

1st Global Food regulatory Science Symposium-

Updates of GSO-Current & Future Perspective

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WHO we are?



Regional Intergovernmental Standardization Organization (IGO)



Founded Dec' 2001 and Operated in May 2004



6 Member States: UAE, Bahrain, KSA, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait



Saudi Arabia- Riyadh



~ 70 Staff



هيئة التقييس

لدول مجلس التعاون دول الخليج العربية
GCC Standardization Organization

www.GSO.org.sa



GSO2001



GSO Food Standards



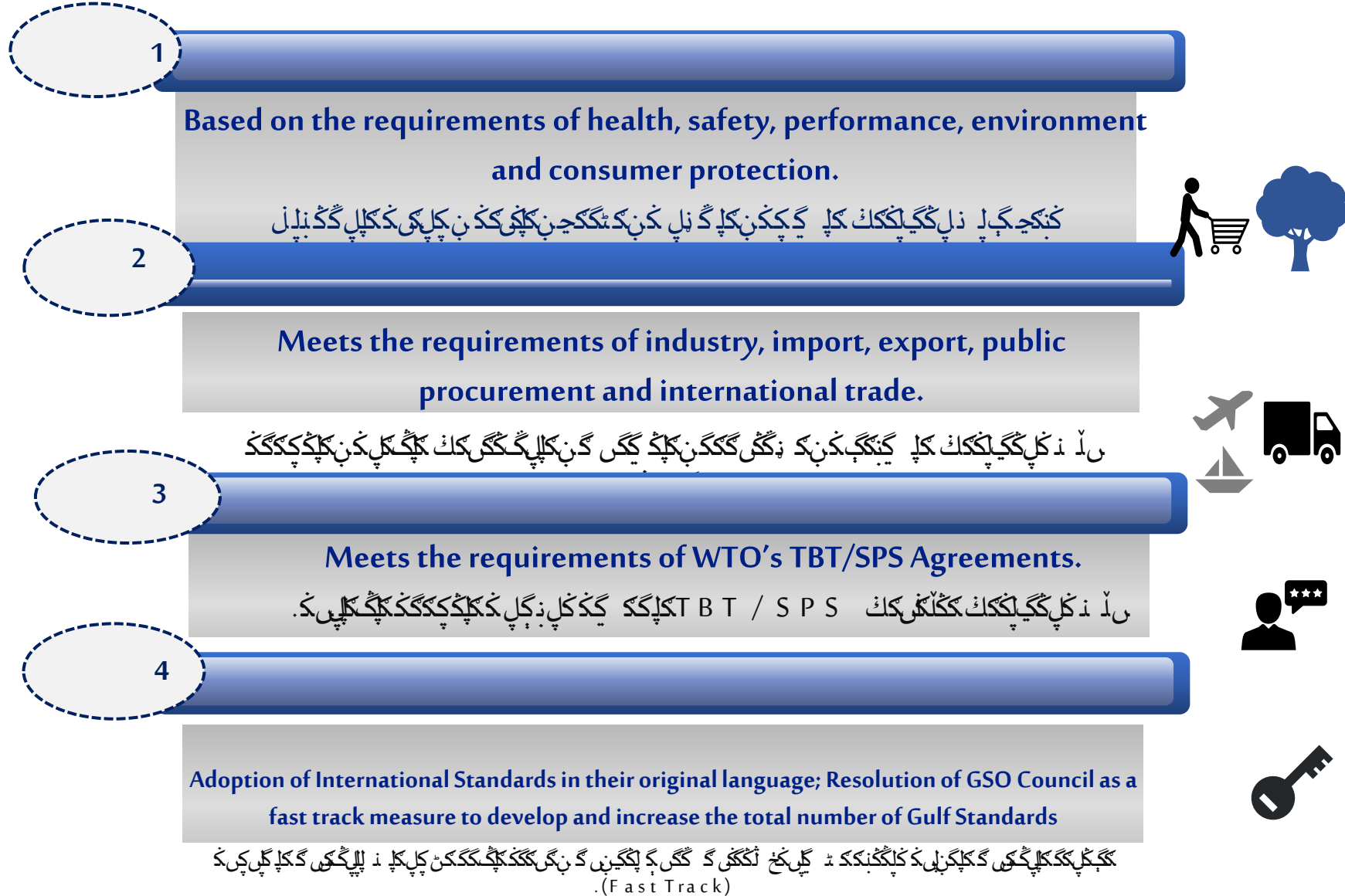
Objectives of
developing Gulf
standards and
technical
regulations

- ❑ Increasing competitiveness of products & services in order to meet requirements according to latest products & technological methods
- ❑ Removing technical obstacles to trade and increasing the movement of trade exchange between GCC member states.
- ❑ Consumer protection through standards defined internationally i.e. accepted and recognized levels of quality for goods & products.
- ❑ Unifying technical concepts & terminology among member states >> contributes to finding common language among GCC manufacturers.

