



هيئة التقييس

لدول مجلس التعاون دول الخليج العربية
GCC Standardization Organization

2021



GSO Regional and International OUTREACH REVIEW

Speech of His Excellency the President of GSO

Dear GSO partners,

It is pleasing to say that GSO has made big achievements on the regional and international levels during 2021. These achievements have indeed strengthened the status of GSO as a regional Organization, and enhanced its vital role in the international standardization community.

GSO has also consolidated its communication with its counterparts in the field of standardization to coordinate standardization and integration work in efforts to facilitate trade exchange, ensuring business continuity and providing free standard that support the relevant sectors in the wake of the precautionary measures implemented by the countries of the world.

GSO works closely with the International Standardization Alliance, namely the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), through memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and agreements signed with the three organizations. GSO also continues its close regional and international cooperation with its partners around the world to promote international standardization as an observer member in many international organizations.

GSO is working to sustain its strategic partnerships with its counterparts to explore opportunities for cooperation in order to implement the signed MoUs memoranda of understanding that amounted to (66) through operational programs and annual action plans.

GSO has also prepared the new strategic partnerships plan concurrent with its strategic plan 2021-2025, through which GSO accomplishes its network of relations with the most prominent authorities engaged in standardization and its activities on the regional and international arenas.

Having achieved that, GSO can contribute to harmonization of standards and conformity assessment procedures, transferring knowledge and experiences, exchanging successful practices and experiences, and enhancing cooperation in international standardization forums and activities.

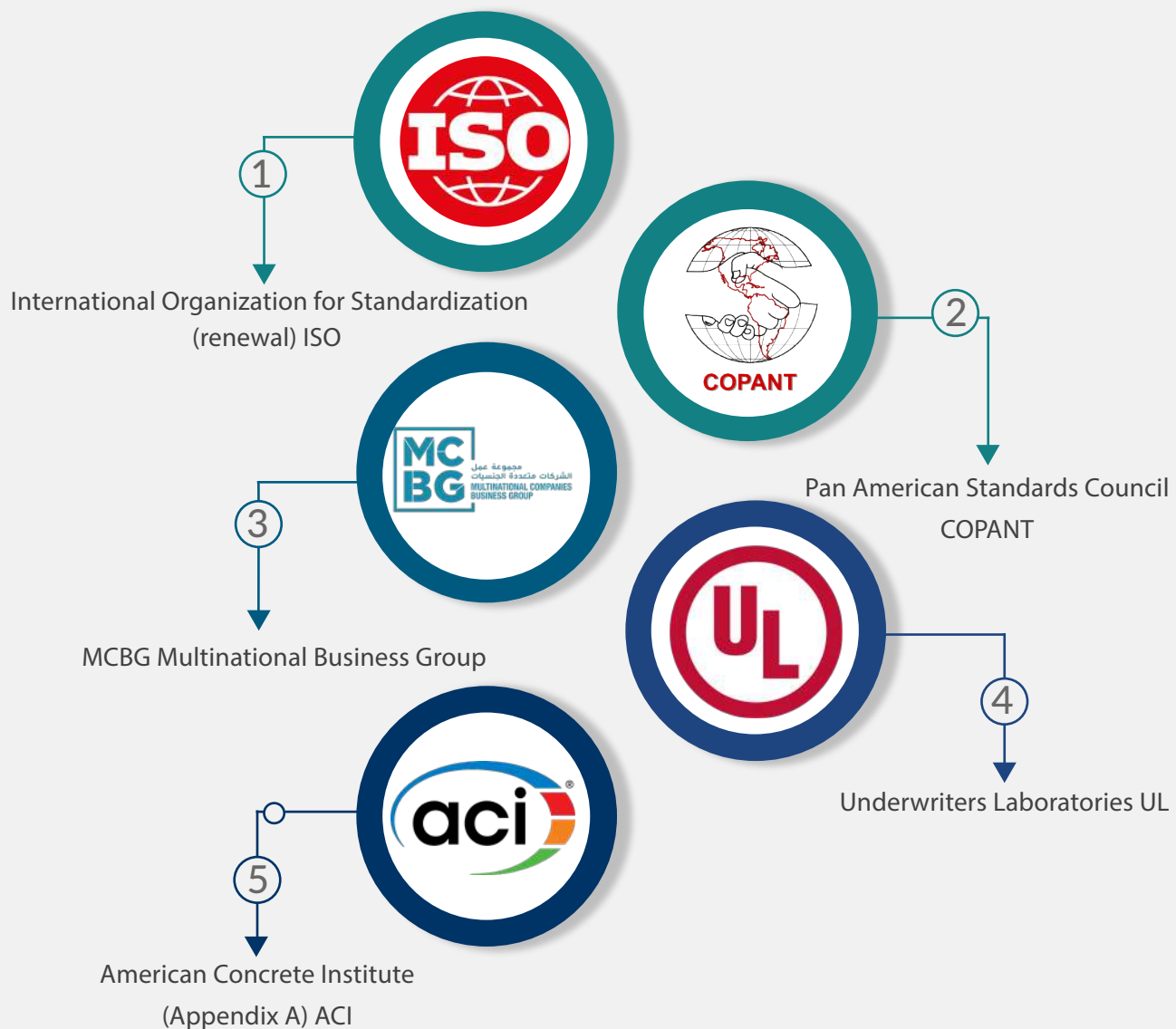
In conclusion, I would like to thank our partners for their constant cooperation and support for GSO this year, and look forward to continuing our relations in line with GSO strategic vision 2025.

