Commonwealth Standards Network

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Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN)
Annual Meeting Report
20th September 2022

Background:

The CSN is a collaborative network open to all Commonwealth countries and regional Commonwealth associations. The network seeks to promote the use and awareness of international standards and improve technical and institutional capacity to use and develop Quality Infrastructure.

International standards play an important role in promoting productivity and efficiency, reducing costs, removing barriers to trade, and driving economic growth. As such the CSN is especially relevant to nations that are looking to boost their trade capabilities through the use of standards/Quality Infrastructure.

Annual Meeting 2022:

Date/Time: Tuesday 20th September; 12.00-13.00 (GST)

Location: Executive Multi-Purpose Room, Floor 2, ADNOC Business Center, Abu Dhabi (hybrid event with online attendance also available).

1. Welcome and Introduction

Scott Steedman (BSI, Director of Standards) welcomed participants attending in-person and online, he outlined CSN background and objectives and welcomed Raymond Murenzi the CSN co-chair role.

2. CSN Governance

Raymond Murenzi (RSB, Director General) accepted the position of CSN co-chair and provided an overview of his ambitions for CSN to expand its outreach and collaborative efforts to promote the value of QI throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

3. Overview of CSN programme and Resources

Ben Hedley (CSN, Senior Programme Manager) provided an overview of CSN membership of 53 countries, activities, and resources including eLearning and publications. *(See separate file for Presentation).*

4. Overview of new Standards Partnership and collaboration with CSN

Charles Davies (BSI, International Projects Principal Consultant) delivered a presentation outlining the 'Standards Partnership' Pilot programme *(See separate file for Presentation)*, he noted how it builds upon the Technical Assistance work of the CSN and that the programme will be working in partnership with the CSN with some Standards Partnership

funding allocated to develop CSN's written resources that are applicable for all CSN members. *(See Annex A for Presentation).*

5. Digitization and Digital Trade

Cindy Parokkil (BSI, International Policy Manager) outlined how International Standards are the keystone in the bridge to Digitization and Digital Trade by building trust. *(See separate file for Presentation).*

6. Workshop discussion: NSB needs assessments and next steps for CSN

Workshop discussion highlighted the interest of CSN members for the network to continue and for it to be closely aligned with the Standards Partnership:

- There is a large amount of written and online CSN resources that are useful for the membership to use but the materials will need updating over the next couple of years to remain relevant.
- Lessons learned from CSN Technical Assistance programmes can potentially be used throughout the Commonwealth. Follow-up on the previous programme outcomes would be beneficial.
- Simplified standards are a useful tool for CSN membership to highlight the value of using standards, particularly to SME audiences.
- CSN members can provide 'lessons learned' and guidance to other members.
- There is some demand for national and international standards development guidance so that NSBs can be more inclusive of indigenous communities.

7. Closing Summary

David Bell (BSI, Director of Standards Policy) provided the following closing remarks:

- The founding objectives of the CSN are still relevant: Supporting increased development and use of international standards through the Commonwealth to facilitate greater volumes of intra-Commonwealth trade.
- There is a large scope for the CSN membership (53 'Core' members and 31 'Associate' members) to collaborate further to promote the use of international standards to reduce technical barriers to trade and enhance positive developmental outcomes.
- Existing CSN materials should be used and promoted by the membership.
- The CSN will work alongside the Standards Partnership Pilot programme.
- The CSN will increasingly work with non NSB organisations such as the Commonwealth Secretariat 'Connectivity Agenda' to focus on Regulatory and Digital connectivity themes.

