

India & Sustainability Standards

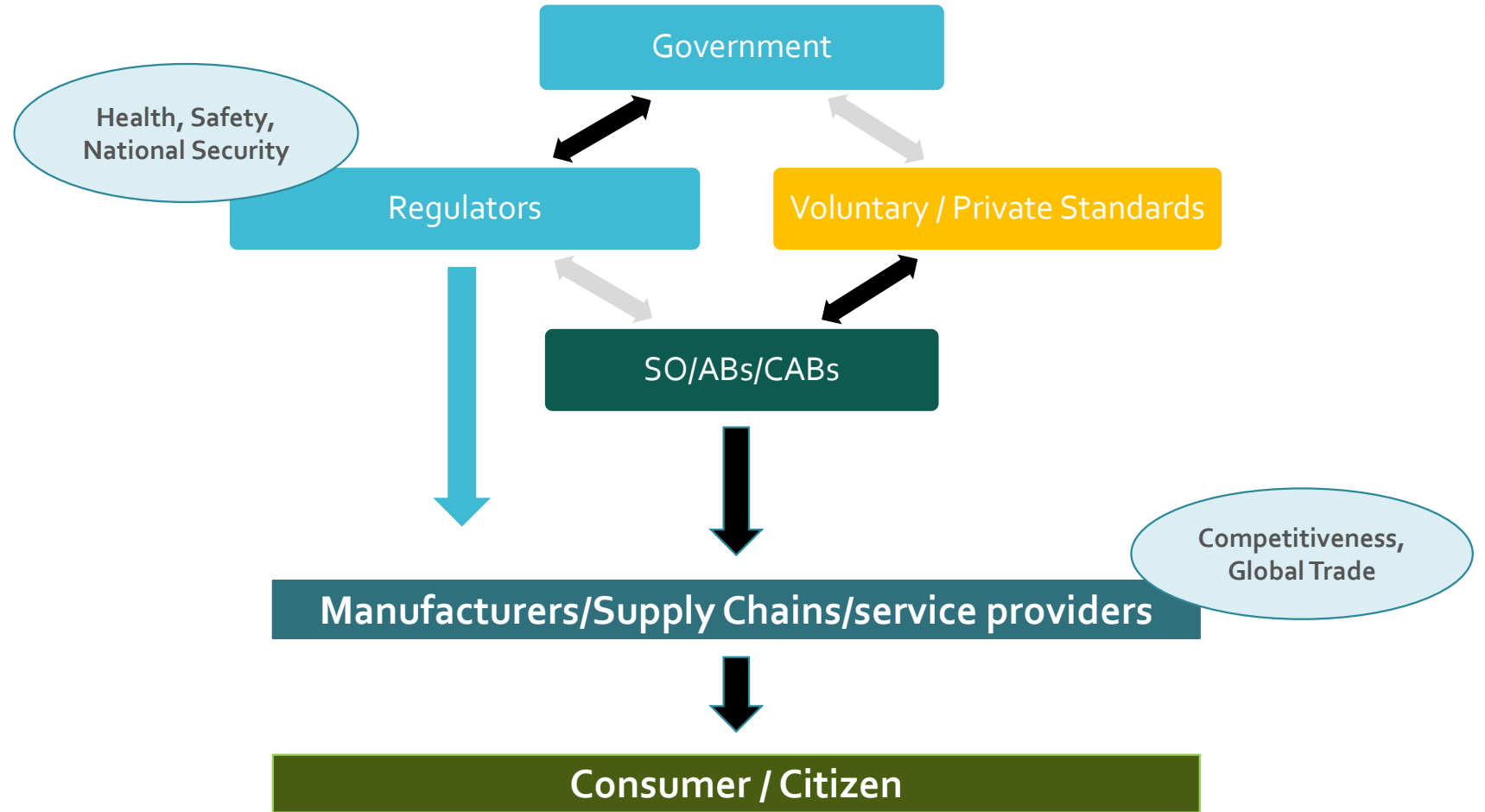
Through the lens of the Indian PSS Platform

