



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

**Afghanistan National Standards Authority
(ANSA)**

Directories of Plan and Policy

Strategic Plan

(2019-2023)

2019



Economic development & employment growth is one of major goals of Afghanistan National Unity government. Growth of exports is a vital entity towards strong and a comprehensive economy, owing to bring improvement & prosperity in lives of the people of the Country.

M. Ashraf Ghani

President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

**Message of Second Vice President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
& Head of National Standard Council**



Considering role of the trade in global economy and significance of standardization of manufactured products and consumer products in domestic and regional trade with compliance to the regional and international regulations is a vital principle so that the consumer be able to easily reach to the standard product in market, hence developing strategic plan of Afghanistan National Standard Authority is based on National peace & development of Afghanistan framework. It provides a roadmap with a perspective in strengthening exports, &reducing the imports, for the betterment of national product quality and producing quality products to the market for consumers. This demand should be accomplished through strategic plan of ANSA. Afghanistan has the membership of World Trade Organization (WTO) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO). On the other hand National Unity Government established its economic program on the basis of Lapis Lazuli Route and historic Silk Route, accomplishing this goal would need a positive competition within regional and ultra-global trade. Achieving balance to the regional trade Afghanistan National Standard Authority needs to recognize its weaknesses and strengths, opportunities, instabilities towards attaining standardization and advancement in domestic manufactured product quality, on the other hand avoid importing products that lacks essential standard regulations. Reaching to these objectives is not possible without having a consecutive strategy and having an action plan in the field of inspection, Laboratory assessments, and issuance of certification. Therefore these areas needs to have specialized, committed, persons and also engaging production & consumers sector so they can contribute in policy making process and regulations regarding to standardization, modification, and reforms. Hence the strategic plan of Afghanistan National Standard Authority (ANSA) is based on two fundamental goals; strengthening National Quality Infrastructure and facilitating easy access the government (GOIRA) to expanding of exports and development of economy, taking in view goals of institutional strategic reforms, development of legal framework, improving technical and administrative capacity, and expanding International associations, development of National quality infrastructure in conformity with World Trade Organization (WTO) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO),development of Assessment services with the aim of standard exports, development of national measurement system including Scientific & legal metrology, design and implementation of comprehensive research programs, such as training and awareness of National Quality Infrastructure is essential for succession of strategic plan.

Accomplishing these goals will only be achieved through the use of experts, cooperation of World Trade Center, other international partners and institutions, national private sector, effective and transparent monitoring of Government of Afghanistan. The implementation of the “National Standard Strategy” is expected to boost national economy, improve quality of domestic products, affordable access to quality goods, and implementing standards at the regional and global level so it can increase exports of Afghanistan.

At the end I thank Afghanistan National Standard Authority which have developed ANSA Strategic plan and I hope that with the implementation of mentioned strategies, we will achieve the above goals.

Sarwar Danish

Second Vice President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
& Head of National Standard Council

Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023 of the Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA)

The National Unity Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has taken a series of reforms to good governance, economic development and quality of life in line with the objectives of the Afghanistan National Development and Peacekeeping Framework document.



The Afghanistan National Development and Peacekeeping Framework document is, in fact, a plan for our country to improve the welfare of the people and to achieve self-sufficiency. The plan seeks to lay the foundations of a vibrant and inclusive economy, and an economy that can provide jobs for the people of this land.

The Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA), seeks to work closely with national and international stakeholder organizations as the sole standard-setting reference point and overseeing the implementation of standards in the country more rapidly in terms of improving the quality of life, supporting end users and producers of basic programs such as , The provision of standards, the conformity assessment services (inspection, testing of laboratory and certification), and metrology services (weights and scales), including its action plan, thereby facilitating trade and sustainable economic development, thereby improving health , Safety, improvement of the environment and welfare of the Afghan people.