To find out more about the network and/or membership, please contact the CSN Programme Manager Ben Hedley ben.hedley@bsigroup.com

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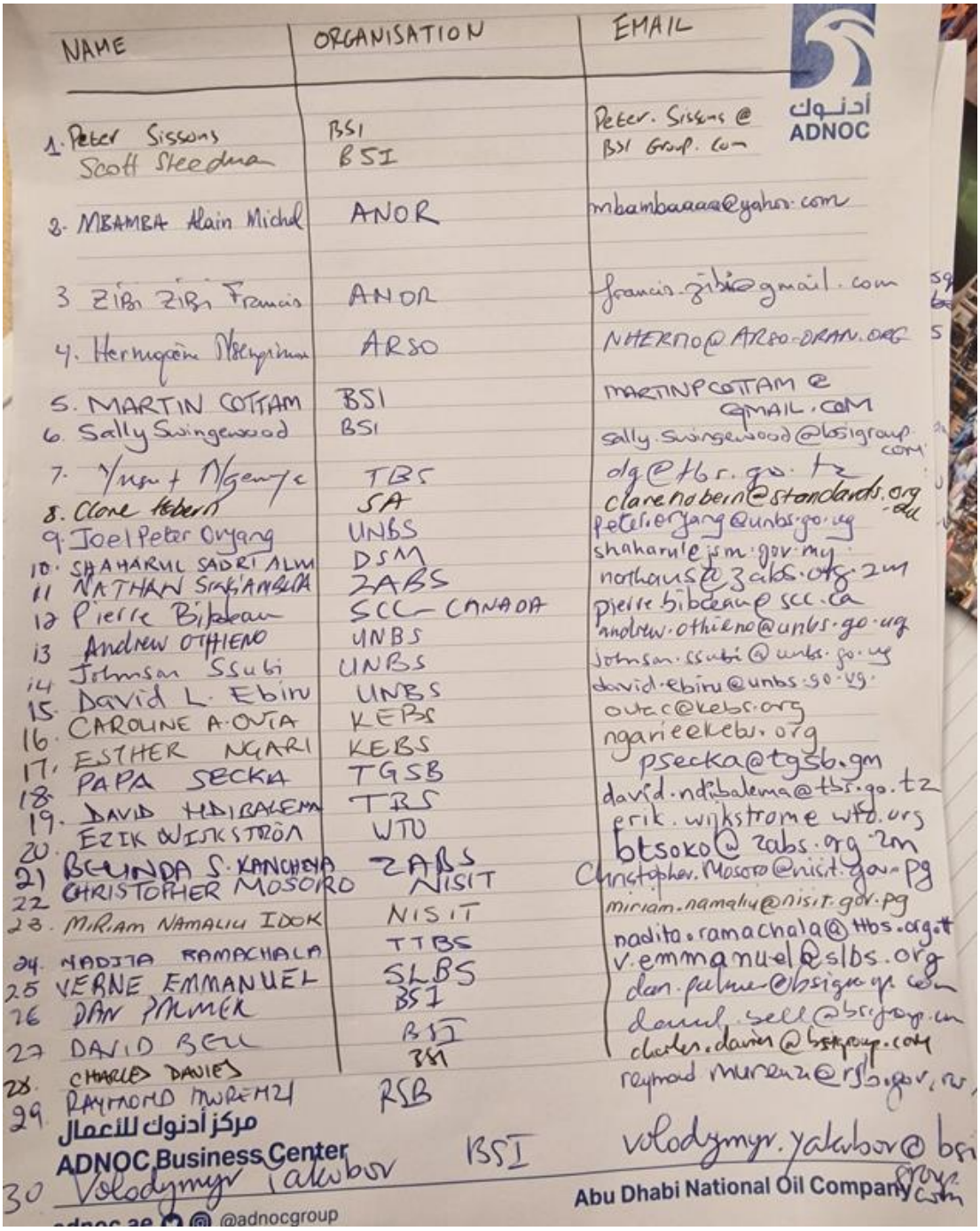
ANNEX A: Attendees