Briefing for the Brazilian VSS Platform Launch

31 May 2017

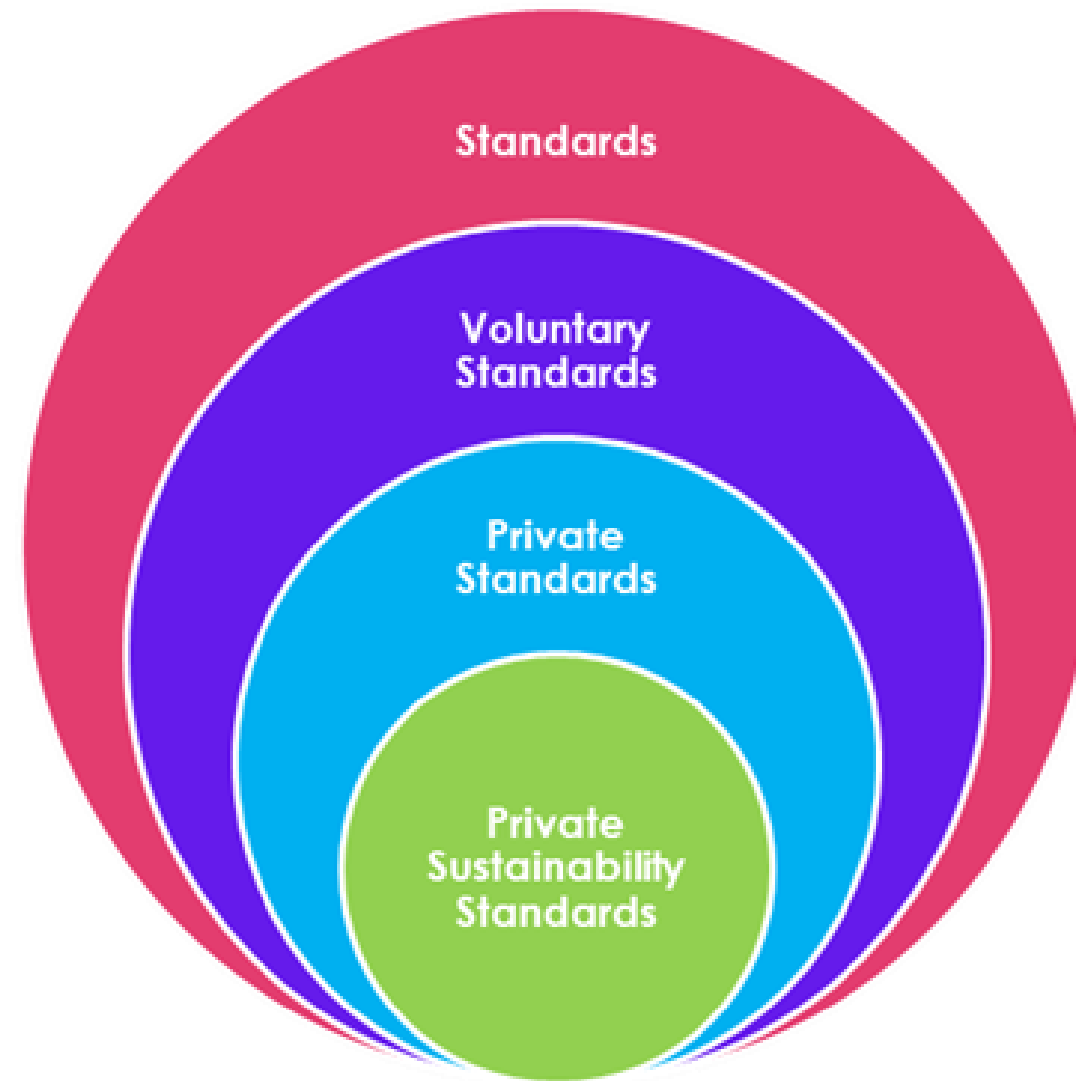


Regulatory ecosystem in India



PSS are being increasingly used to demonstrate compliance to regulation in India
 (Food Safety authority/ AYUSH CoPP/Yoga - Recruitments)

How we understand PSS



Why India is weary

- ***Technical Barrier to Trade***
- ***Compliance difficulty***
 - *readiness*
 - *alien concepts*
 - *foreign contexts*
 - *complex interpretation*
 - *long term investment*
 - *no interoperability among PSS*
- ***Lack of harmonization***
- ***No access to funds and unclear timelines*** to encourage PSS adoption
- ***Fear of losing focus on domestic market while eyeing exports***

Indian PSS Platform

A Solution to Unify
PSS Stakeholders in
India



Secretariat



Quality Council of India

(autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry)

