



The International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

Workshop on NTMs, International Standards and sustainable development

Belinda CLEELAND
Head of Research & Innovation, ISO/CS

Bangkok, 2019-03-13



Agenda

1. About ISO
2. How ISO standards are developed
3. Standards in support of public policy
4. Standards & SDGs
5. Capacity building

About ISO



About us

- Founded in 1947
- Independent
- Non-governmental organization
- Global network of national standards bodies
- 1 member per country
- Languages: English, French, Russian
- ISO membership comes with
rights, benefits, obligations and good practice

164

members

22000+

International Standards

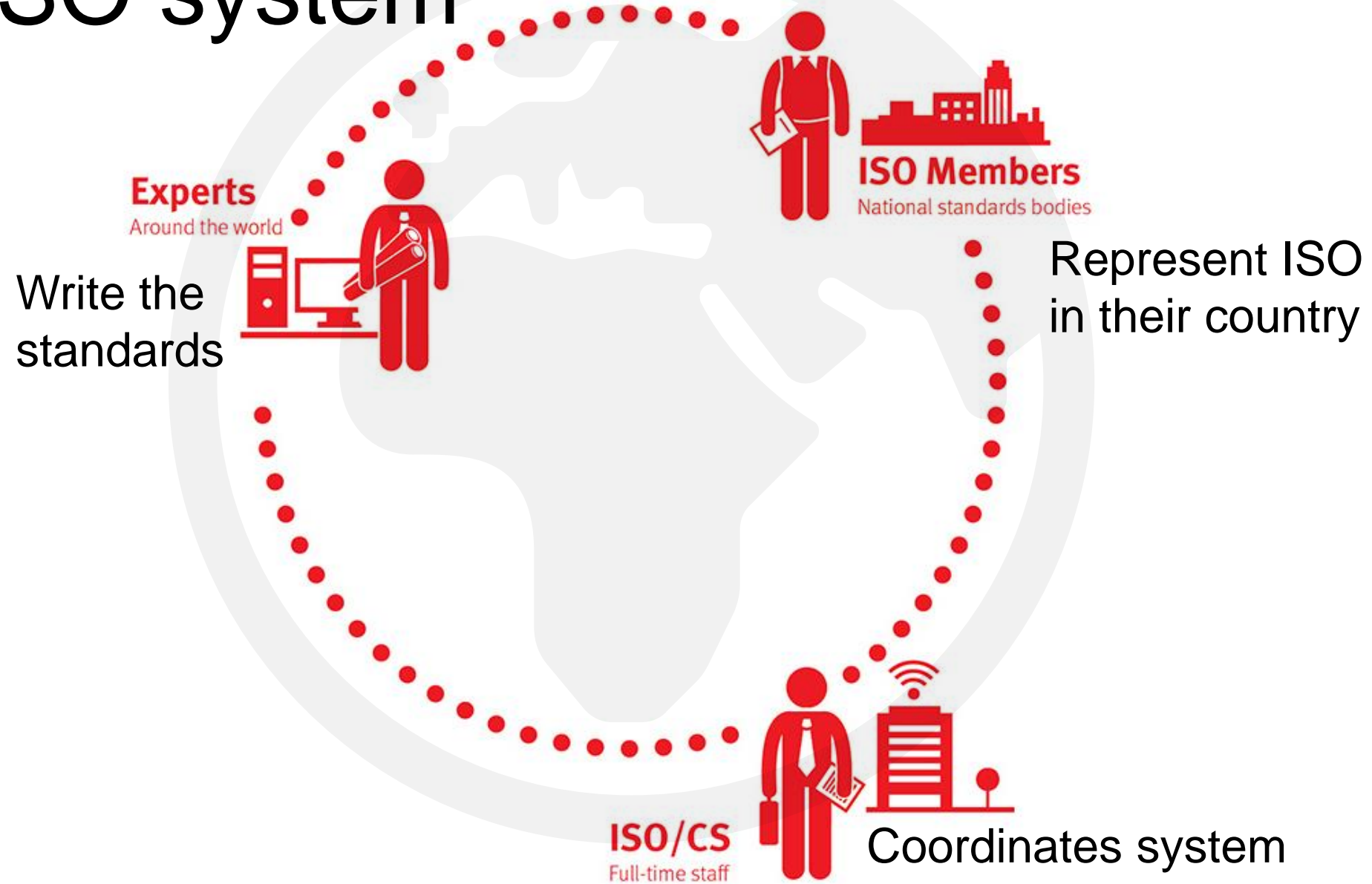
300+

technical committees

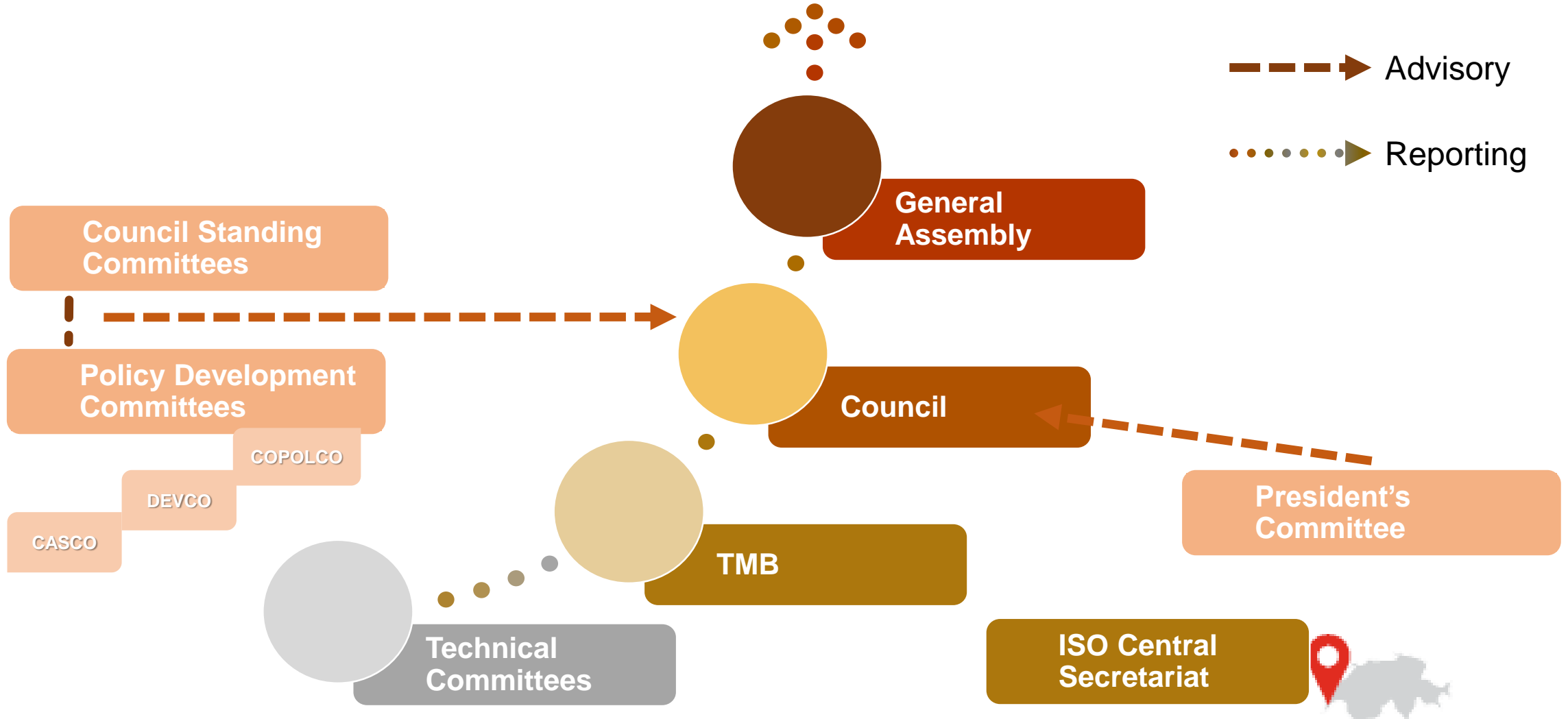
100

new standards each month

The ISO system



ISO Governance Structure



ISO Central Secretariat



Secretary General
148 staff



- Process coordination
- Day to day operations
- International Standards Publication
- Secretariat for the governing bodies



