Declaration signatories

October 2019

African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO); AMFORI; ASTM International; European Committee for Standardization (CEN) & European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC); International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC); International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS); The Gold Standard; Verra

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Let's make standards work for gender equality

Why Gender Responsive Standards?

Women are widely under-represented in developing the standards that affect so many areas of our lives. Many standards do not adequately address how women and men may be affected differently.

Examples of gender-blind standards:

- Protective professional equipment may not take into account women morphology;
- Insufficient data on the different reactions to pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and radiation of women and men potentially leading to excessive exposure;
- Workplace culture not adapted to the needs of women (i.e. gender stereotyping).



What is UNECE's Gender Responsive Standards Initiative?

The Gender Responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI) is a working group composed of representatives from standardization bodies, gender specialists, representatives of regulatory bodies, policymakers, NGOs, UN organizations and members of the academic community. The Initiative aims to strengthen the use of standards and technical regulations as powerful tools to attain SDG 5 (Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls), integrate a gender lens in the development of both standards and technical regulations, as well as elaborate gender indicators and criteria that could be used in standards development.

Let's make standards work for gender equality

What is The Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development

The Declaration calls on all standards bodies to strive towards a more gender-balanced and inclusive standards development process, and to strengthen the gender-responsiveness of the standards they develop. They commit to do so by developing and implementing a "Gender Action Plan". The commitments in the Gender Action Plan of the different standards bodies involved will be different, depending on their specific circumstances and starting points. The Declaration contains an annex that outlines possible actions that national standards bodies can include in their gender action plan for gender responsive standards and standards development.

Examples of commitments/actions taken by the signatories

- Collect & present gender-disaggregated data on participation;
- . Develop guidelines on gender responsive standards;
- . Develop a standard on equal wages;
- Encourage the participation of NGOs that represent the interests of rural & marginalized women;
- Encourage women to take lead of standardization work
- . Develop promotional materials;



- Ensure there's a woman in delegations to international activities;
- Provide training to existing national technical committees and staff;
- Updating the terms of reference of standards committee to ensure gender equality in operational procedures;
- Progress towards gender balance in the Secretariat.