Developing Gulf Standards

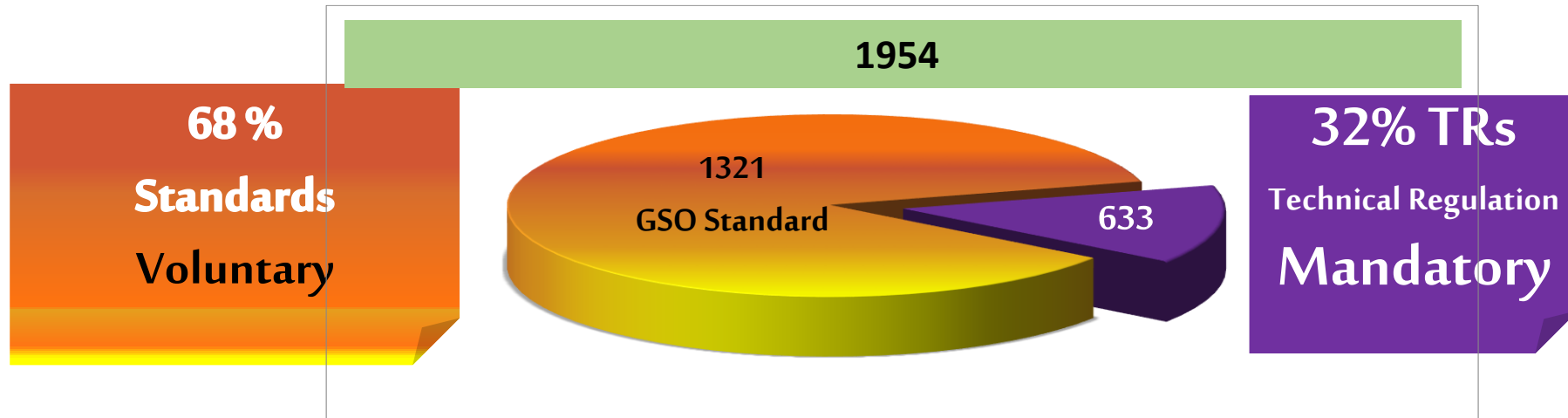


GCC Standards Formulation



Achievements of GSO Standards of Food Regulatory

GSO FOOD Standards



Major References of Food Standard

CODEX

ISO

IEC

EU

FDA

OIE

OIC –

S.M.H.C

National laws, regulations, and decisions



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GSO contribution for Food at the level of the GCC

- Existence of TC's for Food Standards , including SC's & WG's.
- Membership in GCC Committee for Food Safety.
- Participate in development of GCC Unified food law.
- Participate in a working group to develop a rapid GCC warning system for food.
- Participate in a working group to develop mechanisms application procedures manual controls on imported food.
- GCC Membership of GCC the Tobacco Control (Gulf Health Council)
- GCC Membership of Nutrition and Micronutrients Committee
- Introductory seminars and training courses of various areas related to health, food , food safety and halal....etc.
- Other

GSO TECHNICAL COMMITTEES (TC's)

Main Technical Committees for Standards

The total is 44 TCs (MAIN/ SUB), working groups, TASK FORCE for developing standards

- **GCC Steering Committee for Standards**
- **GCC Committee of Conformity Assessment**
- **Steering Committee for Metrology**
- **Steering Committee for Information Centres**
- **Steering Committee for Notification Authority**
- **GCC Lab**
- **Higher Committee for GCC Building Code**
- **Gulf Team for Standardization Strategies**
-

- TC01 [Chemical & Textile Products](#)
- TC02 [Mechanical Products](#)
- TC03 [Electrical & Electronics Products](#)
- TC04 [Metrology](#)
- TC05 [Food & Agricultural Products](#) (It has 4 sub-committee) →
- TC06 [Construction & Building Materials](#)
- TC07 [Oil & Gas](#)
- TC08 [Information & Information Technology](#)
- TC09 [Electric Power Generation, Transmission & Distribution](#)
- TC10 [Water Production, Transport & Distribution](#)
- TC11 [Medical Devices & Supplies](#)
- TC12 [Cosmetics & Personal Care](#)
- TC13 [Renewable energy & Storage Technologies](#)
- TC14 [Safety of Toys](#)
- TC15 [Halal Products & Services](#)

