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International Societal Standards and Their Role to Achieve Social Justice and Sustainable Development

ISO is keen since its establishment in 1947 to develop international standards through international consensus on the latest developments in relevant technology. ISO started its interest in social issues since the beginning of this century stemming from the public perception that SR is fundamental to the survival and continuation of any organization whether large, medium or small-sized and whether industrial, service, academic or research organizations. Therefore, ISO's development of international standards addressing societal issues e.g. SR, sustainable procurement, anti- bribery management systems, organizational governance, event sustainability management systems, sustainable development of communities, occupational health and safety management systems, and others aims to complement the already existing global initiatives and programs and not to replace them. This has motivated ISO to sign MOUs with ILO, UNGC and OECD to be represented in the development process of international societal standards developed by ISO starting from ISO 26000 «Guidance on social responsibility»

and going through many international societal standards already issued or in their way of issuance or it is proposed to be developed with the purpose of helping all types of organizations contribute to SD with its three pillars: environmental, social and economic that has a great impact on increasing their competitiveness, enhancing their reputation and increasing ability to attract and maintain their human resources, clients and customers in addition to interest in moral aspect of employees and stabilizing the principles of integrity, transparency and social justice that would be reflected on their commitment, increasing productivity and gaining the confidence of investors, donors, financial community, governments, media, suppliers and local community.

In view of the above, the organizations should set up the SD criteria as an integral part of their policies and organizational culture, strategy and processes so as to be capable of undertaking their social responsibility and identify stakeholders and their engagement since organizations cannot guarantee the loyalty of stakeholders without adopting this concept.

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Responsibility between Accountability and Due Care



By: Eng. Osama Elmeligy
Chief Editor
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Since the publication of ISO 26000:2010 as a guidance for Social Responsibility in the context of sustainability and contribution to sustainable development, and the increased awareness of organizations and markets on SR, organizations with all types and sizes are required to integrate the principles of social responsibility into their decisions, practices and relationships.

Accountability is the first principle of the seven principles of social responsibility. There are tools and techniques to integrate accountability throughout an organization. The first is a robust reporting system to ensure that accurate, transparent and timely reports are submitted by different departments, financial, technical, operations, quality, health and safety and environment, and periodically published and communicated

to stakeholders in specific dates without delay. Codes of good conduct and ethics, with a monitoring and compliance system, are another important means for accountability, provided that they are fairly applied the same as laws implementation. Also, the leadership has a key role in promoting the organizational culture of responsibility and accountability by declaring its set of core values and principles and showing leadership by good example and making due diligence and due care a work style. There is a great responsibility on the leadership to face the sustainability's challenges and contribute to sustainable development.

Social Responsibility, Legal Responsibility and Ethical Responsibility cannot be divided.

Challenges and Obstacles to Sustainable Development



Mrs. Asmaa Abdel Mohsen
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It is important to identify the challenges of priority that must be addressed when developing and implementing SD strategy. We will present through this article those challenges as outlined by stakeholders that hinder the achievement of SD in the sectors of industry and trade (external and internal).

In the field of industry:

- Reducing intensity of use of materials, energy and water in industrial production.
- Reducing or preventing industrial pollution by updating the old technologies.
- Deficiency in information and data systems in an obstacle to decision-making and follow-up of the implementation.
- Multiplicity of executive bodies which requires increased coordination efforts to achieve the effective application of environmental policy.
- Dissemination of medium and small-sized industrial activities and their use of heavy oils, coal, rubber and some waste as fuel, leading to increased air pollutant emissions
- Limited training opportunities for developing staff skills.
- Lack of awareness of the importance of quality of services provided to industry sector.
- Lack of funding dedicated to achieve cleaner production.
- No digital map of land use for industrial purposes.

In the field of trade:

a – External trade (import and export)

Export:

- 1- Opening markets for national products (economic dimension).
- 2- Increasing the national added-value of exported goods (economic and social dimensions)

Import:

- 1- Rationalizing importation (economic dimension).