- *Focal point for Govt. & industry bodies* - Unbiased and credible organization
- *Understands Standards ecosystem* - delivers futuristic models for all sectors
- VSS designing experience - *ZED, AYUSH, YOGA, NMPB* - Govt. adopted
- Sustainable solutions in SAARC - *Lead Safe Paint Scheme, SAARC GAP*
- Collaborates with Standards/ Accreditation Bodies across economies for promoting VSS for mutual benefit - *ARSO, ANSI, DGQ, IPEN, FAO, ANAB, GCC*

Nature



Objectives

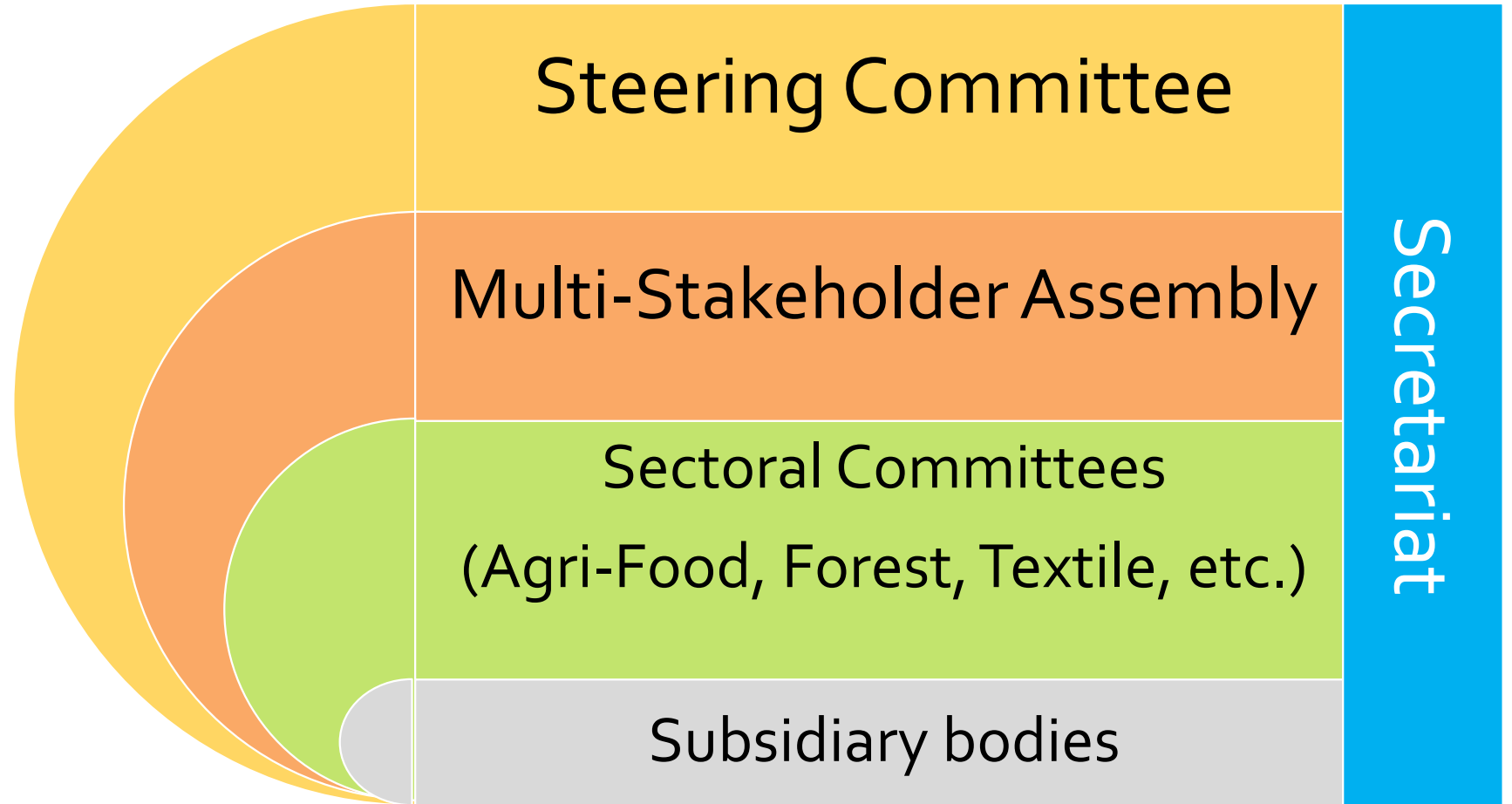
- facilitate *dialogue* between stakeholders
- maintain *transparency, accountability, participation*
- enhance *market access* opportunities through PSS
- maximize *sustainable development* benefits

