



HARMONIZATION OF EAC STANDARDS

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Outline

- SQMT Act and Harmonization;
- EAC Procedures and Harmonization
- Paint standards at EAC
- Standards and technical regulations international best practices

Background

- EAC Treaty provides for cooperation in the areas of standardization, Quality Assurance ,Metrology and Testing (SQMT).
- SQMT Protocol was negotiated in 2001 and later in 2006 enacted as an SQMT Act

SQMT Act

- Standardization, Quality Assurance , Metrology and Testing (EAC SQMT Act 2006) , provides a framework for the development and implementation of SQMT activities in the EAC.
- stipulates objectives for harmonization and provides for establishment of structures for harmonization.

Objectives for harmonization of standards

- Protect and improve the health and safety of consumers;
- Facilitate regional and international trade;
- Increase opportunities for companies within the community to participate in international technology transfer

Harmonization objectives

Cont'

- Prevent deceptive practices
- Protect animal or plant life or health
- Protect the environment

Provisions in the SQMT Act

The Act provides for the establishment of structures for SQMT activities:

- East African Standards Committee (EASC)
- Liaison office
- Technical Sub committee e.g Standards Management committee (SMC)

Provides for the development of procedure for harmonization of standards;

SQMT Act Cont'

- Adoption of harmonized standards by the partner States;
- Enforcement of compulsory standards;
- Declaration and acceptance of certification marks;
- Approximation and alignment of laws and regulations;
- Defines the roles of the NSBs in regard to the SQMT activities.

SQMT Act Cont'

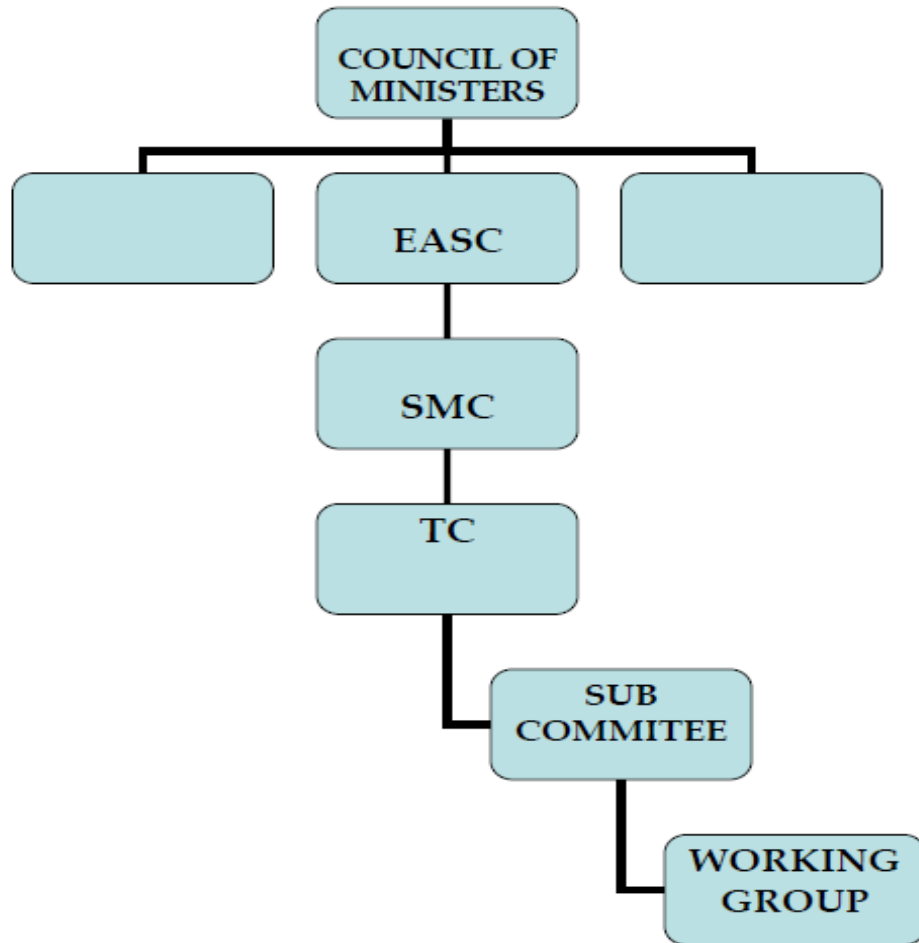
- Offenses and dispute settlement within the partner States;
- Development of regulations by the Council for the implementation of the Act;
- The Act has in total 28 different provisions to guide the development and harmonization of SQMT activities in the EAC.

