

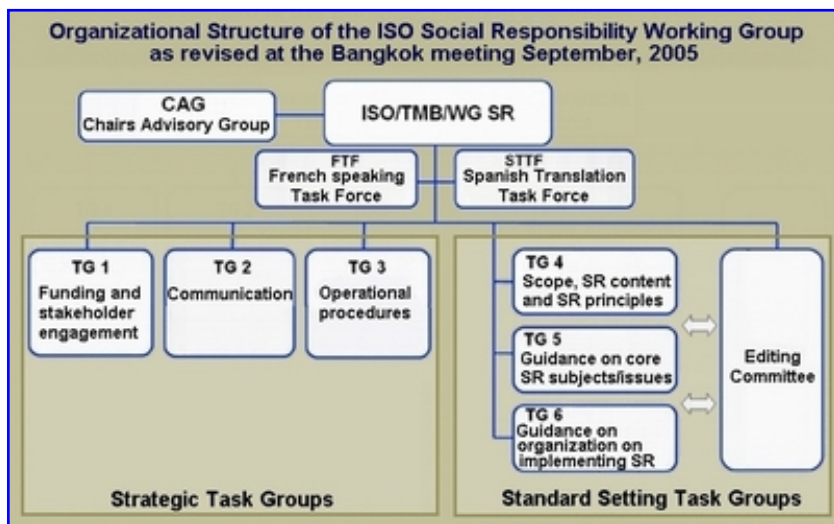


CONTENTS 30 Oct - 5 Nov 2005:

- [October 2008 target for ISO 26000 - the Social Responsibility Guidance Standard](#)
- [UNIDOScope 2004 - 5 archive](#)
- [Print-friendly versions of UNIDOScope 2001 - 5](#)
- [Current Feature](#)
- [Other Industry Newsletters](#)
- [COMING SOON](#)

**October 2008 target for ISO 26000
- the Social Responsibility Guidance Standard**

Bangkok, Thailand, 26 - 30 September, 2005



working group experts are appointed by ISO members and will cover the 6 main stakeholder categories of: Industry; Government; Consumer; Labour; Non-Governmental Organizations; and Service, support, research and others. Interested international and broadly based regional organizations are also able to appoint a maximum of two experts each. Definitions of stakeholder categories are in document [N48rev1](#). www.iso.org/sr is the place to go if you want to know more.
(view larger diagramme on back page)

business corporations. As a guidance standard, "certification to ISO 26000" will not be possible. ISO 26000 will give harmonized, internationally agreed guidance for social responsibility (SR), drawing on best practice and consistent with relevant declarations and conventions by the United Nations and its constituents, notably the International Labour Organization ([ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work](#) (the ILO presentation at the Bangkok meeting [is available here](#))). Existing SR initiatives include the [OECD MNE Guidelines](#), [UN Global Compact](#), the [Nordic Partnership](#) and ISO's 9000 and 14000 standards series.

In line with the terms of reference of the Communications Task Group set out in resolution six of the Bangkok meeting, the status of work on ISO 26000 is nicely laid out on the ISO web pages, starting at www.iso.org/sr. [The Bangkok meeting resolutions](#) and other ISO/SR resolutions are on the "[Press and News](#)" pages. Among the many impressive offerings on the site are: a "working area" <http://www.iso.org/wgsr> containing internal working documents; [a numbered document list](#); a separate page for the [timeframe for ISO 26000](#) and [a history of the ISO/SR process](#), beginning with the June 2000, workshop, hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) in Port of Spain, on *Corporate Social Responsibility; Concepts and Solutions* in

The ISO Working Group on Social Responsibility, meeting for a week in Bangkok (26 - 30 September) 2005, took a major step towards ISO 26000, the guidance standard on social responsibility. The working group decided on the structure and overall contents of the standard and set October 2008 as the target release date. The International Organization for Standardization ([ISO](#)) has been looking at the need for an international standard on social responsibility since June 2000. A decision in favour of developing an ISO guideline standard on social responsibility was taken by ISO's Technical Management Board in [resolution 35/2004](#) in June 2004.

The ISO 26000 Guidance Standard on Social Responsibility is being developed for all types of organizations, not just

the "[About ISO SR](#)" section. The presentation of Task Group 2 "Communication" at the Bangkok meeting [is available here](#).

The September 2005 Bangkok meeting was attended by some 350 people, comprising experts from 54 ISO member countries (45 of these countries were participants, and nine of them observers). UNIDO was one of 24 "international organizations in liaison" represented at the meeting. ISO reports that there was a significant increase in the number of developing countries represented at the meeting compared with the first meeting in March 2005 in Brazil.

