

2023



11th Continental Essay Competition | CEC

Theme - *"Empowering Consumers through Standardisation to achieve their rights to safe Quality Goods & Services"*

CONCEPT NOTE

About the Organisers

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African Organization for Standardization - ARSO is an intergovernmental body, established by the African Union and UNECA in 1977 with the principal mandate to harmonize African Standards and conformity assessment procedures in order to reduce Technical Barriers to Trade and therefore promote intra African and international Trade as well as enhance the industrialization of Africa.

Part of ARSO mandate is to ensure the well-being and safety of the African Community. Thus being an African organization, all the efforts to eradicate poverty and ensure the youth are enlightened and create a culture of quality among the youth is in line with its vision and mission.



AMC Group Africa Limited is a leading Kenyan management training, consultants and system auditors with clients from government ministries, parastatals, and institutions of higher learning and private sector organizations. They are the first Consultancy Firm in Kenya to be ISO 9001:2015 Certified.

In addition to this, AMC Group Africa Ltd also runs the following:

- The certified firms expo and plenary sessions
- Annual quality workshops
- Directory of certified firms



Every year the world marks **World Consumer Rights Day on 15th March**, celebrated every year for raising global awareness about consumer rights and needs and for the standardisation community, to highlight how Standards facilitate the safeguarding of the Consumers Rights and Interests and What consumers want from products and services and why consumer participation in standards improves consumer responsive products and services. It's also a day to demand that the rights (including the following) of consumers are respected and protected:

1. Access to basic goods and services necessary for survival
2. Protection from hazardous products or services
3. Information about products and services
4. Freedom to choose from a variety of quality products and services
5. Voice a complaint about a product or service
6. Consumer education and representation

The Consumer protection agenda has four main objectives: *improving consumer safety; enhancing knowledge; improving implementation, stepping up enforcement and securing redress as well as aligning rights and key policies to economic and societal challenges (Valant et al., 2015)*. In this respect, the consumer protection framework is envisaged to cover a wide range of institutional mechanisms including the following (**UNCTAD, 2017**): *National consumer policy; Designated consumer protection agency; Consumer laws; Codes or soft law complementary to consumer protection laws and setting out agreed principles for consumer protection and responsible business behaviour by particular business sectors; Consumer redress mechanisms; Systems for monitoring and surveillance; Mechanisms for compliance or enforcement; Consumer education and information programmes; International cooperation and networking.*



About

11th Continental Essay Competition 2023 | 2024



• Theme

"Empowering Consumers through Standardisation to achieve their rights to safe Quality Goods and Services"



• Winners Categories

1. National (Coordinated by National Standards Bodies - NSBs),
2. Regional (Coordinated by the ARSO Central Secretariat) and
3. Continental (Coordinated by the ARSO Central Secretariat)



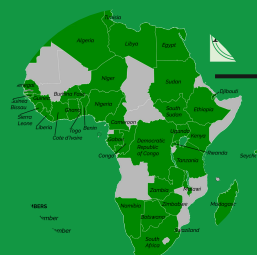
• NSBs should

...send out the relevant documents to Colleges/ Universities, receiving the essays from the participants, doing the assessment, and awarding or giving recognition to the winners as appropriate to the NSB.
Please confirm the deadlines for submission of essays your respective NSBs



• The Organisers are

...inviting students in institutions of Higher Learning in Africa (Colleges/ Universities) to submit their essays on the theme: "**Empowering Consumers through Standardisation to achieve their rights to safe Quality Goods and Services**" to their National Standards Bureaus email addresses.



• Continental Submission

Minimum of 25 participants* should be registered with respective NSBs in order for Countries to be considered for the Regional | Continental Competition.
The Country Reports Deadline for Submission of Top Five Winners by NSBs is **30th April 2024** through the following email - arso@arso-oran.org

What the Organisers are looking for Not Necessarily in the Order Below

There are different areas on Empowering Consumers through Standardisation to achieve their rights to safe Quality Goods and Services...



Introduction

General Understanding of **Standards and Standardisation**, and the relation with consumers



Problems Facing Consumers

Challenges being faced by consumers, and **general understanding of challenges**



Solutions and Policy

Solutions provided through the Implementation of Standards and **Policy Strategies developed nationally or continentally** to address challenges of Consumers with relation to the theme



Conclusion

Precise conclusion with your personal comment, **and share your essay with the Specific National Standards Bureau within the set deadlines**



Terms & Conditions



Eligibility to Participate

This competition is open to **Citizens of all African Countries Only** below the age of 35 years living in Africa and studying in a university/college recognised by the local commission for university education or equivalent body in their countries



Basic Essay Requirements

1. Length of essays : Essays should be between **1000 and 1200 words**
2. Presentation: Essays should be double spaced and presented in **Century Gothic, size 12**
3. Language of essays: Essays must be submitted in **English or French**
4. Information on the author: **Authors may use up to 50 words to describe themselves. Information should include their names, course and year of study, name, town and country in which their university is located.** N/B: this will not be part of the 1000- 1200 words
5. **Contacts of authors:** Authors should provide us with their postal, physical, telephone and email addresses on the first page of the essay together with the title of the essay and information on the author. Also kindly attach a copy of the Identity Card or Passport and a completely filled registration form



Eligibility

The following essays are not eligible for this competition:

1. Essays that have been **published in any form.**
2. Essays that have been **shown or accepted for other competitions.**
3. Essays that focus on the work of a particular person, organization or brand name.
4. Participants are only allowed to submit **one** essay.



Awards

Regional Level

- 1st position – **USD 500**
- 2nd position – **USD 300**
- 3rd position – **USD 200**

Continental Level

- 1st position – **USD 1000**
- 2nd position – **USD 800**
- 3rd position – **USD 500**

In addition the **1st Position Winner** at the Continental Level will be given a trip and accommodation to the next ARSO General Assembly Events in Nigeria that will take place in 2024 to be honored.

Terms & Conditions



Selection of Winners in Regions

The selection of winners at regional level will be done according to the UNECA clustering of African states as follows: **Central Africa, Eastern Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa** please refer to www.uneca.org.



Copyright

Please note that by entering the competition, you have assigned copyright of your essay to the organizers of this event who may publish it in whole or in part on their respective websites, websites of national standards bodies, a wide range of publications for circulation both inside and outside Africa.



Selection of Winners

Winners will be selected through a fair and impartial selection process by the organizers.

The decision of the judges shall be final, on the awarding procedures and process.



Announcement of Winners

Continental Winners

Information on Continental winners will be published on the following websites:

- the organizers, African Union Commission and Website of all national standards bodies

Continental winners will be announced during the Africa Standards Day Celebration held yearly during the *ARSO General Assembly Events in Nigeria — June or July 2023*



for more information visit the following websites to download relevant documents

- African Organization for Standardisation - www.arso-oran.org
- AMC Group Africa - www.amcgroupafrica.com
- Websites of various National Standards Bodies in Africa

Download the **Registration Form & this Concept Note** for more information on what the organisers of the 10th Essay Competition are looking for...