2- Reducing the importation of trivial goods in order to preserve hard currency balances for generations and stimulating domestic production to ensure operation of labor (economic and social dimensions).

3- Abiding by local environmental requirements on importation (direct damages of imported goods and the possibility of waste recycling) (environmental dimension).

b- Internal trade and distribution:

- 1- Updating interior trade and distribution channels of



strategic commodities (economic dimension)

2- Equitable distribution of essential commodities and ensuring support access to those who deserve it (social dimension).

3- Commitment to the environmental dimension when handling internally traded goods (environmental dimension).

And we will complete in the next issues the challenges faced by other sectors of the State to achieve SD e.g. electricity, energy, oil, tourism, agriculture, environment and natural resourcesand others.

Corruption & Political Financing in Malaysia: Why Reforms are needed?

Dr. Muhammad Mohan

Transparency International Malaysia



The people of Malaysia have been tolerating corruption for far too long. The usual attitude of Malaysians to have a “give and take” attitude towards corruption is a cause for concern. Our culture that it is fine for someone to be corrupt as long as we are also benefitting is slowly eroding the good values we had. We often close one eye to political corruption in all forms, and ignore the lack of accountability and governance in the stewardship of national resources, as long as political leaders are delivering economic benefits to the society. Due to non-transparency in government procurement and granting of license and concessions and other forms of political patronage, the burden increases on the tax payers and the public. In a study done by World Bank in 2008, corruption in Malaysia could cost up to USD 3 billion a year (TI-M, 2010). This means that it will have an impact on our cost of living and inefficient delivery system. Worse it funds and safeguards the interest of highly influential persons who abuse their power. Similarly, the enforcement institutions can be subjected to undue influence to act in a manner that compromises their independence and professionalism. All these can cause a nation to decline into the abyss of hopelessness that is the characteristic of a failed state.

In 2014 Transparency International-Malaysia (TI-Malaysia) commissioned a survey called the Malaysian Corruption Barometer. The survey identified political parties as the most corrupt institution in Malaysia. It is very alarming that politicians who are elected to serve the people with responsibility are perceived as corrupt.

Today it is not surprising that more and more Malaysians are calling for change and for more accountability from politicians and their political parties. The overwhelming opacity in the political arena and monetisation of politics has become ingrained into the political system to an extent that the electoral process will be seriously undermined if there are no reforms. Political corruption has been described as the “mother of corruption”, and therefore any serious effort to improve the country's integrity system must change the political culture. Undoubtedly laws will have to be legislated to improve transparency and accountability in securing future political funding support. The government must come up with a practical formula or mechanism to regulate and channel political financing. The key areas that are required for reform in political financing are as follows:

- Regulations for political financing

- Promotion of fair political competition
- Limiting the influence of money over policies and the electoral process
- An independent and effective public oversight mechanism
- Greater disclosure of political donations and expenditure, and
- Limiting the unhealthy nexus between politics and business to curb political patronage.

Malaysia is one of the very few countries where political parties own corporate enterprises. These companies include the publishers of major newspapers, television and radio firms. Political funding can come from these firms for electoral campaigns in party and national elections. Sometimes funding does not go to the political parties directly but ends up in individual political party leaders' personal account for distribution. Current laws do not compel political leaders to make a full disclosure on where the funds came from, what amount and who were the beneficiaries of these funds. Thus, reformation of political funding is something the Malaysian government is seriously looking at after the strong advocacy initiatives by Civil Society Organizations including Transparency International-Malaysia.

On a positive note the Malaysian government has recognized that reforms are necessary to increase the public's trust in democracy and political parties by promoting transparency and accountability in political financing. The government has embarked on a transformation programme that covers six National Key Result Areas including corruption. One initiative is to review the current legislation related to political funding and to adopt new initiatives to improve transparency. This has the potential to generate the much needed momentum for reforms in the political system. Such efforts need to be pursued in a non-partisan manner in order to obtain the support of all stakeholders.

