



AFRICAN ORGANISATION  
FOR STANDARDISATION (ARSO)

# Dialogue on Advancing Pan-African rPET Standardization

## Rabat, Morocco

### Development of rPET standards at the continental level



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# Outline



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01

**African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO)**

02

**Harmonization of standards for rPET in Africa**

03

**Opportunities and Challenges**

04

**Recommendations and Conclusion**



# 1. African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO)



Representatives at an event an ARSO event on 14th March 1977

**10 - 17 January 1977**, Ghana, Accra International Conference Centre, the OAU, together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) formed ARSO, as an **intergovernmental organization** to promote standardization and conformity assessment in Africa.

Facilitate intra-African and global trade



Through **harmonized standards and Conformity assessment system**



## 1.1

## ESTABLISHMENT



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## 1.3 MEMBERSHIP VS AfCFTA RATIFICATION

- 10 AfCFTA  
ratified and Non  
ARSO MS

## 1.2 MEMBERSHIP

- 42 Member States
- 13 Non-Member  
States
- 1 Observer member

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# 1.4 ARSO and MS Focus

**Bottleneck- TBT and SPS:**

1. Harmonization of standards in priority Sector
2. Equivalence in Technical Regulations and SPS Measures
3. Recognition of conformity assessment results

12% of the AfCFTA  
Tariff lines  
343 Food Standards

More ongoing

Continental TR  
Framework  
&  
QI & SPS Stocktaking

Cooperation

MRA  
(G-G & CABs)

6 Countries'  
Initiative

# 1.5 ARSO Mandate as per the AfCFTA TBT Annex 6 & Annex 7



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- Article 5 Fields of Cooperation
- **Article 6 Cooperation in Standardisation**
- Article 7 Cooperation in Technical Regulations
- Article 8 Cooperation in Conformity Assessment
- Article 9 Cooperation in Accreditation
- Article 10 Cooperation in Metrology

## ANNEX 6 TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

- Article 5 Assessment of Risk to Determine Appropriate Level of Sanitary or Phytosanitary Protection
- Article 6 Adaptation to Regional Conditions, Including Pest- or Disease-Free Areas and Areas of Low Pest or Disease Prevalence
- **Article 7 Equivalence**
- **Article 8 Harmonisation**
- Article 9 Audit and Verification
- Article 10 Import or Export Inspections and Fees
- Article 12 Technical Consultations
- Article 13 Emergency SPS Measures

## ANNEX 7 SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### PAQI Index 2023

Classification	2014	2017	2020	2023
Well developed	4	3	4	6
Reasonably developed	0	8	14	13
Partially developed	21	17	11	13
Limited	13	13	13	13
Non or very little	14	12	13	10
No data	3	2		
	55	55	55	55
			48%	58%
			52%	42%

[https://www.paqi.org/?page\\_id=52](https://www.paqi.org/?page_id=52)

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# 1.6. ARSO Standards harmonisation and development



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## Standard

A document approved by a **recognized Body** that provides for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for **products or related processes and production methods**.

