



# Implementation of ISO 26000 in China and Nigeria: Contrasting Approaches

ISO 26000 Stakeholder Global Network (SGN) Peer Learning Workshop  
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CONSUMER AWARENESS ORGANISATION

# Introduction

- ISO Guidance Standard on Social Responsibility (ISO 26000) was **formulated by ISO** along with its member organisations.
- The standard was **adopted in Denmark** in 2010 after many years of painstaking work by ISO and representatives of **six stakeholder groups**
- Consumer, government, industry, labour, NGO and SSRO (Service, Support, Research and Others) as well as relevant international and regional liaison organisations.



# Some features of the standard

- It is a **voluntary** standard intended to guide organisations in the formulation and implementation of their social responsibility programmes for sustainable development.
- **Organisations are encouraged** but not compelled to apply the principles of the standard.
- Integration of the core subjects of the standard is expected to help an organisation to go beyond legal compliance and achieve a **socially responsible status**.
- The standard applies to **all organisations** irrespective of size or location.

# Some features of the standard ---

- ISO 26000 covers **seven core subjects**, namely,
  - Organisational governance
  - Human rights
  - Labour practices
  - The environment
  - Fair operating practices
  - Consumer issues
  - Community involvement and development
- **Each subject comprises several issues and principles** which an organisation should consider in conjunction with its **stakeholders**.



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# Implementation in Nigeria

- Nigeria **participated actively** in the ISO 26000 process up to the adoption of the standard in 2010 in Copenhagen Denmark.
- Thereafter, the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) began to engage in collaborative activities with some corporate organisations, **technical partners and other stakeholders** towards the adoption of the standard as a national standard.
- The **adoption process** was executed through a series of workshops and **technical meetings** one of which was facilitated in Abuja by the current Chair of SGN, **Martin Neureiter**.

# Adoption as a National Standard

- In 2013, Nigeria adopted the standard as a national standard with the technical name: **NIS ISO 26000** Guidance Standard on Social Responsibility.
- At the launch of the standard, SON stressed the importance of the standard as an instrument that guides an organisation to achieve **organisational goals through the ISO 26000 core subjects and principles.**

# How the standard is adopted by organisations

- The adoption of ISO 26000 as a national standard set the ball rolling for **implementation of the standard, on voluntary basis, by organisations.**
- Since adoption, **some organisations** have been applying the standard in their operations.
- Notwithstanding that certification is not required, some organisations have been undertaking **training courses** with accredited bodies to acquire the requisite knowledge to apply the standard.

# Organisations applying the standard

- For now, **Nigeria does not have an official list** of the organisations applying the standard.
- Evidence of application by some organisations can be gathered online.
- From **online sources**, the following observations can be drawn:
  - Most of the organisations applying ISO 26000 in Nigeria are **big corporate entities** and multi-national corporations.

# Organisations applying the standard

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- **No evidence of application of the standard by MSMEs.**
  - The last observation is **worrisome** given the important role which MSMEs play in the Nigerian economy.
  - According to the report jointly released by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), at least, **39.65 MSMEs** operated in Nigeria as at December 2020. See <https://guardian.ng/business-services/over-39-65m-msmes-operate-in-nigeria-says-report/>.
  - **The necessity to support the operators of MSMEs** to implement the standard cannot be overemphasised.

# Consumer Perspective

- We give **credit to Carolyn** for suggesting the inclusion of consumer perspective in the agenda.
- As we know, consumer protection is **a core subject** of ISO 26000.
- Nigeria has not recorded noticeable successes in this area.
- On personal account, I have written **a book chapter** on the ISO 26000 with focus on consumer core subject and principles.
- We need **a dedicated programme** that focusses on consumers, at least, from the perspective of education and awareness creation.

# Summary and Conclusion

- Nigeria has adopted ISO 26000 as a national standard
- Some big organisations are applying the standard
- No evidence of application by MSMEs
- No dedicated ISO 26000 programmes for consumers
- **Plans are underway by SON** to partner with stakeholders to encourage more organisations to embrace the standard.

# Appreciation

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