



MINUTES Revised as of 9 July 2019 Conference Call # 3

ISO 26000 SGN (Stakeholders Global Network)

“Go to Meeting” Tuesday 2 July 2019
Hosted by Elena Mocchio, UNI, in Milan, Italy

1. Opening of the meeting – Hans Kröder, Vice Chair, presided in the absence of Chair Martin Neureiter. The meeting started at 10:05.

2. Attendance

Sufyan al-Irhayam
Tina Bohlin
Kim Christiansen
Ornella Cilona
Alessandro Delveccio (UNI, host, back-up for Elena Mocchio)
Yoshiteru Horie
Dwight Justice
Hans Kröder
Ken-ichi Kumagai
Xinyan Lu
Elena Mocchio
Adriana Rosenfeld
Noerman Suharman
Carolyn Schmidt
Gefei Yin
Kernaghan Webb
Zhao Weiwei

Absent with prior notification:

Karla Guerrero
Staffan Söderberg
Daniel Steinholtz

3. Minutes from last meeting. 11 April 2019, with correction - APPROVED.

4. Report on Stakeholder Global Network (SGN) membership and balance –

Secretary Carolyn Schmidt reported that we have added several new members since the last meeting, but the overall balance remains the same. In particular, stakeholder group categories “Government” and “Consumer” are still less well represented than any of the others. In response to a member request, Carolyn Schmidt will send out the current list to all members, with these minutes.

5. Reports of ISO 26000 SGN-related activities, and Announcements

- a) Adriana Rosenfeld reported that IRAM, Argentina’s NSB, has an active National Mirror Committee on SR issues. A priority for them is ISO 26030, developing technical specifications for guidance on using ISO 26000 in the food chain. They are also working with ISO TC309 (whistle-blowing, anti-bribery and governance) and TC 323, circular economy.

At a recent general meeting of COPANT, the regional ISO body for the NSBs in the Americas, IRAM’s Director of Standardization presented the SGN and explained our functions and goals. He used a power-point presentation developed by Adriana. However, COPANT decided not to pursue any affiliations with the SGN at this time, because we are not within the ISO structure.

- b) Tina Bohlin reported that Sweden continues to have a very active mirror committee, involved with whistle-blowing and other SR standards.
- c) For the Netherlands, Hans Kröder said that their National Mirror Committees for ISO 26000 and ISO 20400 (sustainable procurement) have ended. However, the Netherlands is very active on the new ISO TC 323 Circular Economy; Hans is Convenor for the ad-hoc group ‘Measuring Circularity’.
- d) Kim Christiansen reported that Denmark no longer has a National Mirror Committee on ISO 26000 or ISO 20400 (sustainable procurement), but is involved in the new Circular Economy standard through TC 323. Denmark has a Danish certifiable SR standard, 49001 based on ISO 26000, and by now 15 Danish companies have achieved certification to this national SR standard.

- e) Kernaghan Webb informed us that there is no Canadian certifiable version of ISO 26000, but Canada has adopted ISO 26000 in its original form as a national standard. The CSA Group (a Canadian national standards body) has an Organizational Governance and Sustainability Committee which, among other things, is responsible for activities and developments associated with ISO 26000, and ISO governance standards that are being developed including whistleblowing. There is a Canadian Mirror Committee to ISO TC 323 for the new ISO work concerning the Circular Economy, and to the new ISO work concerning the Sharing Economy (Canadian Mirror Committee to ISO TC 324). With respect to both ISO TC 323 and ISO TC 324, there is also direct Canadian participation in the international work.
- f) For Italy, Ornella Cilona informed us that Italy has an active National Mirror Committee. The Italian Mirror Committee on ISO 26000 is not only dealing with the issues related to the promotion of ISO 26000 among the SMEs and at the sectoral level, but it is currently involved also in the work of other ISO social standards.
- g) Sufyan al-Irhayam reported from Saudi Arabia that the Gulf States have re-established an SR working group, and issued a call for comments from different stakeholders. An upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) workshop on ISO 26000 will be held in Abu Dhabi, July 29-31st. The goal is to exchange experiences among participants, and discuss progress of national committees.
- h) Noerman Suharman reported that the Indonesian Mirror Committee is not so active, but the CFCD (Corporate Forum for Community Development) is continuing the work, consulting all stakeholder groups, and involving government officials up through the Ministry level. There is a national contest involving 40 companies and 100 programs that are evaluated by a jury, using the Indonesian Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Indicators. The Award name is ISDA 2019 (Indonesia Sustainable Development Goals Awards 2019).
- i) From China, Gefei Yin reported that the UN SDGs have been integrated into their national 5 -year plan by the central government. Much work is occurring at the regional level, in some cities, and at the company level. The GoldenBee network launched a Global CSR 2030 Initiative in 2016, along with the China Sustainability Tribune, with 27 GoldenBee companies and 2 organizations, working on projects linked with the SDGs. These projects involved 46 targets linked with 16 goals of the 17 goals.