ISO Strategic Plan

Six strategic directions

1. ISO standards used everywhere
2. Develop high quality standards through ISO's global membership
3. Engage stakeholders and partners
4. People and organization development
5. Use of technology
6. Communication

ISO Members

3 categories of membership

Full members (120)

- Participation in any policy or technical body
- **Voting & commenting rights**
- Adoption of ISO standards
- May sell ISO Publications

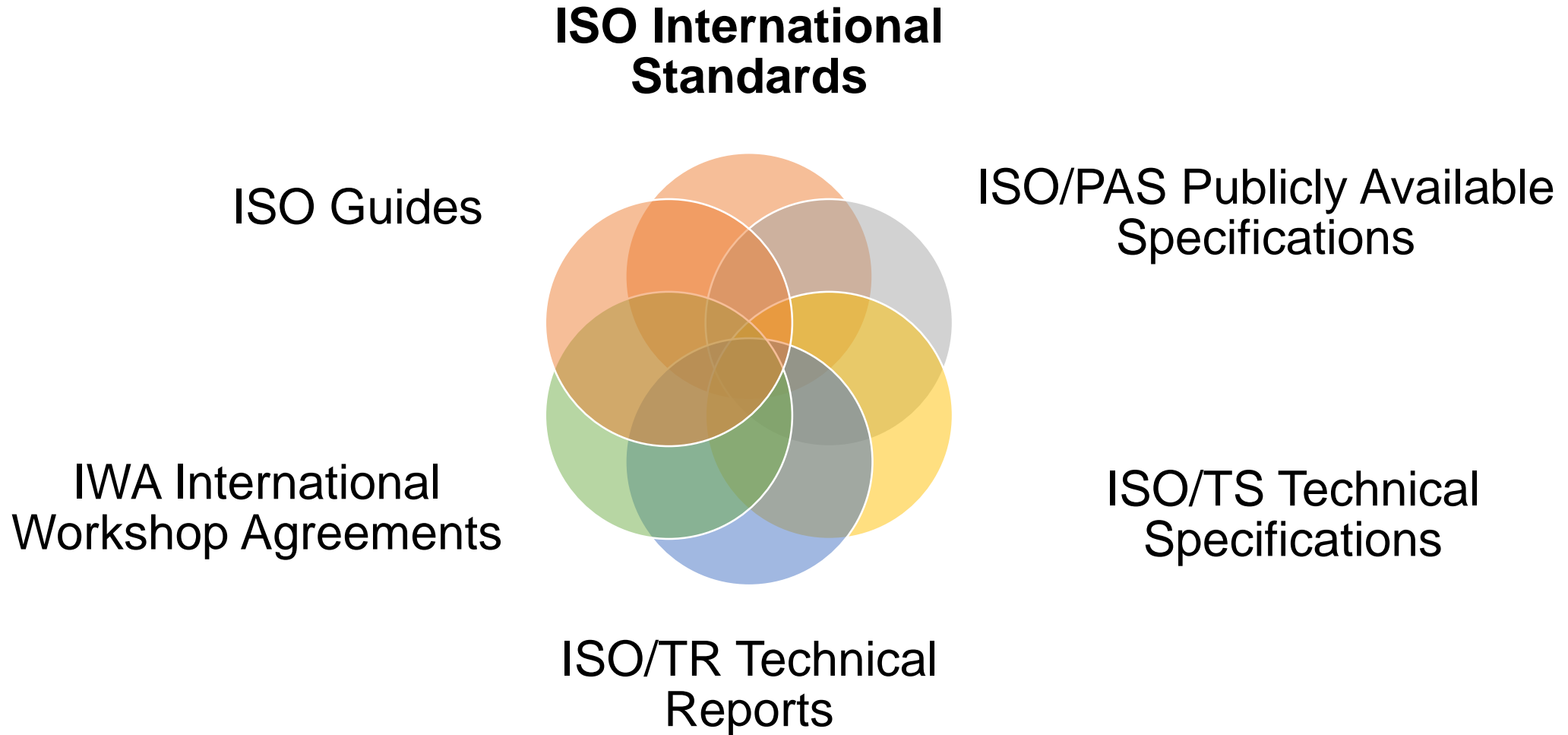
Correspondent members (40)

- Participation in any policy or technical body as *observers*
- **No voting nor commenting rights**
- Adoption of ISO standards
- May sell ISO Publications

Subscriber members (4)

- Observer status at the General Assembly
- **No voting nor commenting rights**
- **Can't adopt ISO standards**
- **Can't sell ISO Publications**

Types of ISO deliverable



How are ISO standards developed?

