

ISEAL Alliance Stakeholder Consultation Practices in Standards Development

In a new report from the ISEAL Alliance, released in September, the complicated issues of good practice in stakeholder consultation are further explored. The report, "Stakeholder Consultation Practices in Standards Development," focuses on the issues that arise in implementing multi-stakeholder consultations in standards development, both on a conceptual basis and in practical application. The report builds upon ISEAL's previous publication of the international normative reference, Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards.

Stakeholder consultation is a core element of all corporate social responsibility initiatives. In practice, it is easy to incorporate this concept but difficult to do well. This report provides practical information for standard-setting organizations to improve how they develop the consultation process and respond to issues arising from the consultation itself. It addresses difficult issues in consultation such as engaging stakeholders, funding issues and achieving balance. While the report targets standard-setting organizations, the concepts raised and practical suggestions offered will be of use across a broad spectrum of situations where stakeholder participation and opinion is genuinely desired.

The report can be downloaded from either the ISEAL Alliance homepage (<http://www.isealalliance.org>) or the Public Documents page (<http://www.isealalliance.org/documents/index.htm#technical>) where it will reside permanently.