Guide 79

Gender responsive standards — Guidance for standards developers

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by the ISO/IEC Joint Strategic Advisory Group on Gender Responsive Standards.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

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Introduction

On 19 May 2019, ISO and IEC signed the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development,[1] pledging to make standards and the standards development process gender responsive. The UNECE Declaration recognizes that currently women are not as well-served by standards as men. The Declaration encourages standards development organizations of all types to create gender responsive standards (GRS) and gender responsive standards development environments. The Declaration and its implementation aim to provide a practical framework for standards bodies and standards developers seeking to make the standards they develop, and the standards development process they follow, gender responsive.

In response to the UNECE Declaration, and as part of ISO and IEC's respective gender and diversity action plans, the Joint Strategic Advisory Group (JSAG) was established to develop guidance to help standards developers ensure that the standards they are developing are gender responsive.

Enabling gender equality in standards and standards development is a complex challenge that requires taking action on different elements of the system and process. The complexity of this challenge is compounded by the breadth and depth of subjects covered through standardization. The focus of this document is specifically on enabling the development of gender responsive standards. This document is intentionally broad so that it is applicable regardless of the subject matter. It is meant to generate meaningful discussions within the committee to support standard developers as they work to ensure their standards are gender responsive.

All standards developers should apply this document, make use of the accompanying assessment form (Annex A) and complete the declaration form (Annex B).

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Gender responsive standards — Guidance for standards developers

1 Scope

This document provides guidance for standards developers on how to consider gender in the drafting, revision and updating of ISO and IEC standards and similar deliverables. It provides an assessment form and other tools and information, which can be used to ensure standards are gender responsive.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

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3.1
gender
continually evolving social construct codifying expected behaviours and social and cultural norms, used to define and describe roles and individuals in a society, often reduced to concepts of femininity and masculinity (i.e. what it means to be a woman and/or a man) despite the *diversity* (3.17) (spectrum) of genders

Note 1 to entry: Gender varies from one society to another, and is based on cultural, economic and historical contexts.

3.2
gender responsive standard
GRS
International Standard that reflects an understanding of differences and equally addresses the needs of women and men, and females and males

3.3
standards developer
individual or group taking part in any activity throughout the development of standards or similar deliverables

3.4
gender equality
equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for women and men and girls and boys

Note 1 to entry: Gender equality does not mean that women and men, girls and boys, will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they were born male or female.

Note 2 to entry: Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and girls, men and boys, are taken into consideration, recognizing them in all their *diversity* (3.17).

[SOURCE: ISO 53800:2024,[2] 3.4]

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