It is hoped that when the political funding reforms take place, Malaysia will be able to join the league of other countries like South Korea who have been successful in making reforms in political financing. This will also force our politicians to be accountable, responsible and transparent in raising funds for their election campaigns and allow for greater public scrutiny.

Social Responsibility between Consumer Rights and Duties

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Member of SR National Committee



If we accept that the main axis of all of the social responsibility core subjects, from the perspective of the international standard ISO 26000, is focusing on the responsibilities of organizations towards society and environment in order to achieve sustainable development including its three pillars: environmental, social and economic development.

So, we need to look for the key stakeholders that affect and be affected by this development targeting to reach the sustainability of society and the planet as a whole.

Here the consumer appears at the forefront not only as a stakeholder, but also the main actor in establishing the concepts of social responsibility and the commitment to its principles and the dissemination of its practices in all organizations - regardless of their location, size, or activity - not merely as a strategy, policies and action plans, but as a continuous and permanent life style. The importance of the relationship between social responsibility and consumer has been demonstrated since the initial stages of the development of international standard on Social Responsibility "ISO 26000", where the consumer has the lead in this work. The ISO Policy Committee on Consumer "COPOLCO" has initiated the application for elaboration of the standard in 2002, which was authorized in January 2005 by the International Organization for Standardization "ISO". The consumer has an active role in the preparation of the standard until it was issued in November 2010, where the International Organization for Consumers (CI) and many consumer protection experts from all over the world participated in the development process of the standard. The ratio of consumer representation reached 11.5% among the 450 experts and 195 observers representing 99 countries.

This importance is also evident in the standard itself, as one of the principles of social responsibility stipulated in the standard is "respect the interests of the parties concerned, including the consumer, through ensuring familiarity with their needs and interest, responding to their expectations and maintaining their interests.

In addition, among the seven core subjects covered by the standard, one has been allocated to address consumer issues. This subject deals with number of principles that guide the socially responsible consumer practices, which are based on the eight consumer rights that form part of the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection approved by the General Assembly in 1985, and expanded in 1999 to include sustainable consumption. These rights are summarized in ensuring safety and protection from any risks or hazards to the consumer health and safety; the right of knowledge and access to adequate information necessary to choose consciously and protection from ads or misleading statements; right to make choice from a wide range of products and services at competitive prices while ensuring the satisfactory quality ; the right to be heard and to ensure the representation of its interests in the making and implementation of the government policies as well as in developing products and services; the right to compensation and to fair settlement of complaints and claims, including compensation for misrepresentation or providing unsatisfactory products or services; and the right to education and awareness to

acquire knowledge and skills necessary for making the conscious choices of reliable products, services as well as knowledge of basic consumer rights and responsibilities.

As regards the international standard "ISO 26000", the core subject of consumer issues deals with seven issues including fair marketing, information and contractual practices; protection of consumer health and safety, sustainable consumption; consumer service, dispute resolution and redress; consumer data protection and privacy; access to essential services; and education and awareness. The ISO 26000 provides a description of each of these issues with the relevant actions and expectations, which provide guidance to the organization on how to integrate the practices of social responsibility regarding each issue. From the above, we note that the concept of social responsibility has placed on the shoulders of the organization, among other issues, the task of education and awareness of consumer about products and services. In educating consumers, an organization, when appropriate, should address health and safety aspects, including product hazards; information on appropriate laws and regulations; ways of obtaining compensation; contacts of agencies and organizations for consumer protection; adequate information through product and service labeling, manuals and instructions for use; information on weights and measures, prices, quality, as well as information on risks and precautions related to the use of products.

The organization's social responsibility also includes providing the consumer with information related to environmental protection; sustainable resource use including use of raw materials, energy and water; appropriate disposal of packaging materials and used products, with a view to informing and motivating the consumer to contribute to sustainable development.

It is necessary to shed more light on the issue of sustainable consumption not only as a consumer right from the perspective of social responsibility, but also as a consumer responsibility within the framework of the concept of sustainable development.

