



African Organisation for  
Standardisation



# 12th Continental Essay Competition

CONCEPT NOTE



# Introduction



Welcome to 12th Continental Essay Competition on the Theme - “Role of Education about Standardisation (EaS) in shaping Education and African Students for the Sustainable Development opportunities and challenges in the 21st Century.” coordinated by the ARSO Central Secretariat in close collaboration with National Standards Bureau at the National Level.

This Concept Note provides you with clear details on how to effectively organise and participate in the 12th Continental Essay Competition.

2024 | 2025

**11+**

Years of the Competition

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**15+**

African Countries  
Represented

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**801+**

Students Participation from  
the 1st to 11th Continental  
Essay Competition

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**Hermogene Nsengimana**  
Secretary General, ARSO

# Organisation Overview



## **Dr Hermogene Nsengimana**

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.

## **Hellen Bosibori**

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

# Theme in brief

## Theme

Role of Education about Standardisation (EaS) in shaping Education and African Students for the Sustainable Development opportunities and challenges in the 21st Century



## The Theme in Brief

Education about Standardisation (EaS) plays a crucial role in preparing African students for sustainable development opportunities and challenges in the 21st century in several key ways such as Understanding Global Standards, Quality and Consistency, Facilitating Trade and Development, Innovation and Competitiveness, Environmental Sustainability, Consumer Protection, Policy and Regulation, Capacity Building, Promoting Ethical Practices, and Adaptation to Technological Changes. Employability is one of the higher Education concerns with many policy and strategic documents in the sector focused on employable skills and more so in the 21st Century Expectations, Skills, opportunities and challenges.

We give credence and recognises the African Union declaration of the year 2024 as the "Year of Education", and on the theme "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa", with the African Union, the Apex policy making organisation rallying all governments and Stakeholders to "accelerate progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4)" and the implementation of the Continental Strategy for Education in Africa (CESA), 2016-2025 and therefore the Approval of the Theme - "Role of Education about Standardisation (EaS) in shaping Education and African Students for the Sustainable Development opportunities and challenges in the 21st Century" by the 70th ARSO Council in Abuja, Nigeria.

In conclusion, Education about Standardisation is instrumental in shaping African students to harness sustainable development opportunities and tackle challenges in the 21st century. By promoting global standards adoption, ensuring quality and consistency, fostering innovation, supporting environmental sustainability, and enhancing regulatory frameworks, EaS education equips African youth to contribute effectively to their societies and the global community.

# About the Competition

## Theme

Role of Education about Standardisation (EaS) in shaping Education and African Students for the Sustainable Development opportunities and challenges in the 21st Century

## Winners Categories

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

## National Standards Body Participation

...send out the relevant documents to Colleges/ Universities, receiving the essays from the participants, Assessment of the Essays Received, and awarding or recognition of the winners as appropriate to the National Standards Body.

Please confirm the deadlines for submission of essays your respective National Standards Body

