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THE PERSPECTIVE AND ROLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' GOVERNMENTS ON VSS

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OUTLINE

- 1 Overview of the SABS
- 2 Affiliation with government
- 3 Contribution to National Priorities
- 4 Standards relevant to VSS
- 5 Stakeholder engagement relevant to VSS
- 6 Way Forward



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SABS MANDATE



Develop, promote and maintain **voluntary** South African National Standards

- To promote access to markets
- To advance socio-economic wellbeing of SA in global economy



Promote quality in connection with commodities , products & services

- Localisation of production in support of government's Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP)

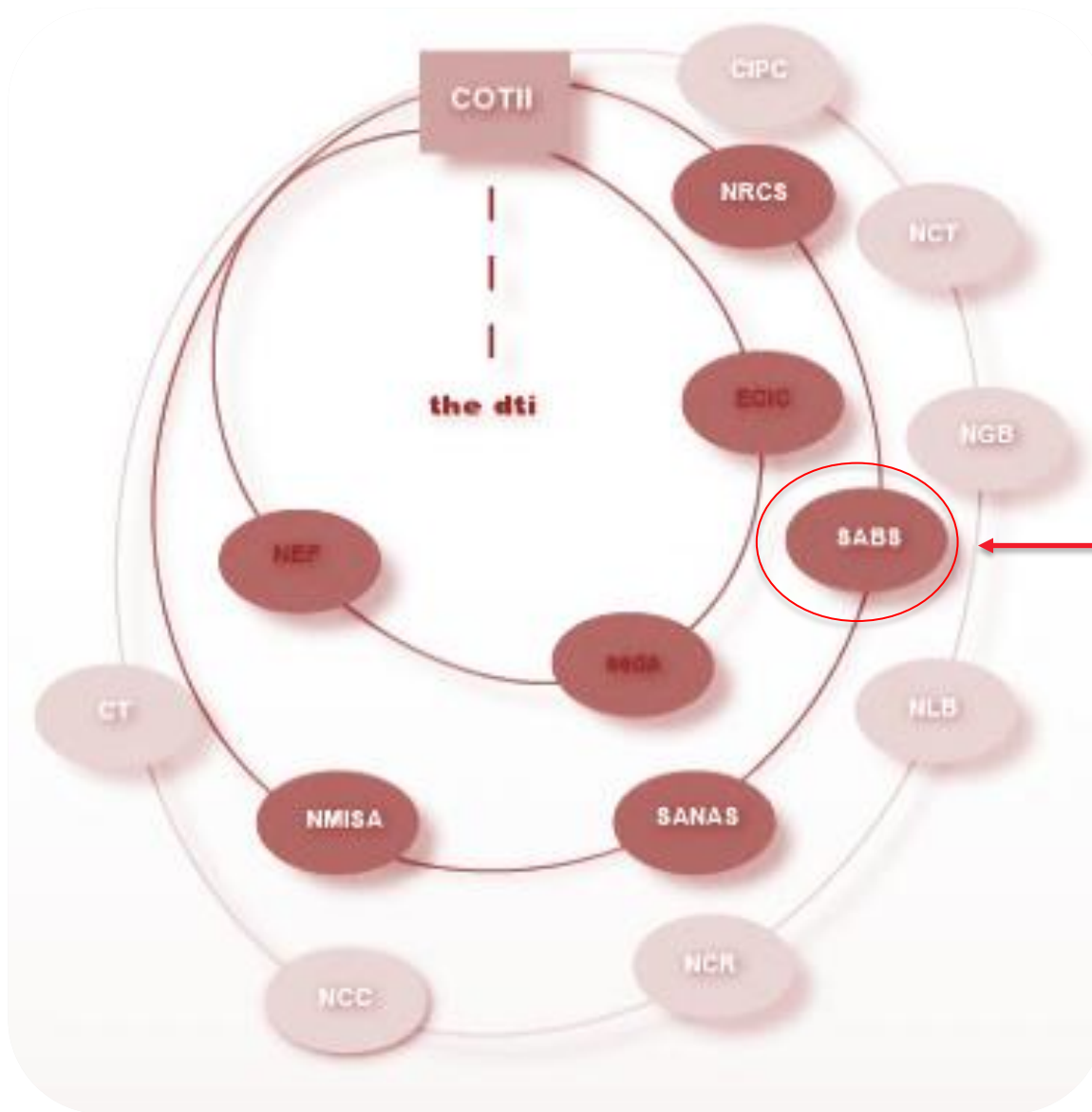


Render conformity assessment services and assist in matters connected therewith

- Facilitate access of markets for SA industries – improving their competitiveness in global environment



