



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for the
International Standard Development Committee

DRAFT

Draft: April 22, 2011

The International Standard Development Committee FAQ

What is the International Standard Development Committee?

The AWS WRT's governing and decision-making body is the International Standards Development Committee (ISDC).

What will the ISDC do?

The ISDC has the mandate to make decisions about what is included (and excluded) in the International Water Stewardship Standard (IWSS). They will decide on the formation of different Working Groups in cases where detailed and specific information is required to inform the IWSS. For the full scope of the ISDC's mandate please refer to the [AWS WRT's ISDC Terms of Reference](#).

Who will ISDC members represent?

Individuals on the ISDC will first and foremost represent their individual views. However, as an individual representing various stakeholder groups, each member of the ISDC is expected to provide insights from various angles (i.e., their region, their stakeholder group, their interests, etc.). It is important to note that individuals are explicitly not expected to solely represent their organization's interests.

How will the ISDC be formed?

As per the proposed [AWS WRT Process](#) (pg. 35), the ISDC will be assembled through an internationally vetted protocol aimed to secure a group of 15 individuals that are diverse across 3 stakeholder groups, 8 geographic regions (See Figure 2), and gender. This group will also be formed by examining the applicant's commitment to the AWS WRT's objectives, capacity to participate, negotiation experience and pragmatism. The applicants chosen to fill the ISDC slots will be publically vetted (see timeline below) and final decisions will be made in a fully transparent manner via the AWS website. The full process formation process is included in the [AWS WRT ISDC Terms of Reference](#).

Figure 1: Composition of ISDC

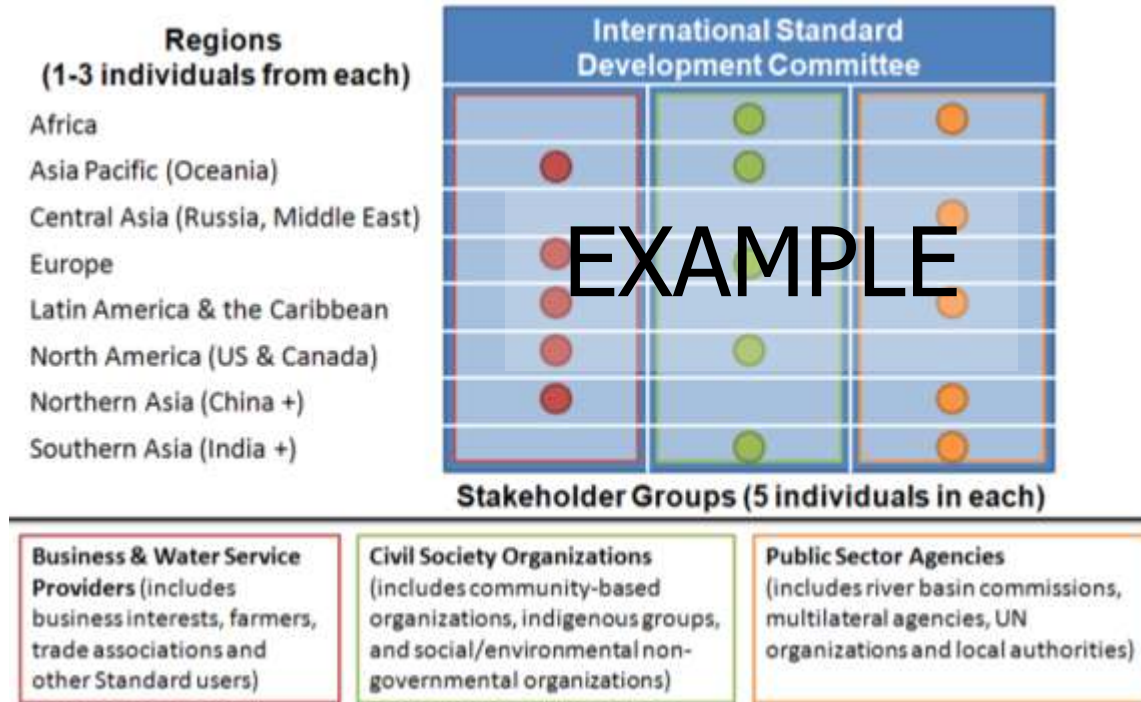
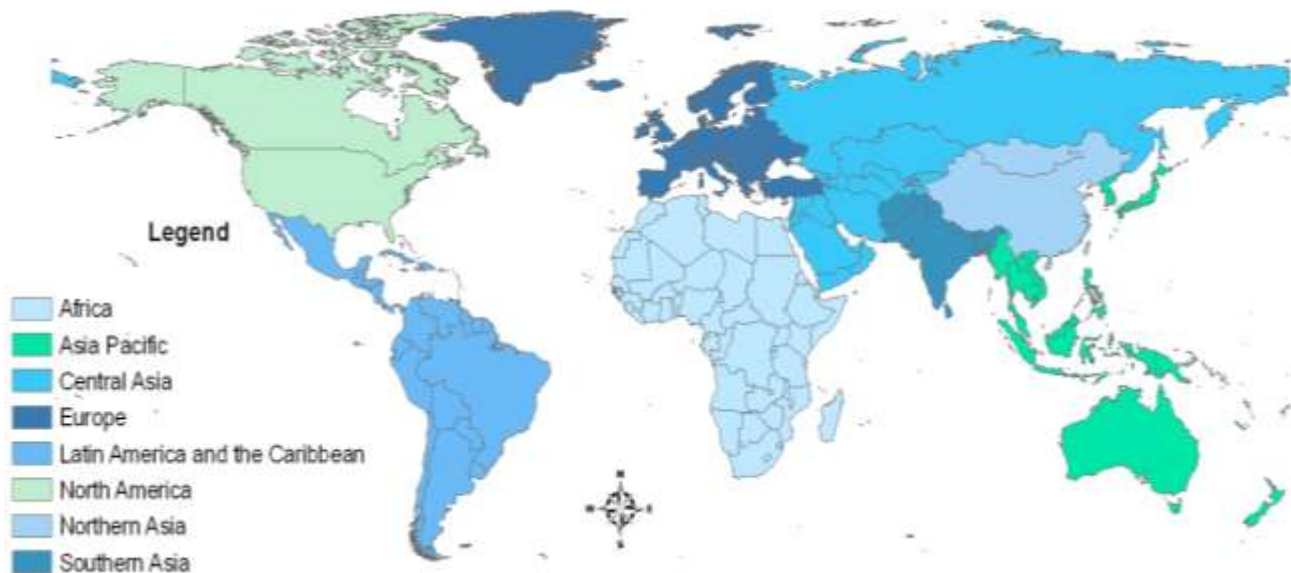