**Compliance is voluntary**

## Harmonisation of standards

- differences
- similarity,
- mistakes

## Standardisation of standards

When there is no existing standard for a specific product, service and process



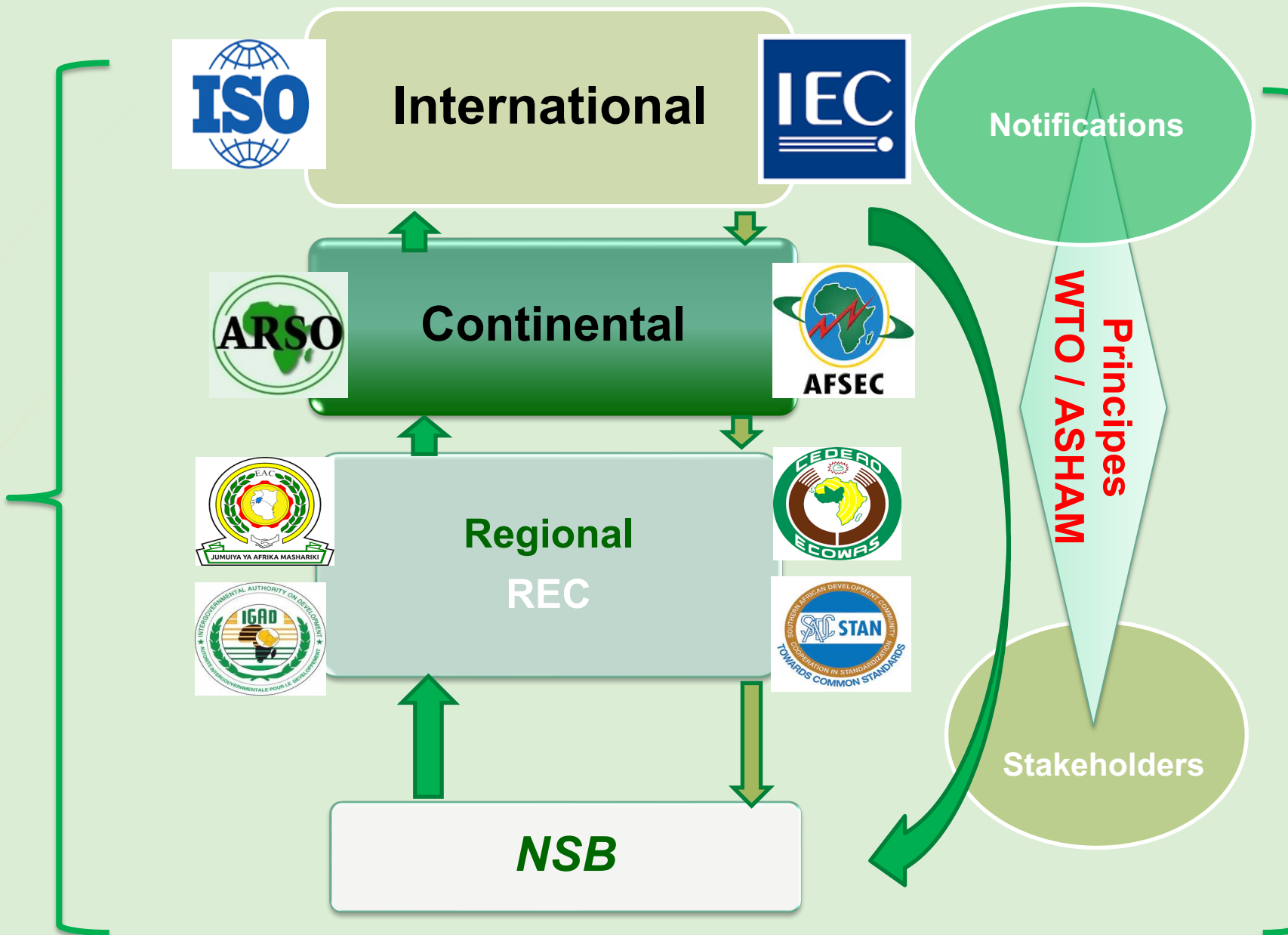
# I.7. ARSO alignment to International SDOs



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1

PARTNERS



STAKEHOLDERS

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## 2. Harmonization of standards for rPET in Africa



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### *Call for nomination :*

- National Standards Body
- Private sector / industry for the specific scope being covered
- Academia, research institutions
- Where possible and required, government procurement office etc

### *Additionally...*

- Regulatory bodies and Conformity Assessment Bodies are called for the ARSO CACO membership
- Consumers are called for the ARSO COCO membership

### *Approval of African Standards*

- ARSO JAG:** Chaired by EAC provide inputs in the identification and prioritization of NWIP for development at ARSO level
- ARSO SMC:** Chaired by EAC, Manage the implementation of these procedures, due process and standards harmonization programmes for their timely execution