Saud Al-Khusaibi
GSO President



Agreements signed during the year (2021)

The Gulf Standardization Organization signed a number of memoranda of understanding and technical cooperation agreements during the year 2021 to enhance cooperation with the corresponding standardization organizations, in a way that allows the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices and contributes to the harmonization of standards, conformity assessment procedures and mutual recognition, with the aim of facilitating trade exchange and supporting international standardization.



Highlights



International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

In the framework of the distinguished relations and sustainable partnership between GSO and ISO, the Memorandum of Understanding between the two sides was renewed for the period 2021-2024.

The MoU provide for the adoption and translation of international standards, capacity building programs and exchange of information between the two sides.



Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT)

On the sidelines of the activities of the ISO WEEK 2021, held virtually, September 2021, GSO and COPANT signed a memorandum of understanding with the aim of establishing constructive and cooperative working relations, and to strengthen communication and coordination between the two sides (September 22, 2021).

This memorandum aims to promote cooperation in the field of standardization through harmonization of standards to facilitate trade exchange between the two regions. It also aims at enhancing cooperation and unifying positions and coordination in international and regional arenas to fulfil the common interest of the two sides.

Furthermore, this will also strengthen coordination between the two regions to ensure active participation in regional standardization in line with ISO policy for regional standardization cooperation to support international standardization.

It is worth noting that COPANT consists of 32 active members from national standards bodies and 9 adherent members.





Multinational Business Group (MCBG)

GSO and the Multinational Companies Working Group (MCBG) signed a memorandum of understanding with the aim of stressing the importance of harmonization of standards and technical regulations in developing the economy, and promoting partnership between the public and private sectors (Dubai, October 06, 2021).

Based on GSO interest and its strategic vision 2025, GSO is striving to enhance its cooperation and coordination with its partners and stakeholders in order to enhance standardization in the region and ensure the optimal application of Gulf standards and technical regulations.





Underwriters UL Laboratories

GSO and Underwriters Laboratories UL signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance technical cooperation in the field of standards, capacity building programs, exchange of experiences and best standardization practices to improve quality of life (September 27, 2021).



American Concrete Institute (ACI)

GSO and the American Concrete Institute (ACI) signed an appendix to the Memorandum of Understanding concluded on May 17, 2017, in which the two sides achieved many areas of cooperation.

The annex to the memorandum of understanding focused mainly on cooperation between the two sides in the field of construction with a view to support the Gulf Building Code by providing the technical expertise of each party to the other, publications, meetings and conferences, and membership of technical committees (April 14, 2021).

THE FUTURE HAS BEGUN

Bilateral meetings and technical cooperation programmes

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

GSO participated in the 55th meeting of the ISO Committee for Developing Countries "DEVCO" (16-17 September 2021) and the 43rd meeting of the ISO General Assembly, which was held virtually on (23-24 September 2021). GSO has also participated in the monthly bilateral meetings throughout the year 2021 held by ISO with presence of ISO members from Africa and Arab countries, to discuss areas of cooperation between ISO and GSO in the field of capacity building and the training plan for the year 2021, and to discuss the e-learning program for best standardization practices (in Arabic) in line with the framework of the Regional Cooperation Policy (REP) adopted by ISO to enhance cooperation and coordination with Member States and regional standardization organizations.

GSO held a bilateral meeting with ISO specialists on (February 03, 2021) to discuss the annual training plan of GSO 2021, and ISO contribution to its implementation was discussed. A bilateral meeting was also held (July 29, 2021) to present ISO electronic training platform and the tools thereof that GSO and its members could benefit from.

GSO also participated in the virtual regional symposium of the Arab Translation Management Group (ATMG), which was organized by ISO with the participation of the relevant bodies (July 28, 2021).

This symposium aimed to create greater awareness among Arabic speaking members in the region about the activities and scope of work of the Arab Translation Management Group in order to maximize the benefit of this group through increased participation.

The seminar also featured the participation of the Spanish Translation Management Group, in which the Group presented its experiences and best practices in this regard.





85TH IEC GENERAL MEETING
DUBAI 2021

اجتماع الجمعية العمومية الـ 85



International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

GSO participated in the 85th meeting of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), hosted by the United Arab Emirates for the first time in the Middle East and North Africa. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology, under the slogan: Leading the Fourth Industrial Revolution with Standardization. At the meeting, GSO presented its experience in the field of conformity assessment in the presence the Conformity Assessment Board (CAB).

In keeping abreast with international developments and the global movement on climate change, GSO participated in the international efforts to raise awareness of this issue by presenting its efforts and experience in this field, by providing a case study posted on the website of the IEC.

The President of IEC Academy and the Regional Director for the Middle East also reviewed the experience of the IEC in the virtual workshop organized by GSO on "Standardization in Education" with the participation of all Member States and number of experts from ISO, the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS), and the American Society for Testing and materials (ASTM International), and the Professor of Standardization Management at Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University - Netherlands, Dr. Ir. Henk J. de Vries, (October 12, 2021).



International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

GSO held a virtual meeting with the Director of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - Standardization Sector Dr. Chisub Lee, Director of the Standardization Office, during which Dr. Lee welcomed GSO as a new member of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector family with exemption from fees. Ways of benefiting from this membership were also discussed in the framework of the cooperation agreement signed between the two sides, September 2019. GSO was also invited to actively participate in the relevant specialized working Study groups.



CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



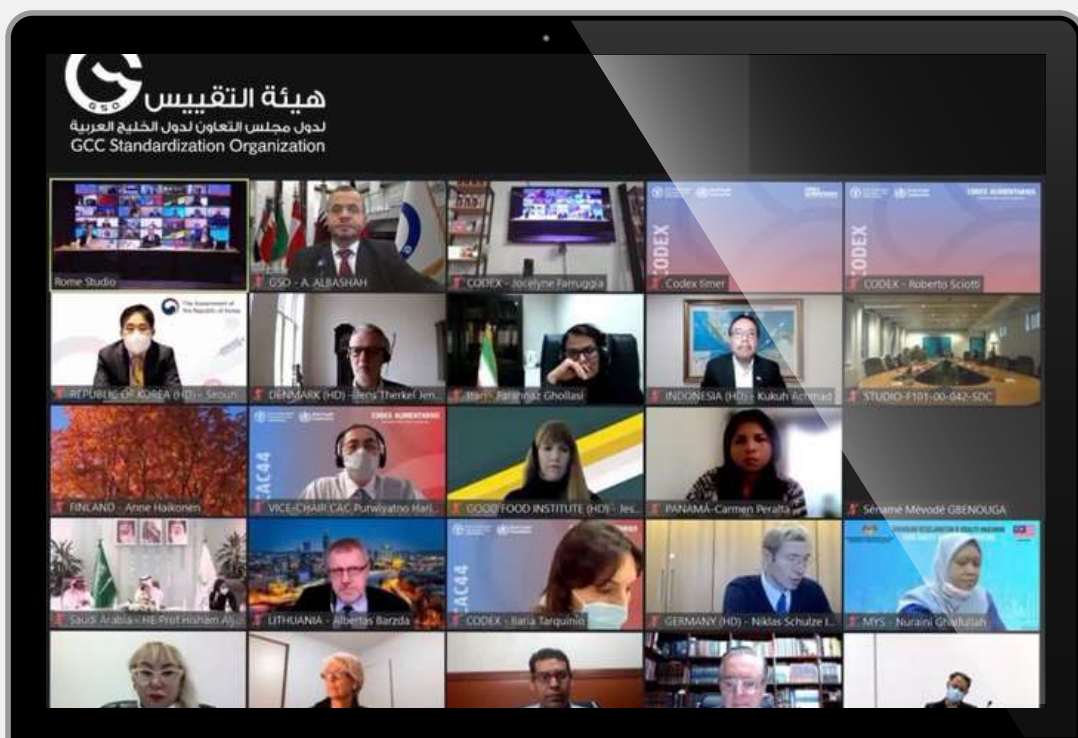
World Health
Organization

Codex Alimentarius Commission

GSO participated virtually in the 44th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission during the period 09-18 November 2021 (CAC44).

This session dealt with many important topics, organizational and legislative strategies and initiatives for food sources and new production methods, with a view to contribute to the development of unified international regulatory system for these products under the umbrella of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Mr. Steve Wearne, of the United Kingdom, was elected as the twentieth chair of the committee.

GSO has also participated (virtually) in the meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (December 14, 2021), which was devoted as an additional and final session to discuss some outstanding items of the final report on the work of (CAC44), and the comments of some Codex member states.





World Trade Organization WTO

GSO participated virtually in the work of the 49th ordinary meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), which was held on March 25-26, 2021.



United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

GSO participated (virtually) in the work of the 49th session of the Industrial Development Board organized by UNIDO from 12-15 July 2021, during which the annual report of UNIDO for the year 2020 was presented, and UNIDO response to the COVID-19 pandemic was discussed. A report from the Director General on the general management of risks was also presented. The meeting also dealt with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development SDGs, aiming at enhancing dialogue and communication with representatives of Member States regarding UNIDO's contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs.



International Code Council (ICC)

GSO held a bilateral meeting with the International Code Council (ICC) (February 03, 2021) to discuss technical support and capacity building programs needed for the Gulf Building Code and to activate the memorandum of understanding signed between the two sides. The meeting included senior officials including the Head of Global Services and Director of Operations, as well as representatives from the US Department of Commerce - Department of International Trade, and the representative of the US Embassy in Riyadh.

The meeting discussed ways of enhancing cooperation to support the Gulf Building Code through the American grant MDCP, as well as new and innovative opportunities to engage stakeholders in the member states of GSO more in the process of developing international codes.

GSO also participated in the International Code Council's celebration of Building Safety Month (May 2021) under the slogan: Prevent, Prepare, Protect, Building Codes Save You.

GSO conducted many introductory and awareness campaigns via its various platforms.