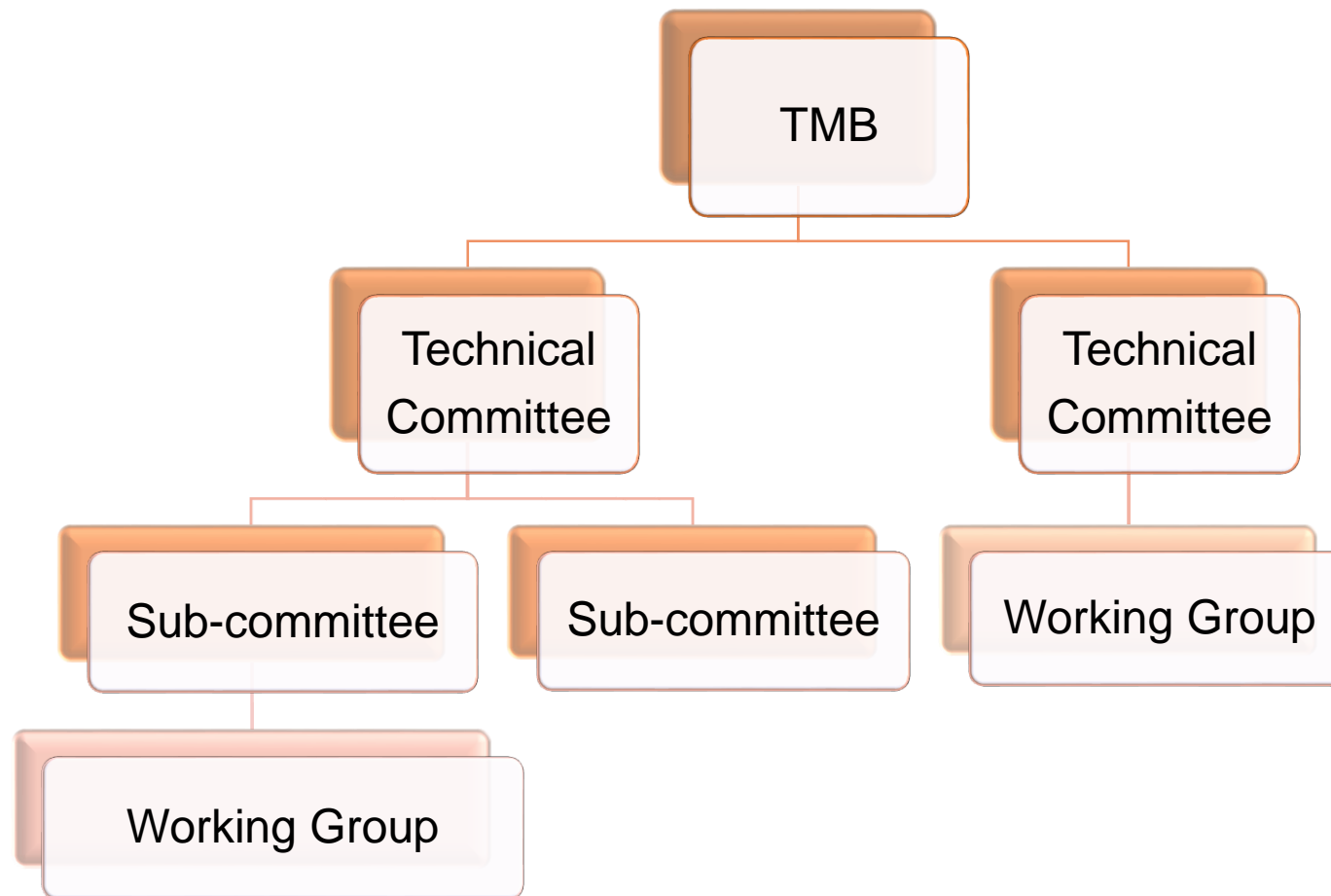


Committees

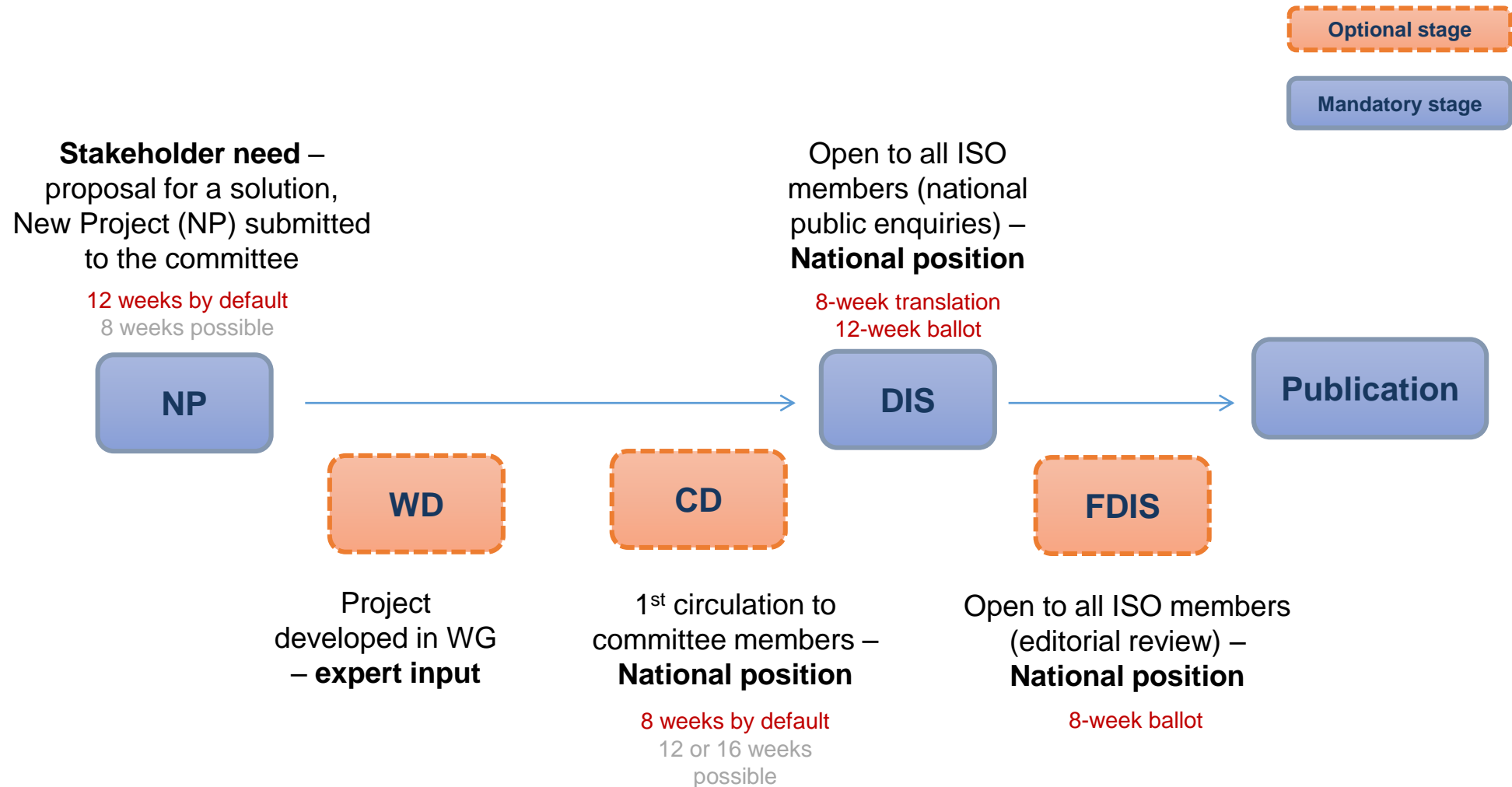
The technical work is carried out in committees:

- ISO/TCs, Technical committees
- ISO/SCs, Subcommittees of TCs
- ISO/PCs, Committees developing only one standard that does not fit within the scope of an existing committee

Technical committee structure



Stages of standards development



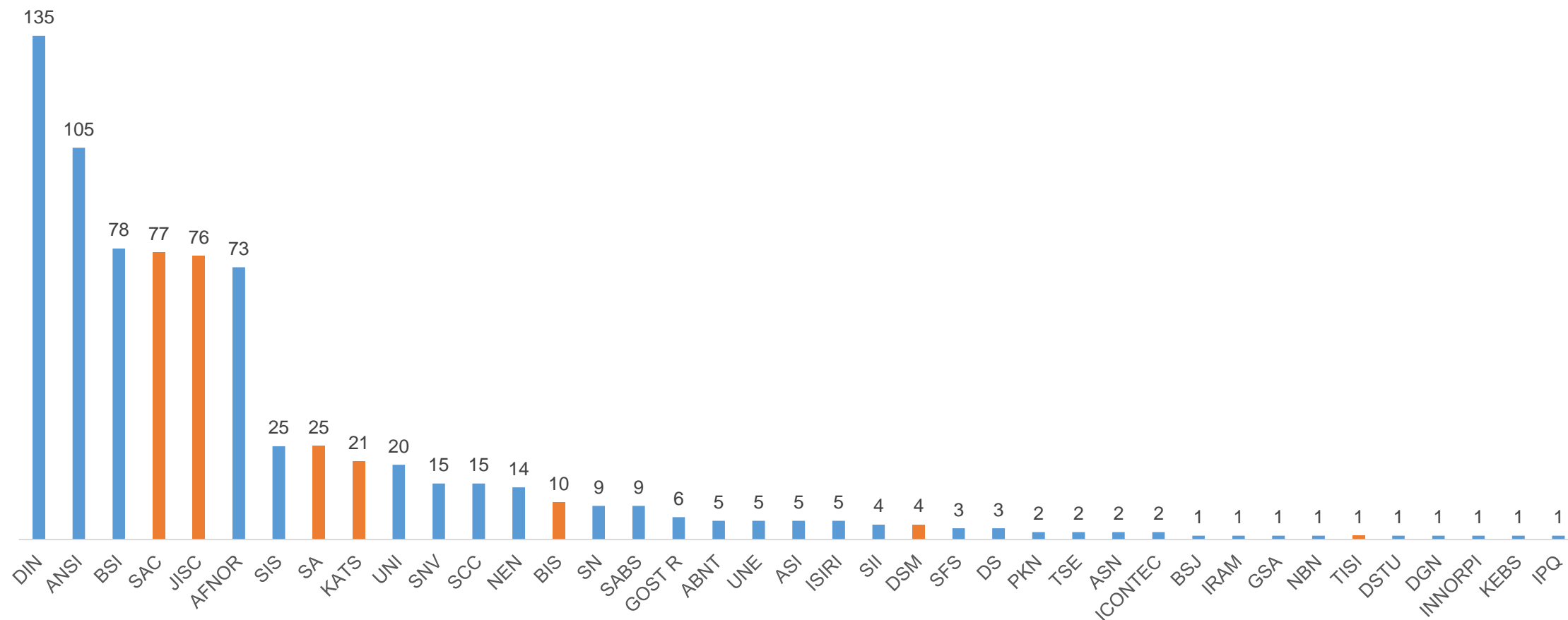
A vertical image on the left side of the slide shows a person's arm and hand pointing towards a sunset over a city. The person has long, reddish-brown hair. The background is a blurred cityscape with lights, and the sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

