

ASTM International Statement on the 2023 Partnership Forum under the main theme of the 2023 ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”

Statement to be delivered by Emmanuel Escoto G., Manager, Global Cooperation, ASTM International, on January 31st, 2023, at United Nations Headquarters in New York

1. ASTM International appreciates this opportunity to share its successful partnerships and initiatives which have contributed to the recovery from COVID-19 and support the 2030 Agenda.
2. Now in its 125th year, ASTM provides an open, transparent forum where more than 30,000 volunteer scientific and business professionals from 150 nations develop data-driven, consensus standards. These public and private sector stakeholders develop and maintain more than 12,800 standards which provide globally accepted, best practice, practical solutions for over 90 industry sectors.
3. Since 2001, ASTM has established over 120 partnerships through Memorandums of Understanding with national and regional standardization bodies, most in developing countries. The MoU facilitates communication, no-cost access to the full collection of ASTM standards and membership, and capacity building. ASTM’s toolkit provides an efficient and economical resource for addressing the developing nation partners’ safety, health, sustainability, quality, and market access needs, freeing their respective human and financial resources for conformity, compliance and training.
4. ASTM’s specific contribution to the mitigation of COVID-19 was implemented through several activities including open posting of relevant standards for download, partnering with the World Bank’s IFC and MoU partners in Jordan and Vietnam to deliver technical sessions related to PPE, sanitizers, and related topics, and expediting the delivery of a WHO-recognized standard on barrier face coverings.
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6. ASTM standards relate to 12 of the 17 UN SDGs and align particularly well with the terms/targets for sustainable cities and communities, industry, innovation and infrastructure, good health and well-being, affordable and clean energy, responsible consumption and production, and climate action. ASTM International has and will continue to collaborate with many United Nations agencies such as the WHO, UNEP, UNDRR, ICAO and UN ECE. We look forward to additional opportunities to drive action on the UN SDGs and Agenda 2030.

7. Thank you!