



INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

Bridging the Standardization Gap in Africa: IEC and AFSEC



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- **IEC is the Global provider of International Electrotechnical Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems**
- **153 countries participating in IEC Family**
- **Some 6 000 International Standards, 175 Technical Committees / Subcommittees, 3 global conformity assessment systems**

Why is IEC talking about AFSEC?

- **Excellent example of international and regional cooperation**
- **Technology transfer from developed to developing world through use of International Standards**
- **AFSEC uses IEC structure to encourage relevant stakeholder participation.**



AFSEC

**African Electrotechnical
Standardization
Commission**

- **AFSEC needed to facilitate infrastructure development...leading to reaching millennium development goals**
- **AFSEC will harmonize electricity supply infrastructure standards – area where Africa lags**
- **Africa has to use existing standards to help improve technical knowledge levels.**

Country	Electrification (%)	People without electricity (millions)
Nigeria	40	76
Ethiopia	5	61
DR Congo	7	47
Tanzania	10	30
Kenya	8	27
Uganda	4	22
Sudan	30	21
Mozambique	7	16

- **National electrotechnical committees, one from each African Union member state**
- **Comprises representation at a national level from the industry, electricity utilities, national standards body, suppliers, manufacturers, government departments, academics, researchers**
- **Same structure and rationale as IEC.**



Short-term aims

- **Establishment of mirror technical committees (to IEC) in early 2009**
- **Recommendations for adoption or adaptation of existing IEC International Standards to come from member National Committees and other stakeholders**
- **Adoption as AFSEC standards or regulations.**



- **IEC aims to formalize relations with AFSEC, using experience of other cooperation agreements with regional bodies (e.g. CANENA, CENELEC, MERCOSUR, PASC)**
- **Creation of national committees in Africa will improve participation in IEC international standardization, either as IEC members or Affiliates.**



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Thank you.



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