Gefei also reported on the conference in Beijing, June 2019, sponsored by GoldenBee and the China Sustainability Tribune. This was the 14th annual CSR Forum on Sustainability; there were 600 people, hearing 68 speakers over a two-day period, with emphasis on global supply chains and global dialogue. Most important at the company level are issues of natural capital, advice on children's rights, sustainable branding, and global supply chain management. Gefei took this opportunity to present the Stakeholders Global Network to the Chinese audience. SGN representatives from other countries who spoke at the conference were Hans Kröder, Noerman Suharman, Daniel Steinholtz, and (by video presentation) Carolyn Schmidt. Masao Seki of Japan (now also an SGN member) presented his country's perspective on trends in CSR.

6. 10th Anniversary of ISO 26000

Global Event: The SGN 10th Anniversary committee¹ decided to hold a global event, tentatively in November 2020, sponsored by SGN, to gain publicity, raise awareness and increase momentum for ISO 26000.

Audiences we are trying to reach:

- a) Current users of ISO 26000 – strengthen their commitment, reward achievements
- b) Outreach to involve broader community of businesses and other organizations who have not much knowledge or experience with ISO 26000

This global event is planned to be a physical meeting, lasting either 1.5 or 2 days. We have not yet been able to confirm a particular location and/or partners.

- 1) Dwight Justice suggested that we should use the strategy of “piggy-backing” on a global meeting already planned, with a large attendance; this could provide us with a specific location and time, and the possibility of connecting with other global organizations. For example, the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights meets annually in November or December. Dwight will look for other meetings already planned; he recommends choosing the meeting

¹ Committee consists of Yoshiteru Horie, Hans Kröder, Martin Neureiter, Adriana Rosenfeld, Carolyn Schmidt, Noerman Suharman, and Gefei Yin.

- first, so that we could find an appropriate audience for ISO 26000 SGN.
- 2) Kernaghan Webb suggested that we avoid single-issue meetings (such as Environment/Climate Change) and look for a broader range of SR issues. Kernaghan recommended linking with an event around the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).
 - 3) Noerman Suharman said that the Secretary-General of the CFCD has agreed to arrange to combine an SGN global event with the CFCD national event planned for Indonesia in August/September 2020. This is a major Indonesian national CSR event, involving Ministers and the Indonesian CSR awards. Noerman also made the point that the attractiveness of a location is a factor in being able to involve those traveling from a distance; Bali Indonesia is more expensive than Djakarta, for instance, yet the CFCD finds Bali a good location for increasing attendance at events seeking a global audience.
 - 4) Gefei Yin will be checking on possibilities of having the event in Beijing, in coordination with the GoldenBee CSR Reporting Conference, November or December 2020. The Chinese NSB needs to be directly involved in any such global SGN event held in China.
 - 5) Ken-ichi Kumagai said that at a Human Rights meeting in Tokyo, for Japanese business organizations, he had met with Dante Pesce. Ken-ichi pointed out the ISO 26000 advantage, due to its close links with the UN, ILO, etc. Ken-ichi suggests that a global event on ISO 26000 could build bridges to other international frameworks and standards. He suggests inviting Dante as a presenter to our SGN anniversary event.
 - 6) Kim Christiansen said that there is a new Danish government, more attuned to “green” issues; the timing could be good for a 10th Anniversary ISO 26000 reunion in Copenhagen. Kim will check with his contacts to see about this possibility.
 - 7) Ornella Cilona said that, since ISO 26000 is quoted in the European directive on non-financial reporting, a regional European SGN 10th Anniversary event could be held in Brussels, and could link to participation from the European Parliament and the European Commission. Ornella will check into this.

