

Bridging the Standardization Gap in Africa: IEC and AFSEC



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- IEC is the Global provider of International Electrotechnical Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems
- 153 countries participating in IEC Family
- Some 6 000 International Standards, 175
 Technical Committees / Subcommittees, 3
 global conformity assessment systems



Why is IEC talking about AFSEC?

- Excellent example of international and regional cooperation
- Technology transfer from developed to developing world through use of International Standards
- AFSEC uses IEC structure to encourage relevant stakeholder participation.



AFSEC

African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission



- AFSEC needed to facilitate infrastructure development...leading to reaching millennium development goals
- AFSEC will harmonize electricity supply infrastructure standards – area where Africa lags
- Africa has to use existing standards to help improve technical knowledge levels.

| Country | Electrification (%) | People without electricity (millions) |
|------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nigeria | 40 | 76 |
| Ethiopia | 5 | 61 |
| DR Congo | 7 | 47 |
| Tanzania | 10 | 30 |
| Kenya | 8 | 27 |
| Uganda | 4 | 22 |
| Sudan | 30 | 21 |
| Mozambique | 7 | 16 |

- National electrotechnical committees, one from each African Union member state
- Comprises representation at a national level from the industry, electricity utilities, national standards body, suppliers, manufacturers, government departments, academics, researchers
- Same structure and rationale as IEC.



Short-term aims

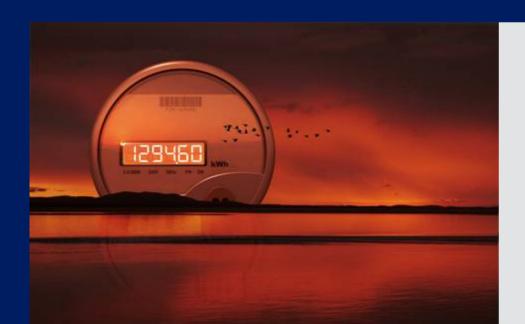
- Establishment of mirror technical committees (to IEC) in early 2009
- Recommendations for adoption or adaptation of existing IEC International Standards to come from member National Committees and other stakeholders
- Adoption as AFSEC standards or regulations.



- IEC aims to formalize relations with AFSEC, using experience of other cooperation agreements with regional bodies (e.g. CANENA, CENELEC, MERCOSUR, PASC)
- Creation of national committees in Africa will improve participation in IEC international standardization, either as IEC members or Affiliates.



Thank you.



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