### *ARSO Technical Committees*

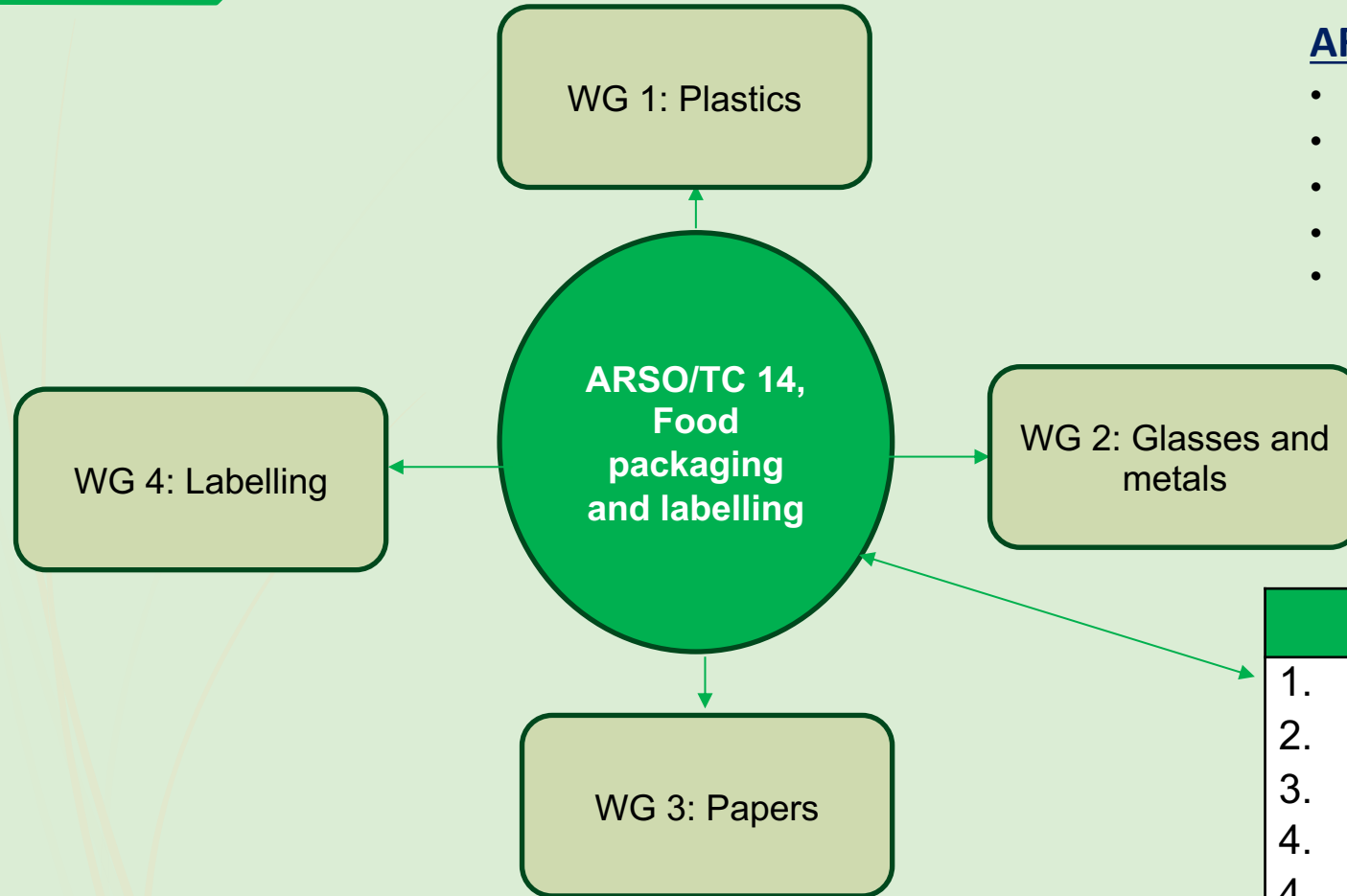
84 TCs, 4 PCs & 5 SWGs, 1 ARSO-AFSEC TC



# 2.1 Who develops - ARSO/TC 14, Food packaging and labelling



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### ARSO/TC 14 Standards:

- Published Standards: 25 (12 IS and 13 US)
- Standards under ballot stage: 2 US
- Standards under Committee stage: 3 US
- Standards under the TC discussion: 3 US
- NWIPs: 17 (3 IS and 14 US)

ARSO/TC 14 - MS		
1. Botswana	6. Morocco	12. Tanzania
2. Egypt	7. Niger	13. Senegal
3. Kenya	8. Nigeria	14. South Africa
4. Ghana	9. Rwanda	15. Tanzania
4. Malawi	10. Senegal	16. IGAD
5. Mauritius	11. South Africa	