Regional and Local 10th Anniversary Events

Carolyn Schmidt reported that the following regional/local events are under consideration. All are TENTATIVE at this point.

- **Argentina** - national event organized by IRAM -Argentina's NSB - and National Mirror Committee (Adriana Rosenberg)
- **Beijing** -link with annual CSR reporting conference, GoldenBee (Gefei Yin)
- **Japan** -event organized by and for Japanese organizations (businesses, NGOs, etc.) (Yoshiteru Horie)
- **Kuala Lumpur** - (for 30-some people) premises are available at MEF - Malaysian Employers Federation - (Michael Chaim)
- **Toronto, Canada** - event organized for a variety of stakeholders, including students, representatives from First Nations / American Indian groups, academics, local governments, and businesses involved with sustainability - (60-some people) (March 2020, Ryerson University Institute for the Study of CSR, Kernaghan Webb and Carolyn Schmidt)

Global Anniversary Theme

Gefei Yin suggested that we could advocate for 2020 as the “Year of SR”. He suggested that we create a common theme, slogan, etc. that could be used at every SGN event organized around the 10th Anniversary. For example, “Common Future from Global Responsibility Consensus”. Kernaghan Webb supported this suggestion, and recommended connecting to the SDGs.

On the topic of connecting to SDGs, Hans Kröder explained briefly about Annette Kleinfeld's “SDG Voyager”, which is a tool for implementers of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and includes many references to ISO 26000. Hans will check with Annette to see if she could share the Voyager with the SGN membership.

Kernaghan Webb said that on Staffan Soderberg's website, <https://iso26000.info/>, there is a tabulation of connections between the SDGs and ISO 26000.

A Virtual Meeting was suggested by Staffan Söderberg as a way to reduce carbon emissions and all the costs and environmental impacts of flying and

travel: <https://www.vfairs.com/> Hans Kröder and Kernaghan Webb voiced support for including such a meeting during the 2020 anniversary year.

Applying ISO 26000 and also ISO 20400 (Sustainable Procurement) to any events that the SGN organizes

Staffan Söderberg and Carolyn Schmidt brought up this suggestion. Ken-ichi Kumagai voiced support for the concept. Elena Mocchio recommended looking into ISO 20121, Sustainable Events. Kim Christiansen pointed out that ISO 20121 is a Management System Standard (MSS) and to organize a green event you need many details. He recommended that, rather than trying to follow the entire MSS, we look for the best fit, and make people aware of issues and difficulties while engaging in this process.

Case Examples – Good Practices

- Several SGN members have been gathering case studies of good examples of implementing ISO 26000, but we have not yet organized a method to bring them all together.
- Dwight Justice recommended a strong statement of what we know about the implementation of ISO 26000, collecting facts on how it is done in the 12 countries that have a certification, and looking at the use of ISO 26000 in public policy statements. He pointed out that we need to collect facts and data.

7. Building links to ISO

We discussed the draft letter from Martin Neureiter to NSBs, which introduces the SGN to them and invites their connections with us.

Dwight Justice recommended that the letter start with a much stronger statement of the value of ISO 26000, and put the request – that we work together with NSBs to advocate for ISO 26000 – right up front. The letter should move quickly to the request for action, and shorten the background section about the PPO. Kernaghan Webb concurred that the letter should be shorter, saying “less is more”.

Carolyn Schmidt and Dwight Justice will work together on a revision to the letter, keeping the above points in mind, and then submit it to Martin.

8. New Business

Hans Kröder explained that TC 323, Circular Economy, has a close connection with TC 207, Environmental Management Systems. There were 65 countries represented at a recent meeting in Paris; the EU has set goals of 45% of products meeting the circular economy goals by 2030, and 100% by 2050. A key point is that the circular solutions should also contribute to the values of society, thus building bridges to specific issue items such as the SDGs. Hans will share the information he has with all members.

Kernaghan Webb is a Canadian member working on TC 324, the Sharing Economy (Uber, Air B&B, etc.).

9. Next conference call will be Wednesday 9 October, starting at 13:00 in Italy (Central European Time).

Meeting adjourned at 11:46.

Submitted by Carolyn Schmidt, Secretary.