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# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND  
DEVELOPMENT,  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

**AND**

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION**

**[22 FEBRUARY 2016]**

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This Memorandum of Understanding (“Memorandum”) represents a statement of intent by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (“IBRD”) and the International Development Association (“IDA”) (collectively, the “World Bank” or the “Bank”) and the International Organization for Standardization (“ISO”) (each a “Party” and together, the “Parties”) to collaborate in the achievement of common objectives as described and on the basis outlined below.

**WHEREAS:**

(A) The Bank is an international development institution established by Articles of Agreement adopted by its member countries. The Bank’s overarching mission is to reduce poverty, improve living conditions, and promote sustainable and comprehensive development in its developing member countries. It has established two ambitious goals to anchor its mission: end extreme poverty within a generation and boost shared prosperity. The Bank will achieve these goals by providing loans, concessional financing, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing services to its developing member countries and through partnerships with other organizations.

(B) ISO is a network of national standards bodies of 164 countries. ISO gives state of the art specifications for products, services and processes, helping to make industry more efficient and effective. Developed through global consensus, they help to reduce technical barriers to international trade. Use of ISO standards facilitates international exchange of goods and services, support sustainable and equitable economic growth, promote innovation and protect health, safety and the environment.

**NOW THEREFORE the Parties intend as follows:**

**A. Objective**

Consistent with their respective mandates, the Parties desire to collaborate in building the technical and institutional capacity to strengthen the national quality and standardization infrastructure in order to raise the awareness and increase countries’ involvement in the development, adoption and implementation of International Standards associated with promoting open, fair and transparent trade and sustainable development.

**B. Collaboration**

(a) The Parties anticipate that their collaboration will focus on a number of specific substantive areas which will include, but not be limited to:

- (i) Analytical research to demonstrate the impact and role of international standards in enabling countries’ participation in regional and global trade and in contributing to their economic development, social progress and protection of the environment.
- (ii) Technical support to National Standards Bodies and organizations to conform to international standards that enable countries to enhance their participation in global trade.



(b) To further the achievement of their common objective, the Parties intend to collaborate in the following manner:

- (i) sharing knowledge, expertise and international good practices through the dissemination of materials in the area of capacity building;
- (ii) engaging jointly in a dialogue with stakeholders and other interested parties in the activities being pursued under this Memorandum;
- (iii) collaborating in enhancing the quality of monitoring and evaluation approaches to address efficiency, effectiveness, and predictability of the standards regime;
- (iv) collaborating on the promotion, preparation and organization of training programs, workshops, and peer to peer learning events to promote awareness and participating in the standards setting process;
- (v) cooperating on identifying and promoting international best practices in the area of national and regional standards regimes, as may be agreed between the Parties from time to time;
- (vi) collaborating on the organization and execution of joint research projects and knowledge and learning events on subjects of primary interest;
- (vii) planning joint activities in areas of common interest; and
- (viii) evaluating periodically the effectiveness of working in collaboration, with reference to their respective mandates and priorities.

(c) Each Party may contribute to the activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum, in one or more of the following ways by:

- (i) mobilizing its own staff in pursuit of the objective of this Memorandum
- (ii) engaging and funding its own consultants;
- (iii) providing facilities for joint workshops, conferences, or training seminars; and
- (iv) such other ways as the Parties may determine.

### **C. Contact**

This Memorandum provides a framework within which the Parties may develop and undertake collaborative activities. Each party hereby designates and appoints below its representative with overall responsibility for implementing this Memorandum. The Parties may, by written notice to the other Party, designate additional or different persons as points of contact but the Parties expect to have only one person at a time designated as the person with overall responsibility for all activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum.

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For the Bank:

Paramita Dasgupta  
Practice Manager, Asia  
Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice  
The World Bank Group  
10 Marina Boulevard, Marina Bay Financial center  
Tower 2, #34-02  
Singapore 018983  
Tel: +65 6517 1237  
Fax: +65 6517 1244  
E-mail: [pdasgupta@ifc.org](mailto:pdasgupta@ifc.org)

For ISO:

Daniele Gerundino  
Acting Director, ISO Academy  
ISO Central Secretariat  
Ch. De Blandonnet 8  
CP 401, 1214 Vernier  
CH-Geneva 20  
Tel: +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax: +41 22 733 34 30  
E-mail: [gerundino@iso.org](mailto:gerundino@iso.org)

**D. General**

- (a) This Memorandum does not constitute an agreement or commitment by either Party to enter into or provide support for any specific activity or project. Specific arrangements for individual activities will be set forth in a document or work plans to be jointly formulated and agreed by the Parties, according to their policies and procedures.
- (b) Nothing in this Memorandum is intended to be, or should be construed as a waiver of the privileges and immunities of the Bank or its officers and employees, which privileges and immunities are hereby specifically reserved.
- (c) Any sharing of confidential information between the Parties will be subject to their respective policies and procedures relating to the disclosure of information.
- (d) The Parties expect that this Memorandum and information with respect to the collaborative activities contemplated herein will be publicly disclosed by the Bank. Such disclosure will be made in accordance with the Parties' respective disclosure policies. The Parties plan to consult with each other concerning the manner and form of any acknowledgement of the other Party's support regarding the activities.

AS



In witness whereof, the Parties have caused this Memorandum to be executed as of the day and date written above.

**INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR  
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT,  
AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR  
STANDARDIZATION**

Name: Arabel Gonzalez

Title: Senior Director, T&C, World Bank Gp.

Name: 

Title: Secretary General (Asst. Secy)