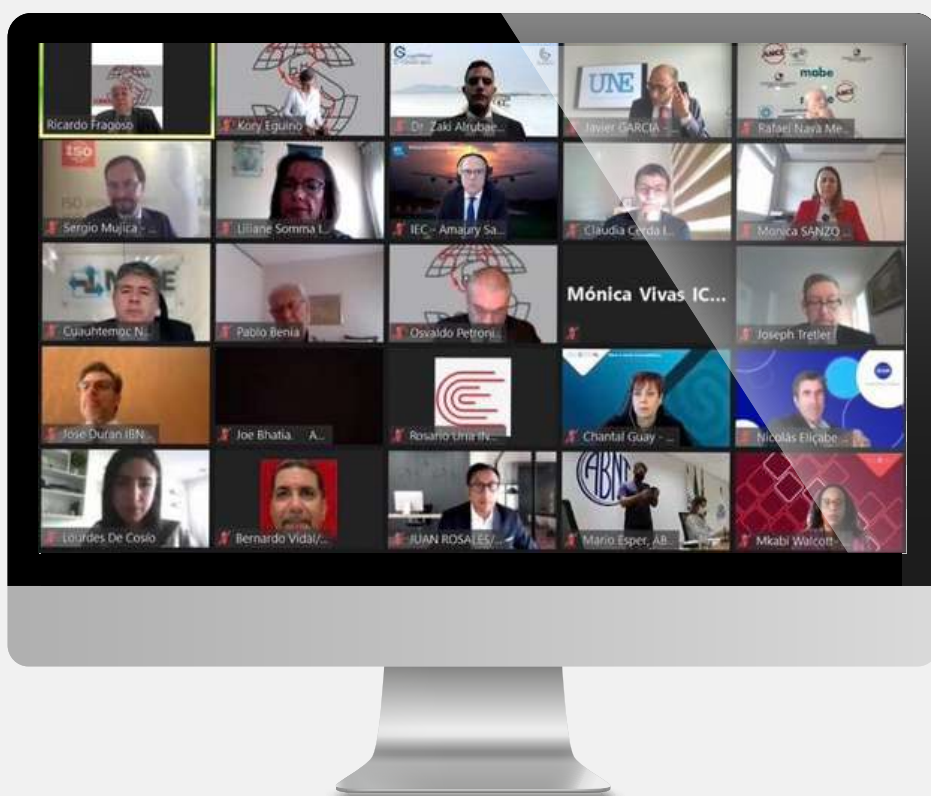
GSO received the delegation of the International Code Council (ICC) (December 06, 2021). A meeting was organized during which the joint cooperation between the two sides was highlighted in the field of capacity building according to GSO annual training plan 2022, as well as GSO participation in the annual conference of the International Code Council 2022, and coordination to sponsor the building safety month event on May 2022 where GSO will conduct introductory and awareness campaigns targeting safety of buildings.



Pan American Council for Standardization (COPANT)

GSO participated in the (virtual) annual meeting organized by COPANT during (19-21 April 2021), as well as in the workshops held on the sidelines of the meeting.

Final preparations for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two sides were also discussed.



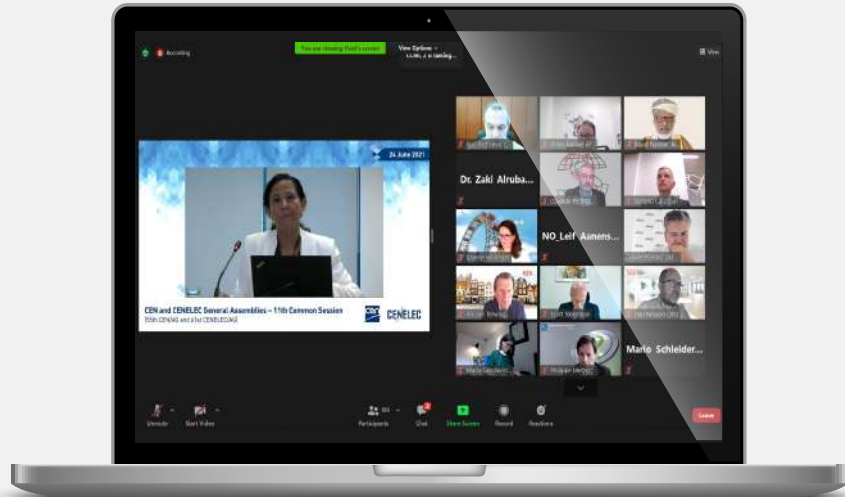


The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)

GSO, CEN and CENELEC held several bilateral meetings (February 25, 2021) (April 15, 2021) (June 17, 2021) (October 05, 2021) (October 27, 2021) to enhance cooperation and follow-up on the implementation of the 2021 annual work plan. A technical meeting was also held between the two technical committees CEN/TC 12 and GSO/TC 7 (March 30-31, 2021).

GSO has also participated virtually in the 11th joint session of the 55th CEN General Assembly and the 61st CENELEC General Assembly (24 June 2021).

On the other hand, the two sides completed the electronic interconnection process (API) to serve the licensing and copy rights agreements signed between them to facilitate access and rationalize standards data services used by the two sides.

