TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY – A DEVELOPING COUNTRY PERSPECTIVE

8 December 2020
- Ministry in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
- SABS Legislative Framework
- UNECE declaration - SABS Signatory
- SABS Action Plan to the UNECE declaration for gender responsive standards and standards development
Ministry in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities¹

“The emancipation of women still remains a cardinal goal and an anchor for a free democratic and prosperous South Africa. At the heart of the transformation agenda of our society is the need to address gender oppression, patriarchy, sexism, racism and structural oppression while creating a more conducive environment for the fostering of equal and full participation of our people in all aspects of the development of our country. The National Development Plan (NDP) envisages a South African society that is democratic and prosperous by 2030. To establish this society, it is an imperative of the NDP to overcome social and economic exclusions because they are causes as well as outcomes of poverty and inequality.”

¹Department for Women – Strategic Plan
Ministry in the Presidency for Women Youth and Persons with Disabilities

“The Department is located in the Presidency as a mechanism to elevate women’s socio-economic empowerment and gender equality to the highest office in the country. This strategic location of Department is aimed at accelerating the socio-economic transformation of women’s empowerment and advancement of gender equality. The Department has a dynamic role to play in the enhancement of the implementation of Vision 2013 as set out in the NDP, by ensuring that its implementation is gender mainstreamed and responsive to the needs of South African women.”

1Department for Women – Strategic Plan
The mandate of the Department is therefore to champion the advancement of women’s socio-economic empowerment and the promotion of gender equality:

- **Strategic leadership, good governance, effective, efficient and economical use of public resources for the socio-economic empowerment of women and promotion of gender equality**
- **Gender mainstreaming of socio-economic and governance programmes in such a way that it accelerates a just and equitable society for women**
- **Gender knowledge and analysis of policy and policy implementation for socio-economic empowerment of women**
- **Monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems as a mechanism to ensure timely interventions aimed at socio-economic empowerment of women and gender equality; and**
- **Public participation in the work of the Department through outreach and advocacy initiatives**

---

1Department for Women – Strategic Plan
LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND QUALITY INSTITUTIONS

- The SABS was established by the Standards Act, 1945 (Act 24 of 1945)
- The SABS exists as a public entity under the Standards Act, 2008 (Act 8 of 2008)

Standardisation
- To develop, promote and maintain South African National Standards (SANS)
- To promote quality with respect to commodities, products and services for the domestic and export markets
- Providing conformity assessment services – certification, laboratory testing and local content verification

Regulation
- Administers regulation to ensure compliance and protect human health and safety

Accreditation
- Provides formal recognition to carry out specific tasks

Metrology
- Underpins testing and calibration through measurement, accuracy and measurement traceability

© 2020 SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS. All rights hereto are strictly reserved. The SABS name and logo are registered trademarks of the South African Bureau of Standards.”
SABS PORTFOLIO OF SERVICES

- Standards Development
- Access to SANS & International Standards
- Certification
- Laboratory Services
- Consignment Inspection
- Local Content Verification
- Training
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
VISION 2030

MAPPING - UNSDGs TO NDP
UNECE DECLARATION – STANDARDS GENDER ACTION PLAN

UNECE Gender Responsive Standards provides a practical framework for standards bodies with the following objectives:

- Strengthening the use of standards and technical regulations as powerful tools to attain SDG 5
- Integrating a gender lens in the development of both standards and technical regulations
- Elaborating gender indicators and criteria that could be used in standards development

Empowering and promoting the greater inclusion of a gendered-lens in standardisation and regulatory policy will create sustained and inclusive economic growth, necessary to reduce inequalities. Moreover, gender responsive standards will help to ensure safe and secure working environments for all workers.
• SABS is a signatory to the UNECE Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development
• Signing ceremony took place at the sideline of the ISO General Assembly hosted in Cape Town, South Africa in September 2019
**GENDER REPRESENTATION**

- Gender demographic – SABS wide
  - 2021 Target: 50% women representation on supervisory and management portfolios
- Gender demographic – SABS Technical Committees
  - 2021 Target: 30% women representation in technical/sub-committees

**GENDER RESPONSIVENESS – NATIONAL STANDARDS**

- Assess the catalogue of SANS and current programme of work on gender responsiveness
- Adopt tools to support TCs in the development of gender responsive standards

**OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY**

- Promotional and marketing material on gender responsive standards
- Stakeholder engagements on Gender Equality
SANS 511 - Women's workwear - Covers the material, cut, make and trim of workwear (dress type) for women.

SANS 434 - General Protective Clothing - Specifies requirements for the material, cut, make and trim of boiler suits, two piece workwear suits, bib and brace overalls and coats and jackets (unlined). Edition 7 which is under revision will make provision for Men’s and women’s measurements for the South African body shapes and sizes as well as for maternity shapes and sizes.

SANS 1482 - Ladies' shoes, flat lasted, with stuck-on outer soles - Specifies requirements for materials and construction for ladies' shoes made in accordance with the flat-lasted stuck-on principle.

SANS 1812 - Manufacture of washable, reusable sanitary towels.

SANS 1261-2 - Performance requirements for retail textiles Part 2: Piece-goods for women's and girls' wear - Specifies performance requirements for retail textile piece-goods used in the manufacturing of women's and girls' wear.

SANS 1118-7 - School clothing Part 7: Girls' slacks and skirts - Covers the materials, cut, make and trim of girls' slacks and skirts.

SANS 1060:2012 - Wheelchairs (folding type): Covers five sizes of folding wheelchairs intended for use by paraplegics, quadriplegics and other incapacitated persons.
Benefits:

Standards assist in levelling the economic playing fields

Standards enable companies to be more competitive

Implementation of standards enables more fit for purpose consumer goods so that women are able to work without restrictions