

# Climate action toolkit: case studies





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# Case studies

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# 1. Context

In September 2021, the London Declaration, “ISO’s Climate Commitment”, was approved by ISO members representing 165 countries from around the world.

The following six case studies highlight examples of how ISO members are implementing ISO’s Climate Commitment around the world. These interviews took place in November and December 2022.



## 2. Four levels of standards for climate action – Brazil (ABNT)

We spoke with Nelson Al Assal Filho, Director of Standardization at ABNT (Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas), to discuss progress since the London Declaration and how ABNT is bringing climate action into the standards setting process in Brazil.

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## What progress has ABNT made since the London Declaration towards ISO's Climate Commitment?

Our world is undergoing profound transformation. At ABNT, we understand this and believe standards are fundamental in providing the clarity and direction we need for climate transformation. A holistic shift towards a climate-neutral economy is called for across multiple aspects of society – in our energy mix, for biodiversity conservation and to improve supply chains and production processes across all sectors with a view to reducing our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

To determine how national and international standards can contribute to ISO's Climate Commitment, ABNT's Climate Transformation Plan identifies four categories of standards that support climate action in different ways.

- 1. Level 1 standards:** These standards are universally applicable to any industry or activity and relate directly to the management of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and carbon capture. For example, ABNT has already endorsed as a national standard the ISO 1406X series on greenhouse gas quantification and reporting and the ISO 279XX series on carbon capture, transportation and geological storage. We are also planning to adopt the ISO Net Zero Guidelines.
- 2. Level 2 standards:** This category focuses on standards that support the transition to a more diversified energy mix, known to help reduce carbon emissions. ABNT has national committees working on a variety of renewable energy sources such as biofuels and hydrogen technologies, which have been active for over ten years. We have also established new technical committees to develop and adopt standards in areas like solar thermal and wind power.
- 3. Level 3 standards:** Optimized production processes are crucial to reducing emissions across different materials, products and value chains. Aimed at industry, these standards target products such as concrete, steel, batteries, as well as the whole electric vehicle value chain, including motors, chargers and plugs. We are also looking into transversal issues like energy efficiency. Circular economy (incl. waste and recycling) offers many opportunities for a more efficient use of materials, complementing the efforts in increasing energy efficiency. Lastly, we are also focusing on nanotechnology, a promising field with the potential to create materials that are strong, durable, and have a low carbon footprint.

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**4. Level 4 standards:** ABNT recognizes the need to adapt to the potential and actual impacts of climate change. This category brings together under one umbrella a broad range of national committees on issues as diverse as forestry management, smart cities, electrical grid, coastal resilience and biotechnology, all of which are likely to be severely impacted as our climate changes. For example, the technical committees on construction and infrastructure are assessing the effects of climate change on ports, airports, bridges, barrages, etc. and developing standards to promote innovation and increase resilience.

## What steps are you taking to measure the impacts of standards towards ISO's Climate Commitment?

Our goal is to measure the number of adoptions and revisions of national standards that are aligned with ISO's Climate Commitment. For Level 1, we expect to see a majority of new standards introducing new concepts, while Levels 3 and 4 are more likely to include revisions of existing standards. Here's one example: Brazil is a major producer of concrete; yet we know that the concrete industry accounts for about 8 % of global emissions. For this reason, ABNT is working hard with our technical committees to revise the standards for concrete with new approaches that help reduce the GHG emissions associated with cement manufacturing.

## How do you engage with your stakeholders on ISO's Climate Commitment?

At ABNT, a great deal of effort was made to raise awareness across all our national committees in all sectors of our Climate Transformation Plan. We have identified several key messages that really resonate with a private-sector audience when talking about climate. First, we start by highlighting the impacts of climate that are already evident and how much the business world depends on society and the environment. We then go on to demonstrate how the most innovative companies and sectors will be leading the new low-carbon economy. Adapting to rapidly changing circumstances will therefore be crucial to survive and thrive. Finally, we explain that government incentives, tax policies, market access, regulatory requirements, access to credit and customer recognition are all aligning around climate action. This

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three-pronged approach has been successful in convincing businesses of the importance of standards for climate action.