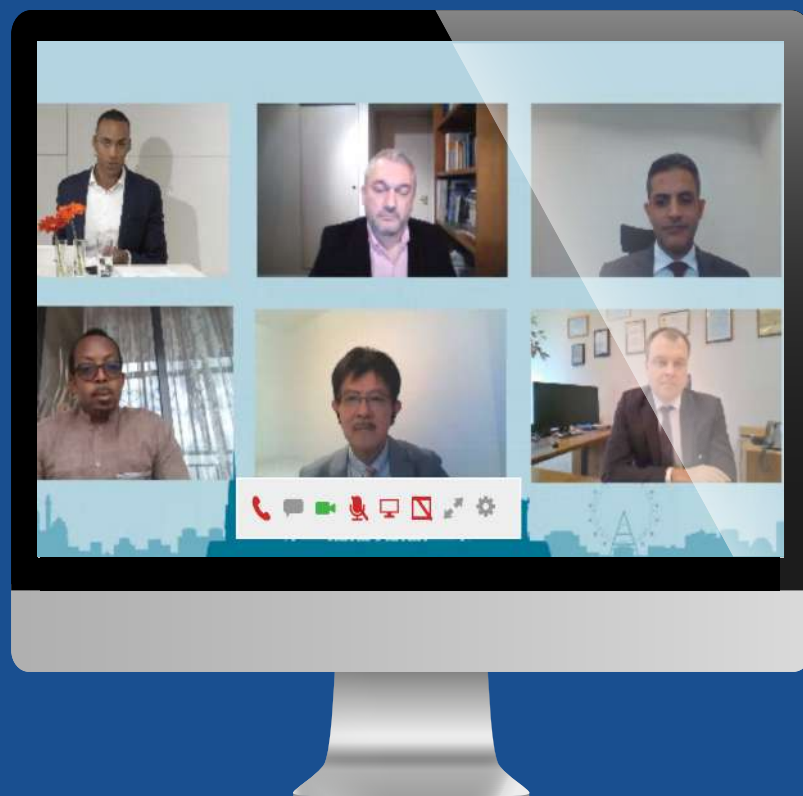


Enormous potential for the future: 30 years of Vienna Agreement

GSO participated (virtually) in the celebrations of the 13th anniversary of Vienna Agreement, which were organized by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), and the Austrian Standards International (ASI), under the heading "From global to local: Joining forces to help global standards create local impact"

The leaders of international standardization organizations such as CEN and ISO met again in Vienna on 11 October to further advance international co-operation, with more than 300 participants from high-level professionals and standardization experts around the world participated in this celebration. In this celebration, GSO reviewed its tasks, objectives, and achievements to harmonize Gulf standards with international standards and support the implementation of international standards at the national level.

GSO also emphasized the importance of studying the existing cooperation model between SO and CEN (in the form of Vienna agreement) as one of the successful examples of strengthening international, regional, and national cooperation, and making it possible with other regional organizations, with the aim of highlighting the strategic importance of aligning regional standardization with the international context.





African Regional Standardization Organization (ARSO)

GSO participated in the work of the (26) virtual meeting of the General Assembly of ARSO (16 June 2021). During the GA, the Secretary General of ARSO highlighted the organization's programs and activities, common areas of cooperation and opportunities for further cooperation in the context of the African Continent Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA). Another bilateral meeting was held on October 08, 2021 with specialists on both sides with the aim of harmonizing GSO strategic plan 2025 and ARSO strategic plan 2027, in conformance with the memorandum of understanding signed between the two regional organizations.

GSO has also participated in many virtual events and workshops organized by ARSO of interested parties from different sectors in the member states of ARSO).

GSO has also presented its GCC experience before the symposium on the trade in agricultural and food products TBT, meeting technical barriers to trade TBT, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures SPS for market access (May 19, 2021).

GSO has also participated (virtually) in a symposium on "Opportunities and Challenges Facing Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Africa, African Sustainability Standards, Conformity Assessment Systems, African Quality Mark, and applications in various sectors (Agriculture / Aquaculture) in Africa and Technical Regulations in the wake of Covid-19 and the implementation of the African Continent Free Trade Zone Agreement (April 21, 2021).

GSO has also reviewed the Gulf Standard 1943 and its implementation the Gulf Cooperation Council States with a view to benefiting ARSO member states (July 07, 2021).





Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

A virtual meeting was organized on (March 29, 2021) between specialists from GSO and the EU delegation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman with GSO specialists. EU experts reviewed the report of the European side on economic diversification in the GCC countries in light of the study that was conducted to shed light on the quality infrastructure (standards, technical regulations and legislation, accreditation, conformity assessment procedures) in general in the GCC countries and the differences and intersections between them and the impact of this on trade exchange with the European Union countries, and the solutions and proposals that are taken into account.

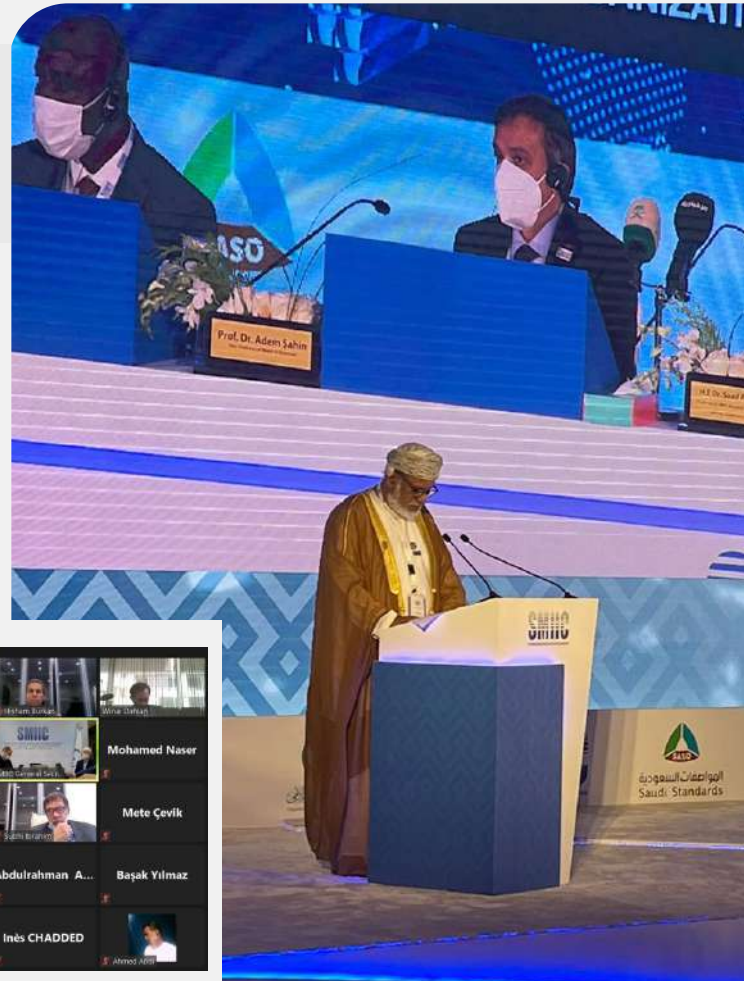
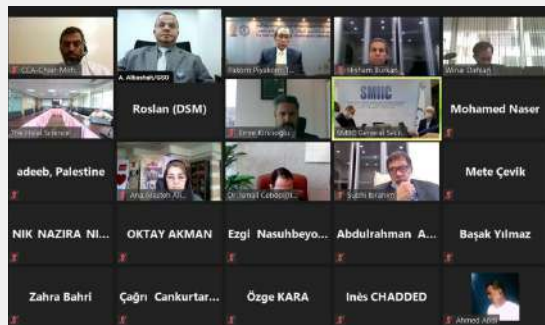
The two sides also held a bilateral meeting at GSO headquarter (Riyadh, November 08, 2021) to discuss areas of technical cooperation in the field of Gulf standards and technical regulations to support and facilitate trade exchange, and support the European-Gulf dialogue on economic diversification (Riyadh, November 08, 2021).



Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

GSO, represented by His Excellency the President participated in the 16th meeting of the General Assembly of SMIIC (November 02, 2021). Bilateral meetings were held with representatives of the participating delegations to open channels of communication, and enhancing cooperation with GSO.

GSO has also participated in the activities of week 09th technical week (9) held during the period (15 March to 01 April 2021), and the (10th technical week held during the period (27 September - 08 December 2021) for the technical committees of (SMIIC).





Arab Industrial Development, and Mining Organization (AIDSMO)

GSO delegation participated (virtually) in the work of the 56th meeting of the Arab Supreme Committee for Standardization (29-30 September 2021), as well as the (55th) meeting of the Arab Supreme Committee for Standardization on 25 March 2021, which was attended by delegations from 18 Arab countries and representatives of international organizations : President of the International Organization for Standardization ISO, Secretary General of the International Electrotechnical Commission IEC, Director of External Relations of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM International) and representative of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

At the meeting, GSO reviewed its 17 years of success and leadership in the field of standardization, and its main role in supporting the General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to implement the economic agreement, which contributes to strengthening the Gulf common market and the customs union among member states.

In the (8th) meeting of the Arab Committee for Conformity Assessment, which was held virtually by AIDSMO, March 22, 2021, GSO submitted its proposal regarding the Gulf Scheme to product safety control in the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone, and exchanged with AIDSMO the Gulf Guide for Product Safety and market surveillance.

GSO has also presented the Gulf experience in a workshop on "national experiences of Arab countries in the field of conformity assessment", which was held on September 01, 2021 through video conferencing.

In addition to that, GSO participation in the virtual workshop organized by the AIDSMO on "Laying the Foundations for Building the Arab Conformity Assessment System" (02/12/2021), through a presentation on the Gulf experience and a look at the Arab approach. On the other hand, AIDSMO participated in the (51) meeting of GSO Technical Council, which was held via video conferencing (October 11, 2021).





British Standards Institution (BSI)

GSO and BSI held a bilateral meeting (March 02, 2021) to discuss the agreement for the regional adoption of British Standards issued by BSI. Discussions also covered the technical cooperation in the field of capacity-building Gulf technical committees, and ways to support and facilitate trade between the United Kingdom and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.



Arab Urban Development Institute

GSO received at its headquarters in Riyadh, a delegation from the Arab Urban Development Institute (October 26, 2021) to discuss the exchange of experiences between the two sides and to establish cooperation in the membership of the specialized committees, the most important of which is related to children's safety (the safety of children's toys in general, and in parks in particular), and conducting joint introductory and awareness programs.



منظمة الخليج للاستشارات الصناعية
Gulf Organization For Industrial Consulting

Gulf Organization for Industrial Consultation (GOIC)

GSO and GOIC held a virtual meeting (December 21, 2021) to discuss the unified strategy for Gulf industrial development and what entails by way of visions and strategic directions that enhance joint Gulf action, particularly those related to the pillars and initiatives aimed at enhancing quality infrastructure, and reflecting the actual role of Gulf standardization activities as an essential enabler of industrial development in the member states and ways to align it with GSO strategic plan (2021-2025).



Korea Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS)

GSO and KATS signed a technical cooperation program 2021 in line with the memorandum of understanding signed between the two sides, which included many cooperation initiatives of mutual interest. GSO and KATS also held a bilateral meeting in the period (27-28 October 2021) to introduce the system of Gulf technical legislation, the notified bodies, and the guide for the participation of related parties. Participation involved representatives of the industrial, commercial and governmental sectors in Korea and specialists in the Korean Agency. The Cooperation program between the two sides for the year 2022 in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two sides was also discussed.



National Standardization Agency of the Republic of Indonesia (BSN)

GSO and BSN held a virtual meeting (August 19, 2021) to discuss the work plan for the year 2021 and the areas of joint work in line with the signed memorandum of understanding. The meeting also included giving introductory presentations by specialists of both sides in the presence of 44 specialists from BSN, government sector and private sector, in line with the MoU signed between GSO and BSN.





Russian Federal Agency for Metrology and Technical Legislation (GOST R)

GSO held a bilateral meeting with GOST R at its headquarters in Moscow (August 02, 2021). The meeting which took place on the sidelines of the "Kazan Summit 2021", held in Tatarstan on 28-29 July 30, 2021) was attended by high-level participants from both organizations. GSO and GOST R have exchanged information of their Tasks, activities and achievements as well as possible cooperation opportunities to support international standardization.

