

**Statement of Technical Cooperation**  
Between The Standardization Organization for the  
Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GSO)  
And the Standards Coordination Office of the National Institute of  
Standards and Technology (SCO/NIST)

**Preamble:**

The purpose of this Statement of Technical Cooperation (Statement) is to establish a framework to pursue cooperation and constructive working relations between the Standardization Organization for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GSO), representing GSO Members, and the Standards Coordination Office of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (SCO/NIST) (hereinafter called the First Party and Second Party respectively) in an effort to enhance communication and coordination with a view to boost cooperation in the standardization activities and conformity assessment related matters of the two Parties in accordance with the Parties' international obligations. This Statement is a statement of intent of the parties to cooperate as outlined below. This Statement is not a legally binding agreement.

**Mission of the GCC Standardization Organization:**

The mission of GSO is to help the States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) achieve the objectives set forth in its Charter and in the GCC Economic Agreement by unifying the various standardization activities and following up application and compliance with the same in cooperation and coordination with the standardization bodies in the Member States in an endeavour to develop the production and service sector, foster the intra-GCC trade, protect the consumer, environment and the public health, and encourage the GCC industries and agricultural production that would enhance the GCC economy, maintain the achievements of the Members States and minimize the technical trade barriers as envisaged by the objectives of the GCC Common Market.

**Mission of the Standards Coordination Office of National Institute of Standards and Technology:**

The mission of NIST is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life. The Standards Coordination Office of the National Institute of Standards and Technology advises senior NIST management on policy and strategy as they relate to advancing the NIST mission and informing U.S. government standards-related programs, coordinates with the U.S. private sector and other federal agencies on standardization activities, and leads interagency standards coordination for NIST, as directed by law and policy.

With the mutual intention of establishing cooperation, consultation, sharing of expertise and training in the fields of standardization, and quality infrastructure, the two Parties intend to accomplish the following:

### **Article 1 - Objectives**

The two Parties seek to accomplish the following goals:

- i- To promote communication between the two Parties.
- ii- To promote cooperation and exchange of information about standardization and related activities between the two Parties.
- iii- Where possible to facilitate the coordination of stances in regional and international arenas in relation to issues of common interests in the field of standardization and its related activities.
- iv- To promote mutual understanding of the roles, functions and specialization of each Party.
- v- To avoid duplication of work efforts where possible.
- vi- To promote awareness in the field of standardization and related activities.
- vii- To exchange information on Inquiry Point operations including notifications to all new proposed regulations at early stage.

### **Article 2 - Scope of Cooperation**

## 1- Standardization

- i- Exchanging information, as much as possible on international or other relevant standards related to products and services being traded between the GCC Member States and the United States.
- ii- Facilitating the exchange of catalogues of standards and technical regulations that are published by each Party where available.
- iii- Exchanging information about the program and plans of each Party related to standard specifications and technical regulations.

## 2- Conformity Assessment and Quality Infrastructure

- i- Exchanging information by the parties about the issues that relate to conformity assessment, and quality infrastructure.

## 3- Training, Workshops and Exchange of Information

- i- Organizing seminars, workshops, field visits, exchange of experiences, and training courses in the fields of standardization, and quality infrastructure.
- ii- Exchange of information about information technology programmes and solutions, training programmes and awareness campaigns in the field of standardization and related activities.

#### 4- Exchange of Experts

- i- The Two Parties intend to exchange experts with a view to enhance the objective of the Statement as deemed appropriate and beneficial for both parties related to standards and quality infrastructure.

#### **Article 3 - Expenses**

No funds are obligated by the Statement. All activities contemplated by this Statement are subject to the availability of funds and other necessary resources to the parties.

#### **Article 4 - Intellectual Property**

- i. **Background Inventions.** No rights to Background Inventions are conveyed by this Statement.
- ii. **Copyrights.** Pursuant to Section 105 of title 7 of the United States Code, data prepared by NIST employees, and data prepared jointly by NIST employees and collaborator employees, are not subject to copyright in the United States. This agreement does not otherwise affect the ability of either party to obtain copyright in their respective works or joint copyright in jointly created works.
- iii. **Publication.** The parties are encouraged to make publicly available the results of their research.
- iv. **Agreement Inventions.** Ownership and licensing of inventions created under this agreement, if any, should be determined at the time the invention is made and in accordance with laws, regulations and treaties applicable to the owning party(ies).

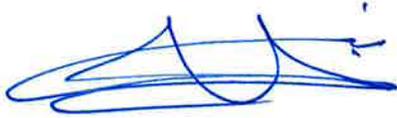
#### **Article 5 - General Provisions**

- i. This Statement of Technical Cooperation shall come into effect from the date of signature and remain in effect for five years. At that time or before, the Parties may agree to renew this Statement or a modified Statement by mutual consent unless one of the Parties requests in writing its termination giving appropriate notice.

- ii. Any issues arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Statement will be settled through consultations between the Parties or such other means as they may mutually decide.
- iii. The Parties intend to regularly review this Statement of Technical Cooperation in order to ensure that it meets its goals, and that it may be amended and supplemented by mutual agreement for furthering the cooperation.
- iv. No amendments to this Statement are allowed by one Party without the prior written agreement of the other Party.
- v. Each Party shall designate a liaison officer who shall be responsible for communication continuation on this Statement.
- vi. This Statement is signed in English.
- vii. This is a statement of intent and is not legally binding upon the Parties. This Statement shall not create legally enforceable rights and cannot be the basis of any legal claim between the Parties. This Statement may be terminated by either Party upon written notice to the other Party.

This Statement was signed at San Diego City, California, United States of America on 20 September, 2012

First Party  
GCC Standardization Organization



**GSO Secretary-General**  
**Nabil A. Molla**

Second Party  
Standards Coordination  
Office, NIST



**Director**  
**Mary Saunders**