Figure 2: Map of 8 Regions



What will the ISDC work on in 2011?

The main focus of the committee's work during 2011 will be:

- Familiarization with the AWS, the WRT and the other members of the ISDC
- Review of materials including drafts of water stewardship standards to date
- Appointment of the Standard Drafting Working Group
- Appointment of any other Working Groups to help inform decisions and resolve differences
- Discussion and development of the first draft of the IWSS
- Solicitation of regional / stakeholder input for further ISDC discussions
- Incorporation of stakeholder feedback into the IWSS including development of responses
- Initial thinking on a second draft of the IWSS

What will the ISDC work on in 2012 and 2013?

The exact scope of the work in 2012 and 2013 will be refined with time, but will involve continued refinement of the IWSS draft, continued solicitation of regional/stakeholder input, incorporation of feedback, and in general global-local engagement. This will culminate in a final draft in July, 2013.

What is the commitment required by an ISDC member?

The primary commitment of ISDC members is one of time. The financial costs of attending meetings will be covered by the AWS (within certain guidelines). The AWS will not cover the cost of staff time.

Time commitment:

In addition to 3-4 three day in-person meetings at various locations throughout the world per year, ISDC members are expected to partake in monthly conference calls. It is estimated that the total time commitment per year (through mid-2013) will be roughly 16-20 days for meetings (including travel time), 4 days for online conference calls, and 10-30 days for email and content development/input (depending on level of engagement), for **a total of 30 (minimum) to 60 (maximum) days per year through mid-2013.**

The AWS recognizes that this is a voluntary role and will endeavour to accommodate the constraints of ISDC members due to work load. Obtaining formal organizational support for such a time commitment is highly recommended so as to minimize conflict and maximize your contribution to the development of the IWSS.

Alternate representatives are allowed and will be selected, but must also be approved by the AWS Board. Any alternate must meet the criteria for ISDC membership and their names must be publicly posted.

