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Speaker notes

Today's challenges go way beyond national borders and require global coordination and actions.

In order to advance ambitious global commitments and build better international rules for inclusive globalization, cooperation between many different actors, including SDOs, as well as the public and private sector, is a must.

For big systems of systems, such as smart cities or smart transportation integrated, interoperable solutions are vital. In this context, standards will be crucial.

Systems standards require an overarching understanding of the system and of all its elements. This can only be achieved in a set-up that encourages coordinated and early involvement of many experts from different fields. Clearly no single standards body will be able to develop alone all the standards that will be needed.

Cooperation and coordination between different standards organizations and the right attitude to collaboration will be of crucial importance. Sometimes an organization will lead and sometimes it will contribute its expertise to a standard that is developed by another organization. Ultimately such an inclusive approach will help increase interconnection and interoperability as well as avoid duplication of work.

Furthermore, the need for globalization is not to be denied. The nationalistic attitude of some countries aims to put up hurdles against global trade. To counter this recent drive, countries who want to trade globally need to participate, adopt and use International Standards. They help level the playing field, provide broader choice and facilitate access to global value chains.

International Standards provide state-of-the art know-how and expertise to developed and developing countries alike. They help countries build more resilient infrastructure at competitive cost, and facilitate more sustainable and reliable access to energy.

However, in order for developing countries to be able to easily adopt International Standards, they need to make their voice heard and move from standards takers to standards makers.

Similarly we would like to encourage regulators to share their needs early on so as to make standards more useful to them.

We are proud that IEC governance and processes are truly inclusive. We don't allow any country or organization to pay for dominance in standards setting. As a result IEC International Standards are multilateral and of global relevance by nature.

Last but not least, testing and certification are at least as important as Standards as they help verify that promises are kept. They bring the written word in Standards to the real world. The IEC is the only organization to offer a standardized approach to testing and certification.