



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

MAKING STANDARDS WORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNIDO and ISO
- a longstanding
partnership

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



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AT A GLANCE



Over the years, in line with its mandate of enhancing industrial development worldwide, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has helped many countries to integrate into the global economy by meeting regulatory and market requirements and establishing related national capacities, including national standards bodies (NSBs). Its work in this area subsequently led to a partnership with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). From the onset of their partnership, UNIDO has served on technical committees, providing technical inputs during the standards development process, and has served as a thought leader, particularly in the topical areas of leather, textiles and wood.

Spanning more than 40 years, UNIDO and ISO have a fruitful history of collaboration that has centered on the promotion of sustainable industrial development. UNIDO and ISO work to enable developing countries to take a more active role in the development and adoption of international standards as well as to help their enterprises and institutions apply and comply with international standards and conformity assessment guides.

The continued partnership between UNIDO and ISO is in response to the increasingly important role international standards play as a policy mechanism and as a market tool for trade and sustainable development. Their collaboration includes technical standards development and the implementation of joint activities and projects in different domains such as the development, adoption and implementation of specific international standards. Their work also involves capacity-building activities and trainings, including e-learning courses, joint publications and research on different related matters such as good standardization practices, environmental and energy management, food safety, energy use and energy efficiency, social responsibility and conformity assessment.

This joint effort in areas of mutual concern is important for overcoming global challenges and fostering trade, and will serve as an instrumental tool in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





FRAME OF REFERENCE

UNIDO's unique approach to Quality Infrastructure Development



The ability of developing countries to exploit commercial opportunities, compete on global markets and participate in international value chains is often challenged by their difficulties in demonstrating compliance with quality requirements and trade rules. As the specialized United Nations agency mandated to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), UNIDO helps developing countries tackle these challenges by working with them to set up a Quality Infrastructure (QI) system, which covers the essential aspects of policy, institutions, service providers, and the value-adding use of international standards and conformity assessment procedures. For over 50 years, UNIDO has supported the establishment and upgrading of standards and testing metrology structures worldwide.

UNIDO's approach to QI is holistic, from building awareness of QI to helping initiate, develop and strengthen a fit-for-purpose QI that operates efficiently and cost effectively. The approach emphasizes the need for strong collaboration with all stakeholders to meet shared objectives through agreed activities, leading to concrete actions. In this spirit of collaboration, UNIDO works with partners from the public and private sectors, academia, as well as national, regional and international organizations in charge of standard setting and global

practices on metrology, accreditation, standards and conformity assessment. A key achievement within global collaboration on QI is the International Network on Quality Infrastructure (INetQI) agreeing on the common definition of "Quality Infrastructure" as "the system comprising the organizations (public and private) together with the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes".

INetQI is an initiative seeking to bring together all specialized organizations that operate at an international level and that are active in promoting and implementing QI activities (metrology, accreditation, standardization and conformity assessment) as a tool for sustainable economic development.

