

UITP Sustainable Development Commission
ISO 26000 Working Group
2012 – 2013 Work Programme

Introduction

1. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has developed a social responsibility guidance standard called "ISO 26000". The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) subsequently established an ISO 26000 Working Group to look into the standard as other industries were actively preparing their position it. A proposed work programme is attached at **Annex A**.

ISO 26000

2. ISO 26000 is a self certified standard that aims to assist organisations in the private and public sectors in their efforts to operate in a socially responsible manner. The standard contains voluntary guidance on implementation covering seven core related subjects of social responsibility: human rights, labour practices, environment, fair operating practices, consumer issues, community involvement and development, and organisational governance at its core. The UITP Sustainable Development Charter also embraces a similar range of topics.
3. ISO provides broad guidance but it does not offer specific instructions or require specific actions. Organisations identify and act on their own priorities and are encouraged to build stronger business models in the spirit of "continuous improvement". By using this approach, the standard aims to help organisations improve their impact on communities and increase their competitiveness, which also aligns closely with the objectives of the UITP Charter.
4. The standard emphasises the value of public reporting which again aligns closely with the UITP Charter. The ISO standard does not offer guidance on performance reporting but it does provide a structure for companies to organise their activities so that they can be measured.

Working Group Objectives

5. The ISO 26000 Working Group should look to develop a set of voluntary guidelines under the standard for the public transport sector. The Group should not recommend the standard's adoption; rather it should promote a common understanding in the field of social responsibility and how it can be implemented.

6. The Group should also see how the standard can complement other instruments and initiatives for social responsibility, not to replace them. Given the strong links with the UITP Charter, it will be important to understand how the Charter's reporting aspects and indicators relate to the ISO 26000 clauses. By using the Charter in conjunction with the new ISO guidance, the public transport sector will have a set of practical tools to better manage, measure and report on their social responsibilities and practices.
7. A European Commission (EC) Communication (October 2011) on corporate social responsibility is also encouraging companies to manage their impacts on society, notably through the ISO 26000 standard. It will be important that work carried out by the Group is done in light of this new Communication.

Working Group Outputs

8. The Group will be tasked with delivering the following:
 - Consensus on what ISO 26000 means for the public transport sector and how it relates to the UITP Sustainable Development Charter.
 - Voluntary guidelines translating the ISO 26000 principles into effective actions.
 - A table comparing UITP Sustainable Development Charter reporting indicators against the topics and clauses in ISO 26000.
 - A UITP position on ISO 26000 in response to the EC Communication. This will be proposed to the UITP Social Matters Expert Group (SMEG), which was commissioned by the UITP EU Committee in November 2011 to prepare an overall position in response to the EC Communication.

Timescales

9. The project will be delivered over 2012 – 2013 and the following table represents key project milestones, with estimated completion dates.

Milestone	Date
Definition of deliverables and project objectives	Q2 2012
UITP position on the EC Communication proposed to SMEG	Q3 2012
Identification of ISO 26000 domains and links to Charter indicators	Q4 2012
Development of guidelines and best practices	Q3 2013
Guide validation	Q4 2013
Finalisation of guide	End Q4 2013

Working Practices

10. The work will be led by the SDC but done in cooperation with UITP's Business and Human Resource Management Committee (BHRMC) and its SMEG. In the first instance, the Working Group Chair will also assist the SMEG. Much of the Group's work will be done via correspondence. A maximum of four meetings will be held per year and they will mostly be held at UITP's Brussels office.
11. Implementation of the work programme will be overseen by the Working Group Chair (supported by UITP) and progress against it will be reviewed by the SDC and BHRMC. Prior to year end, the Working Group Chair will be required to complete a short Working Group Report which will be used to assess performance in relation to its agreed work plan. The reports will also be used amongst other things to help decide whether the Working Group should continue.

WORK PROGRAMME 2012 - 2013

ISO 26000 Working Group	
<i>The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has developed a social responsibility guidance standard called "ISO 26000". The UITP ISO 26000 Working Group was subsequently established to look at the standard on behalf of the public transport sector.</i>	
Commissions	Sustainable Development (lead) & Business and Human Resource Management
Chair	Eric Terrier (Veolia Transdev)
Members	Jeremy Corfield, (Arriva); Sandra Brito Pereira (Carris); Roger Kesteloot (de Lijn); Benoît Juery (UTP); Glenn Frommer (MTR); Jean Dekindt, (UITP- EuroTeam); Cécile Sadoux (UITP); Philip Turner (UITP)
Working Group Objectives and Outputs	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a common understanding of ISO 26000 and identify how it can be voluntarily implemented in the public transport sector. • Ease deployment in the sector by identifying existing best practices. • Identify how the standard complements (not replace) other instruments and initiatives, notably the UITP Sustainable Development Charter.
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus on what ISO 26000 means for the public transport sector and how it relates to the UITP Sustainable Development Charter. • Voluntary guidelines translating the ISO 26000 principles into effective actions (including examples of Charter signatory best practices). • A table comparing the UITP Sustainable Development Charter reporting indicators against the topics and clauses in ISO 26000. • UITP position on ISO 26000 in response to the EC Communication on corporate social responsibility to be proposed to the UITP Social Matters Expert Group (SMEG).