*All member States are represented in these Technical Committees

GSO Technical Committees for Food Standards



TC05 Food & Agricultural Products

TC05-SC1 : GSO Technical Subcommittee for Food Labels

TC05-SC2: GSO Technical Subcommittee for Additives and Food Contaminants

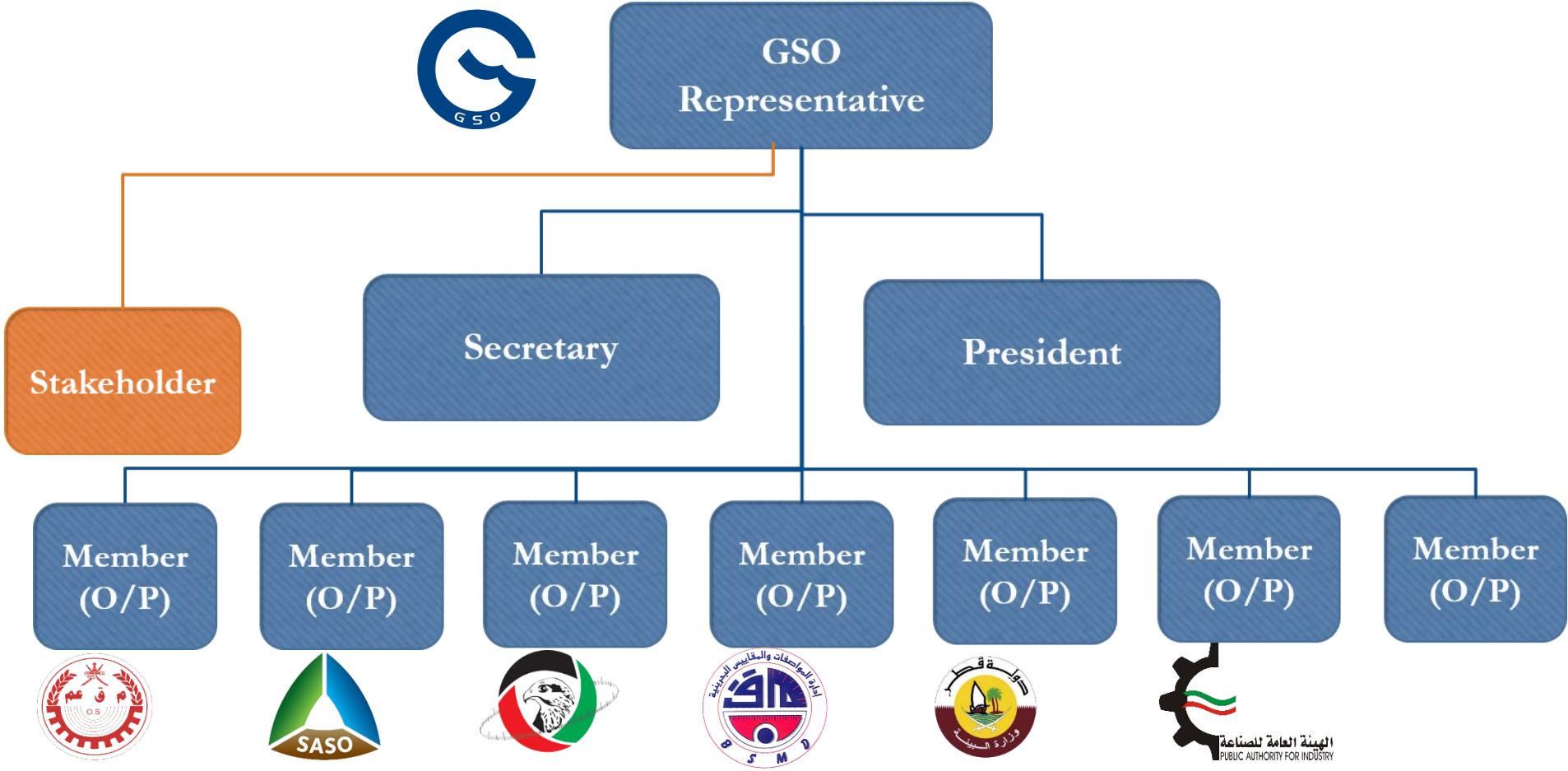
TC05-SC3: GSO Technical Subcommittee for Organic, Functional and Genetically-modified Food

TC05-SC4: GSO Technical Sub-Committee for Tobacco Products

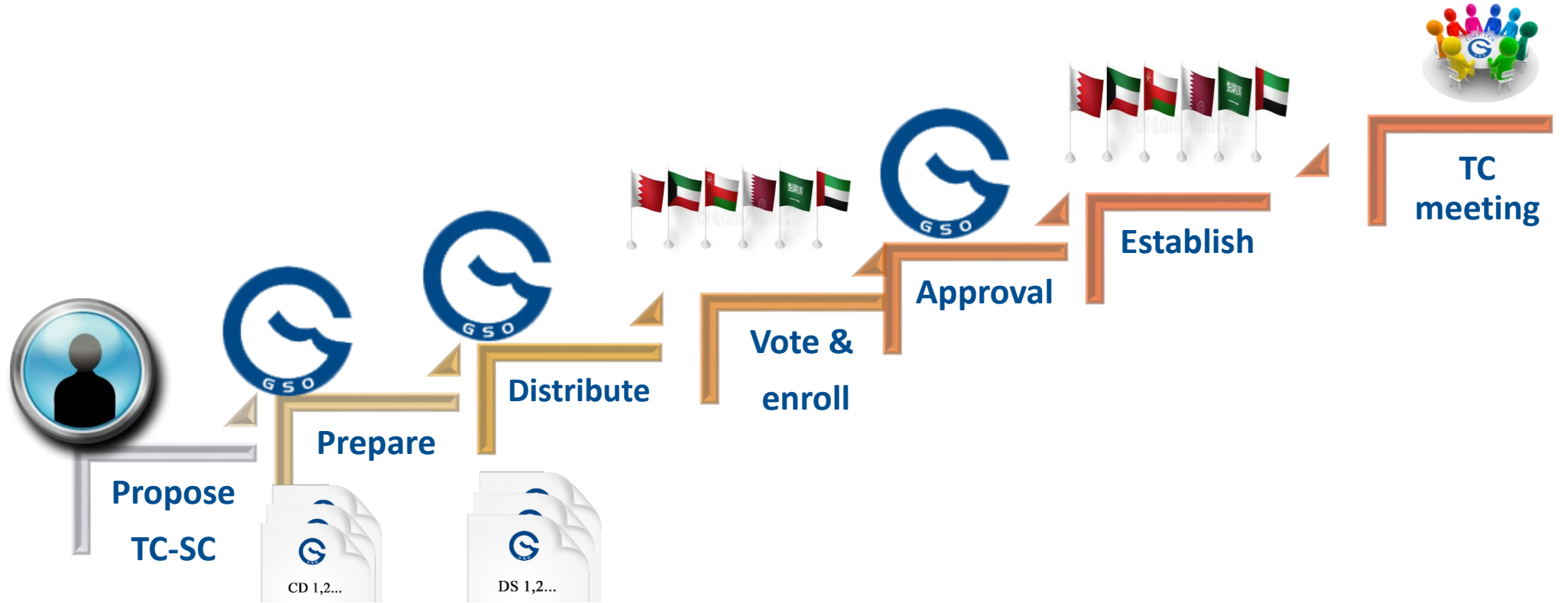
TC15: GSO Technical Committee for Halal Products and Services

