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December 2024

# AFSEC Newsletter

## Message from AFSEC President



**Bernard Modey**  
**AFSEC President**

The year 2024 has been a very remarkable year for AFSEC. We began the year with a visit by the IEC Secretary General, Philippe Metzger and his delegation including Francois Ahoti of the IEC African Centre in Nairobi. This visit facilitated the training webinar series that were not only enlightening but also helped create an awareness of the resources and talents already existing among us. We are most grateful to IEC for this support and hope will continue the webinar series with new topics this year, 2025.

we are also very grateful to the government and the people of Rwanda for the very warm welcome extended to us during our stay in Kigali where we had a very successful AFSEC General Meeting. Our deepest appreciation also goes to the Rwanda NSB for the organization of this remarkable event which was the first physical meeting since COVID-19. We also wish to express our appreciation to the AFSEC Secretariat for the organizational support and all the National Committees that participated in the meeting.

Another important milestone worth mentioning is the historic signing of Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) with the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat, with whom all the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) pillars have been working over the years with the support of PTB. This event took place on the side of the AFCFTA's Council of Ministers Meeting in Addis Ababa to formalize our support to AFCFTA and indirectly to the African Union Commission to facilitate intra-Africa trade through the harmonization of electro-technical standards in the area of electricity, electrical and electronic products and services.

Finally, the IEC 2024 General Meeting seems to be the "icing on the cake". It afforded us a great opportunity to interact with many AFSEC members and potential new members that we were meeting for the first time and offered us the opportunity to create the necessary awareness among the participants at the GM from some of the countries on the continent who are yet to join AFSEC. We also had the opportunity to engage with some of our international partners with very useful outcomes that are expected to bear fruits from this year going. Meanwhile, we would like to thank all our existing partners for the support over the years.

We look forward to an exciting 2025 and hope we will implement those decisions that we took in Kigali with the same level of enthusiasm that we had during the meeting.

*Happy New Year to you all and your families.*



## IEC CEO Visit to AFSEC Premises in Cairo (Jan. 2024)

During the visit, it was agreed on the action plan 2024-2025 of the Regional Adoption Agreement and the Statement of Cooperation signed in 2022 to include mainly conducting webinars in various fields. The webinars that were conducted by IEC, in 2024.

- ***“Case Studies of Successful Implementation of Standards on Solar Renewable Energy”***
- ***“Building Partnerships for a Sustainable Future”***
- ***“Introduction to Artificial Intelligence: Applications & Safe Uses***
- ***“Green Hydrogen Potential in Africa and Development Requirements”***

AFSEC has signed an amendment agreement to the “Regional Adoption Agreement” where AFSEC is allowed to adopt limited IEC Standards using the method of adoption with modifications, following ISO-IEC Guide 21-1



## 24th PAQI JC Meeting in Nairobi Kenya from 27-28 February 2024

## 25th PAQI JC Meeting Windhoek, Namibia from 11-12 September 2024

AFSEC participated in the 24<sup>th</sup> PAQI Meeting by discussing the “Made in Africa” MiA Guidelines, as well as finalizing the Africa Quality Policy AQP Action Plan based on which will be the implementation of National Quality Policies NQPs. AFSEC activities work plan for the next 3 years, was submitted including targets and indicators, to be supported by PTB.

AFSEC participated virtually in both the 25th PAQI Meeting and the 3rd AQP Council Meeting.



## Collaboration with ARSO by Forming ARSO/AFSEC JTC1

Within this collaboration, the first Joint Technical Committee JTC1 in Renewable Energy was formed. A call for experts to join the Committee with a concept note was circulated among African Countries, which resulted in more than 30 experts joined JTC1 to start reviewing standards in Renewable Energy. Three virtual meetings were conducted during 2024, to discuss New Work Proposals submitted by the experts

## The First AFSEC Young Professionals AYP Webinar

Within the AYP Work plan 2024, the first webinar on: “Capacity Building for Women in Engineering Bodies in Sub-Saharan Africa” was conducted in March 2024.