ABNT has over 25 000 active experts across all its committees. We bring climate transformation topics to them through workshops, events and presentations made during committee meetings. Our Technical Management Board meets every two months – and the topic of climate change and standards is always on the agenda. We have organized several workshops since the signing of the London Declaration to provide a broader perspective on ISO's Climate Commitment, the magnitude of climate change and its impacts on all industries. We are concentrating our efforts on three sectors with the most potential to make a difference – cement, steel and transportation. The new line of action is innovation: Our aim is to focus on standards for new technologies and update existing standard for production processes, either by switching to low-carbon energy sources or by including more carbon capture.

The fact that ABNT's President, Mario William Esper, is so passionate about this topic has been critical to our success. The role of standards for climate action and achieving net-zero emissions is a frequent topic of discussion in his engagements with industry. Our collaboration with the Brazilian Association of State Environmental Entities (ABEMA) has highlighted areas of opportunity where standards can contribute to environmental policy. It has also led to requests, from the state government of Mato Gross and other state environmental agencies, that ABNT adopt BSI PAS 2060, a carbon neutrality standard published by the British Standards Institution (BSI). With the support of major industrial stakeholders and environmental experts, we adapted and adopted the British text, which allows us to offer recommended best practices until the next generation of ISO standards for carbon neutrality are published.



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Last but not least, we brought together 250 participants from industry, agribusiness, trade associations, government agencies, NGOs, academic and consultancies to develop ABNT's **environmental, social and governance (ESG) standard**. Covering many climate-related aspects, the standard provides a measurement framework that enables companies of all sizes and sectors to evaluate their ESG maturity, define KPIs and determine the next steps on their ESG journey. We believe this is a vital piece of the puzzle in realizing ISO's Climate Commitment.

### **About ABNT**

The Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas (ABNT) is a private, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that develops standards across all industries in Brazil. Founded in 1940, it is the only recognized national forum for standardization in Brazil. Its mission is to provide national standards that contribute to scientific and technological development, environmental sustainability and consumer protection. ABNT represents the country in relevant international and regional forums and acts as a certification body.



### 3. Stakeholder engagement is critical for climate action – France (AFNOR)

We spoke with Lina Ismail, Development Manager, Environmental and Social Responsibility Standardization at AFNOR (Association française de normalisation), who specializes in climate change issues, to discuss progress since the London Declaration and how AFNOR is bringing climate action into the standards setting process in France.

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## What progress has AFNOR made since the London Declaration towards ISO's Climate Commitment?

At AFNOR, we believe that the climate crisis should be taken into account at all levels of society – both nationally and globally. That's why we strongly support the ambitions of ISO's Climate Commitment, which demonstrate a willingness to combat climate change throughout the entire ISO network. It's up to us now to turn this commitment into action.

We have made it a priority to incorporate climate considerations into our standards development process for many years, and this is closely linked with the way we operate as an organization. The London Declaration only serves to reinforce this imperative. The work in this area is led by our Strategic Orientation Committee on Environmental and Social Responsibility. It involves a holistic approach encompassing climate action, but also, in a much broader sense, environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues.

Taking a comprehensive approach is, we believe, fundamental to our work because it takes into consideration the major linkages between environmental and social issues, as stated in the Paris Agreement. By bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders from business and government, the Committee determines which areas need to be tackled as a matter of urgency and given priority in France's national standardization strategy. Circular economy and biodiversity have been identified as critical components of a fair and just climate transition, which is why we are chairing two ISO committees in these areas: [ISO/TC 323](#) (circular economy) and [ISO/TC 331](#) (biodiversity).

## How do you engage with your stakeholders on ISO's Climate Commitment?

Stakeholder engagement is a critical part of climate action. AFNOR works closely with the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion to ensure standards play an active role in helping businesses comply with new climate legislation. For example, many organizations in France (dependant on size) are required by law to disclose information on their GHG emissions to the ministry. Thanks to this collaboration, policymakers are now pointing to ISO 14064-1 for the quantification and reporting of greenhouse gases as the best methodology to ensure legal compliance.

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As part of this endeavour, we are also looking at future European legislation to identify where international standardization can best support these policy objectives. France's National Low-Carbon Strategy, which aligns with the [European Climate Law](#), is our roadmap to combat climate change and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. AFNOR is also taking an active role in the development of ISO 14068, which will set the standard for transparent quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of GHG emissions and removals. It aims to promote a common understanding of carbon neutrality and the methods that contribute to it.

At AFNOR, we strive for a standards setting process that is open, transparent and inclusive, and seek to capture a diversity of perspectives in a coherent way. For this reason, we encourage companies, particularly from high-emitting industries, to actively participate in our standards development work. To increase diversity, we also welcome insights from NGOs in the fields of environment and consumer interests, as well as from researchers and academia to ensure there is a greater variety of views and a richer debate.