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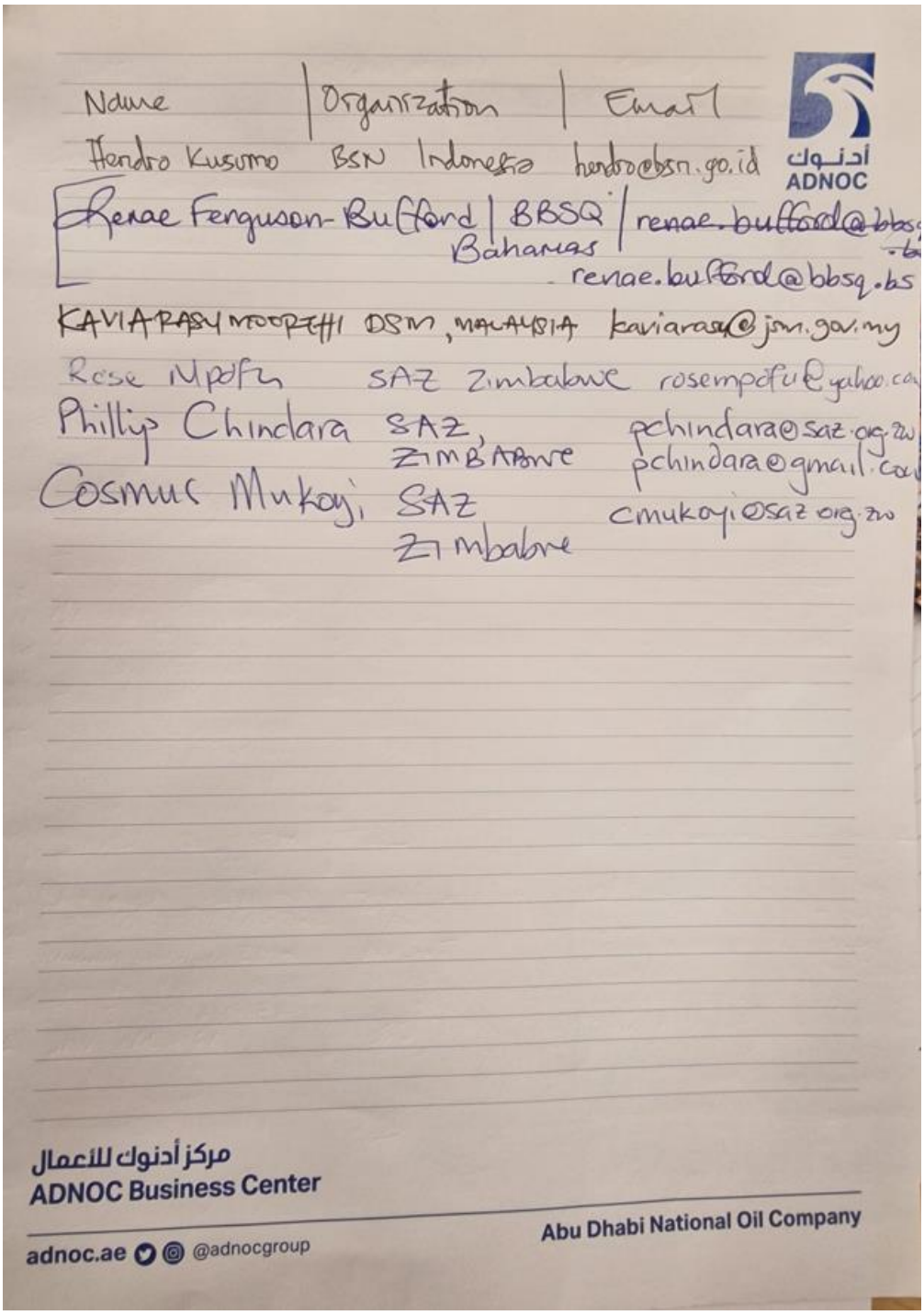

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Abu Dhabi National Oil Company

+ Sierra Leone, SLBS x1 (un-signed). + Additional meeting with Ghana, GSA x4 (un-signed). = 19 organisations represented in-person *(mostly NSBs, but also ARSO and WTO).* + 7 organisations online *(mostly NSBs, but also CROSQ & FCDO).*

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