Financial support:

There are limited funds available to assist ISDC members for their travel costs in attending ISDC meetings. These funds are intended to support those individuals who would otherwise be restricted in their ability to participate in the ISDC due to financial constraints. Accordingly, while the AWS will endeavour to fully support all those individuals who cannot procure funds to attend meetings, it is hoped that those organizations that can help to support travel expenses help to do so. There are, unfortunately, no funds available to compensate for ISDC member's time.

How will decisions be made within the ISDC?

The ISDC will seek to make all decisions through a consensus¹ of members. Where it is not possible to achieve consensus, a vote requires 66% of individuals present at any given meeting. Individuals who are unable to attend, may also cast votes or provide input remotely, in advance via written submission, or via a designated alternate. The final standard submitted to AWS by the ISDC is expected to represent a consensus view of the ISDC.

What is the relationship between the ISDC and the Regional Initiatives?

The Regional Initiatives play a key role in convening stakeholders at the regional level, operating in local languages, and bringing regional experience to bear not only upon the development of the IWSS, but of AWS's future form as well. The ISDC will have regional representatives that are expected to liaise, in conjunction with the individuals acting as Regional Coordinators, with the Regional Initiatives where these exist and the meetings/consulting efforts at the regional level.

¹ ISO Definition of Consensus:

Following is an explanation of several of the phrases used in the International Organization for Standardization's definition of "consensus": **Consensus need not imply unanimity:** Under consensus, one or more parties may not fully agree with a decision, but is able to accept it. **Directly affected:** Includes those whose lives or livelihoods would be altered by the proposed decision or standard financially or otherwise, as well as the affected public. **Important part of concerned interests:** Clearly recognized representative of a segment of concerned interests that have been engaged in the discussions as a member of the decision-making body, such as all ISDC members. **Interested parties:** Any party that has participated substantively in the roundtable process, including those outside the ISDC, that may present issues for the ISDC to debate and decide. **Substantial issues:** Issues that materially affect the Standard or decision being taken as appropriate. **Sustained opposition:** Sustained opposition means that an important part of concerned interests has indicated, despite meaningful discussion of an issue, that the position or solution put forward continues to be unacceptable to that interest.

How will the AWS support the ISDC and be involved?

AWS will provide a WRT Coordinator responsible for organizing and supporting the logistics of the ISDC. The WRT Coordinator will work with the AWS secretariat team and report on the ISDC's activities and progress to each AWS Board Meeting. The AWS will also provide resources for commissioning the SDWG and other necessary Working Groups/technical projects (depending on funding) and communications/stakeholder outreach.

Can a member of the ISDC be removed?

The AWS Board may remove members of the ISDC at its discretion. Other members of the ISDC would be advised of the intention to remove a member and a public statement setting out the rationale for the decision would be published.

What is the timeline for the selection of the ISDC and 2011 activities?

February 22nd: The call for ISDC members was sent out via newsletter and posted on the AWS website. Along with the call for members, the draft ISDC TOR (which also outlines the expectations of ISDC members) was posted to inform potential members of the full expectations of participation in the ISDC (see Section 4 for more details).

April 30th: The call for ISDC members closes. Rolling applications continue in cases where qualified applicants have not been identified.

May 1st – 30th: Individuals are reviewed, scored by the AWS Secretariat, and sent to the AWS Board for review. Decisions regarding initial round of applicants is made. Individuals are then approached and the names of proposed individuals who have agreed are posted online for public review. Rolling applicants (where qualified candidates have not emerged), will be assessed in a timely manner as they are received until all positions are filled.

June 1st: Pending no major concerns, the AWS Board convenes to approve the ISDC and individuals are confirmed and informed.

July 11th – July 13th: ISDC convenes at a 3-day in-person meeting in Sri Lanka (Colombo) at the IWMI offices. Drafting of initial IWSS commences.

August: Online webex meetings as necessary

September: Online webex meetings as necessary

October: ISDC convenes for second 3-day in-person meeting (location & date TBD). Target date to have full fifteen members of the ISDC selected.

November: Initial IWSS draft completed and put out for public/regional review and piloting

December: Online webex meetings as necessary

What are the criteria that are used to select ISDC members?

The following provides a proposed template for evaluation against the selection criteria.