The [guide \*Eco-design of digital services\*](#) is the result of a fruitful collaboration which brought together 36 key market players. Tackling a diversity of topics linked to eco-design, this guide presents design best practices to help create digital services, data centres and communication networks with a minimal environmental footprint. Digital services are believed to be responsible for up to 4 % of global GHG emissions (higher than civil aviation), so this work provides a solid foundation for the development of an International Standard that directly contributes to ISO's Climate Commitment.

The same collaborative spirit was behind the development of a new guide designed to reduce the estimated [10 million tonnes of edible food](#) (18 % of food production) that is wasted each year. When we waste food, we also waste all the energy and water it takes to grow, harvest, transport and package it. And if food goes to landfill and rots, it produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Mobilizing key players in the agri-food industry, the AFNOR guide will serve as the basis for a national "[anti-food waste](#)" label for distributors and help reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food. It also supports France's anti-food waste law.

A collaborative global approach is vital to fight climate change. We are excited to engage in the [UNFCCC](#) process at COP28 as it provides a wonderful opportunity to support the transition towards a low-carbon economy through standards. At AFNOR, we encourage dialogue between

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ISO and other standards development organizations. For example, we work in close collaboration with the IFRS Foundation's International Sustainability Standards Board to ensure the voluntary standards developed by ISO are widely recognized and included in the development of international accounting standards.

## How are you integrating climate action into AFNOR's overall strategy and plans?

Social and environmental responsibility is central to AFNOR's strategy and permeates all our standards development work and commercial activities. To identify the best approach to reducing emissions and setting robust targets, we have calculated our baseline carbon footprint, available on the [ADEME Bilan Carbone](#) website. The results speak for themselves: heating, hot water and travel (both by AFNOR staff and people travelling to our events) are currently our biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

To address this issue, we are applying the recommendations of ISO 26000, *Guidance on social responsibility*, as well as other international best practice found in standards like ISO 20400 (sustainable procurement), ISO 37001 (anti-bribery management) and ISO 14001 (environmental management). We are also working to optimize our reporting structure to more accurately measure progress in reducing our GHG emissions. The aim is to be as exhaustive as possible in quantifying our Scope 3 emissions, with a view to deploying an effective and ambitious GHG reduction policy further down the line.

### About AFNOR

Established in 1926, AFNOR is a registered not-for-profit association consisting of nearly 2 500 member companies. Its primary function is to lead and coordinate the standards development process and ensure the resulting standards are widely used and applied. At the hub of the French standardization system, AFNOR brings together key socioeconomic players and cooperates with numerous standards and professional bodies to develop a portfolio of standards that meet their strategic objective.



## 4. Contributing to Malaysia's net-zero targets – Malaysia (DSM)

We spoke with Hussalmizzar Hussain, Senior Director of Standardization at the Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM), to discuss progress since the London Declaration and how DSM is bringing climate action into the standards setting process in Malaysia.

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## What progress has DSM made since the London Declaration towards ISO's Climate Commitment?

DSM fully subscribes to ISO's Climate Commitment, and our ongoing efforts to align our long-term strategic plan with its objectives are a testament to this. Malaysia aspires to be a low-carbon country by 2050 through an unconditional commitment to reduce GHG emissions in line with the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC process. This aspiration is in line with the commitment of the Malaysian government towards climate action and green technology, and provides the impetus that drives our activities forward.

As a government agency, our role at DMS is to support other ministries and agencies in achieving their policy objectives through standardization. Through proactive participation in technical committees such as ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, we seek to identify international best practice that can be adopted and weaved into our own national standards. We also provide technical guidance and support to policymakers who engage in key climate forums, such as the COP climate conferences.

DSM is contributing to two initiatives that are relevant to ISO's climate commitment: the **Low Carbon Mobility Blueprint 2021-2030 (LCMB)** and the **Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil Certification Scheme (MSPO)**. The LCMB is a focal point in decarbonizing Malaysia's transportation sector, which currently ranks as the second-largest CO<sub>2</sub> emitter, contributing up to 30 % of the country's GHG emissions. The policy framework seeks to mainstream the shift towards electrification in the transport industry as a key strategy to progressively reduce the country's emissions. In this effort, DSM has identified specific areas where standards can offer solutions, such as the motorcycle segment.