GSO Technical Committees for Standards

Structure



GSO Technical Committee Formation



Online system facilitates this process

The GSO Standards

هيئة التقييس لدول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية
GCC STANDARDIZATION ORGANIZATION (GSO)



GSO 9/2013 (E)

بطاقات المواد الغذائية المعبأة
Labeling of Prepackaged Food Stuffs

Covers

- All food and agricultural products of all kinds
- Supplementary Standards Food :
- Hygienic requirements .
- Expiration periods .
- Labeling
- Microbiological criteria
- Food additives
- Food contaminants .
- Storage and transportation
- Food packaging
- General methods of tests & analysis for food products
- concepts and technical terms.



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لدول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية
GCC Standardization Organization

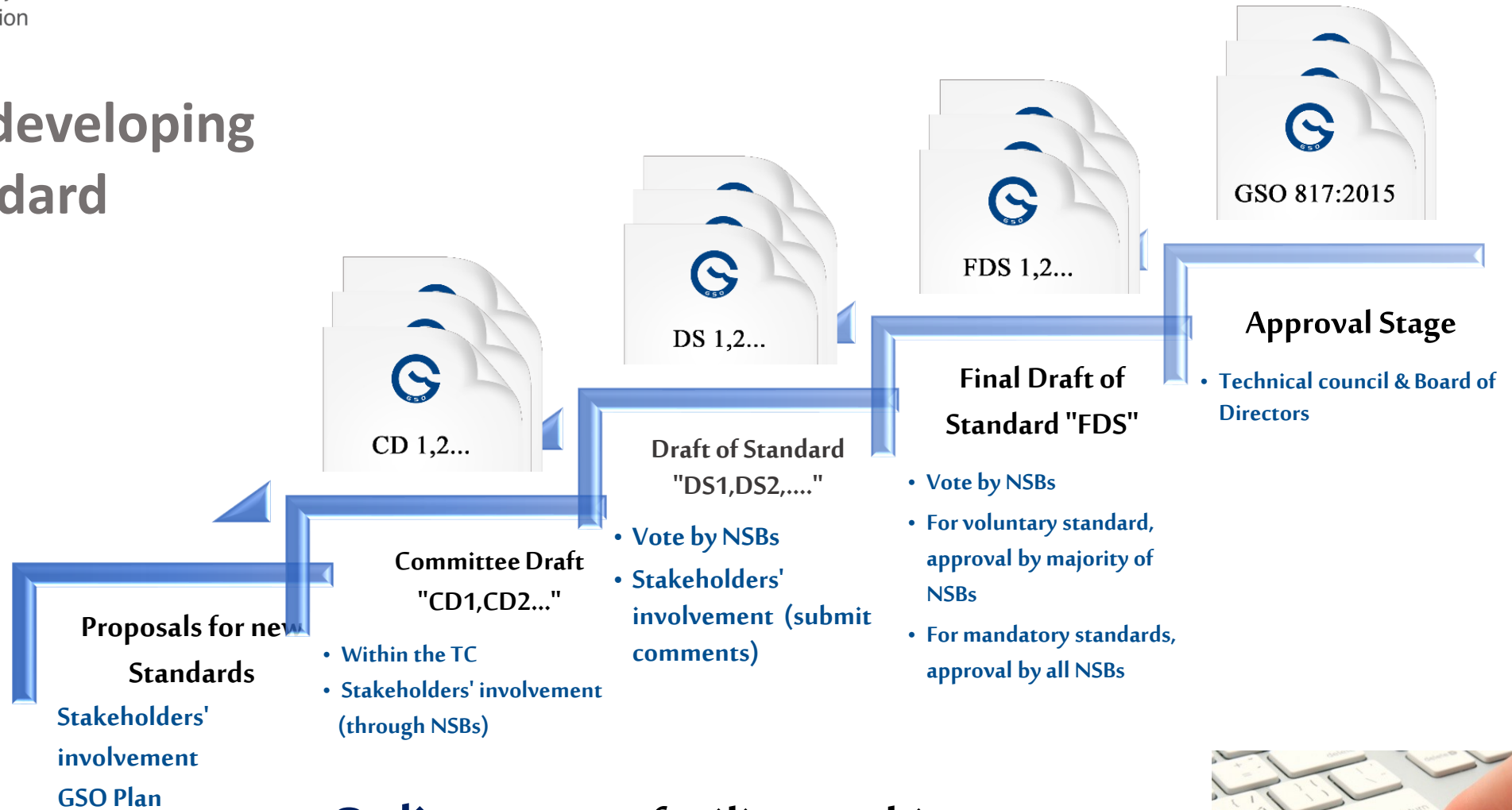
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Preparing & developing the GSO standard