The two sides agreed to tackle the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding, which may include harmonizing standards and conformity assessment procedures, supporting metrological infrastructure, participating in the work of technical committees, and exchanging experts and best practices.

GSO has also received an invitation from GOST R to participate in the Metrology Conference, which will be held on the sidelines of the Dubai Expo 2020 (February, 2022).



Kazakhstan Institute of Standardization and Metrology KAZSTANDARD

GSO and KAZSTANDARD held a bilateral meeting (October 04, 2021) to discuss areas of cooperation in light of the letter of intent signed between them, on the sidelines of the 55th meeting of the International Electrotechnical Commission IEC held in Dubai, and an action plan for technical cooperation was signed (October 2021-December 2022) that included several areas, the most important of which is harmonization with Gulf Standards, particularly those related to the halal sector, and exchange of experiences with the aim of facilitating trade exchange between the GCC countries and the Kazakh side. Accordingly, the Kazakh side has been provided with a number of Gulf standards for the purpose of study and adoption.



Australian embassy

GSO received HE (Miles Armitage), Chargé d'Affairs of the Australian Embassy in Riyadh and (Melissa Kelly) First Secretary at the Embassy to discuss cooperation in the field of Gulf standards and technical regulations, which contributes to facilitating trade exchange between member countries and Australia (March 29, 2021).

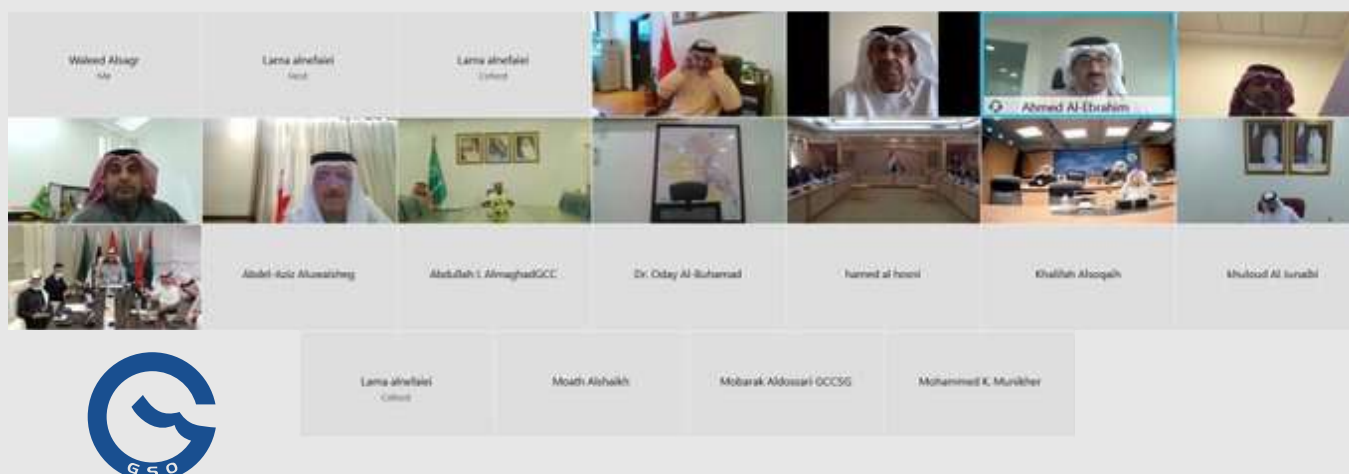
GSO also received at its headquarters in Riyadh, H.E the Australian Ambassador, Mark Donovan (September 01, 2021). Various topics of common interest were discussed during the meeting.



مجلس الغرف السعودية
Council of Saudi Chambers

Council of Saudi Chambers

GSO received at its headquarter, a delegation from the Council of Saudi Chambers (February 28, 2021) to introduce GSO and its objectives and to discuss possible areas of work and joint cooperation, especially in the areas of conformity assessment as one of the influencing factor in the economies of member states.



Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control (COSQC)

GSO participated in the meeting of the joint committee of senior officials in the ministries of foreign affairs between the countries of the Cooperation Council and the Republic of Iraq to enhance cooperation with the Republic of Iraq, which was held via video conference on January 27, 2021, at the invitation of the General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council to GSO. The joint work plan between the two sides was discussed, in addition to reviewing the latest developments in technical cooperation in the field of standards and metrology, conformity assessment procedures, mutual recognition and capacity building to support the economy and facilitate trade exchange between GSO and the COSQC in the Republic of Iraq. Steps for signing a memorandum of understanding between the two sides were also discussed.