With the growing demand for sustainability products, global recognition through standards is the way forward to prove to the world that our palm oil is sustainably produced by adhering to the principles in the MSPO standard. This is critically important given the value of palm oil to the Malaysian economy and the climate risks associated with unsustainable palm oil production. Working with the Malaysian Palm Oil Certification Council has allowed DSM to review all relevant standards in light of the sustainability issues the palm oil industry is facing.

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## How do you engage with your stakeholders on ISO's Climate Commitment?

DSM has a balanced representation policy in the development of all its standards. Our aim is to ensure that the four main stakeholder categories – ministry and regulators, business and industry, consumers, and civil society – are equally represented. In practice, this means engaging with international and national NGOs, such as WWF and Transparency International, to ensure a broad diversity of experts in our technical committees.

A balanced group of stakeholders representing a wide range of competencies is particularly important to develop standards that will fulfil their purpose in tackling the climate crisis. With this in mind, we always try to include representatives from the appropriate government ministries in our national standards committees. For example, the National Standards Committee for Environment is chaired by the Ministry of Environment and Water, which helps gain traction and acceptability with other stakeholders and supports the alignment between standards and policy objectives. This strategy has been very successful in securing buy-in for ISO's Climate Commitment.

### About DSM

The Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM), commonly known as Standards Malaysia, is an agency under the ambit of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). Officially launched in 1996, following the incorporation of the Standards and Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM), DSM took over the statutory roles in standardization formerly carried out by SIRIM. It is also entrusted with the responsibilities of accreditation. DMS's mission is to provide confidence to various stakeholders through credible standardization and accreditation services for global competitiveness.





## 5. Leading dialogue on climate change adaptation – Netherlands (NEN)

We spoke with Jelte Dijkstra, Head of International Cooperation at NEN (the Royal Netherlands Standardization Institute), to discuss progress since the London Declaration and how NEN is bringing climate action into the standards setting process in the Netherlands.

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## What progress has NEN made since the London Declaration towards ISO's Climate Commitment?

Since the London Declaration, NEN has continued to develop many of its climate activities in line with the ambitions of ISO's Climate Commitment. Our climate strategy covers a broad scope with a panoply of standards that address both mitigation and adaptation. The process began several years ago when NEN identified that the transition to a circular economy would be a significant step to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Our circular economy programme now spans five sectors with the ambition that, by 2050, the Dutch economy will run entirely on reusable raw materials. This has already resulted in national standardization programmes for circular metrics and circular communities.

NEN's energy transition programme convenes key stakeholders across industries to address questions related to the role of standards transitioning towards low-carbon energy solutions. The programme covers all aspects of the energy transition including extraction and conversion, transportation and storage of energy sources (heat, electricity, biofuels, hydrogen, renewable energy sources and natural gas).

NEN is also the secretariat for OSKA, the Climate Adaptation Standards Consultation, in the Netherlands. This collaboration and ongoing dialogue with governments, the business community, knowledge institutions and other standardization organizations aims to bring climate change to the heart of standards development. OSKA has already taken several steps to incorporate climate adaptation into standards, including:

- Review the existing portfolio of standards for the cooling of buildings to assess their continued relevance in an increasingly warming climate
- Explore the appropriateness of standards for rainwater collection and drainage in the context of increasing rainfall
- Identify the impact of drought and diminishing groundwater levels on soil stability and subsistence and the need to revise standards to account for these changes

## How do you engage with your stakeholders on ISO's Climate Commitment?

The Netherlands has a unique environmental context: almost half the country is below sea level and susceptible to flooding. With climate change likely to

