

27 November 2020

Media Release

THE SABS IS ELECTED TO SERVE ON ISO COUNCIL

The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) has been elected by the members of the International Organization for Standardisation (ISO) to serve on its Council. The term begins in January 2021 and will end in December 2023. ISO is an independent, non-governmental international organization with a membership of 165 national standards bodies.

“The SABS is honoured to serve as an ISO Council member for the upcoming term. Seventy-five years ago the SABS was one of the founding members of ISO and has previously occupied several Council responsibilities that include; participation in various ISO Policy Committees, membership to ISO Council, Chairing the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO) and membership to the ISO Technical Management Board (TMB). In addition, the SABS holds nine ISO Committee secretariats; is a Participative Member of 251 ISO Committees; Observing Member of 163 ISO committees; holds six Committee Chairpersonships and 11 positions as Convenor of Working Group,” says Dr Sadhvir Bissoon, Executive of Standards. Dr Bissoon has been nominated as the Council representative from the SABS.

“As a member of the ISO Council Dr Bissoon will contribute to the strategic think tank of Council which aims to steer ISO towards achieving organisational sustainability. Core to the strategy of ISO is the realisation of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) through the development and implementation of standards, requirements and conformity assessment to raise the quality of life for all people. South Africa will gain momentum through the synergies and experience that can be gained as a Council member and we are optimistic that this will translate into better quality standards being developed locally and across the continent,” explains Jodi Scholtz, Lead Administrator of SABS.

Dr Bissoon has over 15 years of experience with ISO and participation in its committees. He has served as an Executive Committee Member of the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC), a Council Member of the African Organisation for Standardisation – ARSO and a Council Board Member of the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission).

His experience includes enhancing the developmental agenda of National Standards Bodies with specific experience on the African continent which is host to 55 Member states. As a member of

Council the SABS candidate is committed to serve the best interest of the ISO global community, adhere to the code of conduct and actively participate in Council meetings and Council Standing Committees with associated Council responsibilities.

Council is the core governance body of the ISO and reports to the General Assembly. It is composed of the representatives of 20 member bodies elected by the General Assembly for 3-year terms, the ISO Officers and the Chairs of the policy development committees. Council is chaired by the ISO President and meets three times a year, in principle in February in Geneva, in June in the country of the Council member hosting the meeting, and in September at the location of the General Assembly.

Ends

Issued by:

Roshelle Pillay; Media Relations; 061 030 0133; Roshelle.pillay@sabs.co.za