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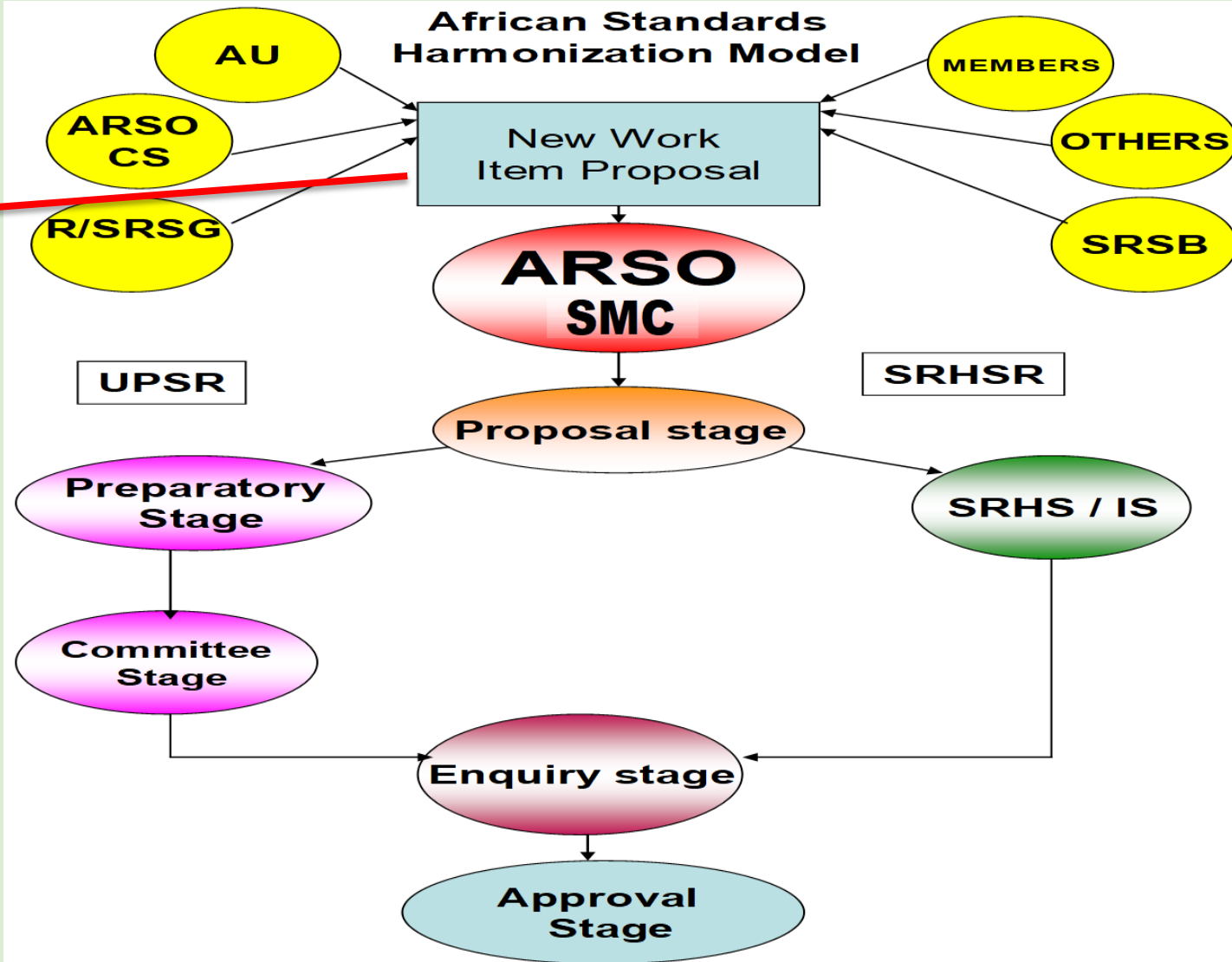


# 2.2. Procedure - African Standards harmonisation Model (ASHAM) Case of rPET



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rPET



LEGEND:

- ❖ ARSO: African Organisation for Standardisation
- ❖ ARSO CS: ARSO Central Secretariat
- ❖ ARSO SMC: ARSO Standards Management Committee
- ❖ AU: African Union
- ❖ IS: International Standard
- ❖ R/SRSG: Regional/ Sub-Regional Stakeholder Groupings
- ❖ SRHS: Sub-Regional Harmonised Standard
- ❖ SRSB: Sub-Regional Standardisation Bodies
- ❖ UPSR: Unique Product Standard Route