EAC Principles and Procedures

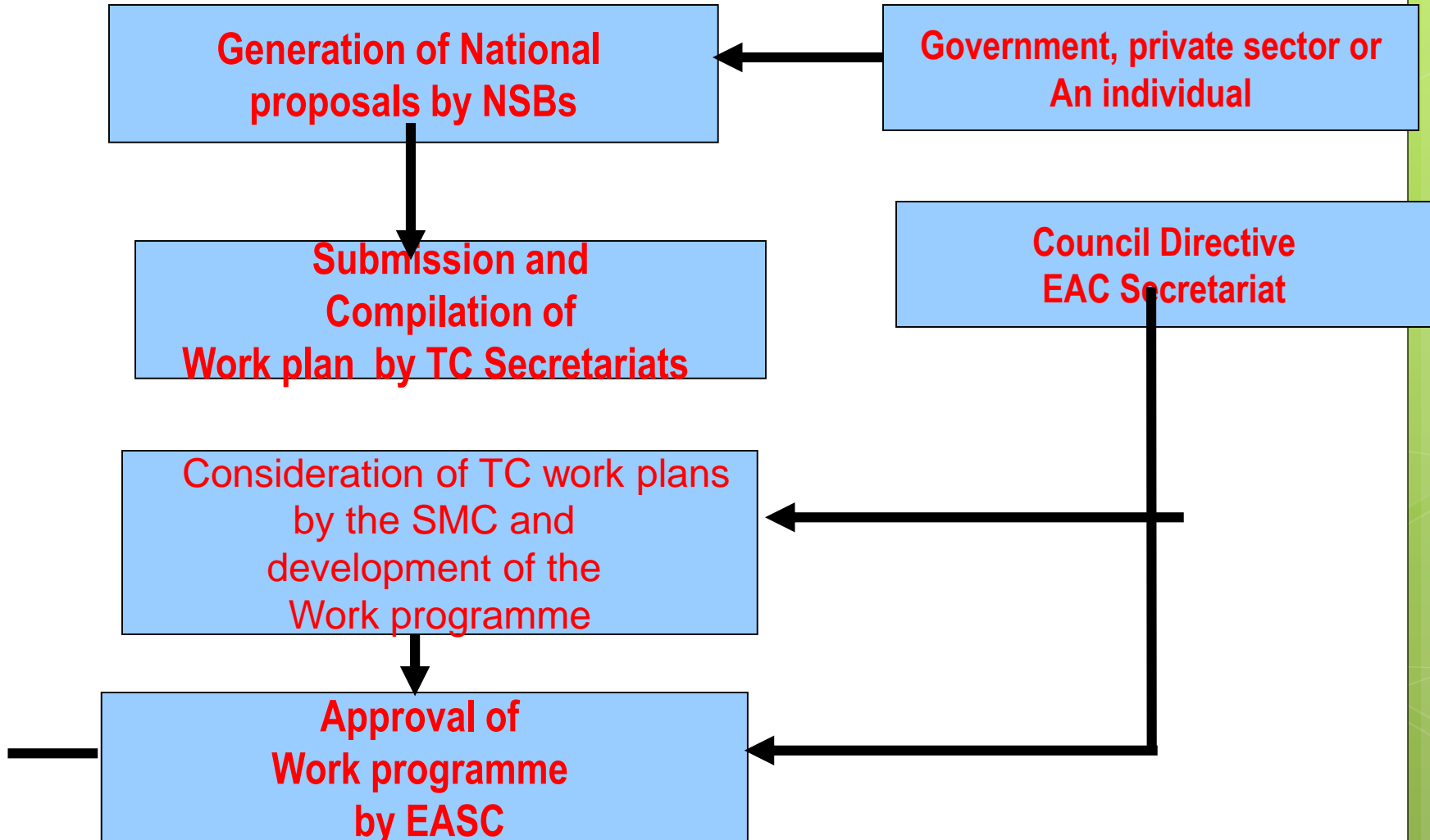
Outline:

- Define the **principles** to be followed during harmonization based on international best practice;
- Define **the roles** of the different stakeholders ie Council of Ministers, EAC Secretariat, EASC, SMC, TC, SCs and WGs ;
- Outline the **key stages** and duration of each stage in the development of the EAS ie (preliminary, proposal , committee, enquiry; ballot, approval ,declaration and publication.
- Defines **procedures** for the formation of TCs ,conducting meetings, notification, adoption of international and regional standards, review and amendments of standards, issuance of corrigenda and the appeals