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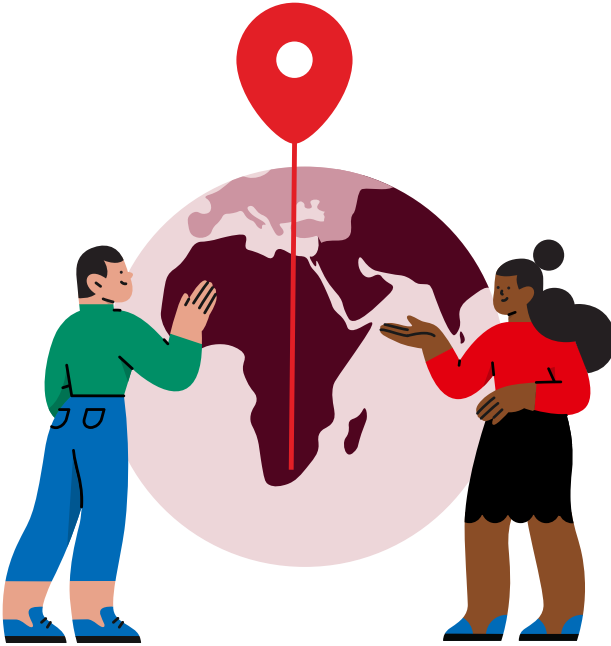
affect sea levels in years to come, it is vital to facilitate dialogue across a broad range of stakeholders to explore whether our current standards are still appropriate. One of our key success factors has been the convening role NEN has adopted to advance these discussions and understand how standards can support climate mitigation and adaptation. For example, through OSKA, we are bringing together national and local government, the private sector through trade organizations in buildings and infrastructure, the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute and the Dutch Association of Insurers to look at the short-term impacts of a changing climate and ensure our future infrastructure is climate-resilient.

## How are you integrating climate action into NEN's overall strategy and plans?

NEN fully subscribes to the ambitions of the London Declaration. At the time of writing, we are going through an organizational transformation and ISO's Climate Commitment will be a major consideration in how we redirect our strategic approach to standards development going forward. It is evident that climate science and the associated transitions must be actively considered in the development of all new and revised International Standards. The wide-scale adoption of climate-related standards will go a long way to helping governments and industries adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change, while at the same time accelerating our transition to net-zero economies.

### About NEN

The Royal Netherlands Standardization Institute (NEN) has been active in the world of standards for more than a hundred years. Founded in 1916, it is an integrated organization serving the Netherlands Standardization Committee and the Netherlands Electrotechnical Committee. As a non-profit, NEN brings together interested parties to enter into jointly applicable agreements on products, methods and services and facilitate their implementation. It also offers an access point for market players in international decision-making, which enhances export power. NEN was awarded the "royal seal" in 2016.



## 6. Prioritizing climate action – South Africa (SABS)

We spoke with Sadhvir Bisson, Executive, Standards at the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS), to discuss progress since the London Declaration and how SABS is bringing climate action into the standards setting process in South Africa.

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## What progress has SABS made since the London Declaration towards ISO Climate Commitment?

Climate action is critical for SABS – it is *the topic* of discussion within the national standards body right now. Our approach towards ISO's climate commitment has focused on understanding where our principal and most significant impacts on the climate agenda can be. To do this, we have looked at the scopes of about three hundred of our technical committees and assessed how their work can contribute to tangible and immediate action to combat climate change.

This prioritization process led us to identify 14 committees where we need to focus our efforts in the short term. These technical committees consider topics such as air quality, waste management, carbon capture and storage, transportation, solar water heating systems, solar photovoltaics, wind turbines, and greenhouse gas management. The automotive sector emerged as a priority – particularly electric vehicles (EV) and supporting infrastructure such as EV charging stations. We're now putting extra effort toward focusing the programmes of work for these technical committees around the climate action agenda, reviewing the current standards and assessing how relevant they are and how aligned they are to ISO standards.

We're also looking at the scope of our technical committees to determine whether they mirror ISO's technical committees. This was an important step because it helped us identify gaps in our current activities and put together a pipeline of technical committees on critical climate-related topics. Two areas identified were **circularity** and the hydrogen economy. Green hydrogen is likely to become a very important area of standardization in South Africa because the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) is developing a strategic roadmap to fast-track the development of the green hydrogen sector. We're in active dialogue with the DTIC to identify where standardization will be needed and where national and international standards can contribute to this strategy.

## How do you engage with your stakeholders on ISO's Climate Commitment?

SABS has a mandate to develop standards within every industrialized sector as required by various government departments and industry. Our experience is that, although all government departments have a role to play in climate action and sustainability issues, a handful of them (e.g. Department of Mineral

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Resources; Department of Energy; Department of Environmental Affairs; Department of Agriculture; Forestry and Fisheries; Department of Trade, Industry and Competition; Department of Science and Innovation; and Department of Public Enterprises) are strategically focused on driving climate action.

SABS' engagement has focused on assessing the policy objectives of these departments and mapping where our standardization activities can contribute towards a policy or regulatory directive. For example, the **Climate Change Bill** was enacted in 2022 to enable the development of an effective climate change response and a long-term, just transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy and society for South Africa.

