



International Organization for Standardization
Organisation internationale de normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации

UNI – THE ISO MEMBER FOR ITALY – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Video-message of congratulations from the ISO President

26th January, 17:00 UTC+1

Signore e signori,

Buonasera,

I am greatly humbled and privileged by the invitation to attend and speak at this event. Indeed, it is an honor to be part of this centenary celebration where we recognize the many years that UNI has dedicated to spreading the knowledge that the world is made better with Standards.

Signore e signori,

It is worth noting that the concept of standardization was already deep rooted in Italy a century ago when the rubbles from the First World War were still smoldering. Founded on this day, 100 years ago, UNI is a driving force behind the socio-economic growth of Italy. Through some of the most turbulent times in European history, standards have brought stability, predictability, security and reliability. Standards enabled Italy to transform into an industrial powerhouse well-known for its success in manufacturing and industry, as well as its contributions to art and culture.

The longevity of UNI sends out a clear positive message to other organizations around the world that a National Standardization body, which has grown from humble beginnings and with strong membership across various industry sectors, can stand the test of time.

Therefore, today's celebration takes us right deep into the heart of Italian resilience in innovation and standardization. This resilience has accorded the people of Italy an easier, safer and better life.

I am happy to note that Italy and UNI have been pivotal in making Standards at the forefront of international agenda. For instance, during the G7 Heads of State meeting held in Turin, Italy in 2017, International Standards were recognized by G7 leaders as a key tool for progress. Within ISO, UNI has been a strategic member. Its stewardship in 21 technical committees ranging from Packaging machinery, Pipeline transportation systems to Specific aspects for gaseous fuels and active participation in 573 different Technical committees has seen ISO achieve tremendous milestones and contribute positively to the attainment of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Thanks to your efforts, standards now play a key part in the conformity, acceptance and exchange of Italian goods and services across the world. From food, finance to Ferraris and fashion.

Signore e signori,

As we look back at 100 years of success, I know that my colleagues and fellow standardizers here today, understand that it is also a moment to ponder about the future.

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We are living in a time of profound uncertainty, no one can predict the future, disruption and technological transformation are now the order of the day. Who would have known that a small microscopic virus could change the course of the whole world instead of a big IT innovation? Any organization that wishes to endure the future must ensure it adapts with the changing times, reinvigorate its purpose in line with future needs, and allow the spirit of modernity to flow through.

You are all definitely aware that the transformation from an agrarian and handicraft economy to one dominated by industry and machine manufacturing was hinged on utilization of Standards. Standards underpinned and facilitated the move from wood and rock artifacts to utilization of iron and steel. They enabled the invention of new machines such as the spinning jenny and the power loom that allowed increased production with little use of human energy. Big leaps in transport and communication including the use of the automobile, steam locomotive, airplane, radio and telegraph, were made possible and hinged on the use of Standards.

However, for Standards to continue playing their rightful role in the society, they must be developed to meet users' needs. Socio-cultural and economic changes do not only affect the industries, they too affect and disrupt the Standards setting arena. The advent of the fourth industrial revolution has led to serious discussions about the future of work which is being shaped by the growing adoption of artificial intelligence in industries. Standards setting organizations then can not only rely on physical or paper-based standards but charter a new path in the area of machine-readable standards.

Whereas innovations such as Artificial Intelligence and Big data will help power economic progress, National Standards Bodies like UNI across the world must position themselves as agents of socio economic and technological transformation or else they will be rendered superfluous. How we respond to these and other challenges of our time will determine the mark we, as one standardization family, leave on the world this century.

At ISO, we have embarked on an exciting 10-year journey guided by the ISO Strategy 2030 mindful that we operate in a world where change is constant and where challenges and disruptions can be truly of global scale. We bank on our members like UNI who have a century old experience in making life easier, safer and better for Italians, but this time for the rest of the world, with ISO Standards.

I am confident that UNI will continue to spearhead that clarion call and continue their full and active participation as a valued member of the ISO family.

On this historic day, and on behalf of the global standards community, I'd like to say:

"UNI – Happy Hundredth Anniversary!" and may you have many more.

God Bless You All.

Eddy Njoroge

ISO President