## 2.3. Summary of time frame allowed per stage



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Project stage	Associated document	Timeframe	Adoption of IS/REC Stds
0: Preliminary stage	Preliminary Work Item (PWI)	Not applicable	Not applicable
1: Proposal stage	New Work Item Proposal (NWIP)	3 to 5 months (3 months for circulation and balloting and 2 months to review ballot results and approval by SMC)	2 Months
2: Preparatory stage	Working Draft (WD)	2 months	0
3: Committee stage	Committee Draft (CD)	6 months	0
4: Enquiry stage	Draft African Standard (DARS)	4 months (2 months' public review) (2 months to resolve comments)	1
5: Ballot stage	Final Draft African Standards (FDARS)	1 month	2
6: Approval stage	African Standards (ARS)	Not applicable	1
Publication stage	African Standards (ARS)	Immediately upon approval	

## 2.4. Maintenance of African Standards



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### Maintenance and withdrawal of African Standards

- ❖ Systematic review
- ❖ Review initiated by Member States and/ or stakeholder

The decision to amend or revise shall be based on simple majority of P-members voting in support

### Appeals

- ❖ P-members of TCs have the right to appeal against any decision, action or inaction within 3 months of the decision/ action/ inaction
- ❖ Appeals for projects in progress, the work shall be continued, until the approval stage but the FDARS shall not be circulated for voting until resolution on the appeal is made

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# 3. Opportunities and Challenges



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## 3.1 Socio-economic and environmental opportunities

- **Quality requirements** giving clear guidance across the continent on what is accepted to be recycled and how to recycle them
- **Clear references on test methods** to ensure the right thing is done
- **Legal investments in plastic waste** recycling into various food packaging forms.
- **No rejections of food products** due to improper packaging will be experienced at the border of international markets such as Europe

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# 3.1 Challenges



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## a) Standard development:

- Harmonising National standards that are referenced in the standard,
- Adopting the international references that are referenced in the standard,
- Stakeholder engagement at National level during the consultation and commenting period (Getting the buy-in of MS (political willingness))
- Financial capacity to facilitate the work: experts, interpretation, translation technology etc
- Different languages and cultures (the use of simultaneous interpretation services in meetings) and translation of Standards

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## 3.1 Challenges cont'd



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### b) Standard adoption

- **Creating awareness** for various stakeholders, through workshops (NSBs, Regulators, Food Industries, Plastic Manufacturing industries), through writing articles, brochures etc
- **Building the capacity** of all levels on the implementation of the standards (experts for training materials development and training, selection of trainees etc)
- **Studies on testing capacity** of MS and the cost involved in ensuring that the right recycling is done. This aims at knowing how applicable will be the harmonised standard and the testing capacity needed in Africa
- **Piloting certification** for compliance
- **FINANCIAL** means are needed.

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# 3.1 Challenges cont'd



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## c) Cooperation

- Expertise through participating in standard development process is key
- Funds to support other standard related activities
- PTB Germany is funding the standards harmonisation
- Other partners are needed for different activities:

### ❖ Awareness:

- Brochures
- Workshops (targeted)

### ❖ Capacity building:

- NSBs and Regulators (targeted)
- Food industries (targeted)
- Plastic Industries (targeted)
- Conformity Assessment Bodies (targeted)

### ❖ Studies (targeted)

### ❖ Certification and auditing (targeted)



# 4. Recommendations



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1. MS to expedite comments at all the stages of the African Standard development
2. MS to adopt and implement the already published standards for Food Packaging
3. Partners including UNIDO, ACEA, CHATAM House, COVAD, even MS to endeavour cooperating in support of standardisation related activities (awareness, training and certification)
4. ACEA to explore possibilities of establishing a harmonised continental Circular Economy Policy including the use of PET and rPET in waste to wealth initiatives.

## Though some initiatives have started in some regions and MSs:

- An EAC regional policy on the management of plastic and plastic waste is under development.
- After the development of the Continental Circular Economy policy, MS and RECs should consider adopting and adapting it at National level.
- Countries legislations, policies and laws addressing the plastic waste even if these frameworks are not unified as per **UNEP**: (1. Botswana, 2. Gambia, 3. Ghana, 4. Kenya, 5. Malawi, 6. Mauritius, 7. Rwanda, 8 Seychelles, 9. South Africa, 10. Tanzania, 11. Uganda, 12. Zambia, 13. Zimbabwe.)





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*Thank you*

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