### ****World Standards Day 2013: International standards ensure positive change****

## Geneva, Switzerland, 2013-10-10 – World Standards Day is celebrated each year on 14 October to pay tribute to the efforts of thousands of experts worldwide who collaborate within IEC, ISO and ITU to develop voluntary international standards that facilitate trade, spread knowledge and disseminate technological advances.

International standards represent the consensus view of the world’s leading experts in industry sectors ranging from energy utilities and energy efficiency to transportation, management systems, climate change, healthcare, safety, and information and communication technology (ICT). Volunteering their knowledge in service of the public interest, experts in these and many other subjects come together to create standards that share innovation with all the world’s countries and so provide business, government and society with a solid platform for positive change.

The [IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission)](http://www.iec.ch/), the [ISO (International Organization for Standardization)](http://www.iso.org/iso/home.html) and the [ITU (International Telecommunication Union)](http://www.itu.int/) are the world’s three principal standards bodies and are committed to collaboration under the banner of the [WSC (World Standards Cooperation)](http://www.worldstandardscooperation.org/).

Each year the heads of the three organizations sign a message outlining the World Standards Day theme. Signed this year by Dr Klaus Wucherer, President of IEC; Terry Hill, President of ISO; and Hamadoun I. Touré, Secretary-General of ITU, the 2013 message highlights how international standards ensure positive change by providing “cohesion to a myriad of national and regional standards; thereby harmonizing global best practices, eliminating technical barriers to trade, and fostering shared socio-economic advance.”

The message touches on the challenges faced by today’s policymakers and business leaders, positioning that the “international community faces shifting global markets as well as a need to balance remedies to macro-economic challenges with the urgent call for a meaningful response to climate change.” It recognizes that in this complex environment, “international standards are powerful tools to lead positive change by detailing specifications that can open up global markets, create enabling business environments, spur economic growth and help mitigate and adapt to climate change.”

Standards support rapid economic growth in developing countries by outlining best practices that enable them to avoid "reinventing the wheel". Given the strong correlation between economic growth and urbanization, standards are becoming increasingly important in helping cities develop more intelligent and sustainable infrastructures.

International standards ensure that products, services and environments become more accessible to persons with disabilities.

Standards are also applied as tools to help reduce climate change by improving energy efficiency and decreasing waste and greenhouse gas emissions. Standards share best practices in renewable energy generation, provide cutting-edge requirements and processes for waste disposal and recycling, and tools to enhance efficiency and environmental sustainability across all industry sectors.

These benefits are ultimately all passed on to the consumer in the form of greater choice, increased quality and lower prices.

**About the IEC**

The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) brings together 165 countries, and nearly 13 000 experts cooperate on the global IEC platform to ensure that products work everywhere safely with each other. The IEC is the world's leading organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies and administers Conformity Assessment Systems that certify that components, equipment and systems conform to them.

IEC work covers a vast range of technologies: power generation (including all renewable energy sources), transmission, distribution, Smart Grid, batteries, home appliances, office and medical equipment, all public and private transportation, semiconductors, fibre optics, nanotechnology, multimedia, information technology, and more. It also addresses safety, EMC, performance and the environment. [www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

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