International Organization for Standardization

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Global Standards Symposium

Bridging the standardization gap:
The contribution of ISO

Presentation by Alan Bryden
ISO Secretary-General

**World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly
Johannesburg, 20 October 2008**

The ISO system

157 national members
98% of world GDP
97% of world population

Collection of over 17000 ISO Standards

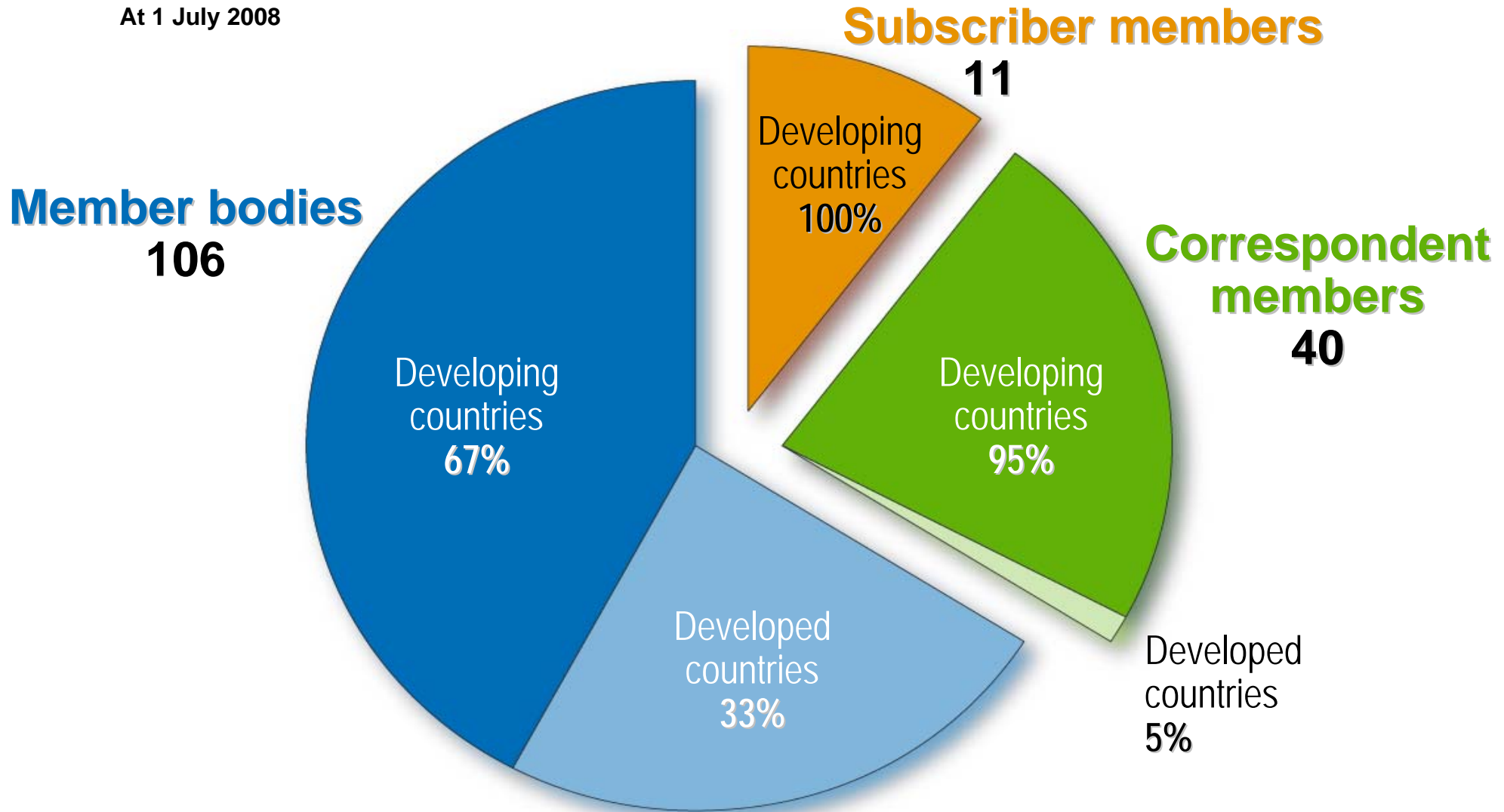**1105 standards produced in 2007**

- IT tools
- Standards development procedures
- Consensus building
- Dissemination