Launch and Operationalizing the Platform

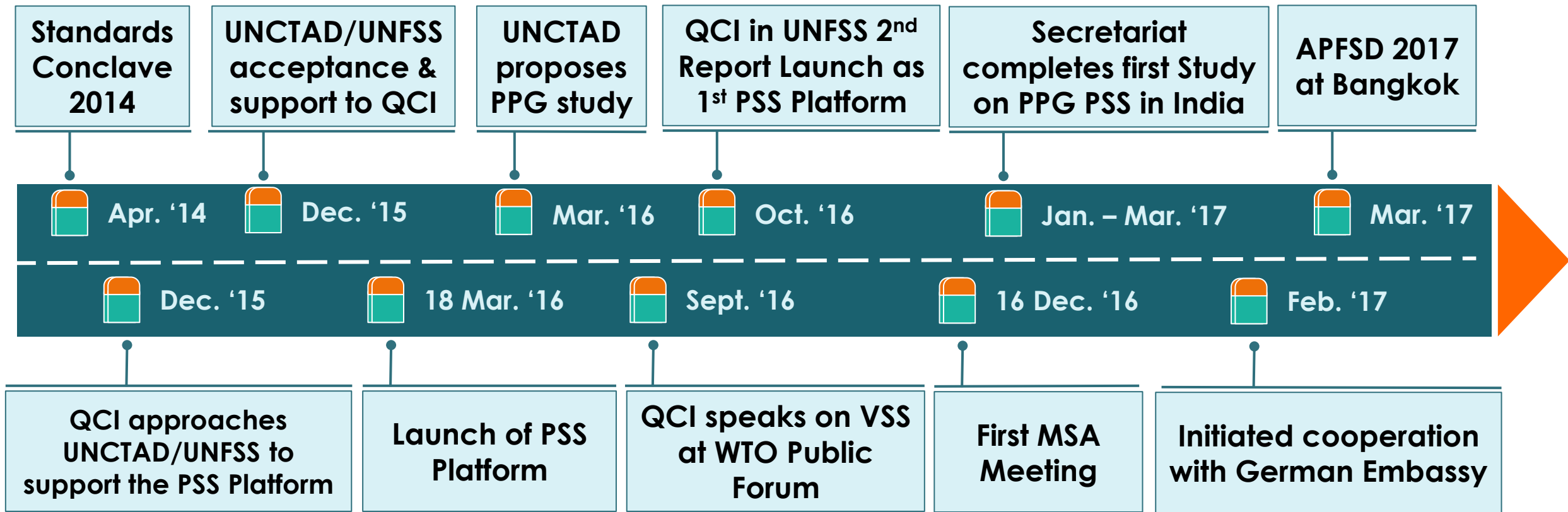
A roadmap for National Platforms to follow



Structure



Journey so far



International Outreach & Cooperation

Good Agricultural Practices for SAARC and Africa



- Created GAP for SAARC in collaboration with FAO
- Exploring possibility of working with ARSO on creating GAP for Africa

Study on PSS in Priority Product Groups



The India Story

Impact of Private Sustainability Standards on Market Access and Sustainable Development

- Study commissioned by UNCTAD for submission to the Steering Committee of the Platform

International Outreach & Cooperation

Statement on PSS in Developing Countries



- Joint Statement on PSS developed by QCI
- 4 developing economies agreed to sign the Joint Statement for taking collective action towards PSS

Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development



- Negotiated PSS related clauses in Final Recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Forum on SD
- Country statement on Indian PSS Platform and achieving SDGs through trade

The suggested “Way Forward” for the World

- Every economy must ***identify a single body for PSS***
- ***Conformity Assessment*** process must be ***harmonized*** and agreed
- ***Maturity model*** approach for other economies as long term strategy
- Conduct ***India-wide survey on PSS in product groups***
- ***Portal*** for PSS-related info for ***local & public procurement, and consumers***

The 'Way Forward' for the World (contd.)

- PSS must be followed with an action plan to the Government to provide wide ranging incentives like:
 - ✓ Making PSS pre-requisite for local & public procurement
 - ✓ Access to funds for upgradation
 - ✓ Access to global markets
 - ✓ Reduction in oversight for local laws
 - ✓ Reduction in oversight in technical regulations
 - ✓ Deemed compliant status for PSS adherence

Thank you