As stated in ISO 26000, the sustainable consumption is defined as "consumption of products and services at rates consistent with sustainable development" which means changing consumption patterns; taking into account the ethical, social and environmental factors and to build on the knowledge and the correct information when making choice among the products and services as well as when taking the purchase decision up to the responsible consumption to meet the basic needs in an efficient and environment-friendly and community.

From the above it is obvious that applying the guidelines of the international standard "ISO 26000" represents the effective tool and the common language for all parties involved, including the consumer, to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

The consumer protection agencies, whether governmental or NGOs, have the ability to work as a driver and a catalyst for the change toward a sustainable society.

Responsible Care in Brief

Eng. Somaia El Safty
SR National Trainer



Care is a global, voluntary initiative for chemical industries to commit to sustainability. It stands for the chemical industry's desire to improve health, safety, and environmental performance. It was launched in Canada in 1985 to address public concerns about the manufacture, distribution and use of chemicals. Responsible Care has since spread to nearly 60 economies all around the world.

What is Responsible Care?

Responsible Care is an initiative by the chemical industry to raise safety, health and environmental (SHE) standards throughout the sector through a comprehensive, harmonized program of risk assessment, risk management and risk minimization. The initiative is based on a set of core ethical principles; however it is much more than just a set of declarations and good intentions.

In other words, responsible care is preventing exposure to hazardous chemicals, ensuring the safe transportation of dangerous goods and advising on appropriate occupational health and safety measures to protect workers, etc. When companies freely pledge their commitment to responsible care, they agree to follow its guiding principles of going about their day-to-day operations in a manner that minimizes their impact on the environment, whilst protecting the health and safety of employees and the public. At the same time, employees are able to experience peace of mind with the knowledge that their employer cares for, and is looking after their health, safety and well-being. Implementation of responsible care also benefits the environment as the initiative focuses on waste management and minimization, (sustainable use

of resources, the prevention of pollution and compliance with environmental legislation.

Benefits of Responsible Care:

Responsible Care is renowned worldwide as a credible initiative that promotes sustainable development amongst its members. This is achieved through a deal and sound call for continuous improvements in the health, safety and environmental performance. There is growing evidence that companies that have voluntarily agreed to implement Responsible Care, have won the trust of contractors, staff, customers and community.

In turn, this level of social responsibility has been able to help chemical companies develop their business, and in many ways guarantee ROI (return on investments).

The Relationship between Environment and Development

Eng. Nael Barakat
Egyptian-Italian Business Development Consultant



The reality of strong relationship and mutual influence between the environment and development is no longer of doubt, as the comprehensive and integrated economic and social development rely on the human's ability, level of his perceptions and scientific knowledge on one hand, and on the exploitation and proper use of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, on the other hand. It is impossible to carry out a comprehensive and sustainable development that fulfills the growing human's needs and requirements in isolation from knowledge and consideration of the surrounding environmental conditions that constitute the material basis of various humanitarian activities and affect the level of progress and well-being.

It is noteworthy that what serious deterioration of environment happened in our time was the product of human's exploitation and depletion of environmental resources without considering the negative effects and results that are harmful to him and his environmental surroundings in light of what is known as traditional development. Under this traditional development, all nations of the world have sought towards raising the level of economic growth as being the best way to improve human living and increase his well-being. However, in terms of the environment, it has been dealt with as being a huge stock of natural, inexhaustible resources, necessary for development

and at the same time a bank of development waste.

It is also in light of the traditional development model, human was seen as a means and a tool to increase production and not an end. Thus, there was no interest in developing human resources and then the interest in problems e.g. poverty, unemployment and income distribution has fallen down in the midst of attention to high GDP growth rates. This narrow concept of development has resulted in many negative impacts, the most notably are the growing number of poor and low standard of living of population. With the growing awareness on the necessity of linkage between environment and development, the relationship between the environment and development and the reform path of that relationship has gained a great importance to ensure balance between both.

In modern environmental and economic literature, there has become an urgent need for the emergence of a new concept of development replacing the traditional concept. In this sense, the concept of sustainable development or viable development has emerged based on the idea of the need for balance between the environment and development so that the environmental safety becomes an integral part of the development process.

