

[International and regional items of interest for December 2020 are as follows:](#)

1. DDG Agah at ITC Joint Advisory Group: Open trade and economic inclusion key to post-COVID recovery

[More>>](#)

[ISO items of interest for December 2020 are as follows:](#)

1. Invitation to virtual workshop on 'Sustainable and Human-Centred Societies Enabled with Cyber Physical Systems'

[More>>](#)

2. Consumer Product Safety Management: Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity

[More>>](#)

3. Opportunity to review ISO 26000 Guidance on social responsibility

[More>>](#)

[IEC items of interest for December 2020 are as follows:](#)

1. Webinar on international standards for the artificial intelligence ecosystem

[More>>](#)

2. Global challenges make the circular economy a necessity

[More>>](#)

* For further information about any article please email: mail@standards.org.au

International

1. [DDG Agah at ITC Joint Advisory Group: Open trade and economic inclusion key to post-COVID recovery](#)

In remarks on 25 November to the 54th session of the Joint Advisory Group that oversees the work of the International Trade Centre (ITC), WTO Deputy Director-General Yonov Frederick Agah argued that open international trade, together with efforts to ensure the benefits from economic activity are widely shared, would be necessary to repair the social and economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He praised ITC's work to connect small businesses to markets, empower women and young people, and promote the adoption of greener business practices.

Learn more [here](#).

ISO

1. [Invitation to virtual workshop on ‘Sustainable and Human-Centred Societies Enabled with Cyber Physical Systems’](#)

JISC, the standards body for Japan, invites interested stakeholders to attend an international workshop (IWA 39) on ‘The Gap Analysis for Standardization on Sustainable and Human-centered Societies Enabled with Cyber Physical Systems’.

The first IWA 39 meetings will be held virtually over two days:

- 10 February 2021 12:00-15:00 UTC / Zoom
- 11 February 2021 12:00-15:00 UTC / Zoom

If you are interested in participating or would like to learn more, please contact us at sem@standards.org.au.

2. [Consumer Product Safety Management: Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO Technical Committee on Consumer Product Safety Management has been submitted by SAC, the ISO member body for China. Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position.

The scope of this committee will include standardisation in the field of consumer product safety management to develop terminology, requirements, principles, framework, guidance, testing methods and supporting tools to support activities such as:

- Risk evaluation
- Safety early-warning and traceability
- Intelligent regulatory technology
- Safety control for emerging consumer products
- Safety management of consumer products for specific population groups

To provide feedback or learn more about the proposal, please contact us at sem@standards.org.au.

3. [Opportunity to review ISO 26000 Guidance on social responsibility](#)

It is now 10 years since ISO published the first edition of [ISO 26000 Guidance on social responsibility](#). We are seeking input from Australian stakeholders on whether the standard should be revised, reconfirmed, or withdrawn (feedback is requested by 12 February 2021).

ISO 26000 is intended to provide guidance on the underlying principles of social responsibility to all types and sizes of organisations in the private, public, and non-profit sectors, whether operating in developed or developing countries. ISO 26000 has undergone two systematic reviews, both of which resulted in reconfirming the standard without change.

Standards Australia will consider all feedback received from stakeholders when forming Australia’s position on the systematic review. If you are interested in providing feedback please send an email to international.participation@standards.org.au for more information.

IEC

1. [Webinar on international standards for the artificial intelligence ecosystem](#)

AI offers many benefits, but it also raises ethical and societal concerns for people who use or encounter such technologies.

Wael William Diab who chairs the IEC and ISO standardization activities for artificial intelligence, presented the group's work in a virtual event during the IEC General Meeting.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [Global challenges make the circular economy a necessity](#)

New global challenges are emerging. Worldwide population is now at 7.8 billion and is expected to reach 10 billion by 2050. Economic well-being is fuelling consumption but also over-consumption and materialism. Waste is proliferating and natural resources are being depleted. Already, 75 per cent of the Earth's surface is showing signs of degradation.

In a recent IEC managed networking session hosted by the Chair of the IEC Advisory Group on Environmental Aspects (ACEA), Solange Blaszkowski, presented the circular economy as a solution to these challenges and how standards can help.

Learn more [here](#).