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AFFILIATION WITH DTI

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS



- ❖ Publish 650 standards annually
- ❖ Collection of >6500 national standards (SANS)
- ❖ Through 400 active standards development committees
- ❖ > 350 SA technical experts serve on the Technical Committees of ISO & IEC
- ❖ Leadership role in regional standards bodies (SADCSTAN; ARSO; AFSEC)

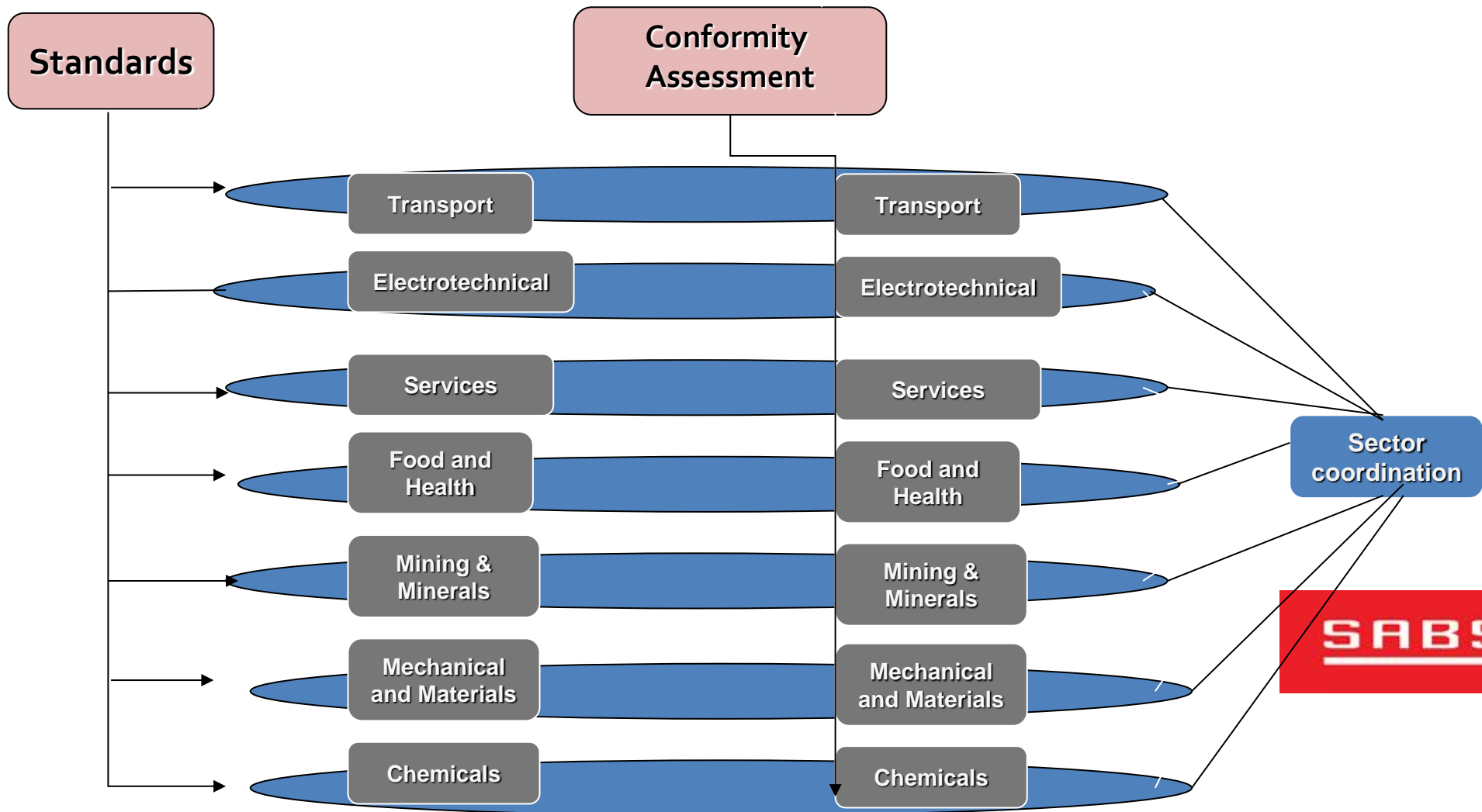


**The African Electrotechnical
Standardization Commission**
**Commission
Electrotechnique Africaine
de Normalisation**

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AREAS OF FOCUS

In the following sectors (*with environment and sustainability most under "services" – not necessarily the main focus in other sectors*):



