principles of SR (ch. 2 and 4).
- Guidance on recognising SR and identify and engage the relevant stakeholder (ch. 5).
- Core subjects of SR (ch. 6).
- Recommendations on how to integrate SR into the organisation (ch. 7).



ISO 26000
 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SCHEMATIC OVERVIEW OF ISO 26000





Seven Principles of social responsibility for organisations:

- ❖ **Accountability** for impacts on society, the economy and the environment
- ❖ **Transparency** in decisions and activities that impact on society and the environment
- ❖ **Ethical behaviour**
- ❖ **Respect, consideration and responsiveness towards stakeholder interests**
- ❖ **Respect for the rule of law**
- ❖ **Respect for international norms of behaviour**
- ❖ **Respect for human rights** and recognition of their importance and universality



ISO 26000:2010(E)

Table 2 — Core subjects and issues of social responsibility

Core subjects and issues	Addressed in sub-clause
Core subject: Organizational governance	6.2
Core subject: Human rights	6.3
Issue 1: Due diligence	6.3.3
Issue 2: Human rights risk situations	6.3.4
Issue 3: Avoidance of complicity	6.3.5
Issue 4: Resolving grievances	6.3.6
Issue 5: Discrimination and vulnerable groups	6.3.7
Issue 6: Civil and political rights	6.3.8
Issue 7: Economic, social and cultural rights	6.3.9
Issue 8: Fundamental principles and rights at work	6.3.10
Core subject: Labour practices	6.4
Issue 1: Employment and employment relationships	6.4.3
Issue 2: Conditions of work and social protection	6.4.4
Issue 3: Social dialogue	6.4.5
Issue 4: Health and safety at work	6.4.6
Issue 5: Human development and training in the workplace	6.4.7
Core subject: The environment	6.5
Issue 1: Prevention of pollution	6.5.3
Issue 2: Sustainable resource use	6.5.4
Issue 3: Climate change mitigation and adaptation	6.5.5
Issue 4: Protection of the environment, biodiversity and restoration of natural habitats	6.5.6
Core subject: Fair operating practices	6.6
Issue 1: Anti-corruption	6.6.3
Issue 2: Responsible political involvement	6.6.4
Issue 3: Fair competition	6.6.5
Issue 4: Promoting social responsibility in the value chain	6.6.6
Issue 5: Respect for property rights	6.6.7
Core subject: Consumer issues	6.7
Issue 1: Fair marketing, factual and unbiased information and fair contractual practices	6.7.3
Issue 2: Protecting consumers' health and safety	6.7.4
Issue 3: Sustainable consumption	6.7.5
Issue 4: Consumer service, support, and complaint and dispute resolution	6.7.6
Issue 5: Consumer data protection and privacy	6.7.7
Issue 6: Access to essential services	6.7.8
Issue 7: Education and awareness	6.7.9
Core subject: Community involvement and development	6.8
Issue 1: Community involvement	6.8.3
Issue 2: Education and culture	6.8.4
Issue 3: Employment creation and skills development	6.8.5
Issue 4: Technology development and access	6.8.6
Issue 5: Wealth and income creation	6.8.7
Issue 6: Health	6.8.8
Issue 7: Social investment	6.8.9



Core subjects

- Review all the core subjects to identify which issues are relevant.
- Assess the extent of the organisation's impacts.
- ❖ There are no concrete recommendations - ISO 26000 is not a check list.
- ❖ Organisations have to identify themselves if and what kind of action is required.



Guidance on integrating social responsibility

- Understanding the social responsibility of an organisation through due diligence - identify the actual and potential negative social, environmental and economic impacts of an organisation's decisions and activities, in order to avert and mitigate those impacts.
- Determining relevance and extent of core subjects and issues.
- Assessing an organisation's sphere of influence and exercising influence.
- Establishing priorities for addressing issues.
- Raising awareness and building SR competency.



- Building social responsibility into an organisation's governance, systems and procedures.
- Communicating on SR.
- Resolving conflicts or disagreements between an organisation and its stakeholders.
- Reviewing and improving organisation's actions and practices related to social responsibility.



What are the main strengths of ISO 26000?

- It reflects broad international consensus on the elements of social responsibility, drawn from authoritative international instruments;
- As such, it serves as a good basis for cross-border discussions on social responsibility;
- It provides good orientation for starting a social responsibility journey;
- It contains a good basis for engaging in stakeholder dialogue and other external discussions;
- It allows for freedom of use: users may draw upon as much or as little of the guidance as necessary to help inform their own social responsibility policies or practices.



What are the main weaknesses of ISO 26000?

- Unlike other international SR instruments, ISO 26000 is **not available free of charge.**
- At 118 pages, it is **long, complex and difficult to read.**
- Many elements of the guidance are oriented more towards larger organisations and will **not be relevant for smaller or medium-sized organisations.**
- The guidance **tends to dictate** actions rather than to explain the benefits of SR and encourage action.
- Even though ISO 26000 is explicitly not for certification, **it has been misused** by many certification services.



Current issues around ISO 26000

- Since its launch the ISO 26000 discussion has been dominated by the issue of certification.
- Some national certifiable standards based on ISO 26000 have been developed (Denmark, Spain).
- There have also been efforts to develop ISO 26000 further at international level: proposal for the development of an ISO International Workshop Agreement on self-declaring the application of ISO 26000 (July 2012).
- A systematic review of ISO 26000 ended in March 2014: The majority of ISO member organisations want to keep ISO26000 as it stands.



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**Thank you very much for your
attention!**