Leadership

Committee secretariat – allocated to an ISO member

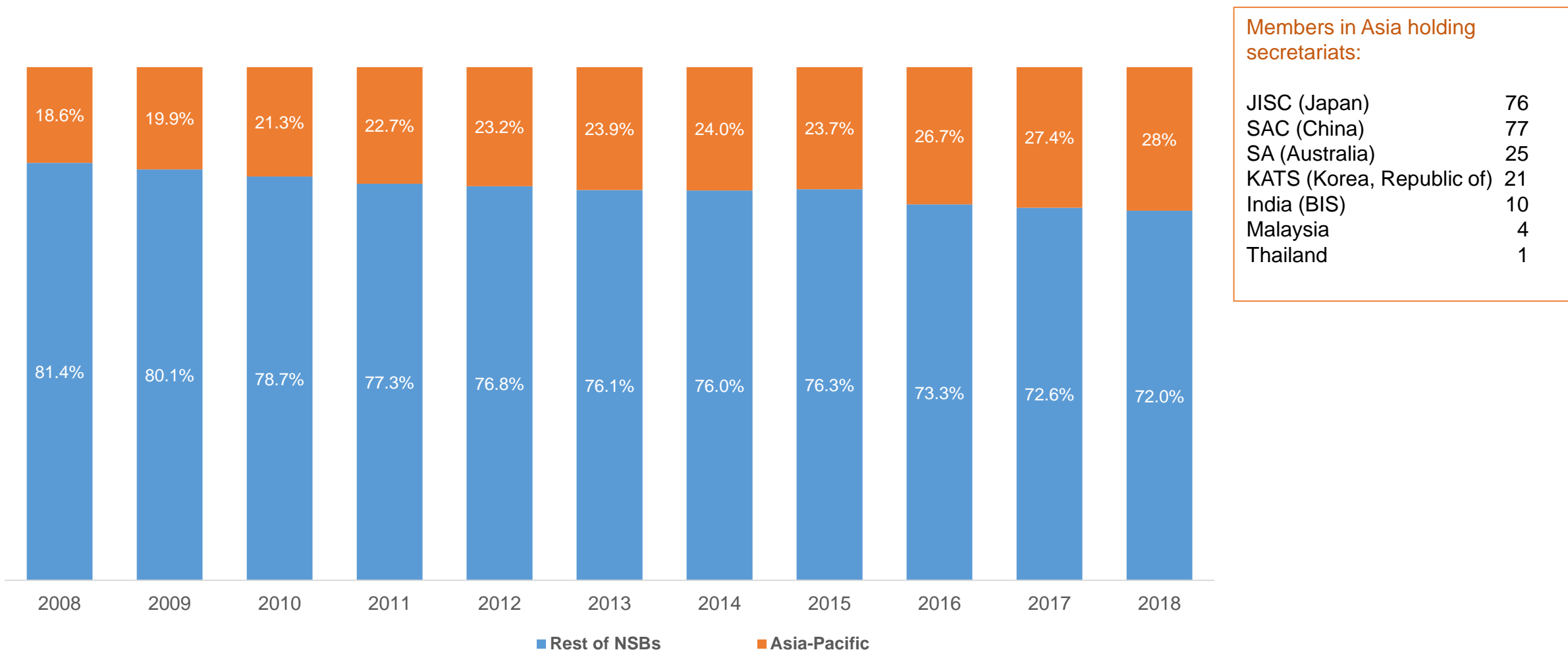
- Secretary – project management
- Chair – strategy, lead meetings, build consensus, sector knowledge
- Convenor (Working groups) – lead project development, build consensus, technical expertise

ISO members holding committee secretariats



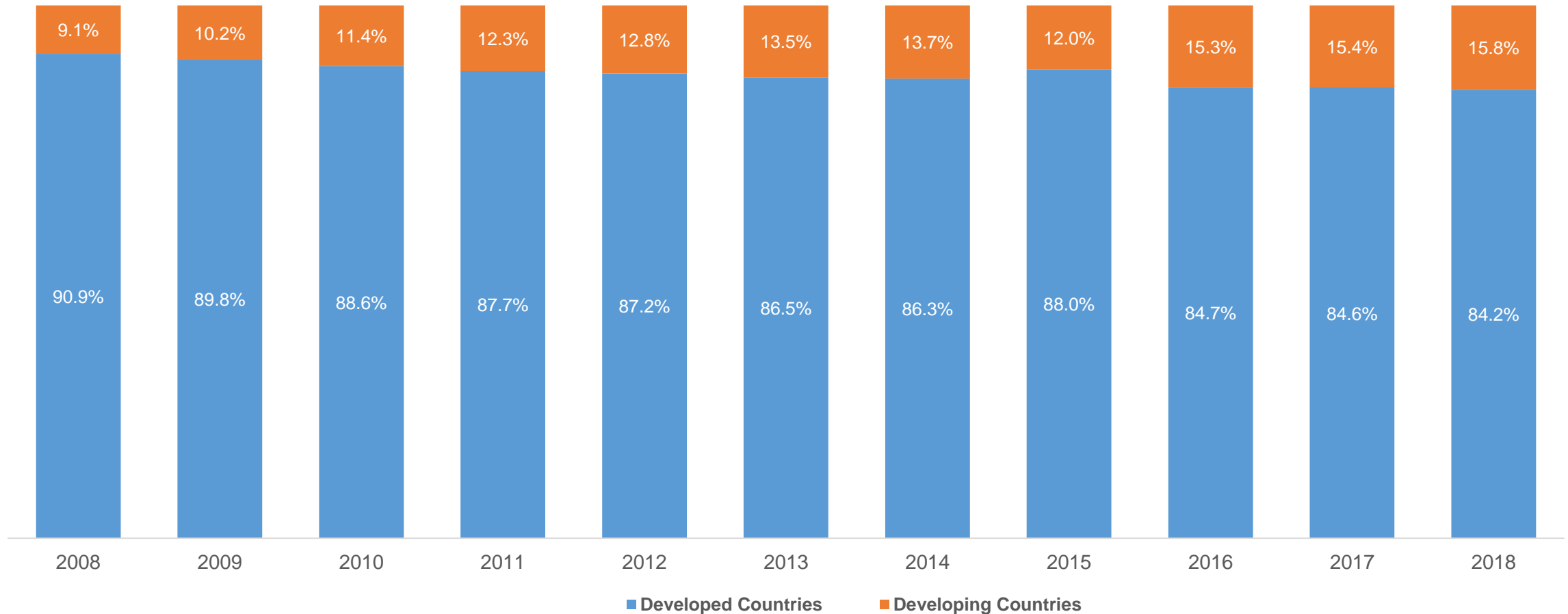
Technical committee secretariats held

Asia-Pacific vs. Rest of NSBs (2008-2018)



