A Platform for PSS in India

First Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Committee
India National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards
16 December 2016

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Common concerns against PSS

- compliance difficulty in developing economies
  - readiness
  - alien concepts
  - foreign contexts
  - complex interpretation
  - long term investment
  - no interoperability among PSS

- no national platforms for PSS harmonization
- fear of PSS becoming a barrier to trade
- access to funds and unclear timelines to encourage adoption of PSS
Journey so far

- Standards Conclave
  - 16-17 Apr. '14
- UNCTAD acceptance and support to QCI
  - 22 Dec. '15
- UNCTAD proposes PPG study
  - 22 Mar. '16
- First MSC Meeting
  - 16 Dec. '16
- QCI approaches UNCTAD to host the PSS Platform to UNFSS
  - 08 Dec. '15
- Launch of PSS Platform
  - 18 Mar. '16
- QCI participates in UNFSS event as 1st PSS Platform
  - Sept. & Oct. '16
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
Existing ecosystem in India

PSS are being increasingly used to demonstrate compliance to regulation in India (Food Safety authority/ AYUSH CoPP/Yoga - Recruitments)
First MSC Meeting of India National PSS Platform

demand driven

diverse

solutions oriented

collaborative

deliberative

harmonising
Objectives

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

What we propose

Steering Committee

Multi-Stakeholder Committee

Quasi-adjudicative Expert Panel
(Food, Forest, Textile)

Ad-hoc bodies/Task Force

Secretariat

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The way forward

- Every economy must identify a single body for PSS.
- Conformity Assessment process must be harmonized and agreed.
- A maturity model approach has worked well in India; other economies may also consider it as long term strategy.
- Every Voluntary Standard must be followed with an action plan to the Government to provide wide ranging incentives like:
  - Making VSS pre-requisite for local procurement
  - Access to funds for upgradation
  - Access to global markets
  - Through PSS reduction in oversight for local laws
  - Through PSS reduction in oversight in technical regulations (deemed compliant status)
Thank you