Pioneering Experience in SR Experience of Hashim Brothers Co. for Essential Oils & Aromatic Products

Mrs. Sohaila Hashim
General Manager

When Hashim Brothers Co. for Essential Oils began to prepare for application of the ISO 26000 for social responsibility with the help of a group of national and international experts, we were not fully aware of all the benefits resulting to the Company, although the Company is one of the leading corporates in Egypt in applying social and environmental responsibility that come back to 2003. The impact of that activity was heavily reflected on the environment surrounding the company and with a lesser impact on the Co. from inside, starting in 2013 when we identified our key objectives to achieve SD and the appropriate ways for this:

1- Improving the working conditions and environment in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and global subsidies for workers by:

- Publishing the internal Code of Professional Conduct in 2005.

- Encouraging workers in the factory to get the membership of the concerned syndicates.

- Allocating a place in the factory for workers' meetings and encouraging collective bargaining value.

2- Combating the phenomenon of child labor in the agricultural and industrial field and setting up this goal a top priority by eradicating poverty and illiteracy within the Co.'s sphere of influence.

3- Promoting education in the surrounding environment and fight against illiteracy:

- Establishment of principles of computer learning center for children and youth at the village of Kafr El-Shurafa, the Centre worked for 7 years with symbolic fees to ensure sustainability and then transferred to the 6th of October City in the first care housing under the supervision of a civil society organization.

4- Improving the living and health conditions in the surrounding environment:

- The problem of the village of Kafr El-Shurafa: The growing number of patients with renal failure at the village.

- Fast Range Solutions: Donating dialysis devices for Shebin El Qanater Central Hospital.

- Long-run Solutions: Cooperating with a civil association at the village to establish a treatment plant to filter water feeding the village in 2010.

- The problem of the village of Shubra Balula – Gharbia Governorate Province: Though it is one of the largest jasmine cultivation areas in Egypt where there are small-scale farmers, there are no health units at the village, having 5000 people. The Co. collaborated with civil society associations at the village to create a health unit in the following specialties: eyes, teeth, internist, kids and women's diseases. The unit works for symbolic fees to ensure sustainability.

5 -Participating with the civil society associations to achieve the goals by:

- Health and environmental awareness-raising seminars for the women of the Egyptian Society for the Community and Environment Service.

- Create job opportunities at home for women of the society in order to help them for financial independence.

6- Dissemination of environmental awareness in the



hashem brothers

For Essential Oils & Aromatic Products

agricultural field within the sphere of influence of the Co.:

- Setting up a project to convert poultry farms waste into organic fertilizer 100% and deployment of its use in the agricultural environment.

- Annual afforestation project 2005 - 2016.

7- Work to produce a final product free from pesticide residues: Modernizing the Co.'s labs to analyze pesticides proportions in the final product before exporting.

Hence, it is clear that the Co.'s activities in the field of social and environmental responsibility have become systematic according to an annual plan with specific vision and missions, and the Co. became with a high ability to measure results, and a remarkable improvement in communication and engagement with stakeholders has accrued.

One of the main benefits to the company after getting a Letter of Thanks from ISO for its implementation of the principles and practices of SR according to ISO 26000: improving the Co.'s image before clients and stakeholders, getting an added value for the Co., accessing new promising markets that ask suppliers to have societal or environmental activities. More realistically, when we applied to be certified with one of the highest and most complex certificates in Europe in the field of SR i.e. «For Life» issued by IMO in Switzerland, our Co. got the certificate with «Excellent» grade. That is due to the good preparation, which our Co. got during its application journey of ISO 26000 and relevant documents that identified the proper approach and how to take the right decision.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the national experts who were helpful for good preparation and to the international experts as well who have worked in this ISO project (2011- 2014) with financial support of SIDA for qualifying a number of national organizations in a number of MENA countries including Egypt for the application of social responsibility.