## The 4th APUA-AFSEC Scientific Committee (SC5) Meeting from 17 – 19 June 2024 in Maputo Mozambique

The Standard Mapping Tool was discussed to identify Standards that will be harmonized by AFSEC TCs as needed by the SC5 Member States Utilities in addition to the final versions of the 2 guides developed by AFSEC: the Interconnection Guide in Africa and the Smart Metering Requirements



**The 9<sup>th</sup> AFSEC General Assembly GA, and the 14<sup>th</sup> Management Committee AMC Meetings, hosted by Rwanda Standardization Board RASB in Kigali from 3-5 September 2024**

At the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting, Four New Guides and 98 Standards have been adopted, in addition to the “Smart Metering Requirements” which was fully developed by AFSEC. The Council voted for Burkina Faso to join AFSEC as Statutory Member.

**Other important resolutions were approved:**

- Establishment of two new AFSEC Technical Committees E-Mobility and Green Hydrogen,
- AFSEC Strategic Plan 2025-2029.
- The election of two new Western Regional Representatives
- The retention of seven AFSEC officials



The 14<sup>th</sup> AMC Meeting main decisions focused on strengthening the collaboration with regional and international institutions: ISO, ARSO, IEC, CEN CENELEC, PTB, APUA...etc.

An Awareness Session took place to promote for some AFSEC published guides among Rwandan Stakeholders.



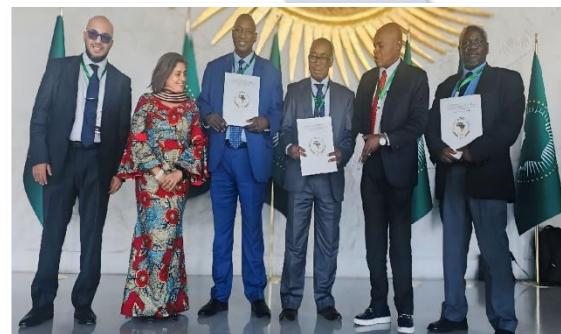
**The 88<sup>th</sup> IEC General Meeting GM, Edinburgh- UK, 21-25 October 2024**

AFSEC has participated in the 88th IEC GM especially in the Affiliate Forum Round Table, and as speaker in the IEC Community Symposium, to discuss the benefits of international standards and conformity assessment for developing countries, as well as the standardization opportunities and challenges facing Renewable Energy in African Countries.



**MoU with African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat in Addis Ababa – 9-10 November 2024**

During the 15th Committee of Ministers' Meeting, held at the African Union Commission premises in Addis Ababa, an MOU was signed with the AFCFTA Secretariat with the main objective of providing a framework of cooperation to strengthen intra-Africa trade through fostering the harmonization of standards for equipment and materials, as well as the cooperation in conformity assessment test requirements within Africa, to facilitate electro-technical industrialization in Africa.





## Physical Meetings for AFSEC Technical Committees ATCs and High-Level Study Tour

Sponsored by PTB, AFSEC organized Four Technical Committees meetings to finalize some Guides

- The “PV Mini Grids Installation” by ATC64, 3-5 March, Kigali –Rwanda
- The “Smart Metering Requirements” by ATC13, 21-22 April, Cairo – Egypt.
- Conformity Assessment Committee ACAC in Cairo from 9-10 July for the Guide for the “Establishment of Electrotechnical Conformance Test Laboratories”.
- ATC8 in Cairo from 12-13 August, to finalize the “Interconnection Guide in Africa”

In addition, PTB organized and sponsored the High-Level Exchange of Expertise Study Tour to ARSO and AFSEC, which included visiting some Standardization Institutions namely PTB, DIN/DKE in Germany, SIS Sweden, CEN/CENELEC Belgium in addition to ISO and IEC in Switzerland.



## Participating in the PAQI Event during the Africa Industrialization Week (AIW) in Addis Ababa, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

AFSEC participated and presented the “Role of AI management system standards and Quality Infrastructure”, it was a chance to advocate for standardization as a driver for Africa’s industrial transformation. The insights gained and connections made during this event served as a foundation for future initiatives to promote AI-driven green industrialization across the continent.

### Other Activities

- **AFSEC Catalogue:** Publishing the AFSEC Catalogue for 2024 on AFSEC website for the first time, including all AFSEC adopted standards and guides.
- **technical Procedures and Numbering System:** Adopting the amendment of the AFSEC Technical Procedures to be followed by the Technical Committees for adoption or adaptation of the international Standards including the Numbering System
- **Procedures for National Electro-technical Committees NECs of Adopting AFSEC Standards**

Procedures were adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly for the NECs to follow while adopting AFSEC standards .