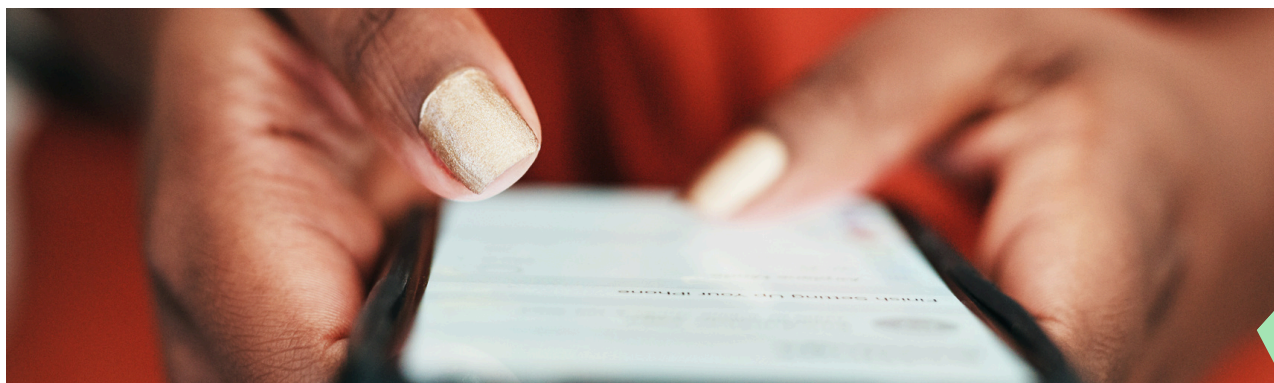
## We the Organisers are

Inviting students (Refer to the Terms and Conditions Page) in institutions of Higher Learning in Africa (Colleges/ Universities) to submit their essays on the theme: "Role of Education about Standardisation (EaS) in shaping Education and African Students for the Sustainable Development opportunities and challenges in the 21st Century" to their National Standards Bodies email addresses.

## Submission to the Continental Level

Minimum of 25 participants\* should be registered and evaluated by participating National Standards Bodies in order for Countries to be considered for the Regional | Continental Competition.

The Country Reports Submission Deadline for Submission of Top Five Winners by NSBs is **Friday 18th April 2025** through the following email - [arso@arso-oran.org](mailto:arso@arso-oran.org)



# What the Organisers are looking for



## Precise Introduction

Including the General Understanding of Standards and Standardisation, and the relation with Education about Standardisation (EaS)

## Problems Facing EaS



Provide a clear understanding of EaS Challenges in relation to the 21st Century

## Solutions and Policy Frameworks



Solutions provided through the Implementation of Standards and Policy Strategies developed nationally or continentally in relation to the 21st Century Development requirements, opportunities, challenges, education needs and role of standards