Online system facilitates this process

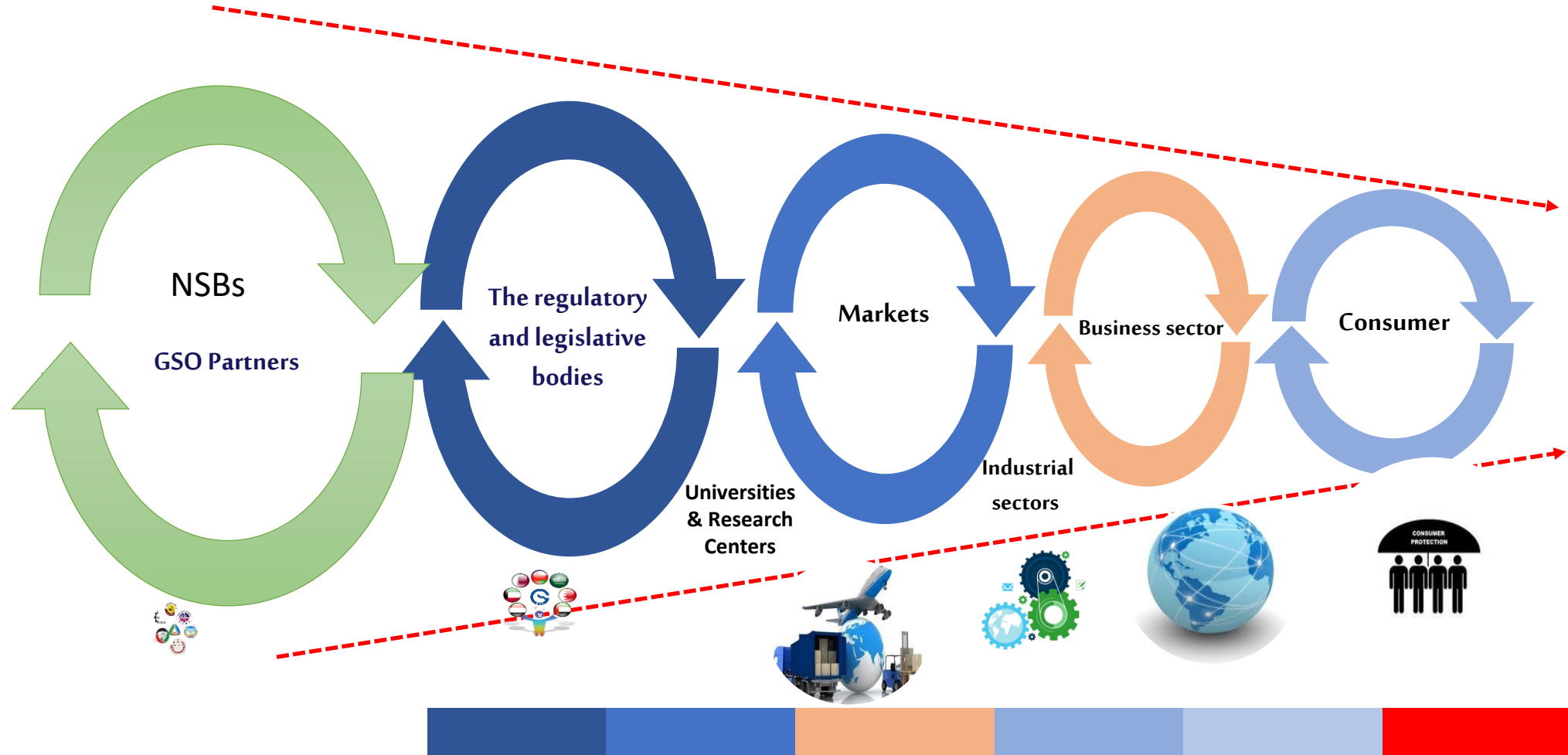


Standards Development in GCC

Stakeholders' involvement in GSO activates



Great things happen when the world agrees



Stakeholders' involvement in GSO activates

➤ **Allow participation of parties concerned in standards both public & private (Stakeholders) thru NSB's to contribute to the following:**

- **Participate in work of TC's or SC's or task forces .**
- **Participation in activities of National TC Member States and corresponding technical committees Gulf .**
- **Propose draft standards and technical regulations Gulf that have a high priority and urgent need .**
- **Contributing study projects w.r.t. standards & TR's and comments during specified period.**

GSO's Standards of transporting, preserving & storing food

For Example

- ✓ **GSO 323:1994** "General requirements for transportation and storage of chilled and frozen foods."
- ✓ **GSO 2504:2016** "General requirements for the transportation of food (Non-chilled and frozen)"
- ✓ **GSO 168:1994** "Requirements of Storage Facilities for Dry and Canned Foodstuffs".
- ✓ **GSO 1330:2002** "Requirements for
- **GSO 1416:2002** "Food samples re fills taken for analysis".
- **GSO 714:2021** "Transportation Regulations of Livestock by Rail, Road and Ships".
- **GSO 2231:2012** "General Requirements for the materials intended to come into contact with food'.
- Others

GSO vs. CODEX

120 + Standards

For Example

- **GSO CAC/MRL 2:2021** “MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS (MRLs) AND RISK MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (RMRs) FOR RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOOD”.
- **GSO CAC/MISC 5:2013** “Glossary of Terms and Definitions (Veterinary Drugs Residues in Foods)”.
- **GSO CODEX STAN 53:2021** “STANDARD FOR SPECIAL DIETARY FOOD WITH LOW-SODIUM CONTENT (INCLUDING SALT SUBSTITUTES)”.
- **GSO CODEX STAN 107:2021** “GENERAL
- **GSO CAC/GL 25:2021** “Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Foods”.
- **GSO CAC/GL 79:2021** “Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food”.
- **GSO CAC/GL 88:2021** “GUIDELINES ON THE APPLICATION OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF FOOD HYGIENE TO THE CONTROL OF FOODBORNE PARASITES”.
- **GSO CAC/GL 89:2021** “Principles and guidelines for the exchange of

