

SPEECH BY MR. EDDY NJOROGUE, THE ISO PRESIDENT-ELECT TO THE AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

NATIONAL UNION BUILDING, WASHINGTON D.C- 4th DECEMBER 2019 .

GP Russ Chaney the Chair of the ANSI Board,

All the Vice Chairs present;

Immediate Past Chairman, Kevan Lawlor,

Board members, and Senior ANSI Management,

Mr. Joe Bhatia; President and CEO American National Standards Institute

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's a great pleasure to be invited to this ANSI Board of Directors meeting here in Washington D.C and to be given an opportunity to address you. This is particularly significant as the trip comes on the eve of my taking over as the ISO President. It could not have been more opportune for me to visit and share ideas with one of the founding and senior members of ISO.

Allow me to appreciate and thank Mr. Joe Bhatia for his kind invitation to ANSI. Joe has become a great friend and a mentor into the Standards world since I met him three years ago. I first met Joe on 12th Sept 2016 in Beijing... I take note of his commitment and the good work he is doing not only for ANSI but also for ISO. His contribution especially in the ISO Council is invaluable.

ANSI and by extension The United States of America, played a significant role in the setting up of ISO in the 1947 Conference in London through the American Standards Association. In fact the founding President of ISO was American! **Howard Coonley**, a prominent U.S. industrialist who served ISO from 1947 to 1949, Since then, we have had the privilege of other Americans who served as ISO Presidents as in;

Frank LaQue 1971-1973

Mr John A. Hinds 1992-1994 and

Mr Ollie R. Smoot 2003-2004.

Their contribution at ISO was critically important through the various industrial revolutions. I am privileged to step into the shoes of such great American giants. We at ISO consider ANSI one of the foundational pillars of ISO.

To this end,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to ANSI's leadership for their invaluable support in fostering the existing relationship that we enjoy between the two organizations. ANSI is indeed one of our most strategic and important partner in developing globally relevant international standards that are accepted worldwide.

The two organizations have enjoyed tremendous success over the years, owing to their principles of governance which parallels can be drawn between ANSI and ISO. You are a members' organization just like ISO; ANSI's processes of standardization are hinged on; Openness, public participation, consensus, same as ISO's ethos. You aim at promoting international trade and improving quality of lives, ISO's vision being improving lives through Standards.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The fundamental contribution of ANSI to the global standardization system in the world today, can clearly be felt, its leadership in key ISO technical committees have immensely contributed to the work done by ISO. a special mention to ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee on Information Technology (JTC 1), the world's largest-known standardization committee of which ANSI is the secretariat.

Since its inception in 1987, JTC 1 has brought about a number of very successful and relevant ICT standards in the fields of multimedia (e.g.: MPEG), IC cards ("smart cards"), ICT security, database query and programming languages as well as character sets, to name just a few.

I note with great appreciation the key contribution made by ANSI in the field of Standardization in my

continent - Africa,

Apart from the various trainings and capacity building programs that you have undertaken in Zambia, Mozambique, Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal etc.,

ANSI has been involved in two technical committees as a co-secretariat with:

Senegal, for ISO Project Committee (PC) 305, on Sustainable Non-Sewered Sanitation Systems— which is dedicated to aiding the development of an international standard for toilets that remove pathogens and do not require traditional infrastructure such as sewer, water connection, or electricity.

and

a co-secretariat with Kenya on ISO Technical Committee (TC) 285 on Clean Cook stoves and Cooking Solutions, and it has supported the development of the recently released first international standard for laboratory testing of cook stoves, which will have significant impact on manufacturing guidelines to support the improvement of cook stove safety, quality, and performance for tens of millions of people across the globe.

I single out these TCs to highlight the very high impact the outcome of these will have on millions of people not just in Africa but across the world who have no access to sanitation and to clean energy. The first one will highly contribute to SDG number 6 on Clean water and sanitation while the second one will greatly enhance attainment of SDG number 7 on affordable and clean energy.

ladies and gentlemen,

Let me now briefly turn on my vision of ISO during my term as the President.

As you are all aware we are developing a new strategy for the year 2020 to 2030, a strategy which will define our path in the next ten years, draft document was circulated to members for input and I take note of ANSI's feedback in the proposed strategic plan and as the incoming President of ISO, I will ensure that the input of all key stakeholders are taken into account leaving no one behind.

In the mean time I have developed a four-point agenda that will propel ISO into the next critical phase of our strategy;

- The first agenda item is to; promote the use of international standards as instruments to redress trade imbalance between nations

ladies and gentlemen,

The global economy is undergoing tremendous changes and even with a more open and transparent multilateral trading system, a number of emerging issues are now affecting global trade now than before. Climate change, fragmentation of global value chains, impact of information and technology on businesses, increase in NTBs and growing prominence of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises among other issues, have led to significant global impacts, thereby tilting the trade balance.

Despite the global efforts to ensure inclusive trade across countries, the balance of trade between developed and developing countries has continued to widen. While some observers argue that developing countries are in a trading system where they wholly depend on agricultural products, which are highly competitive and highly price sensitive, they believe that export in manufactured goods would highly increase the trading revenues.

Added to this mix, promotion of universally accepted, rules or norms based on transparency, openness and non-discrimination, is a passport to trade that will redress the trade imbalance.

ISO Standards by themselves represent global unanimity, and by using them, technical barriers to trade are

reduced, production costs are lowered, opportunities for economies of scale is achieved, and local companies access markets globally, thereby reinvigorating trade and while ensuring inclusive Growth.

To achieve this, 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 will 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.
- I will also diligently support the use of ISO standards as part of instruments in resolving trade disputes
- The second agenda item is to position International standards as a catalyst for industrial growth, to ensure this,
- I will promote 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 which is borrowed from the current strategic plan, which is to promote the use of ISO standards in all facets of life including but not limited to; trade, innovations, research, development, promotion of health and safety and to crown it all, Support in attaining the SDG's in other words, ISO Standards used everywhere.

To achieve this Agenda, I purpose to;

- Increase marketing of international standards: bring to the attention of the wider public the benefits of international standards, through sustained public relations efforts and other information dissemination measures. Standards should gain a positive nuance and be made more attractive to the general public.
- To encourage the use of ISO standards in all facets of life including trade, services 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 and must put this into practice.
- Embed ISO standards at the heart of new domains, making them as central as possible to emerging technologies like Artificial intelligence and block chain technology
- last but not least, is to encourage the developing countries who form 75 % of our members to contribute in a major way to the development, implementation, and application of international standards if they would like their voices to be heard. at the same time, I will encourage the developed members like ANSI to participate more in capacity building and training of the less developed members, whose Failure to actively participate in the international standard setting

process makes it difficult for them to enjoy the full benefits of International Standards 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 of systems that allow all participation of developing countries and I count on key members like ANSI to achieve this objective.

As I conclude, I wish to express my gratitude to you as we endeavor to build on this strong partnership that has existed since the establishment of ISO in 1947 and I look forward to working with ANSI during my tenure as the ISO president.

Thank you.