



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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Item 16 of the provisional agenda

**Matters related to intergovernmental,
non-governmental, governmental and other
organizations**

Information on intergovernmental organizations

Note by the Director General

The present document provides information on three intergovernmental organizations, the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the West African Health Organization (WAHO), which have expressed the wish to enter into appropriate relationship agreements with UNIDO.

1. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of the guidelines issued by the General Conference in its decision GC.1/Dec.41 regarding relationship agreements, the present document provides in an annex, information on the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the West African Health Organization (WAHO), which have expressed the wish to enter into appropriate relationship agreements with UNIDO.

Action required from the Board

2. The Board may wish to authorize the Director General, in accordance with General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex, paragraph 9, to conclude appropriate relationship agreements with GSO, OECD and WAHO, based on the information contained in the annex to the present document.

For reasons of economy, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



Annex

GCC Standardization Organization (GSO)

Historical background

The GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) was established by the Supreme Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) in a resolution adopted at its twenty-second session (30–31 December 2001) in Oman, and assumed its functions in May 2004.

Purpose

GSO's mission is to help GCC states achieve the objectives set forth in its Charter and in the GCC Economic Agreement by unifying the various standardization activities. It follows up on implementation and compliance in cooperation and coordination with the standardization bodies of its member states to develop the production and service sectors; foster intra-GCC trade; protect consumers, environment and public health; enhance the GCC economy and its competitiveness; and meet the requirements of the Gulf Customs Union and the Gulf Common Market.

Membership

GSO currently has seven members: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Organizational structure

- Board of Directors comprising ministers of industry and investment or municipality and environment;
- Technical Board;
- General Secretariat.

Financing

GSO has an annual budget funded equally by its member states.

Cooperation with UNIDO

GSO proposes to build on the successful results of UNIDO projects, particularly capacity-building programmes and SME studies. The scope of cooperation could include the development of policy tools, gap analysis, good regulatory practices and impact, energy efficiency, standardization training, as well as other areas of mutual interest.

Relationship with other intergovernmental and governmental organizations

GSO signed memorandums of understanding with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the Codex Alimentarius ("Food Code").

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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Historical background

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was established in 1948 to run the US-financed Marshall Plan for reconstruction of a continent ravaged by war. The organization was officially born on 30 September 1961, when the Convention, signed on 14 December 1960, entered into force. OECD member countries worldwide regularly turn to one another to identify problems, discuss and analyse them, and promote policies to solve them. Today, OECD brings around its table 39 countries that account for 80 per cent of world trade and investment, giving it a pivotal role in addressing the challenges facing the world economy.

Purpose

OECD provides a forum, in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. In particular, it works with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change; measures productivity and global flows of trade and investment; analyses and compares data to predict future trends; and sets international standards on a wide range of things, from agriculture and tax to the safety of chemicals.

Today, OECD is focused on helping governments to:

- Restore confidence in markets and the institutions that make them function;
- Re-establish healthy public finances as a basis for future sustainable economic growth;
- Foster and support new sources of growth through innovation, environmentally friendly “green growth” strategies and the development of emerging economies;
- Ensure that people of all ages can develop the skills to work productively and satisfyingly in the jobs of tomorrow.

Membership

Currently, the OECD has 36 members: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. European Commission representatives may participate alongside members in discussions on the OECD’s work.

Organizational structure

- Council;
- Specialized committees;
- Secretariat.

Financing

OECD is funded by its member countries. National contributions are based on a formula which takes account of the size of each member's economy. Countries may also make voluntary contributions to financially support outputs in the OECD programme of work.

Cooperation with UNIDO

Potential areas of cooperation between OECD and UNIDO include:

- (a) Advanced manufacturing technologies and practices, including in the context of digital transformation;
- (b) Industrialization trends and policies, and their link with sustainable development;
- (c) Social inclusion, including gender and youth issues, in industrialized and industrializing economies;
- (d) Competitiveness, investment and innovation, including skills development and entrepreneurship;
- (e) Circular economy and other environmental issues associated with industry.

Relationship with other intergovernmental and governmental organizations

OECD entertains relations with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and many United Nations bodies. In addition, the OECD is an active partner of the G20.

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West African Health Organization (WAHO)

Historical background

The West African Health Organization (WAHO) was established on 9 July 1987 in a protocol adopted by the Heads of State and Government from the 15 countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as a specialized agency responsible for the coordination of health issues in the ECOWAS region.

Purpose

The main objectives of WAHO are those described in its founding protocol, such as:

- Promote the training of medical specialists and of paramedical personnel and where necessary support the training of future medical graduates;
- Collect and disseminate technical information, epidemiological and other related to health research and training in member states;
- Assist in the establishment of technical information centres in member states;

- Promote and harmonize the establishment of laboratories for the production of vaccines, medicines manufacturing and quality control in the region;
- Support the strengthening of health services and infrastructures of member states.

WAHO's Strategic Plan 2016–2020 aims at significantly improving the quality of health system management and health care in the region by developing and supporting integrated health policies and programmes. The 13 priority programmes were realigned in May 2018 into five key health areas including among others pharmaceuticals, centres of excellence and quality standards.

Membership

The 15 ECOWAS member states: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia (The), Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Organizational structure

WAHO has the following decision-making bodies:

- The Authority of the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, the supreme decision-making body;
- The Council of ECOWAS ministers, comprising of the ministers of regional integration, finance and planning, takes decisions to be approved by the Authority;
- The Assembly, comprising the fifteen ECOWAS ministers of health, responsible for health issues at the technical level.

Financing

WAHO's financial resources are based on ECOWAS Community levy collected by the ECOWAS Commission from Member States (40 per cent) and on funding from financial and development partners (60 per cent).

Cooperation with UNIDO

WAHO has been cooperating with UNIDO in a number of activities:

- Validation of the ECOWAS Regional Pharmaceutical Plan 2014–2020 (April 2014);
- Regional kick-off workshop on the Good Manufacturing Roadmap initiative (February 2017);
- Country visits to the 15 ECOWAS member states, which laid the foundations for the establishment of national working groups (2017);
- Baseline assessment of about 75 pharmaceutical companies in the region (2017);
- Training on "Corrective and Preventive Actions" for assessed manufacturers (2017);
- Second regional workshop to present the work done (December 2017).

WAHO intends to continue working with UNIDO to implement the Roadmap and address the many bottlenecks that industry and other stakeholders face in the region.

Relationship with other intergovernmental and governmental organizations

WAHO cooperates and maintains relations inter alia with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the African Development Bank, NEPAD and USAID.

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