CRITERION	EXPLANATION OF CRITERION	CANDIDATE'S RATIONALE	EVALUATION (CRITERION SCORING)	SCORE
Stakeholder representation	The ISDC's structure must have a diverse representation to ensure different perspectives and a balance of power amongst stakeholders.	Completed by the candidate. Proposed wording: "Please select the stakeholder group that you feel best describes the group you will represent within the ISDC. Please also note your gender and your specific industry (select from list)"	This is a limiting factor with 5 individuals per group. – <i>no more than two (of the five) representatives come from the same industry*</i> . – <i>at least two male and two female perspectives within each chamber</i> If for some reason these terms cannot be met, the AWS Board has the jurisdiction to make exceptions, but a justification must be provided and publicly posted. <i>*Industry breakdowns are listed within the WRT Process document</i>	Scoring not applicable for representation
Geographic representation (i.e., region)	The ISDC's structure must have representation across regions of the world to ensure a diversity of perspectives and a	Completed by the candidate. Proposed wording: "Please select the region that you feel best	This is a limiting factor with up to 3 individuals per region. – <i>no more than two (of the three) representatives come from the same country</i>	Scoring not applicable for representation

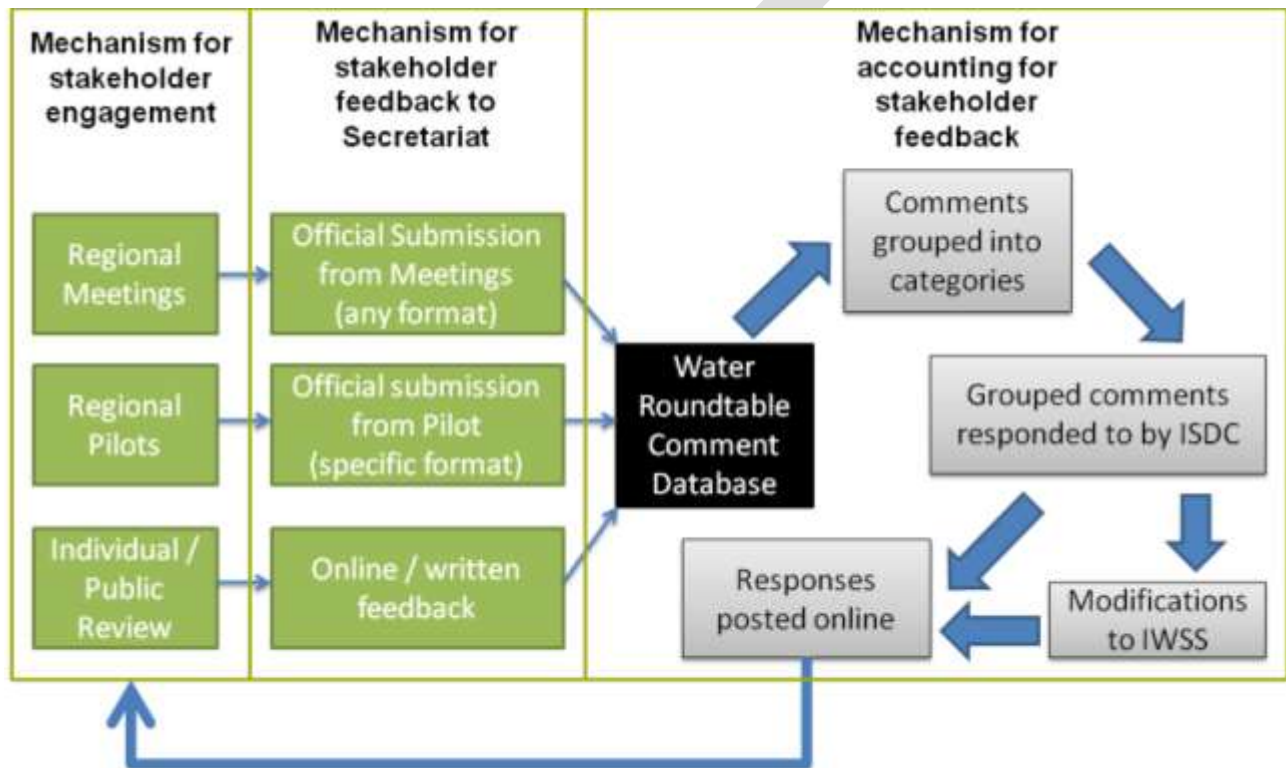
	balance of power amongst stakeholders from different cultures.	describes the perspective you will represent within the ISDC”	<p>– <i>at least two levels of interest are represented within the region**</i></p> <p>If for some reason these terms cannot be met, the AWS Board has the jurisdiction to make exceptions, but a justification must be provided and publicly posted.</p> <p><i>**Interest breakdowns are listed within the WRT Process document.</i></p>	
Commitment to the objectives	All individuals within the ISDC must be committed to achieving the objectives of the AWS WRT, and successfully delivering the best possible IWSS. Without this commitment	<p>Completed by the candidate.</p> <p>Proposed wording: “Please explain your rationale for wanting to be a part of the ISDC, the WRT in general, and your willingness to commit to the objectives of the AWS WRT.”</p>	<p>3: Strongly committed to the objectives via written rationale and willingness to sign TOR;</p> <p>2: Generally committed to the objectives, with less enthusiasm yet still willing to sign TOR;</p> <p>1: Non-committal to the objectives, but willing to sign TOR;</p> <p>0: Non-committal to the objectives and unwilling to sign the TOR.</p>	Completed via evaluation of input from candidate
Capacity	Capacity around the various issues (water quality/quantity, governance, and ecosystem considerations), available time, as well as standards experience are assets	<p>Completed by the candidate.</p> <p>Proposed wording: “Please describe the expertise you bring to the table in terms of knowledge of water / governance /</p>	<p>3: Extensive experience and very strong skills sets described and gleaned from resume;</p> <p>2: Some experience and good technical skills sets described and gleaned from resume;</p> <p>1: Limited experience and skills;</p> <p>0: Very little experience and few relevant skill sets.</p>	Completed via evaluation of input from candidate

