

SPEECH BY MR. EDWARD NJORGE- ISO PRESIDENT-ELECT TO THE 52ND HIGH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDISATION ORGANISED BY AIDMO:

Rabat Morocco- 27th March 2019 .

Alsayidat walssada (*esayidatwalsende*)

As-salaam 'alaykum (*Asalamwalikum*)

I am humbly honored to be here at this 52nd meeting of the High Consultative Committee for Standardization, organized by Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization.

I would like to thank the Director General of the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization- Adel Alsaqer for his welcome and his kind introduction this morning, and to all of you for being here.

This meeting is significant to me in more ways than one. Firstly it was an opportunity for me to meet **with** and thank all the members of the AIDMO who supported me strongly in 2016 when I first vied for the position of the ISO President. I know I had full support from yourselves and I would want in the first instance to say a big thank you to all of you and the organizations that you represent.

Secondly, as ISO President-elect, I feel that it is my duty to meet with the regional organizations such as AIDMO, that are made up of ISO members. This is a year to listen to you. To hear about your challenges, your aspirations and your expectations of what ISO should do for you and vice versa. This way, we will jointly develop a vision for ISO during my term that will be fully aligned with the needs of the members. This is your Presidency and I must take into account the wishes of **ALL** members. I am pleased that my first regional meeting is with AIDMO.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am a very ardent believer that Standards and standardization bring benefits that touch all our citizens irrespective of their ranking in society. I am therefore always very keen to grab any opportunity like this when I can meet and discuss with people such as yourselves who also share this belief.

It is worth noting that regional blocs provide a platform and opportunities for neighbouring countries to share experiences and have a common understanding to issues specifically affecting their respective regions. Once we are able to resolve the issues at regional level, then it makes it easier to tackle global challenges like negative effects of climate change, unsustainable production methods that require collective action and platforms. Only then can we be able to develop and come up with collective and all-inclusive solutions. The critical role of regional organizations like AIDMO cannot therefore be over-emphasized.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The role of regional blocs like AIDMO in fostering sustainable economic development have become critically important. The need to focus on industrialization, the increase in demand for inputs necessary for this process, is exerting pressure in areas like extractive industry necessitating an imperative to have sustainable approaches in order to preserve resources for the future generations.

ISO standards will offer practical ways on how to alleviate this pressure. I would like AIDMO members to take advantage of ISO Standards seeing that the benefits for business are clear, as they assist in:

- Promoting high-quality and sustainable development in the extractive industry.
- Development of the industrial sector to satisfy countries' demands and
- Improving quality, innovation, and competitiveness in the industries.

ISO's unique process of standards development that brings together experts from the relevant industry, from consumer groups, academia and research, NGOs and governments to share knowledge and develop voluntary, consensus based, market relevant International Standards that support innovation and provide solutions to global challenges is our backbone.

There is no other system that brings stakeholders from all fields like standardization. So your role and contribution to ISO is very important and valued. My only challenge to all members of AIDMO is- ***I would want to see more participation in ISO Technical Committees***. Currently, we have 324 TCS and there are some of your members who do not participate at all even as observers.

At ISO, we are looking at other emerging areas like;

- Smart cities
- Smart manufacturing
- Climate change
- Block chain technology
- Aging societies

I look forward to AIDMO getting involved in not only these areas but also in more specific TCs such as ISO/TC 82 that deals in mining, ISO/TC 193 on natural gas, ISO/TC 268 on sustainable cities and communities amongst others. I hope AIDMO will rise up to the challenge and help write the future by bringing the Arab regional voice to the international table. It is my hope also that we can get a halal standard developed through the chairmanship of an AIDMO member adapted as an ISO Standard during my Presidency.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, to conclude my speech by giving you a quick preview of my draft agenda for ISO that is still in development. As I said at the beginning, I want your input as I fully develop my final shared vision.

But during my term, I would like to focus on four key Agendas;

The first of these is,

To promote the use of international standards as instruments to redress trade imbalance:

The use of international standards promotes flow of goods and services both nationally and internationally. I believe common acceptance of international standards is fundamental to the success of a robust, fair and free trade. Without standards, international trade would not be feasible. When adopted, barriers to world trade can be collapse by providing the technical basis on which political trade agreements can be put into place, be they bilateral, at the regional or international level.

To this end, I intend to;

- *Champion, promote and lobby for the use of international standards whenever possible as a basis for technical regulations. This will not only ease the regulatory burden to countries but also ensure a mutual acceptance of both domestic and imported goods*
- *I will actively encourage the establishment of robust institutional arrangements for implementing and monitoring harmonized standards and policies. Organizations such as AIDMO and her members will play a key role in this regard.*
- *I will also diligently support the use of international standards as part of instruments in resolving trade disputes*

My second Agenda will be:

To position International standards as strategic part of industrial growth

International Standards govern the design, manufacture, operation and use of nearly everything that we produce. International Standards are essential for all industrial activity, and form the cornerstone of industry and society as they ensure production and dissemination of quality and safe products and services. The manufacture of quality products and offering of first class services has proven to be an effective means of increased economic productivity, making the use of International standards strategically vital.

I will therefore endeavour to champion;

The development of standards that address the current market needs. In order to meet the ever-changing requirements from the market, standardization must go beyond the normal classic product standardization to the standardization of systems and processes and hence play an important role in the 4th industrial revolution.

My third agenda is borrowed from the current ISO strategy 2016-2022's theme of **International Standards everywhere**

International Standards affect our daily lives in many ways. In spite of this, standards more often go unnoticed; they are invisible forces like regulations, and specifications that ensure things work well interactively and responsibly.

Even though international standards govern our daily lives, they exist in a dynamic environment. With the globalization of world markets, emerging new business sectors, faster product development and shorter product lifecycles as well as the increasing convergence of technologies, international standards now face many new and more demanding challenges.

Growth markets especially in the emerging economies create new expectations and make it necessary to modify processes. Globally, buyers and sellers thrive on certainty and high quality; broadly accepted and relevant international standards provide authoritative requirements that guarantee best practices for quality, safety and conformity assessment.

To enable us achieve this agenda, I purpose to;

- ***Increase marketing of international standards: benefits of international standards must be brought to the attention of the wider public, through sustained public relations efforts and other information dissemination measures. Standards should gain a positive connotation and be made more attractive to the general public.***
- ***To encourage the use international standards in all facets of life including trade, innovations, research and development.***
- ***Support the use of standards in attaining the SDG's. We have standards that can help achieve each and every SDG. We just need to put this into practice.***

My final agenda aims at using,

International Standards as a global voice for developing countries

With the globalization of the world economy, it is of paramount importance that developing countries contribute in a major way to the development, implementation, and application of international standards if they would like (as they should) have a fair and open world trade. Failure of developing countries to actively participate in the international standard setting process makes it difficult for them to enjoy the full benefits of a globalized economy and the future growth in world trade.

- ***I intend to enhance participation of developing countries through resource mobilization in the areas of: technical expertise, development of robust standards and development systems that allow all participation of developing countries.***

In conclusion, **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At ISO, we are cognizant of; The way that people consume content is constantly changing and will continue to change, with new technologies and ways of living and that we need to be constantly adapting to cater for and meet the needs of the standards users. We have several projects to address this aimed at ensuring that our system and standards continue to provide the value demanded by our members. These include but are not limited to;

- Improving project management in standardization,
- Using new virtual standards development process, and
- Building and enhancing the capacity of our members in order to more fully participate in standardization.

As I end my address, let me once again thank you for the invitation and for listening to me. I wish you all a very successful meeting and look forward to the outcomes of your deliberations.

Barak Allah fik – God Bless you

Shukran