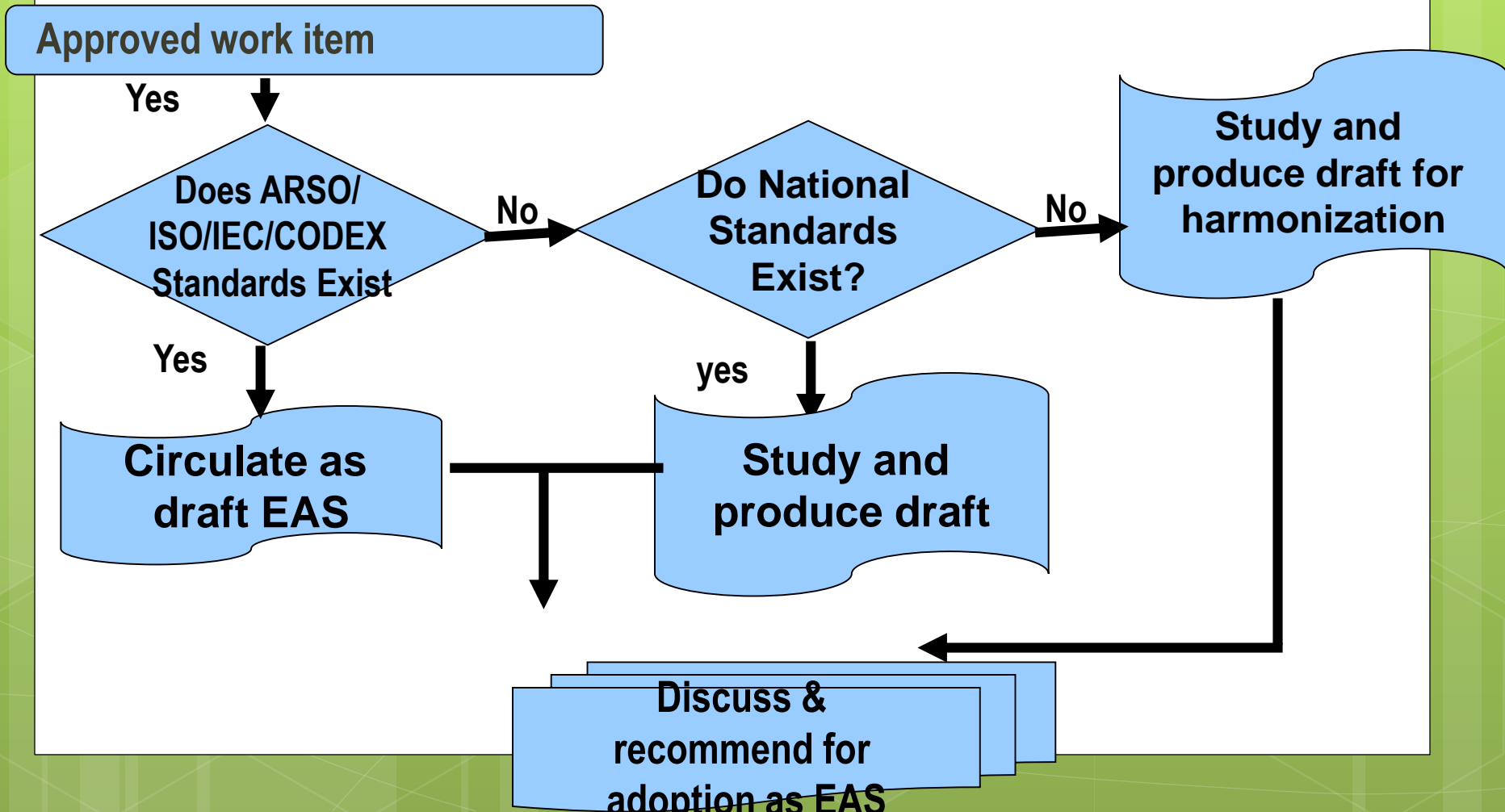
Annex A: Organizational Structure for the development of EAS standards