With the Participation of One of Al-Azhar Scholars Awareness-raising Seminar on Anti-Corruption and Bribery

The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS) has organized an awareness-raising seminar on anti-corruption and bribery in cooperation with Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, at which Dr. Mahmoud El Hawary, one of Al-Azhar scholars, has given a lecture.

The seminar has dealt with the types of administrative and financial corruption, the concept and reasons of the administrative and financial corruption and their negative effects on the State's institutions and the possible and future solutions to address this dangerous phenomenon and the comprehensive reforms in the State's institutions, leading to the support of economy and the advancement of society.

The seminar has focused on forms of administrative corruption such as the acceptance of public official gifts and bribes from clients and exploitation of the post, equipment and public funds for personal gains. In addition, the seminar stated the consequences of administrative corruption from religious perspective on the individual and community and the urgent need for separation between Halal and Haram.

He added that the phenomenon of administrative and financial corruption is considered a fatal community scourge, ancient found in all ages and all communities, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, strong or weak, until nowadays. Their emergence and continuity are linked to the human desire to obtain material or moral gains illegally. Many modern societies have struggled to get rid of this societal scourge as it stands as an obstacle to the proper and correct development of those communities and its spread in the State's institutions is one of



the greatest dangerous obstacles to the economic recovery as it appears in the abuse of power for private purposes, whether blackmail, favoritism or waste of public money or its manipulation whether directly or indirectly. It results in bad effects i.e. diversion of resources and real potentials from everyone's interests to the interests of individuals where interest and wealth are concentrated in the hands of a small group of society, which is not for the benefit of the individual nor society.

Egypt Develops an Integrated Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2030



Egypt has announced at the 105th Session of the International Labour Conference, held in Geneva that the Egyptian government has developed an integrated strategy for sustainable development for 2030 in line with the sustainable development agenda, adopted by the United Nations.

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Sa'fan, Minister of Manpower, has said in Egypt's speech in front of representatives of governments, businessmen and workers from 186 member states of the International Labor Organization (ILO): "The strategy represents a basic work plan for comprehensive development and is based on several key axes, the most important of which are economic development, energy, knowledge, innovation, scientific

research, transparency and efficiency of governmental institutions, social justice, and education.

He added that the Egyptian government is highly interested in the programs of social protection and employment, which aim to eradicate poverty, fulfill the needs of poor families and the elderly and disabled people, protect women and children, support small and micro enterprises and implement development and service projects in many sectors that will contribute to job creation, reduce unemployment and increase growth rates. Also, the Egyptian government is implementing in collaboration with ILO many projects to achieve sustainable development and decent work.

Vodafone Signs a Cooperation Protocol with the Nile University for Supporting Research Projects and Innovative Initiatives

The Nile University has organized a celebration in cooperation with the Vodafone Foundation for Community Development on the occasion of concluding a collaboration protocol to support research projects and innovative initiatives in the field of communication technology posed by the master students, which aim to provide modern solutions for societal problems through relying on all that is new in the field of information and communication technology in Egypt.

This protocol comes to activate the strategy «Technology for Good». Through this protocol, cooperation with the Smart Wireless Network Center of the Nile University is carried out to adopt and support a number of graduation projects, students researches and research projects of emerging companies of entrepreneurs specialized in this field through transforming their business and ideas into reality that helps in solving the necessary and urgent problems of the society. Among the most important projects to be adopted by the Vodafone Egypt Foundation for Community Development and is consistent with the strategy «Technology for good» is the project of health care system over the mobile with a suitable cost for monitoring patients and advising them which master's students initiated its work in 2010. This project was funded initially by the Microsoft Corporation America for a year under the name of «Mobile Health Care in Africa», but it was developed in the form of an application supported by the smart phones operating with Windows system so that it is linked to medical devices via Bluetooth, such as blood pressure monitoring, measuring pacemaker device through uploading medical data and distributing text messages at a reasonable cost.

