

**Commonwealth Standards Network: Side event of ARSO meetings
Wednesday 19th June 17.30-18.30**

Background:

At the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the UK Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN) to tackle non-tariff barriers and promote strong trade amongst all Commonwealth states through the participation, adoption and implementation of existing international standards.

"The network will provide a significant opportunity for national standards experts to collaborate and share best practice and it will empower developing countries to have a stronger voice in the international standards community – something that has benefits on a global scale." *UK Prime Minister Theresa May at the Commonwealth Head of Governments Meeting, 16th April 2018.*

The following CSN outputs will be delivered by April 2020:

- Online portal, to support information exchange and peer to peer support;
- Framework of International Standards, and a Toolkit to support their implementation;
- 30 in-country training sessions, focussed on raising awareness of the benefits of international standards, and to assist countries to take an active role in international standards development;
- Focussed in-country technical assistance programmes to support NSB development.

CSN ARSO meeting:

- Wednesday 19th June, 17.30-18.30.
- Location: Panari Hotel Nairobi (room TBC)
- Host: Peter Sissons, BSI Head of International Engagement
- Agenda:
 1. CSN background;
 2. Update on the CSN work programme outputs;
 3. Launch of the CSN online portal;
 4. Feedback and discussion about next steps.

The CSN is a collaborative network open to all Commonwealth countries and it is important that its members are actively involved in shaping its development so that outcomes will best suit their needs, as such, the CSN ARSO meeting will be a collaborative discussion.

RSVP by 13th June to CSN Programme Manager Ben Hedley: ben.hedley@bsigroup.com

For more CSN information, please see <https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/about-bsi/uk-national-standards-body/commonwealth-standards-network/>, or contact Ben Hedley.