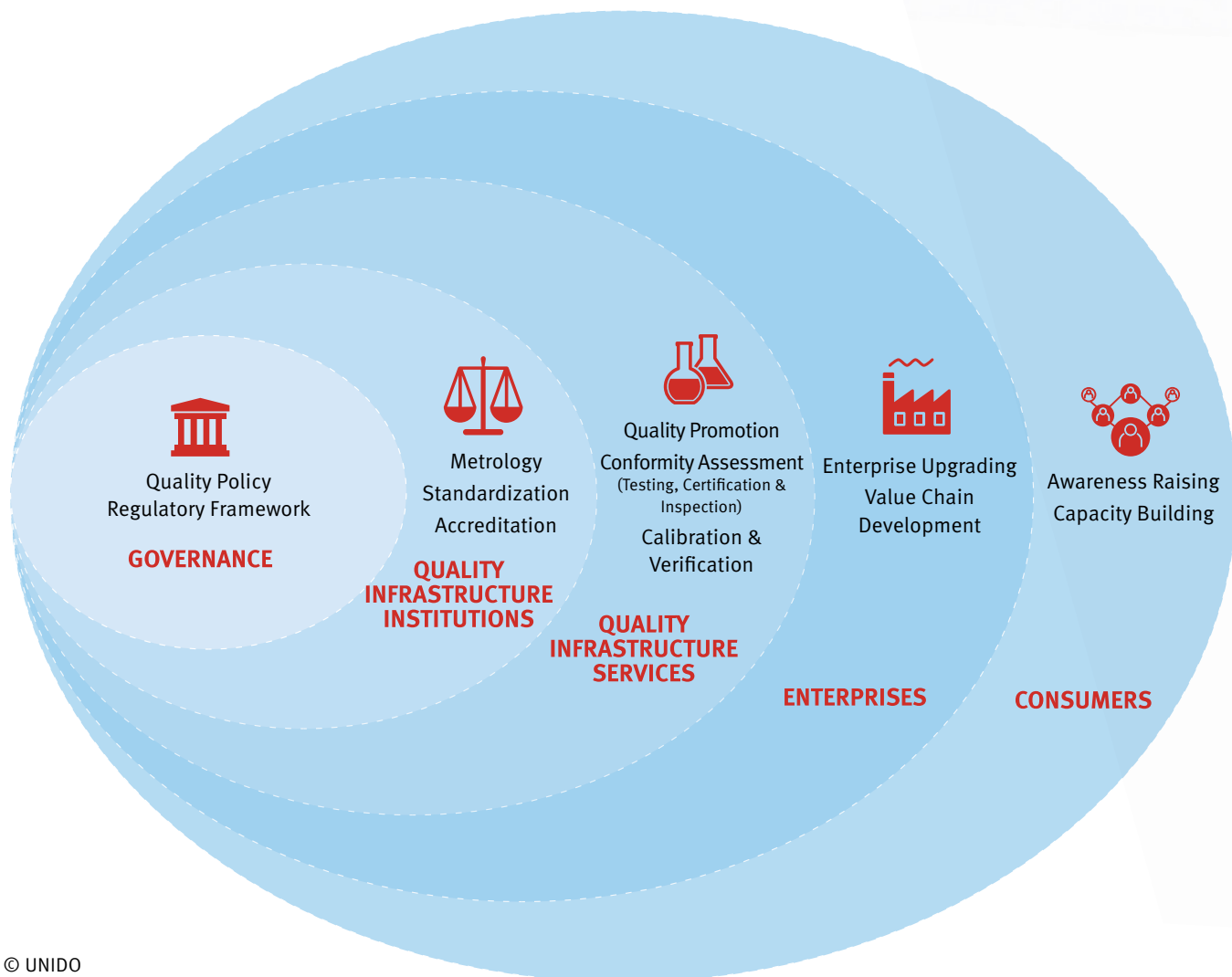
UNIDO has extensive experience in assisting countries to strengthen their competitiveness in global markets. This assistance extends to promoting Good Governance, advocating good practice and supporting capacity building in quality, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility requirements in accordance with international management system standards and private sector requirements.

In particular, UNIDO seeks to build up the national and regional QI needed to provide internationally recognized quality assurance services. This includes for the development of standards and technical regulations, the establishment of product testing facilities and calibration laboratories, the creation of quality management systems, management system certification, inspection and accreditation mechanisms.

It provides services to strengthen national capacities to establish the legal and institutional frameworks for standards and conformity assessment. Specifically, it offers policy guidance and institutional capacity-building interventions related to standards, metrology, testing, inspection, certification and accreditation, which are needed to participate effectively in the multilateral trading system. The demonstration of conformity enables exporters to reduce compliance costs and facilitate access to global markets. Assistance is also provided to strengthen consumer authorities and consumer associations in developing countries.



THE QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM:



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