UNIDO's representatives in the ISO 26000 Working Group are Kai Bethke of [UNIDO's Business Partnerships Programme](#) and Ned Clarence-Smith of [UNIDO's Cleaner Production Programme](#). Their participation is part of UNIDO's ongoing efforts to achieve greater participation by the developing countries in the corporate social responsibility debate and the standard-setting process. It complements UNIDO's activities in the Global Compact; the initiative of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan that brings businesses together with UN agencies, governments, labour and civil society to support [nine principles](#) in the areas of human rights, labour and environment. UNIDO programmes and networks of particular interest to Global Compact SMEs are: [Business Partnerships](#); [Investment and Technology Promotion](#); [SME Cluster Development](#); [Subcontracting Partnership Exchanges](#), and the UNIDO/UNEP [Network of National Cleaner Production Centers](#). A perspective on UNIDO's role in the Global Compact can be drawn from the UNIDO study *Corporate Social Responsibility: Implications for Small and Medium Enterprises in Developing Countries* ([view or download the study](#)) which reviews the relevance and implications for SMEs in developing countries of the increasing adoption of corporate responsibility approaches by transnational corporations.

Messrs. Bethke and Clarence-Smith told UNIDOScope that UNIDO's involvement in the preparation of the ISO 26000 draft is to ensure that special circumstances of micro- medium and small-sized industries in developing countries are taken into consideration in the final draft and that the Standard is simple to use, not burdensome and not a barrier to trade. As a UN core agency of the Global Compact, UNIDO's role is to see to the specific needs and support requirements of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) engaged in the initiative.



from left: Mr. Pairoj Sanyadechakul, TISI Secretary General; Mr. Eugenio G. T. De Simone, Director of Standardization of the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT); Mr. Tomosaburo Yano, of JISC; Mr. Eduardo Campos de São Thiago, WG Co-Secretary; Ms. Sara Ellström, WG Secretariat; Mr. Anders Sköld, Task Group 1 Acting Convenor; Mr. Jorge E.R. Cajazeira, WG Chair; Ms. Kristina Sandberg, WG Secretary; Mr. Staffan Söderberg, Acting WG Vice Chair; Mr. Supachai Tapatapanong, Task Group 2 Secretary, and Mr. Hidemi Tomita, Task Group 2 Convenor.

The content of the draft ISO 26000 standard will be developed by three new task groups established in Bangkok. The groups have been set up with the intention of providing a system of checks and balances and to ensure expert and diverse inputs. It is expected that the groups will take shape in the next two to three months.

The design specification for the development of ISO 26000 is set out in ten clauses of [document N 49](#) (numbered zero to eight plus "bibliography"). The Bangkok meeting allocated activities set out in five of the clauses (1, 4, 5, 6, 7) as follows **Task Group 4: clause 1** (definitions of the scope, including the subject of the standard and limits of applicability), **clause 4** (description of the historical and contemporary contexts for SR and its concept) and **clause 5** (guidance on SR principles relevant to all organisations); **Task Group 5: clause 6** (guidance on core SR subjects and issues); and **Task Group 6: clause 7** (practical guidance on implementing these principles and issues, including related reporting and communication matters). The remaining clauses of the design specification for ISO 26000 are: **clause 0**: an introduction, outlining the purpose of the standard; **clause 2**: a list of "normative references" (documents which must be read in conjunction with the standard); clause 3 terms and definitions; **clause 8**: guidance annexes (where these may be considered necessary); and **bibliography**.

The ISO Social Responsibility Working Group recognises that broad stakeholder participation in the task groups developing of ISO 26000 is fundamental to its success. It also recognises that participation is expensive, and many of the desired stakeholders from developing countries and non-government organizations, will need help financing their participation. The meeting noted that only a small number of (mainly Nordic) governments had provided support from their development assistance budgets. Concern was expressed that the current level of funding would be inadequate to guarantee the level of participation.

Task Group 1, looking after "Funding and stakeholder engagement" has set 24 November for its first donor group meeting. ([view or download report presented by Task Group 1 at Bangkok](#)).

The next meeting of the working group will be held in May or June 2006 in Lisbon, Portugal, at the invitation of the Portuguese Quality Institute (IPQ). The Bangkok meeting of the WG SR was hosted by the Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI), with the collaboration of the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC).

MORE INFO ► Kai Bethke, Tel: +43 1 26026 / 3179 E-mail: K.Bethke@unido.org

MORE INFO ► Ned Clarence-Smith, Tel: +43 1 26026 / 5079 E-mail: E.Clarence-Smith@unido.org

[coming events](#)

▲ **TOP**

Send your comments to the editor: K.Timmins@unido.org

Organizational Structure of the ISO Social Responsibility Working Group as revised at the Bangkok meeting September, 2005