Process for Development of Work programme



Key steps in harmonization of East African Standards by TCs



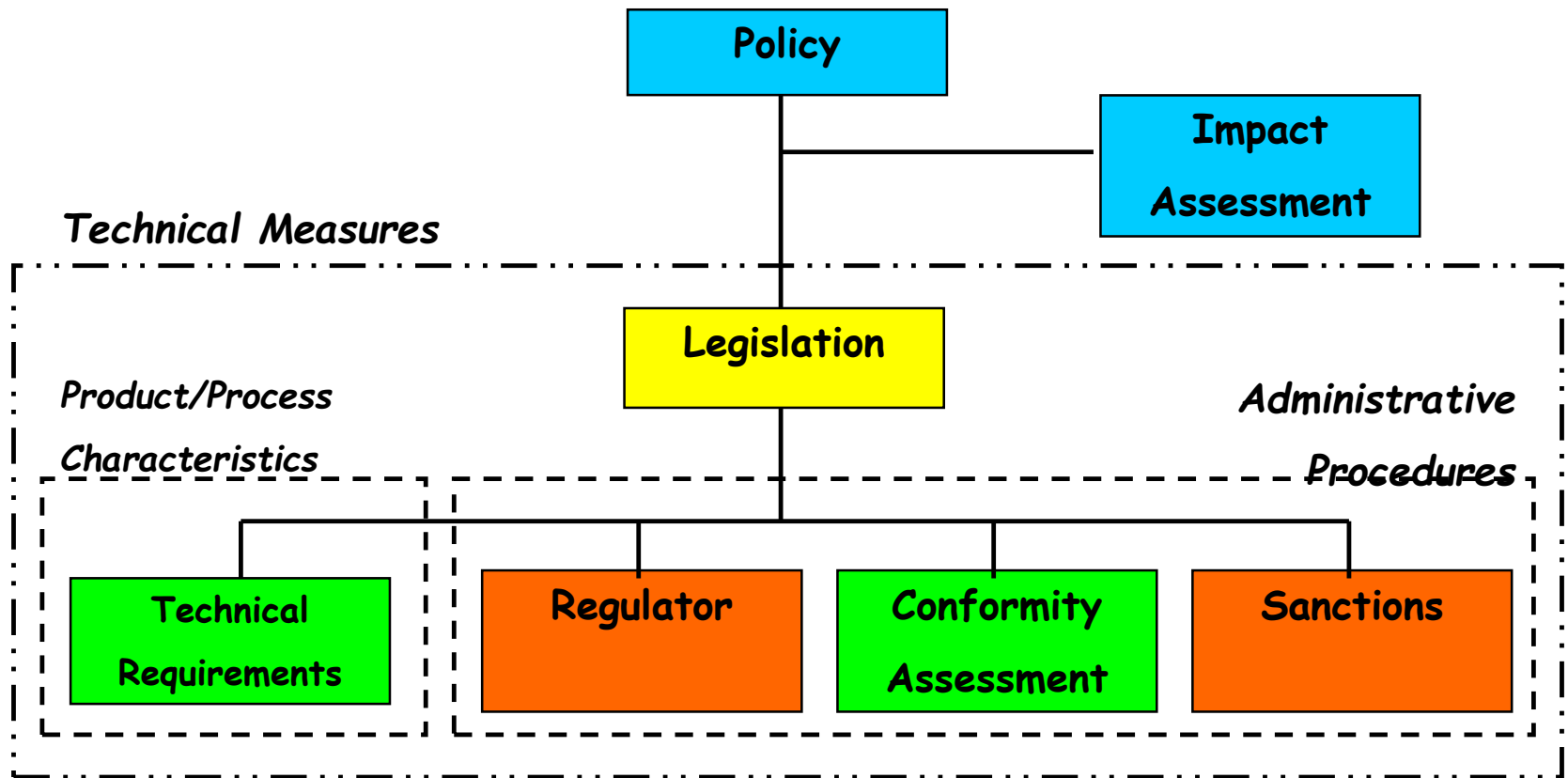
Role of NSBs in harmonization of standards

- Adopt within a period of six months without deviation from the approved text the East African standard as a national standard.
- Provide standards and standards related information to the public and the private sector.
- Publish harmonized EAC standards;
- Promote and facilitate the use of standards as a basis for the development of technical regulations

Paint standards

- Developed under EASC/TC/ 070 : Paints and Varnishes;
- TC Secretariat is Burundi;
- Reviewed and harmonized 10 standards;
- Standards are performance based and lead limit is at 100ppm
- Approved and declared by SCTIFI;
- Standards ready for Partner States adoption;
- Review as per procedures will require justification backed by data.

Regulations and Standards International Best practice



Proposed way forward

- Involve all the stakeholders;
- Develop policies and regulations;
- Undertake the baseline study on the current levels of lead in the paints;
- Agree on the timeline for reduction/elimination of lead in the paints
- Review the standards.



THANK YOU

FOR LISTENING