



Secretariat: Canada (SCC)

Secretary: A. Hussein

DRAFT

**ISO/TC 207 Proposed Process to Identify Stakeholder Balance
at ISO/TC 207 Meetings**

1. ISO/TC 207 Chair will send a Memo to all P and O Members of ISO/TC 207 (NSBs) encouraging them to establish delegations with a balanced stakeholder representation.
2. ISO/TC 207 Secretariat will prepare a survey to be distributed with the Memo which will assess the current state of stakeholder balance within the delegations.
3. ISO/TC 207 Secretariat will provide the NSBs with past meeting delegation participant lists and ask NSBs to categorize their delegates by stakeholder category.
4. ISO/TC 207 Secretariat will collect and analyze the information provided by the NSBs and report on the past and current stakeholder balance of ISO/TC 207 meeting delegates.

For the purpose of this exercise, the following stakeholder categories will be used:

- a) **Government** (bodies with policy or regulatory authority)
- b) **Producer Interest** (those who have or represent an industrial/manufacturing interest)
- c) **Service/Professional** (those providing advice or services, including those representing standards development organizations)
- d) **General/Public Interest** (those who are not primarily associated with commercial interests)

The above categories will be used by ISO/TC 207 for analysis purposes only. The definitions are not intended to align with definitions used by any other ISO or external committee. For the purpose of this analysis, NSBs will be responsible for categorizing their respective delegates. The ISO/TC 207 Leadership will encourage the establishment of balanced delegations, but will not refuse experts nominated to delegations based on lack of stakeholder balance. ISO/TC 207 will continue to adhere to the ISO Directives with respect to NSB participation.



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Comments for N439

French comments on ISO/TC 207 Proposed Process to identify Stakeholder Balance at ISO/TC 207 Meetings (ISO/TC207/CAG N439)

It seems to us that we put the finger in a delicate gearing there which has more chance to aggravate the oppositions that to contribute to the consensus, without really improving balanced stakeholder representation of national delegations.

The categories of stakeholders which have neither the resources, nor the competence in sufficient number, nor the motivation to travel around the world will not participate more.

The balance of the memberships of the representatives (what differs from the balance of the representation, what has anyway a mandate!) is doubtless more critical to deal with subjects as the ISO 26000. But it is not maybe indispensable, or do not desirable, to set up it as a fundamental principle.

As for having a measure of it, if it is not to act towards a correction of situation, where is the interest?

The true challenge is to consider really together positions at the national level and to elaborate the consensus at this stage. The delegation must not and cannot be then labelled any more according to the origin of its representatives.

Comments from UK on N439

Thank you for circulating document number ISO/TC 207 CAG N439. We are happy to discuss the proposed process to identify stakeholder balance at ISO/TC 207 meetings, but do not agree with the content of the proposals.

In summary the concerns are mainly related to the fact that a TC a national body nominates a delegation – this delegation (regardless of whether they are industry, consumer, NGO etc) is appointed by the national committee to represent the views of that country at that meeting. It is therefore irrelevant in this context to have an understanding of which stakeholder category each of the members of that delegation represent – what is important is that the national committee tries to seek a balanced representation as detailed in the



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directives. We would be happy to discuss with the NGO TF and others about how to improve varied stakeholder participation at the national mirror committee level.

In addition, the UK is concerned that the proposed system could potentially be detrimental to the participation of developing countries in TC 207 as creating a delegation comprising the stakeholder categories identified will be more onerous than the current system and could in fact restrict participation.

Also, we would add that this should not be a process for TC 207 alone. If this proposal is to be addressed it should come from ISO/TMB and relate to all TCs.

We are concerned that we have been asked to discuss recommendations that are based on a draft paper that has been sent out for consultation and has not been approved by either the CAG or the TC (ISO/TC 207 CAG N437). Secondly, the first process has already taken place, ie the letter from the ISO/TC 207 Chair has been sent out, before all NSBs have responded to the proposals; this may give the impression that the process has been accepted and therefore mislead the commentator