Standardization in national policy implementation

2030 National Development Plan

Core elements of a decent standard of living identified in the Plan

- ✓ **Housing, water, electricity and sanitation**
- ✓ Safe and reliable public transport
- ✓ Quality education and skills development
- ✓ Safety and security
- ✓ Quality health care
- ✓ **Social protection**
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Recreation and leisure
- ✓ **Clean environment**
- ✓ Adequate nutrition

2020 New Growth Path

- ✓ **Jobs Drivers**
- ✓ **Infrastructure development**
- ✓ **Main economic sectors**
- ✓ Seizing the potential of new economies
- ✓ **Investing in social capital and public services**
- ✓ Spatial development
- ✓ **-Key sectors**
- ✓ Agricultural value chain
- ✓ **Mining value chain**
- ✓ **Green economy**
- ✓ **Manufacturing sectors in IPAP**
- ✓ **Tourism and certain high-level services**

IPAP 2014-17

Focus areas

- ✓ **Public procurement**
- ✓ Competition Policy
- ✓ Developmental trade Policy
- ✓ **Innovation and technology**
- ✓ Regional integration and exports
- ✓ Incentives and Industrial financing
- ✓ Special Economic Zones

Key sectors:

- ✓ **Advanced manufacturing**
- ✓ Automotives
- ✓ Mineral beneficiation
- ✓ **green and energy-saving industries**
- ✓ agro-processing, etc, etc

SOME GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

❖ National Development Plan

- ✓ *Full chapter on environmental sustainability (incorporates all aspects of the national strategy for sustainable development)*

❖ Various policies

- ✓ *Green Economy Accord*
- ✓ *Industrial Policy Action Plan*
- ✓ *Climate Change response policy*

❖ Sector specific policies that prioritise sustainability and green economy

- ✓ *Green transport strategy*
- ✓ *Waste management strategy*
- ✓ *Biodiversity Economy*
- ✓ *Oceans Economy*

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- ❖ **Standards Development is stakeholder intensive to ensure**
 - ✓ *Balanced participation – given past imbalances and unequal-ness*
 - ✓ *Standards alignment with national priorities*
 - ✓ *Standards alignment with consumer, SMME and other stakeholder group needs*
- ❖ **Balance means**
 - ✓ *Involvement of all key stakeholder groups including organisations concerned with **sustainability** e.g. Department of Environmental Affairs, NGOs, etc*
- ❖ **Directing the focus and outcomes of standards – approval of standards projects ensures primarily, in addition to positive economic benefits**
 - ✓ *Health*
 - ✓ *Safety*
 - ✓ *Protection of the environment*

CHALLENGES

- ❖ Traditionally standardization has been linked to industrialization – with inadequate focus on sustainability
- ❖ Typically participants would mostly be big manufacturers
- ❖ Regulation has been the mostly used way of enforcing sustainability in industry - with only some organisations only voluntarily implementing VSS
- ❖ Insufficient education about benefits of VSS – most players seeing it as a hindrance to organisational financial growth
- ❖ Key partnerships needed between standardisation bodies and other government and private sector players to promote VSS for the benefit of all

WAY FORWARD

Internal process improvement

- Guided focus on sustainability standards – on approval of standards projects
- stronger alignment with national sustainability policies

Focused stakeholder engagement

- Facilitation of participation by stakeholders interested in VSS
- Stronger partnerships with key players to support implementation of sustainability their policies – e.g. Department of Environmental Affairs, National Treasury

Relevance to national priorities

- Stronger alignment with sustainability national policies & international initiatives e.g. sustainable consumption and production
- Advocate for (resources) assistance of interested by challenged parties in implementation of VSS

Promotion of VSS

- Include and highlight VSS in promotion of standards – as a competitiveness & market access tool
- Educating national stakeholders on benefits of VSS and especially regulators on how they can be used to complement regulation

Impact assessment

- Assessment of impact of implementation of VSS
- Publish outcomes of assessments to promote VSS and share lessons learnt to encourage improvement

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OBRIGADO
ENKOSI
THANK YOU

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SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS

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