## Conclusion

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

### Basic Essay Requirements \*

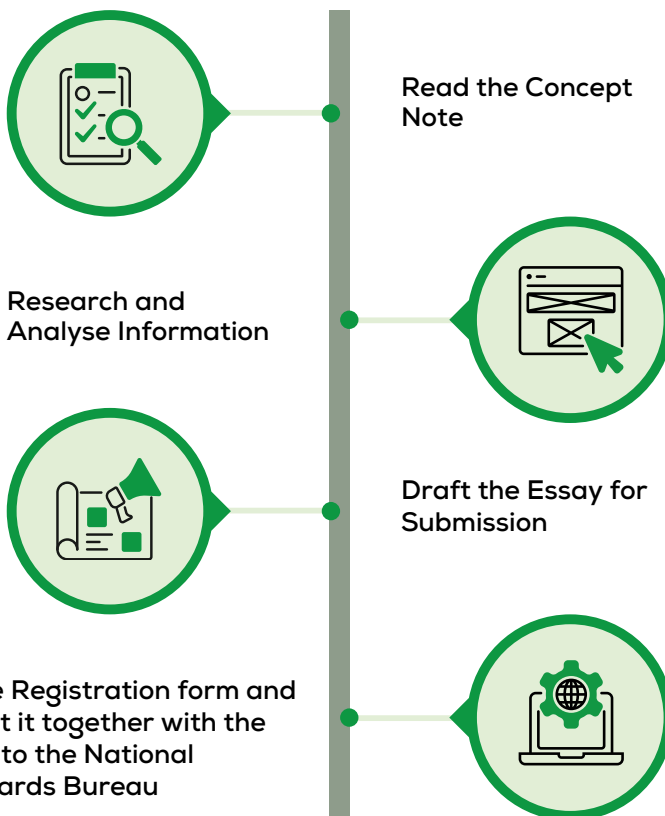
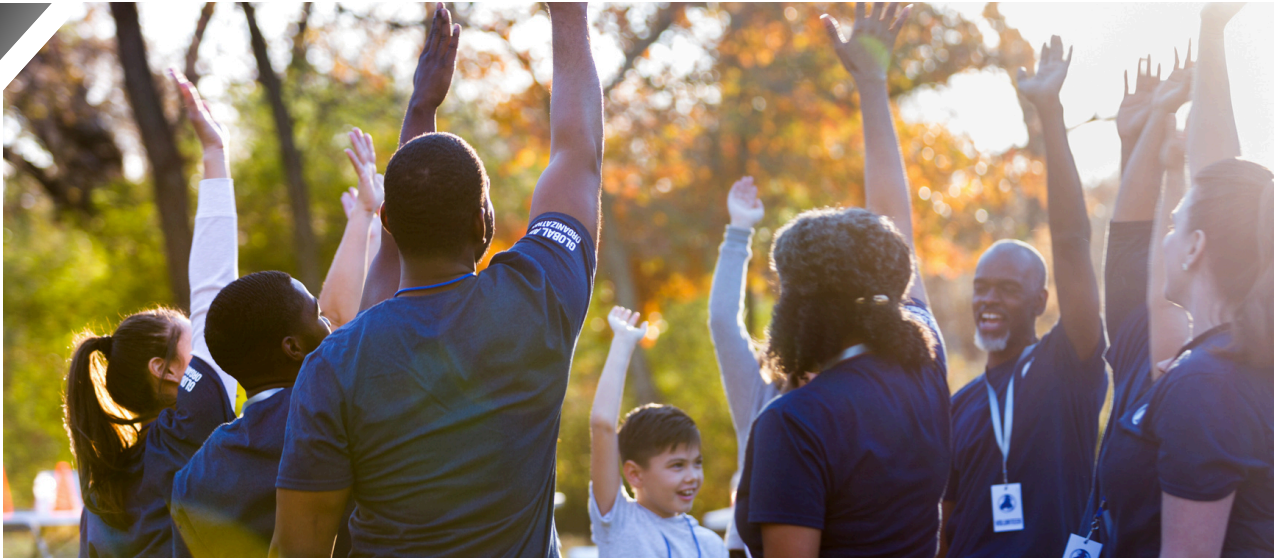
1. Length of essays : Essays should be between 1000 and 1200 words
2. Presentation: Essays should be double spaced and presented in Century Gothic, size 12
3. Language of essays: Essays must be submitted in English or French
4. Information on the author: Authors may use up to 50 words to describe themselves. 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

### Plagiarism Note \*\*

Please note that AI Generated Essays upon review on the AI Checker will be in admissible and will be automatically disqualified if the Score is more than 20% as per the AI Plagiarism Checker Software.

\*\* Kindly note that you shall sign the **Disclaimer Notice** as you register for the Essay.

# Terms & Conditions



2024 | 2025

## Eligibility to Participate

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

## 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](http://www.uneca.org)

## Announcement & 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.

**Continental winners** will be announced during the Africa Standards Day Celebration held yearly during the ARSO General Assembly Events in **Tanzania (Zanzibar) – June or July 2025**

# Continental Winner Prices



## 1st Continental Winner

USD 1,000

- ✓ Economy Class Return Air Ticket and Accommodation to the General Assembly in Tanzania (Zanzibar) in June | July 2025
- ✓ Recognition and Awarding During the General Assembly
- ✓ Publishing of the Essay on the ARSO Website



## 2nd Continental Winner

USD 800

- ✓ Recognition and Awarding During the General Assembly
- ✓ Publishing of the Essay on the ARSO Website



## 3rd Continental Winner

USD 500

- ✓ Recognition and Awarding During the General Assembly
- ✓ Publishing of the Essay on the ARSO Website

### Copyright and Eligibility

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.

Ensure that your essay is eligible by ensuring the Essay Submitted has never been published in any form or shown or accepted for other competitions.

Note that Participants are only allowed to submit one essay.





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Standardisation



# Contact Us



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