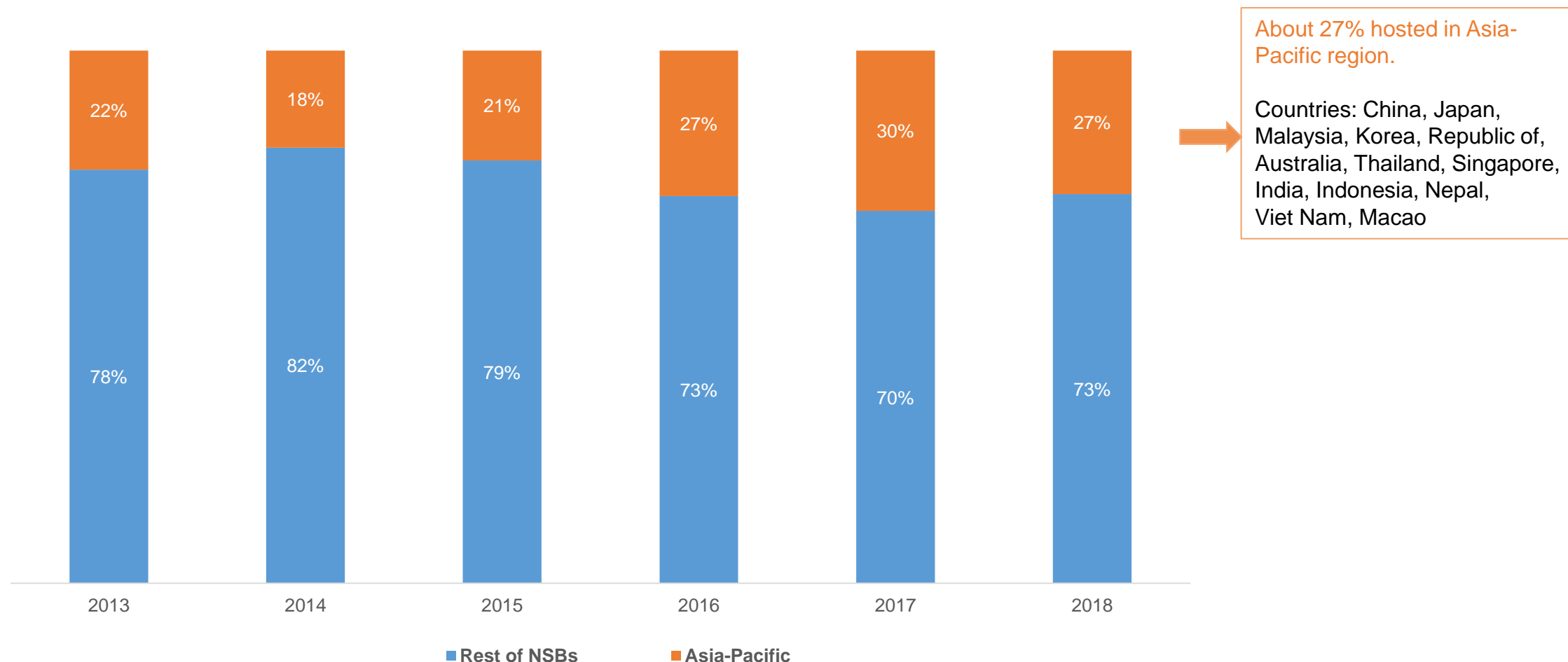
Technical committee secretariats held

Developed vs. developing countries (2008-2018)



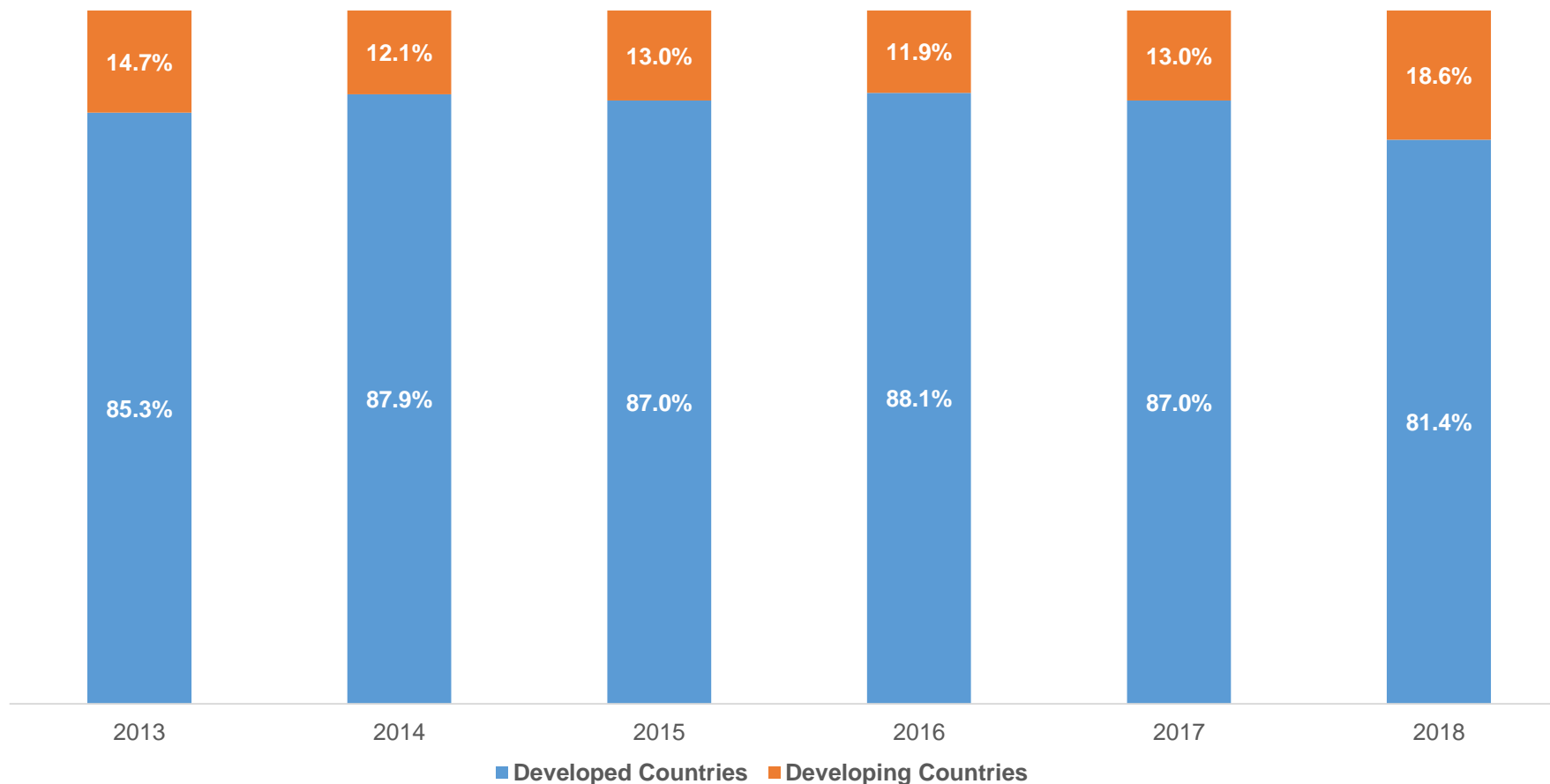
Hosting of ISO committee meetings

Asia-Pacific vs. Rest of NSBs (2013-2018)