EOS Participates in the 5th Meeting of the ISO/PC 277 «Sustainable Procurement», Australia

EOS has participated in the 5th meeting of the ISO/PC 277 concerned with the development of the draft international standard ISO 20400 “Sustainable procurement” held in Australia. During this meeting, the comments received from member states, including Egypt, on the ISO/DIS 20400 i.e. 1200 comments were discussed. The participating delegations have agreed to transform this PC to a TC after taking the approval of the ISO/TMB so that it can publish another document to raise awareness on the standard, enhance the involvement of the interested parties and qualify users of this standard when issued for implementation especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The activities to be carried out by EOS after participation in these meetings can be summarized as follows:

- Participation in the process of developing the promotional document to be set up by the ISO/PC 277 so as to be

consulted when developing the national communication plan to promote this in-



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ternational standard when issued, which will be adopted as an Egyptian standard.

- Coordination between EOS, and the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the General Authority for Governmental Services represented in the National Technical Committee on Sustainable Procurement in order to incorporate sustainability criteria with its environmental, societal and economic dimensions in governmental procurement through inserting relevant amend-

ments in Law No. 89/1998 on the organization of tenders and auctions.

It is worth mentioning that Egypt has joined the membership of this PC in 2014 due to the importance of the topic of sustainable procurement as being one of the tools that helps organizations contribute to the sustainable development with its three pillars: environmental, societal and economic to address the challenges facing our world such as climate change, eradication of poverty, unemployment, depletion of natural resources, pollution and others through encouragement to follow up balanced patterns of production and consumption without over-reliance on natural resources, which is in line with the “Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt’s vision 2030”, which acts as a roadmap for optimization of Egypt’s potentials, increasing competitiveness and improving the standard of individuals’ living.

Mexico Hosts the Meetings of ISO/PC 278 on Anti-Bribery Management Systems

Mexico hosted the 5th and final meeting of ISO/PC 278 concerned with the development of the international standard for Anti-bribery management systems. At these meetings, comments received from member states on the ISO/DIS 37001 i.e. about 600 comments were presented and discussed. It is worth mentioning that the most important Egypt’s comments were to publish this international standard as a guide and not as a management system standard for anti-bribery so as not to be used as a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a barrier to trade as being certifiable nor used in regulatory or contractual purposes or a standard of integrity

and transparency index of the States which would threaten the economic and commercial interests and size of investments in developing countries, including Egypt. EOS has established a national mirror committee, comprising a number of representatives of governmental agencies, control and service authorities, relevant ministries, NGOs and civil society organizations, to participate in the development process of the international standard and be acquainted with the latest developments in the field of anti-corruption and bribery at the international and regional levels in preparation for the issuance of an Egyptian Standard (ES). This ES deals with the procedures to be taken

by all the national bodies to prevent, detect and respond to corruption in all its forms and manifestations of bribery, fraud, cartels, other anti-trust/ competition offences, money-laundering and others. The development process of an ES for anti-bribery comes within the implementation policies of the National Strategy for Anti-Corruption (2014 – 2018) which represents a vision towards the upgrade of administrative performance and the maintenance of public money, and a message for all to emphasize that integrity, transparency and accountability are of a priority of the State to upgrade the performance and achieve sustainable development and well-being of the citizens .

The 1st Annual Forum for Science, Technology & Innovation to Achieve SD Agenda

The 1st annual forum for stakeholders in the fields of science, technology and innovation was held at United Nations Headquarters entitled: «Recognition of the Potential of Science, Technology and Innovation for all in order to achieve SDGs». The forum focused on finding a practical solution to achieve SDGs and the involvement of all stakeholders, as it is a place to interact, establish relationships and identify and study the technological needs and gaps, in addition that it will help in the development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies to implement SDGs. UN Secretary-General has declared that: «Innovation comes at the heart of SDGs along with the progress in science and technology, which is the 17th of SDGs as the harnessing of science,

technology and innovation is a critical factor in converting 2030 agenda into a reality.

This Forum was attended by a group of scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs, as well as experts and representatives of governments and civil sector to exchange ideas and proposals on innovation and related issues.