GSO CODEX Standards

- ✓ **GSO CAC/GL 92:2021** “Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Instances of Contaminants in Food Where There Is No Regulatory Level of Risk Management Framework Established”.
- ✓ **GSO CAC/GL 19:2021** “PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN FOOD SAFETY EMERGENCY SITUATIONS”.
- ✓ **GSO CAC/GL 34:2021** “Guidelines for the development of equivalence agreements regarding food imports and exports inspection and certification systems”.
- ✓ **GSO CAC/RCP 49:2021** “Code of Practice Concerning Source Directed Measures to Reduce Contamination of Foods with Chemicals”.
- ✓ **GSO CAC/RCP 46:2021** “Code of Hygienic Practice for Refrigerated Packaged Foods with Extended Shelf Life”.

Annual Committee Plan; For the year to come 2022
GSO/TC05 Food & Agricultural Products & 4 sub-committee
More than 81 projects

For Example

- **Guidelines for Marketing Requirements of Food directed to Children.**
- **Trans Fat (Update GSO 2483)**
- **FERMENTED MILK PRODUCTS HEAT TREATED AFTER FERMENTATION (LONG LIFE)
(Update GSO 2519)**
- **Ultra-High Temperature Milk (long life) (Update GSO 1347)**
- **Food products — Guidance on how to express vitamins and their vitamers content (ISO 23304)**
- **Requirements for handling of ready-to-eat-foods (Update GSO 1909)**
- **Expiration dates for food products - Part 1+2 : (Update GSO 150-1 & GSO 150-2)**

Annual Committee Plan; For the year to come 2022
GSO/TC05 –Sub's & HALAL

- **Labeling of prepackaged food stuffs (Update GSO 9).**
- **Traffic light labelling (New).**
- **Nutritional labeling guide for prepackaged food products (New).**
- **CODEX CLASSIFICATION OF FOODS AND ANIMAL FEEDS (New: CAC CXA 4).**
- **Contaminants And Toxins In Food And Feed (Update GSO 193:2021)-CODEX 193**
- **Additives Permitted for Use in Food Stuffs (Update GSO 2500:2021)- CODEX 192**
- **Class Names & Int. Numbering System for Food Additive (New: CAC CXG 36).**
- **=====**
- **HALAL Standards (New + Update + Translation)**




GSO WTO\TBT Notification –Procedure (New GSO TRs)

- **Cooperative relationship GSO and WTO/TBT& SPS committees (MOU).**
- **GSO observer member of WTO/TBT & SPS committees**
- **Participates in Annual meetings**
- **Consolidated Notice (Agreed) for 6-countries**

Why GSO unified WTO Notification?

- **Reducing time and effort needed by Member States in notification process.**
- **A single notification instead of 7 identical notifications (cause confusion among members within WTO).**
- **Avoid unnecessary duplication of work**
- **Expedite process of receiving technical notes and responding to inquiries.**
- **Easier to follow-up notifications.**
- **Significant reduction in time-frame of completion of GSO technical regulations.**

 <p>WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION</p>	<p>1 وضع رموز جميع الدول الأعضاء مع إضافة الرقم التسلسلي للإخطار لكل دولة إن أمكن.</p> <p>G/SPS/N/ARE/, G/SPS/N/BHR/ G/SPS/N/SAU/, G/SPS/N/OMN/ G/SPS/N/QAT/, G/SPS/N/KWT/ G/SPS/N/YMN/</p>
<p>(-----)</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>Page: 1/1</p> <p>Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures</p> <p>Original: English</p>

NOTIFICATION

1.	<p>Notifying Member: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, SULTANATE OF OMAN, STATE OF QATAR, STATE OF KUWAIT, And The REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.</p> <p>If applicable, name of local government involved:</p>
2.	<p>Agency responsible:</p> <p>SPS Enquiry point, Saudi food & Drug Authority SFDA - 3292 North Ring road Al Nafel Area Unt (1) - Riyadh - 11564 - 6288 Tel: +(966 11) 2038222, Ext. 3358 Fax: +(966 11) 210 9825 E-mail: SPSEP.Food@sFDA.gov.sa Website: http://www.sFDA.gov.sa</p>
3.	<p>Products covered (provide tariff number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. Tariff numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Extraction solvents and its residue limits in the production foodstuffs and food ingredients (ICS Code: 67.040).</p>
4.	<p>Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</p> <p>[X] All trading partners</p>