Multisector

186 active TCs

3 000 technical bodies

50 000 experts

Central Secretariat in Geneva

153 staff

Developing Countries in ISO membership

At 1 July 2008

Subscriber members
11

Developing countries 100%

Member bodies
106

Correspondent members
40

Developing countries 67%

Developing countries 95%

Developed countries 33%

Developed countries 5%

ISO 2005-2010 Action Plan for developing countries and economies in transition

- Improve awareness

- Develop capacity

- Increase national and regional cooperation

- Develop electronic communication and expertise in IT tools

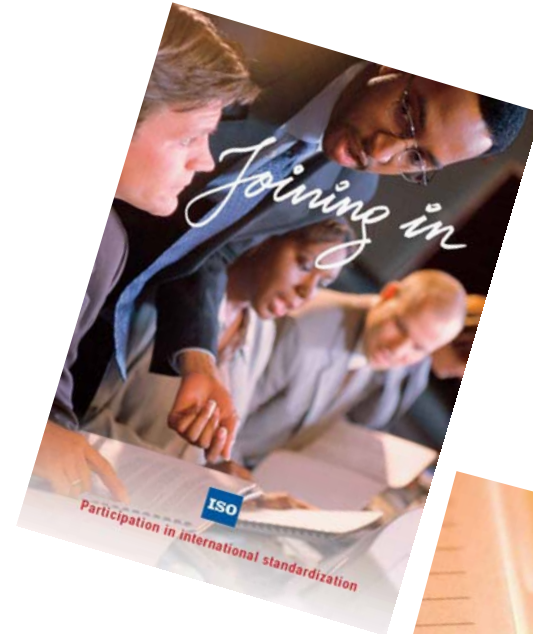- Increase participation in governance and technical work of ISO

ISO Action Plan for developing countries 2005-2010

- Introduction
- ISO and developing countries
- Five key objectives for 2010
- Administration, funding and monitoring
- ISO's added value

ISO Action Plan: main activities

- Awareness raising workshops on key ISO Standards and activities

- Training programme for NSBs and experts in Geneva and on site

- E-learning modules

- Assistance to NSBs for IT tools

- Twinning arrangements for committee secretariats

- DCs in ISO governance
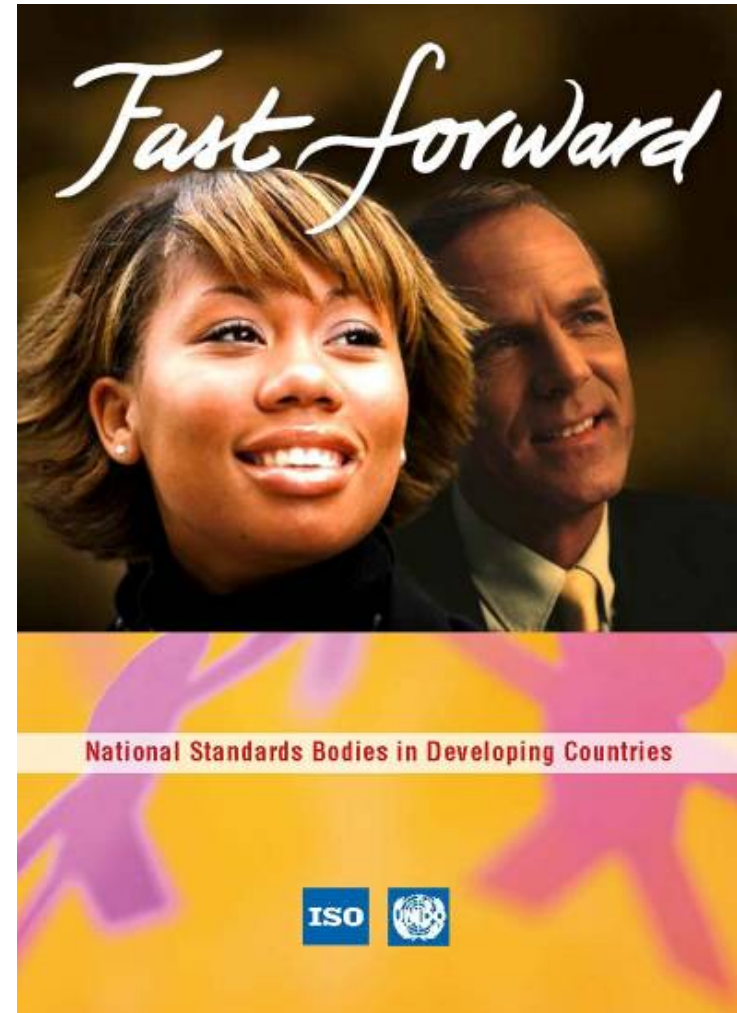 (8/18 in Council, 3/12 in TMB)

Networking

- Political level: e.g. in Africa: African Union and NEPAD

- Donor Agencies: UNIDO, ICT, Regional (e.g. EU) and National development agencies

- World Bank and regional development banks

- WTO

- Joint Committee on Developing Countries in Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization (with IAF, ILAC, OIML, BIPM,…)

- Regional standards organizations: e.g. : African Regional Standards Organization (ARSO)

- Sub-regional economic communities: e.g. in Africa: COMESA, UEMOA, SADC, …

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The way forward
Developing countries and emerging economies

- Tata: Increasing competitiveness with ISO standards
- Leaders of international organizations speak up

The role of the national standards body

- Legal framework for standardization and quality
- Build capacity and monitor developments in international standardization (e.g. ISO e-learning modules)
- Prioritize and organize national participation
- Involve and inform stakeholders
- Promote national implementation (cf. ISO/IEC Guide 21)
- Connection with conformity assessment

Fast forward

National Standards Bodies in Developing Countries

ISO
International Standards for a sustainable world

Thank you for your attention!

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