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International Organization for Standardization
Международная Организация по Стандартизации



Our ref. COPOLCO 31/2010

TO THE MEMBERS OF COPOLCO

Date 2010-06-21

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are contacting you with respect to the theme of the COPOLCO workshop in 2011, and to highlight Resolution 29/2010 in this regard:

COPOLCO Resolution 29/2010
Future workshops

COPOLCO

reiterates its appreciation to BSI for hosting the 2011 COPOLCO meeting,

notes the proposed theme, Homes for tomorrow.

The complete proposed title, *Homes for tomorrow – Building through standards*, comprises several possible sub-elements for development in break-out discussion groups:

- Homes – rebuilding after disasters
- Greening our homes, and
- Homes – accessible to all.

A more detailed outline of the theme which BSI has kindly provided, including possible focus areas, appears overleaf.

We would appreciate it if you could provide comments and suggestions regarding the theme as a whole and the proposed break-out sessions, in order to facilitate the organization of the workshop in advance of the meeting of the COPOLCO Chair's Group on 1-3 November 2010.

Please respond to copolco@iso.org by **30 July 2010**.

We thank you in advance for your attention to the above.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dana Kissinger-Matray'.

Dana Kissinger-Matray
Secretary of COPOLCO

Enclosure

INTRODUCTION

At the 2010 COPOLCO Plenary meeting, BSI, host country for the 2011 meeting, proposed the workshop theme *'Homes for tomorrow – Building through standards'* for the 2011 workshop in London. This subject has not so far featured amongst the long list of workshop themes since the inception of the COPOLCO Workshop in 1979. In thanking BSI for the offer to host the meeting, this topic was noted in Plenary Resolution 29/2010.

The following provides more detail on possible subjects for speakers and break-out groups for consideration by ISO/COPOLCO, taking into account suggestions made by delegates at the 2010 meeting.

THEME: HOMES FOR TOMORROW – BUILDING THROUGH STANDARDS

The right to shelter – a roof over our heads – is one of the basic needs¹ that Consumers International added to the list of consumer rights first identified by President John F. Kennedy in 1962. We can and should expect homes to be safe and accessible; we also need them to cope with the consequences of climate change.

It is recognized that much standardization in the construction sector is carried out at regional or national level. Nevertheless many aspects of the topic are of interest to consumers worldwide.

There is a range of possible topics which could be considered under this heading (see below) but typically three strands are identified at Workshops to allow for breakout groups to consider areas of interest to both developed and developing countries.

POSSIBLE BREAKOUT GROUPS

Homes – rebuilding after disasters

- Is it possible to develop standards or guidance which could allow low cost but better and safer housing? (examples are building in a degree of hurricane and earthquake-resistance)
- Standards on low-cost housing are already being developed in some countries.

Greening our homes (OR Innovation versus ingenuity – self build or refurbishment?)

- Renovating existing housing stock to reduce energy and water consumption: standards are being developed in some countries.
- Community responses, planning developments and working with existing communities to respond to the needs of climate change, greater awareness of energy, water use, etc.
- Standards work on "sustainable communities" is ongoing in some member countries as is work on energy efficiency.

Homes – accessible to all (OR Smart homes on a small scale)

- Can new technology be cheap enough to be available for housing in poorer communities? An analogous example is – in relation to telephones – many poorer communities have gone straight to mobile networks and bypassed the need for landline infrastructure investment.
- Inclusive design of homes which provides for physical and social needs of older and disabled people to support independent living in everyday housing through design of physical features and use of innovative technology: 'smart homes' (e.g. work taking place in Japan).
- Standards related to accessible housing are under consideration in some countries.

¹ <http://www.consumersinternational.org/Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=95043>