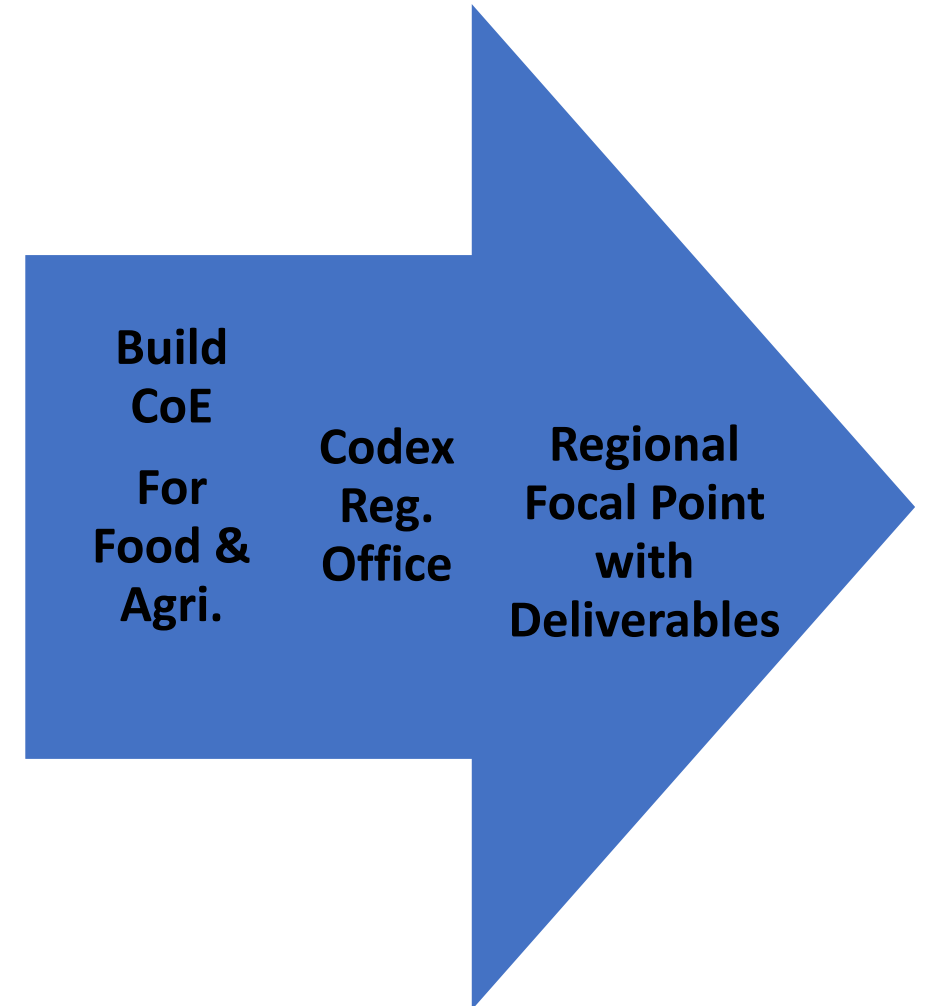
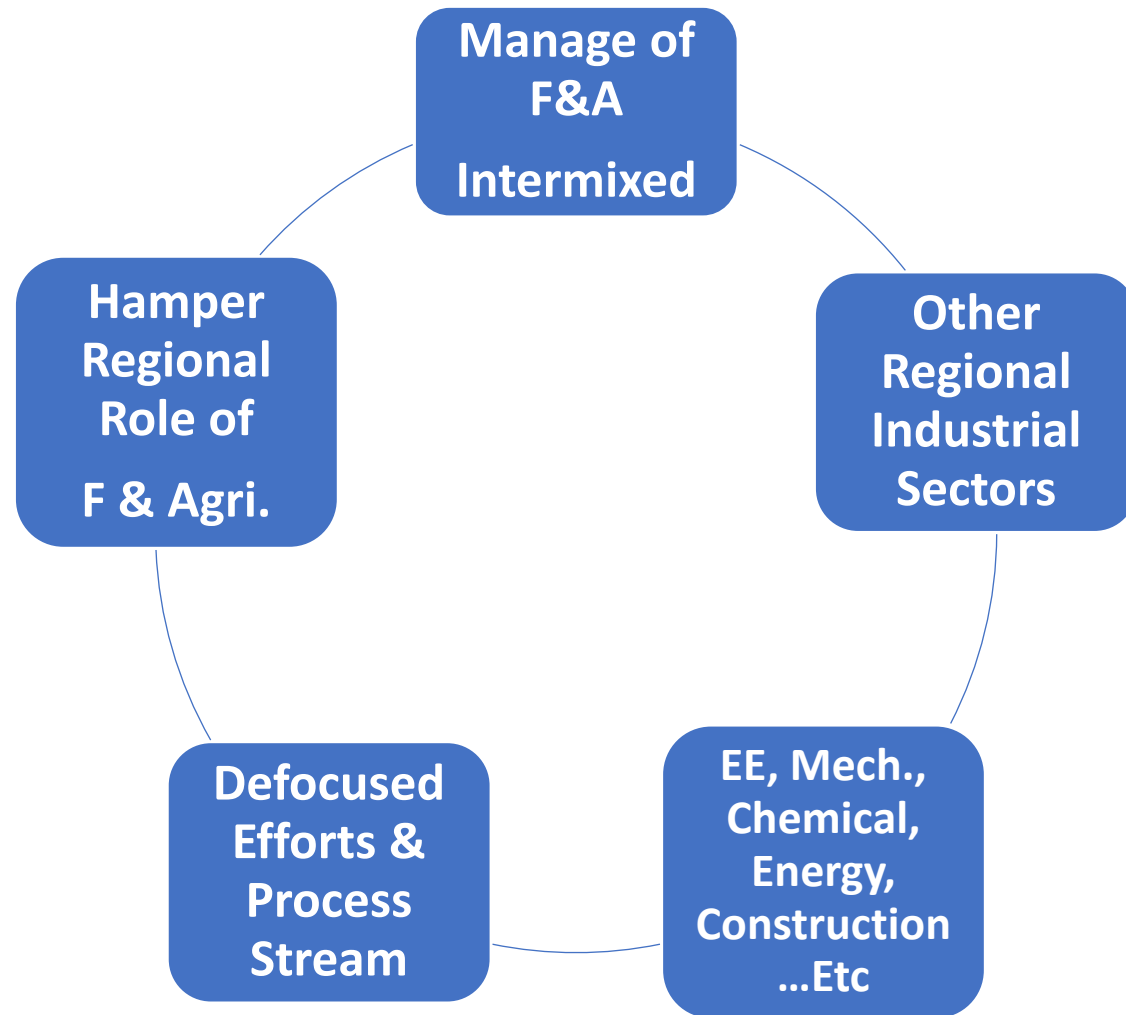
 <p>WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION</p>	<p>1 وضع رموز جميع الدول الأعضاء مع إضافة الرقم التسلسلي للإخطار لكل دولة إن أمكن.</p> <p>G/TBT/N/ARE/, G/TBT/N/BHR/ G/TBT/N/SAU/, G/TBT/N/OMN/ G/TBT/N/QAT/, G/TBT/N/KWT/ G/TBT/N/YMN/</p>
<p>()</p>	<p>Page: 1/1</p> <p>Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade</p> <p>Original: English</p>