We've had numerous strategic engagements with public-sector entities on how standards can support policy objectives. We find that this continuous dialogue is vital to educate policymakers on the role of standards for climate action and to ensure climate-aligned standards are referenced in policy and subsequently support regulations. They recognize that SABS is the standards body to go to if they want to adopt and implement international best-practice technical solutions.

## **What steps are you taking to measure the impacts of standards towards ISO's climate commitment?**

That's the million-dollar question. Historically, we've assessed our impact by the number of standards produced and the uptake of these standards by industry. But in the context of climate action, we must start focusing on the impact that our standards are having on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and look to quantify that impact. We are certainly not there yet but we aspire to be there, and we will be collaborating with ISO and other international bodies to develop a model to help quantify the benefits of the implementation of climate-align standards.

As a priority focus, we have initiated a project with government on the evaluation of existing standards, including ISO standards and tools available for the quantification of GHG emissions. The objective is to develop a certification scheme that will support industry in quantifying and

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implementing interventions that would reduce GHG emissions and their carbon footprint. The outcome of the certification process is to encourage self-regulation and the proactive engagement of industry, especially energy-intensive companies, to deploy alternative, low-carbon emission technologies in their processes.

SABS has certified a number of public- and private-sector entities to ISO 50001 (energy management systems). A condition for maintaining the management system and certification is the process of continuous improvement being demonstrated by these certified organizations on energy performance. These organizations continue to implement interventions and demonstrate compliance to the standard by defining energy targets and action plans related to energy efficiency, energy use and energy consumption while meeting applicable legislative requirements.

## **How are you integrating climate action into SABS's overall strategy and plans?**

Obviously, long-term organizational sustainability cannot be discussed without assessing the impacts of climate change and climate action on our business model. For this reason, climate action is one of SABS' strategic pillars and a fundamental component of our standardization activities, as highlighted above. A new Board of Directors, with significant experience relevant to climate action, the fourth industrial revolution and smart cities, has been appointed to provide critical oversight and ensure that SABS delivers on these strategic objectives.

We are not only thinking about the climate-impact of our standards work. We are also thinking carefully about our own footprint and, through an energy audit, we've identified relevant steps that we can take to revise our existing campus to reduce the amount of energy used and waste that is generated. South Africa is endowed with plenty of sunshine, so solar PV to supplement the power sources is being actively considered. All these things will be key for future organizational sustainability.

Climate action requires everyone's commitment to rethink our traditional practices and reinvent new ways of living and conducting business in a sustainable manner. As an NSB, we aspire to provide South Africa with best-practice technical solutions that can improve the quality of life and socioeconomic standing of its citizens through strategic stakeholder engagements with the public and private sectors.

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## **About SABS**

The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) is an autonomous body established as a result of an act of Parliament. The group offers a full spectrum of standards development, information and conformity assessment services. SABS is committed to providing standardization services that improve the competitiveness of South Africa through the understanding and development of standardization products and services within South Africa and internationally.





## 7. Embedding climate action into national strategies

### – **United Kingdom (BSI)**

We spoke with Amanda Richardson, Head of External Policy at BSI, to discuss progress since the London Declaration and how BSI is bringing climate action into the standards setting process in the UK.

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## What progress has BSI made since the London Declaration towards ISO's Climate Commitment?

Sustainability is a fundamental part of the BSI strategy, and the London Declaration is really close to our hearts. The development of the Declaration was led by BSI with the intention of embedding climate considerations into all standards. Its unanimous adoption by ISO members provides a clear signal that this is a high priority for ISO and, in the future, all International Standards shall ensure that the latest climate science will be incorporated.

Since the signing, BSI has co-led the development of the Technical Management Board (TMB) Action Plan for the implementation of the London Declaration, which is an important enabler to realize the objectives of the Declaration. At the country level, we have developed a national action utilizing the ISO TMB Action Plan and created a project team across our knowledge solutions teams to take those actions forward.

Complementing our work on the London Declaration, BSI hosts the secretariat of the **Our 2050 World** collaboration between the UN Race to Zero campaign, UNFCCC Global Innovation Hub and ISO, which was launched at COP26 in Glasgow. Its aim is to accelerate the transition to net zero using standards. This collaboration has already resulted in the publication of the **Net Zero Guidelines (IWA 42)** at COP27, which set out a common understanding of "net zero", high-level principles and guidance, and recommendations for all actors who want to take credible net-zero action and reduce greenwashing.

