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MEDIA RELEASE

ISO and UNDP launch world's first International Standard to advance action on the Sustainable Development Goals

- Developed jointly by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ISO/UNDP 53001 gives organizations the world's first International Standard for managing their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- While many organizations have embraced the SDGs, translating ambition into consistent action has remained a significant challenge. ISO/UNDP 53001 provides a practical framework for embedding SDG commitments into governance, strategy and day-to-day operations.
- As the first globally agreed, requirements-based management system for the SDGs, the standard enables organizations to measure progress, demonstrate accountability and continually improve performance.
- UNDP identified ISO as its international standards development partner for the initiative, bringing together UNDP's expertise in sustainable development with ISO's globally renowned system and network of national standards bodies.
- With the potential for national adoption by ISO members around the world, ISO/UNDP 53001 could become an important global reference for organizations, governments and policymakers seeking to advance sustainable development.
- Designed to remain relevant beyond 2030, ISO/UNDP 53001 provides a foundation for a global quality architecture that can help businesses translate current and future sustainable development priorities into credible management practice, while enabling governments and development institutions to engage the private sector around a common international framework.
- The launch of ISO/UNDP 53001 is a key feature of the ISO Annual Meeting, hosted by AFNOR in Paris, France, from 28 September to 2 October 2026.

Paris, France, 28 September 2026 – ISO and UNDP today launched ISO/UNDP 53001, Management systems for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Requirements, live from the first day of the ISO Annual Meeting. The new standard is the world's first International Standard providing organizations with a structured management system to integrate the SDGs into strategy, governance and operations.

As governments, businesses and institutions face growing expectations to demonstrate meaningful progress on sustainable development, ISO/UNDP 53001 provides a globally agreed approach to help organizations move beyond commitment towards measurable implementation and continual improvement.

ISO/UNDP 53001, for the first time, provides concrete tools to enable organizations to identify priorities, establish objectives, integrate them into existing processes and measure performance over time. As a requirements-based management system standard, it provides a consistent basis for demonstrating that an organization's approach meets defined requirements, strengthening accountability and confidence in the actions taken.

The launch comes at a moment when the way national development priorities are financed and delivered is changing rapidly. With public development resources under increasing pressure and the scale of sustainable development needs far exceeding what public finance alone can meet, businesses and private investment will play an increasingly important role in advancing national and global development priorities. This makes credible, internationally recognized systems for translating sustainability commitments into business practice more important than ever.

ISO/UNDP 53001 provides a foundation for that emerging architecture. By giving organizations a common framework to integrate sustainable development priorities into governance, strategy, operations and decision-making, the standard can help businesses strengthen sustainability management while giving governments, investors, development institutions and other stakeholders greater confidence in how commitments are implemented and measured.

ISO Secretary-General Sergio Mujica said the launch represents an important step in supporting organizations to make measurable progress towards the SDGs.

“The SDGs have provided a shared global vision for a decade. Today, organizations are looking for concrete ways to translate that vision into action,” Mr Mujica said.

“International Standards have long helped organizations address complex global challenges by providing a common language and a shared framework for action. We are delighted to launch ISO/UNDP 53001 today, extending this proven approach to the SDGs and helping organizations create positive impact for people and planet.”

UNDP identified ISO as its international standards development partner for the initiative, bringing together UNDP’s expertise in sustainable development with ISO’s global standardization system and network of national standards bodies.

Marcos Neto, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNDP’s Bureau for Policy and Programme Support stated that achieving the SDGs will depend on organizations of every kind playing an active role in advancing sustainable development.

“The SDGs provide a shared blueprint for a more inclusive and prosperous future. Achieving that requires organizations everywhere to turn ambition into action,” Mr Neto said.

“We are proud to launch ISO/UNDP 53001 alongside ISO as a crucial tool to help organizations embed the SDGs into the way they operate, lead and govern. By making sustainability part of everyday decision-making, the standard can help accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda.”

Jens Heiede, Chief Executive Officer of Danish Standards, said developing the world’s first International Standard dedicated to the SDGs required international collaboration to build consensus across a broad range of sectors and perspectives.

“Creating a standard that could be applied by organizations of every size, sector and geography required extensive collaboration between experts from around the world. Together, we developed a practical and internationally agreed set of requirements that organizations can apply with confidence,” Mr Heiede said.

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“It has been a privilege for Danish Standards to lead the technical committee behind ISO/UNDP 53001. We look forward to seeing organizations use the standard to demonstrate accountability and deliver meaningful sustainability outcomes.”

Through ISO’s network of national standards bodies, ISO/UNDP 53001 could support greater consistency across countries and economies. It offers organizations, governments and policymakers a common reference point for translating sustainable development priorities into measurable action.

The new standard integrates smoothly with other management system standards, such as ISO 9001 for quality management and ISO 14001 for environmental management. By building on existing processes, organizations can reduce duplication, improve efficiency and take a more coherent approach to managing risks, meeting commitments and achieving strategic objectives.

The standard is intended for businesses, governments, educational institutions, civil society organizations and other organizations seeking to align their activities with the SDGs. Its flexible approach enables users to focus on the SDGs most relevant to their purpose, context and stakeholders.

ISO/UNDP 53001 is designed to provide long-term value by supporting the current SDGs and any subsequent global goals that supersede the 2030 Agenda. Like all ISO International Standards, it will undergo ISO's regular systematic review process to help ensure it remains relevant, fit for purpose and responsive to evolving international priorities and best practice.

ISO and UNDP intend to work with partners across the multilateral system to support its implementation, including through sector-specific guidance that can connect global development priorities with the realities of different industries and markets.

The launch of ISO/UNDP 53001 is a key feature of the ISO Annual Meeting, hosted by AFNOR in Paris, France, from 28 September to 2 October 2026. Under the theme *Building trust in a changing world*, the Annual Meeting is bringing together global leaders, policymakers and standards experts to explore the role of International Standards in addressing the world's most pressing challenges.

More information about the ISO Annual Meeting, including livestream sessions open to the public, is available at http://www.iso.org/annualmeeting.

ISO/UNDP 53001 is available at https://www.iso.org/standard/53001.

More information about ISO is available at www.iso.org.

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About ISO:

ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is an independent, non-governmental international organization with a membership of 170 national standards bodies. Through its global network, it facilitates the development of voluntary and market-relevant International Standards that support innovation and provide solutions to global challenges. ISO has published more than 25 000 International Standards and related documents covering almost every industry, from technology to food safety, to agriculture and healthcare. Learn more at www.iso.org.