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6.

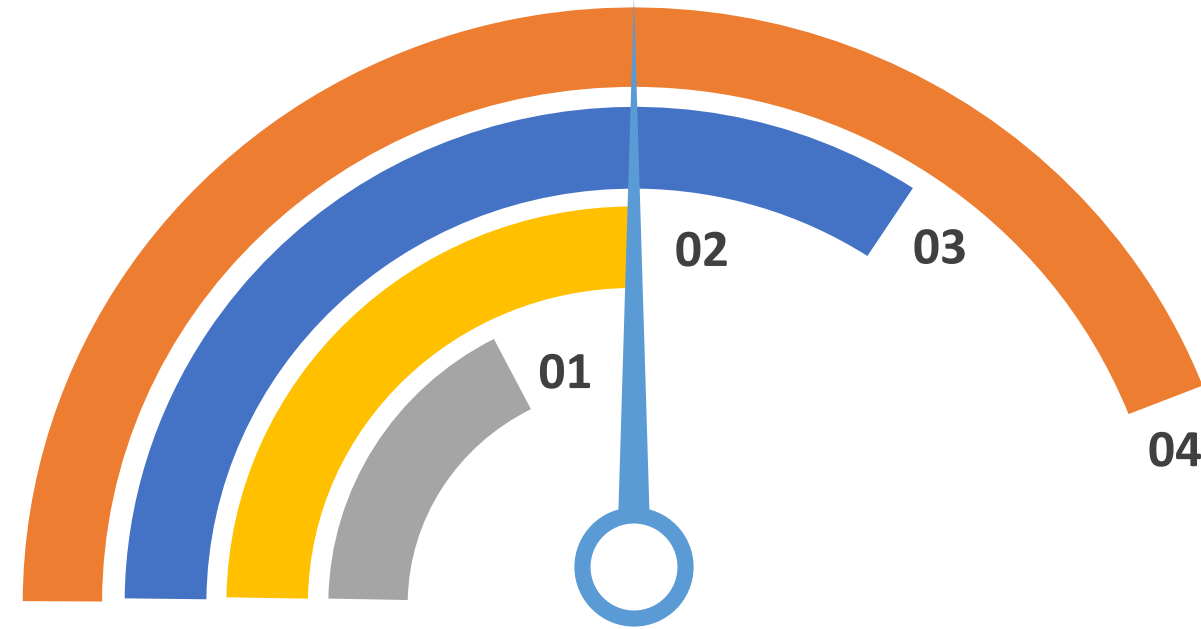
1.	<p>Notifying Member: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, SULTANATE OF OMAN, STATE OF QATAR, STATE OF KUWAIT, And The REPUBLIC OF YEMEN</p> <p>If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):</p>
2.	<p>Agency responsible: Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA)</p> <p>Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to receive comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:</p> <p>Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA) P O Box: 2166 Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates Tel.: (+971) 2 403 2613 Fax: (+971) 2 671 0999 Email: esma@esma.ae Website: http://www.esma.ae</p>
3.	<p>Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:</p>
4.	<p>Products covered (HS numbers, where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers, where applicable, provided in addition, where applicable): Beverages in general (ICS: 67.160.01)</p>
5.	<p>Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Revision article # 5.2.2 of GCC Draft of Technical Regulation for Unbottled drinking water</p>
6.	<p>Description of content: Amendment of Article No. 5.2.2 in the draft of technical regulation of unbottled drinking: the pH ranges of unbottled drinking water should be between 6.5 - 8.0., To become between 6.5 to 8.5 instead of 6.5 - 8.0, based on the evidence of water quality - the fourth edition issued by the World Health Organization (text</p>

Functional Risk on Regional Regulatory Scale



- GSO Standards & TR for Food among most important Gulf Standards Applicable to Food Products.
- GSO ambition in up taking its regional role for Codex-Mena Initiative to stream-line overall F&A regional activities Vs. Codex.
- Aligned // UN-SDG's (Built-in Mandates).
- Public & private sectors (Stakeholders) invited to join GSO standards development Process.

Conclusion



THANK YOU