The IWA process brought together over 1 200 participants across the climate action space, policymakers and business from over a hundred countries to develop the Net Zero Guidelines in just three months. The pace of this work really reflected the urgency of the climate challenge we are facing, and the capacity of the international standards system to deliver solutions to this challenge.

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## What steps are you taking to measure the impacts of standards towards ISO's Climate Commitment?

One of the key actions of our national action plan is commissioning research around the measurement of climate impact of our British Standards portfolio. The research will offer specific recommendations on how high climate impact standards should be revised in line with climate science and create general principles to guide the development of climate-aligned standards at a national level.

This long-term research project will also have an interim output which will identify an initial set of high-impact standards to undergo immediate revision. This will allow us to ensure the methodology is working before continuing with our entire portfolio, test our internal processes, identify what may need to change as a result, and use these standards as flagship cases to support others on their climate action journey.

## How do you engage with your stakeholders on ISO's Climate Commitment?

BSI places significant emphasis on engagement with all stakeholders on all aspects of our activities, including the climate action agenda. UK stakeholders include the UK government (and the devolved governments), industry, consumers and public-interest networks, and civil society.

A good example of our collaboration with government was through a BSI secondment to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). A standards project was undertaken to help identify the critical areas where standards are already being used to meet the goals of the UK Net Zero Strategy and the ways in which standards could be used to further the policy objectives. The report on the standards project highlights how important standards are to achieving the UK net-zero ambition, which is significant recognition for the work of BSI and ISO.

BSI has been particularly active in climate action advocacy through its leadership work in the Our 2050 World initiative on the Net Zero Guidelines. As mentioned, the IWA process represented a high degree of stakeholder participation in the standards system, particularly new participants, with over 75 % of those registered to participate having no previous ISO experience. Wider participation and inclusion of

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underrepresented voices in the standards development processes are key to delivering a powerful impact. With approximately a third of participants being from the private sector, the Net Zero Guidelines IWA process has established strong collaboration and engagement with the private sector. Early adopters are emerging as users of the Net Zero Guidelines, with companies like Planet Mark working closely with the BSI secretariat to incorporate the recommendations into their services.

BSI is quite unique in that we support an **independent consumer and public-interest network**. Sustainability and climate action is a critical area of focus for this network and the network is critical to ensure that the consumer and public-interest voice is represented in standards development. BSI also hosts a **Sustainability Standards Network**. This is an independent pool of experts, drawn mostly from charities and NGOs, who volunteer their knowledge and experience to embed sustainability and circularity into standards.

Finally, another key stakeholder is the finance community. Access to sustainable finance will be critical for a just transition to a 1.5 °C-aligned economy. BSI is engaging with the financial sector through the **Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Markets**, which is developing a set of principles and characteristics for carbon markets to encourage investment into them. We also lead ISO's technical committee **ISO/TC 322** on sustainable finance which looks to integrate sustainability considerations into all aspects of financing economic activities.

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## How are you integrating climate action into BSI's overall strategy and plans?

Sustainability and climate action is fully embedded into BSI's strategy and governance. BSI has committed to achieving net-zero emissions in our own operations by 2030 and progressively reducing our absolute emissions. To achieve this, BSI has initiated a project using a carbon allocation model within the business to spread the responsibility and ownership of our net-zero path, as part of our commitment to be net zero by 2030. An internal team has been created to assess the sustainability of operations, applying ISO and national standards to understand and take action on our own journey. The BSI governance structure also incorporates various board-level committees including a sustainability committee which supports and challenges the BSI Group Leadership Team on its strategies and plans to ensure they are suitably ambitious and in line with our purpose.

### About BSI

BSI enables people and organizations to perform better. We share knowledge, innovation and best practice to make excellence a habit – all over the world, every day. Our purpose is to inspire trust for a more resilient world. Our solutions and services improve performance and support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. At BSI, our mission is to share knowledge, innovation and best practice to help people and organizations make excellence a habit. This is underpinned by our role as the national standards body and through our prestigious Royal Charter.

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# About ISO

ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is an independent, non-governmental international organization with a membership of 169\* national standards bodies. Through its members, it brings together experts to share knowledge and develop voluntary, consensus-based, market-relevant International Standards that support innovation and provide solutions to global challenges.

ISO has published more than 24 700\* International Standards and related documents covering almost every industry, from technology to food safety, to agriculture and healthcare.

For more information, please visit [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org).

\*July 2023



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