Hosting of ISO committee meetings

Developed vs. developing countries (2013-2018)





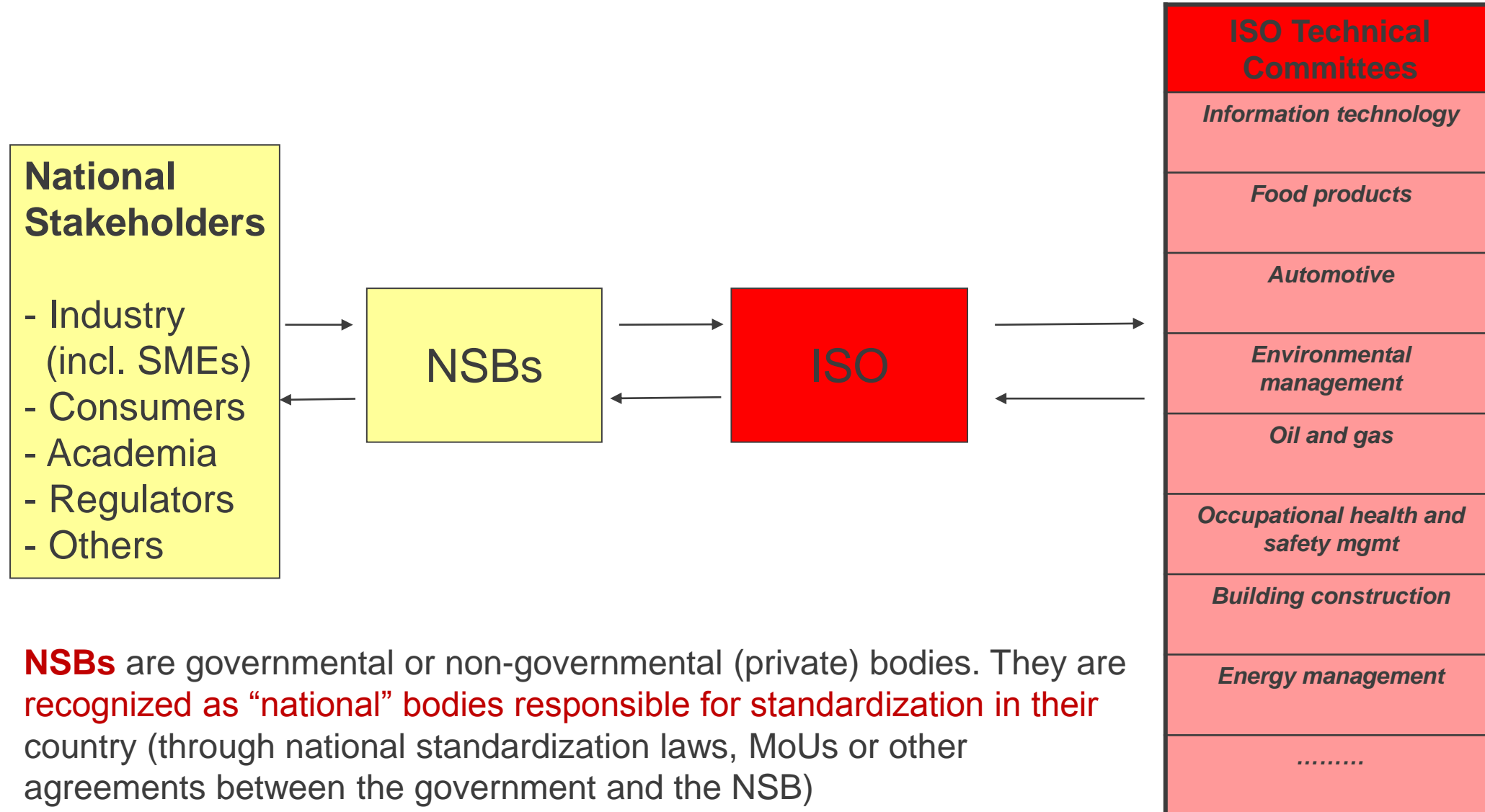
National level

- What is the role of the ISO members at national level?
- **Stakeholder engagement**

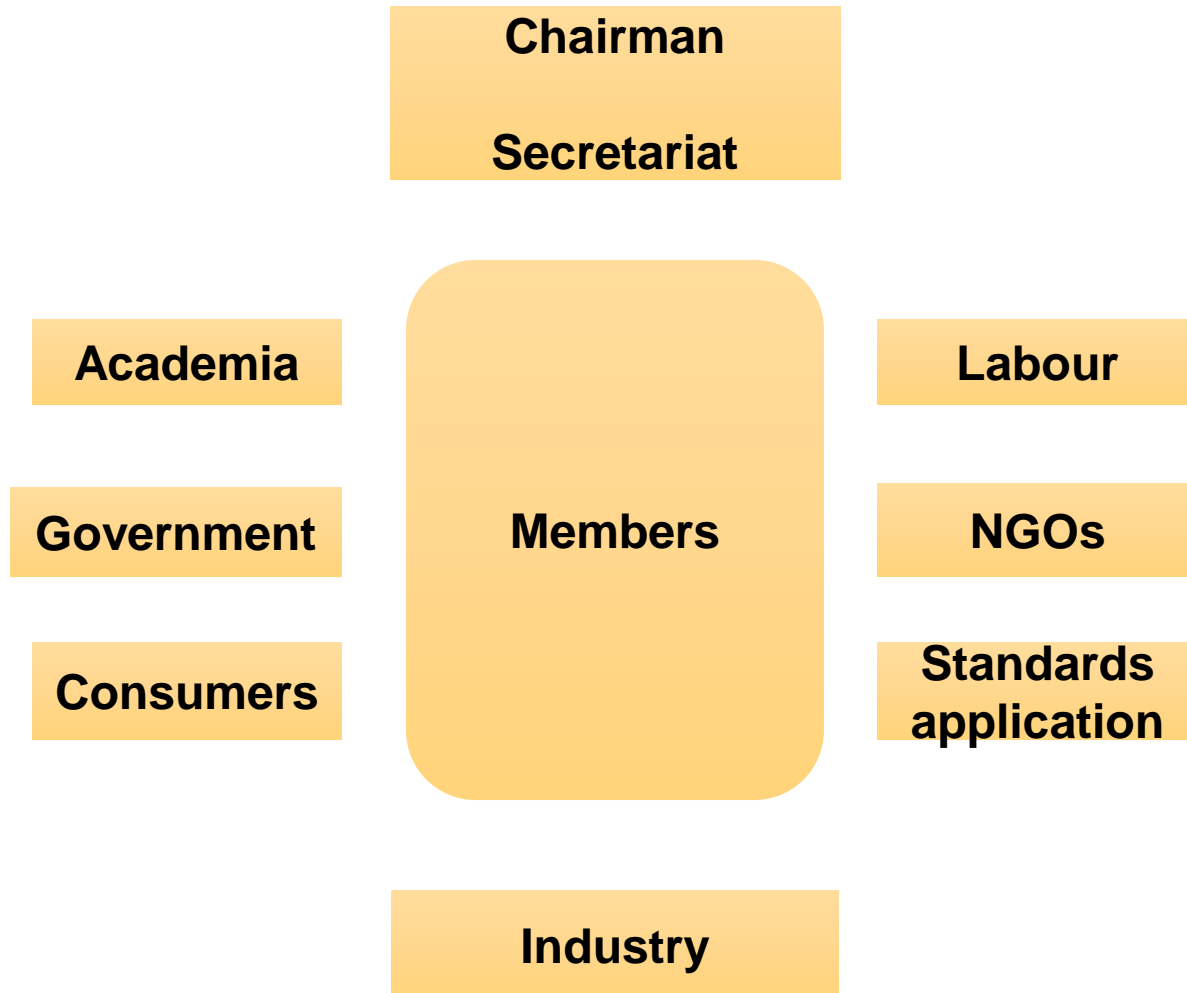
NSBs provide the platform to:

- Facilitate/manage standards development
- Distribute/maintain standards
- Receive requests for new projects
- Identify stakeholders
- Coordinate the input from stakeholders

NSBs – The organizational basis of ISO



National level - NMCs



- ISO members have national committees that 'mirror' the work of ISO TCs
- 'National Mirror Committees'
- NMC comments (CD) and votes (DIS and FDIS) on proposals from ISO
- Nominates national delegation to ISO/TC (and experts to WG)
- Forwards proposals to national interested parties & collects comments

Standards in support of public policy



Standards in support of public policy

International Standards and why it makes sense to use them in support of public policy:

- Represent **global consensus** on a solution to a particular issue
- Embody universally agreed procedure or practice
- Provide requirements, specifications, guidelines or characteristics to consistently ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their purpose

ISO standards do NOT:

- Seek to establish, drive or motivate public policy or regulations, social or political agendas
- Set performance thresholds (these are set by policy makers/regulators according to their requirements)

Standards can contribute to the achievement of policy objectives **in a non-legislative form,**

in a legislative form, by reference in technical regulations (NTMs)

Legislative actions

- ▶ Laws (or Acts of Parliament)
- ▶ Technical regulations (which support the requirements of laws) e.g. relating to public responsibilities such as safety, security, health, social protection or the environment
- ▶ Other actions include rules, notices, orders, determinations, and warrants.

Non-legislative actions

- ▶ Funding priorities
- ▶ Incentive systems
- ▶ Awareness campaigns
- ▶ Public procurement
- ▶ Codes of conduct



Why international standards can be powerful instruments of governance

➤ Efficient and cost-effective tools

When used in the **public sector**:

- Enable greater transparency and competition, e.g. in public procurement
- Provide essential requirements for industry (via reference in regulations and laws)

When used in the **private sector**:

- Create market incentives to follow internationally accepted practices
- Encourage innovation and growth



Standards and TBT

Referencing ISO standards in regulation is consistent with obligations of the WTO TBT Agreement:

2.4 *Where technical regulations are required and relevant international standards exist or their completion is imminent, Members shall use them, or the relevant parts of them, as a basis for their technical regulations* except when such international standards or relevant parts would be an ineffective or inappropriate means for the fulfilment of the legitimate objectives pursued, for instance because of fundamental climatic or geographical factors or fundamental technological problems.

The Six Principles for the Development of International Standards

WTO TBT Committee Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations (November 2000, G/TBT/9)

- Transparency
- Openness
- Impartiality and consensus
- Effectiveness and relevance
- Coherence
- Development dimension

ISO complies with all of these



Int. Standards, regulatory harmonization & trade

- Referencing int. standards in regulation = driver of regulatory harmonization
- Regulatory differences between countries is amongst the key factors in explaining trade costs related to regulations
- Harmonization facilitates integration of exports into global markets and value chains and reduces costs of testing and certification
- Using int standards > positive for export performance

Cooperation between regulators and standardizers

The core objective

Policy makers and regulators are enabled to select the most appropriate, effective and flexible instruments to address public policy issues

Cooperation between regulators and standardizers

Specific objectives

Policy makers, regulators and standardizers have sufficient information about and understanding of:

- The principles, objectives and benefits of standardization
- The critical conditions for effective standardization
- The standardization process and its recognized steps
- Available international and national standards (access to standards and standards information)
- Ways of using these standards in support of public policy in general and for legislation in particular
- Modes of participation in standardization work

Cooperation between Regulators and NSB: Best practice recommendations

Regulators **and** NSBs

- Aim for **mutual representation** at each others meetings
- Keep constant **communication**
- **Avoid duplication** of work
- Regulatory interest should be **recorded** in official documents and communications

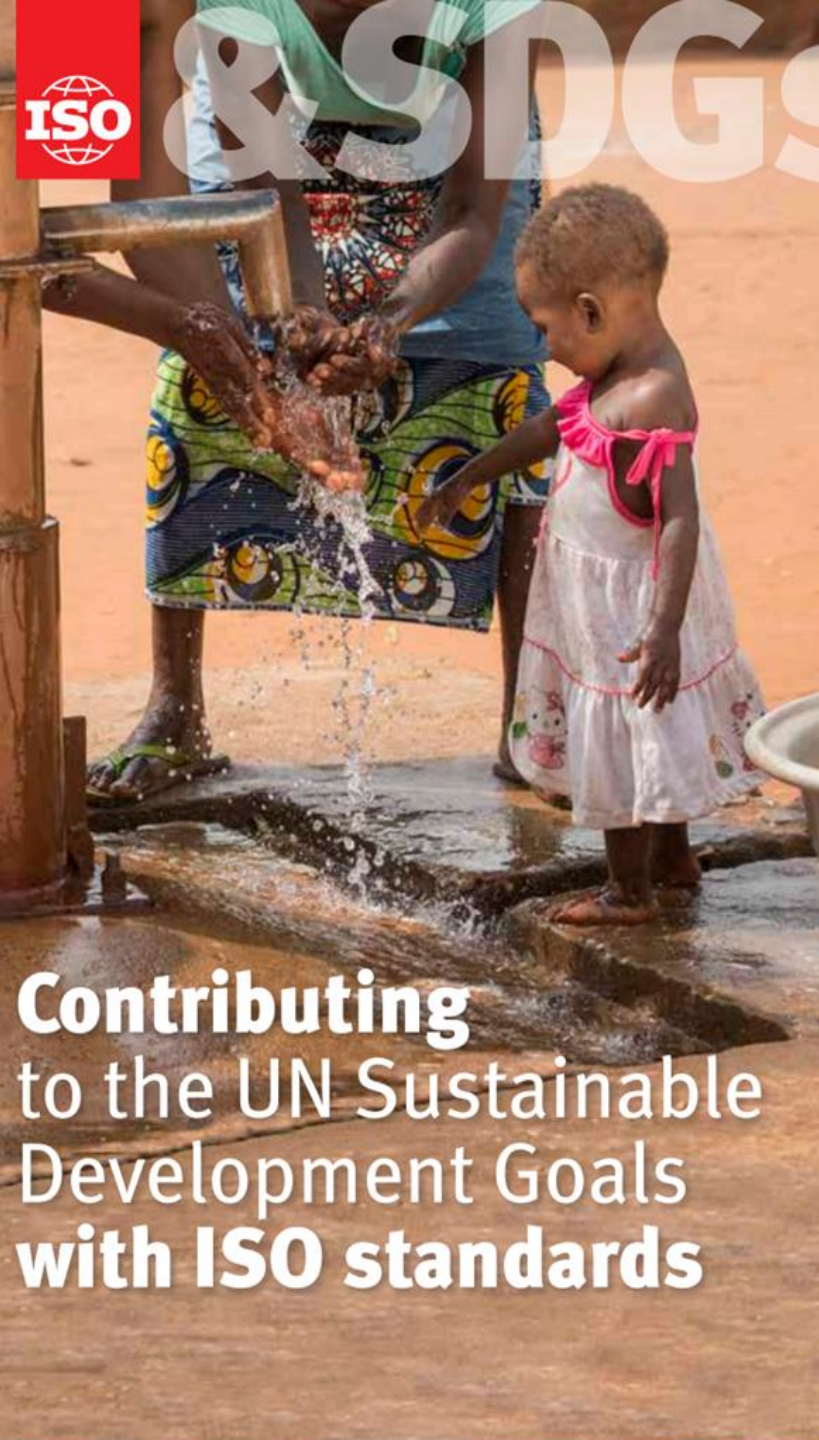
Best practice recommendations

Regulators and NSBs:

- Develop a long-term relationship and strategy
- Use tools such as MoUs
- Ensure focused and targeted liaison in specific projects
- Consider aligning technical structures
- Explore joint work and synchronized publications

ISO standards and SDGs





Contributing
to the UN Sustainable
Development Goals
with ISO standards

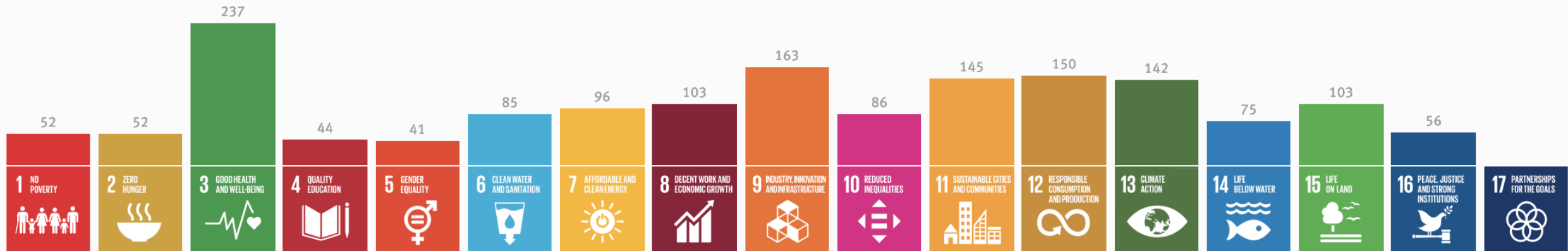
ISO & SDGs

- Dedicated website with a mapping tool – over 600 standards listed
- Awareness materials (brochure, video, articles..)
- Guidance for standards writers

www.iso.org/sdgs

Impact at a glance

ISO contributes to all of the SDGs. Here you can see the number of ISO standards that are directly applicable to each Goal.



Capacity building



Global relevance

The participation of developing countries in int. standardization is key for the **global relevance** of ISO standards

‘Standards takers’ versus ‘standards makers’

- If countries want to make sure that NTMs don't create unnecessary burden for their traders, they must influence the development of the technical requirements.



strategy

ISO **Action Plan** for developing countries 2016-2020



**Apply Good
Standardization
Practice**

**Develop National
Standardization
Strategies**

4 Objectives

**Promote the use of
standards:
policymakers,
business and other
stakeholders**

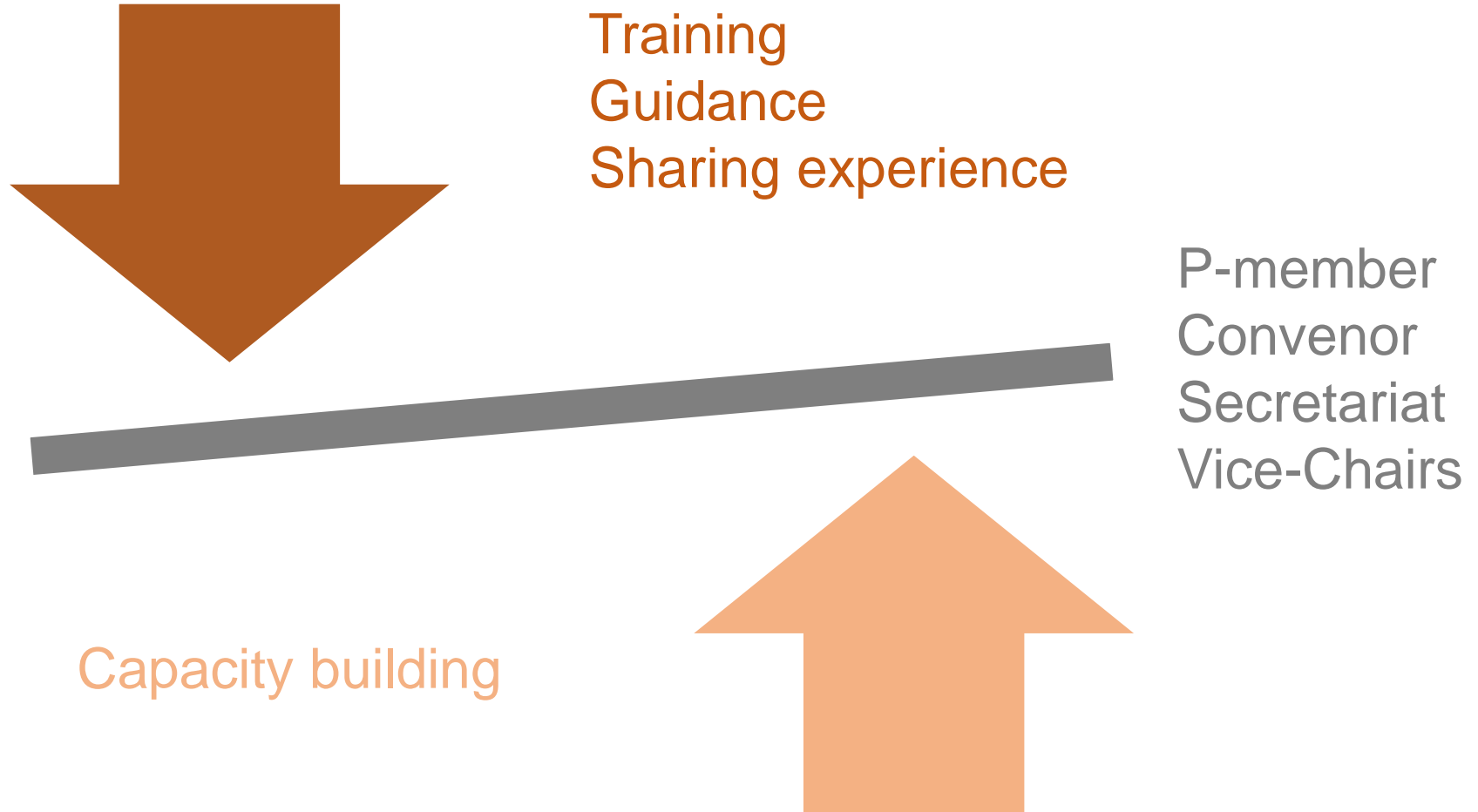
**Effective participation
in development of ISO
standards**



Sponsorship programme

		
	Member-choice	Project-based
Selection of TC/SC/WG	<p>Member driven:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linked to national priorities • Request sent to sponsorship@iso.org 	<p>ISO/CS driven:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project at early stage (not beyond 20.00) • Relevance to developing countries • Announced through TC leadership • Selection of candidates with TC leadership
Targeted stakeholder group	ISO member decision	From a stakeholder group other than NSB
Availability	<p>Upon request of each ISO member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to <u>three</u> (3) meetings per year • Open from January to December 	Max 2 project sponsorships per member at a given time
Duration	Granted for the individual requested meeting	Granted for the full development cycle of the standard project with follow-up between the meetings

Twinning arrangements



Questions?