	to the governance body	environmental issues, standards development, or any other skills / capacity / experience you feel will be assets to the ISDC”		
<i>Negotiation & Governance experience</i>	Individuals with negotiation experience have an understanding for the need to compromise on certain issues, while remaining steadfast on other issues. Similarly, governance experience is an asset	Completed by the candidate. Proposed wording: “Please describe your past experience both in terms of negotiations and governance”	3: Extensive experience described and gleaned from resume; 2: Some experience described and gleaned from resume; 1: Limited experience and skills; 0: Very little experience and few relevant skill sets.	Completed via evaluation of input from candidate
<i>Pragmatism</i>	Members of the ISDC must be pragmatic in their approach to the IWSS. Recognizing that the Standard will never be all things to all people is critical to ensuring that the IWSS gets completed within the proposed timelines in a manner that meets the AWS WRT TOR.	Completed by the candidate. Proposed wording: “The ISDC seeks individuals who are pragmatic in their approach. Do you consider yourself pragmatic, and if so, please describe why, and provide a reference.”	3: Highly pragmatic as described in experiences and confirmed by reference and/or stakeholder inputs; 2: Pragmatic, but some small issues noted by reference and/or stakeholder inputs; 1: Some pragmatic tendencies, but concerns raised by reference and/or stakeholder inputs 0: Not pragmatic with concerns raised by reference and/or stakeholder inputs.	Completed via evaluation of input from candidate
<i>TOTAL</i>			The higher the score the better.	

How will stakeholder feedback be incorporated?

Stakeholder feedback from regional meetings, online feedback and pilots will be handled as follows: The comments from these three forms of engagements will be classified (e.g., gender, scope of interest, country, stakeholder-group, interest, etc.), recorded in a database, and where permission is granted, posted online along with the response for the purposes of transparency. This same comment/response approach will hold true for this WRT Process document. While an effort will be made to respond to individual comments, at times, comments may be grouped and responded to as such (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback



What is the plan if qualified candidates cannot be found by April 30, 2011?

If an insufficient number of qualified candidates cannot be found by April 30, 2011, applications to the ISDC will remain open on a rolling basis until such time as qualified candidates are found for all of the positions on the ISDC. The aim is to complete the ISDC within six months of the release of the final WRT Process, which is by October, 2011.

Who should I speak to if I have further questions?

If you have further questions, please speak to the Water Roundtable Coordinator, Alexis Morgan at alexis.morgan@wwfus.org (email), or one of the co-chairs of the Board, Karin Krchnak (kkrchnak@tnc.org) and Michael Spencer (michael@waterstewardship.org.au).