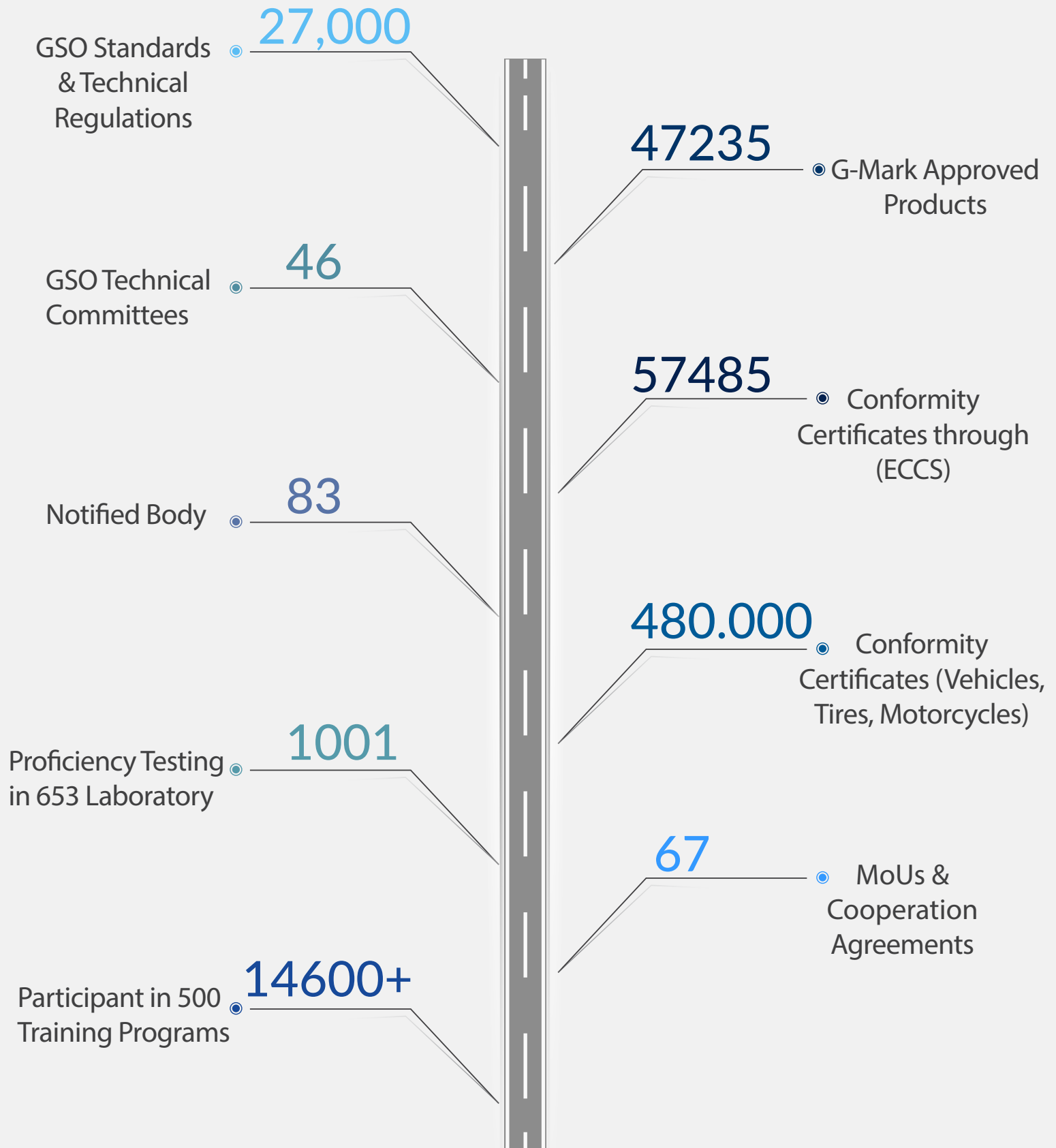
International Economic Summit (12) "Russia - Islamic World: Kazan Summit 2021"

GSO participated in the 12th International Economic Summit "Russia - Islamic World: Kazan Summit 2021", which was launched in Kazan (28 to 30 July 2021) in the presence of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Secretary-General of the Islamic Chamber of Trade, Industry and Agriculture of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, with the participation of a number of Their Excellencies, Ministers, representatives of governments, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, senior officials, businessmen, company representatives, heads of organizations, international experts and specialists; The summit was accompanied by the launch of the "Halal Expo Russia" exhibition for halal products, with a large participation of food companies working in this field in Russia.

GSO also participated in the first major session "Halal Industry - Experiences and Perspective", in which it reviewed the Gulf Halal system, and highlighted the importance of the halal industry according to international reports that reflect the size of this sector, which is expected to reach \$3.2 trillion by 2027, which currently covers many sectors besides the food sector, and includes important sectors such as travel, tourism, cosmetics, medicine, banking, textiles... and others, which makes it one of the most important pillars of the Islamic economy.



GSO's Top Achievements



GCC Standardization Organization for the Arab States of the Gulf (GSO)

- GSO is a non-profit regional standardization organization concerned with standardization and its various disciplines (standards, conformity assessment procedures and metrology). It was established by a decision of the GCC Supreme Council in its 22nd session (Muscat, 30-31 December 2001).
- GSO headquarter is in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. GSO assumed its operation on May 2004.
- GSO members are GCC States, namely United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar, State of Kuwait, and the Republic of Yemen which joined GSO on January 2021.
- All GSO members are members of the International Organization for Standardization ISO, and are signatories to WTO Annex III of the TBT Agreement.
- GSO aims to unify the various standardization activities and follow up their implementation and compliance with, through the cooperation and coordination of the national standards bodies of GSO member States to raise the efficiency and competitiveness of Gulf industries and develop their production and service sectors in a way that contribute to facilitation of trade exchange, consumer protection, environment and public health, supporting the Gulf economy, and fulfilling the requirements of the customs union and the Gulf common market.
- GSO members are the national standards bodies of member states.

Major activities:

- Issuing of standards/ metrology
 - Conformity assessment
 - Capacity building programs
 - Providing technical assistance to member states
 - Providing for the information technology infrastructure
- GSO is guided by the principle of sustainable partnership, mutual understanding and cooperation with all stakeholders

For More Information

<https://www.gso.org.sa/ar/about-gso/gsos-mous/>