The strategic plan of the Afghanistan National Standard Authority (ANSA), is based on the objectives of the Standardization Law and the Afghanistan National Development and Peacekeeping Framework document, and aims to provide a clear road map for the implementation and development of national quality infrastructure to improve the Afghan society, in particular the manufacturing sector. Advantages of having more and better standards, improving the quality of commercial property (imports and exports), manufacturing products and service processes, stabilizing consumer norms for effective exploitation of national and economic resources, providing health and safety to the environment and protecting the environment, encouraging the private sector to contribute Standardization, metrology and evaluation processes are in line with their respective backgrounds.

Thanks to the national and international experts from the International Trade Center, the European Union and its staff who have contributed actively to the development of this strategic plan.

Hoping for more accomplishments by the team to meet the goals of the National Strategic Plan of ANSA

With respect

Dr. Mohammad Musa Alami

Acting Director General for Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Internationally, as trade takes new forms, through global value chains and shared challenges such as climate protection, finding sustainable solutions that enable the dispersal of new technology and innovation are increasingly important. International trade has highlighted the importance of standardization and conformity assessment as key to trade and growth. Domestically, as Afghanistan enters a new economic era after accession to World Trade Organization (WTO), Afghan National Standards Authority (ANSA) must ensure that the reform momentum is maintained and that its standardization, conformity assessment, industrial metrology and legal metrology services are provided in an efficient and effective manner that will support the economic recovery for businesses, resulting in enhanced levels of consumer confidence and the minimization of risks for the wider population.

For Afghan goods and services to maintain their current market hold amid increased regional competition, it is vital that Afghan products and services are considered to be synonymous with high quality and safety and compliance with international regulations and standards. A strengthened NQI has the potential to boost the standing of Afghan goods and services but also to provide an enabling environment for SMEs in managing requirements of local and international markets, thereby boosting rural economies of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has aspirations to become a middle-high income country by having a highly competitive economy with a diversity of products and services for local requirements and export markets. An increase on export revenue will only take place by consolidating Afghanistan's market hold in existing markets and by venturing into and establishing itself in newer markets through new, highly value added and diversified products and services. Afghanistan's ambitions of becoming South Asia's next regional Trade Hub, through revitalization of historic Silk Route and Lapis Lazuli Route, are therefore anchored to many national development programs including the implementation of Quality and SPS Cross-Sector Strategy and this strategic plan for development of the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI).

In order for ANSA to contribute to the realization of these ambitious goals, it has identified three priority areas. These include focus on policy, legal framework & regulatory issues and supply side issues & demand side issues. Therefore, the strategy outlines that NQI related policy & regulatory frameworks need to be updated, capacity building needs to be setup, and staff with expertise on NQI development are trained and deployed to implement the plan of action.

A focused intervention in these strategic issues will ensure that the NQI works smoothly to increase the quality, safety and environmental protection in Afghanistan. As such, ANSA has adopted to the vision

statement 'To be Afghanistan's leading provider of world-class standards, conformity assessment (inspection, testing and certification) and metrology expertise to facilitate trade and support sustainable economic development, ultimately improving the health, safety and welfare of Afghan

People and contributing to the environmental protection efforts". Adherence and support to this vision and strategic approach will pave the way for a well-established and dynamic NQI in Afghanistan.

ANSA Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023) will support implementation of National Quality Policy (NQP) through providing a roadmap for establishment and development of national quality policy to improve quality, specifically in production and export sectors, and social welfare. The expected benefits of the strategic plan will be promotion of standards and easy access to internationally recognized conformity assessment services.

The strategy will support ANSA operation by improving and realization of effective coordination in structure, planning, budgeting and legislatives with resultant accredited conformity assessment services including testing capacities in public and private sector, mutual recognition arrangements, metrology control and efficient technical regulations.

The strategic plan introduces ANSA's vision, strategic objectives, strategic areas for intervention and an action plan. The strategic objectives target three distinctive dimensions including upgrading the systems at the national level, recognition and acceptance in international level and awareness raising. The stakeholders and required budget and stakeholders' support have been identified for the activities. The action plan lists activities to achieve each strategic objective and provide for successful implementation of the strategic plan.

2. CURRENT STATUS ANALYSIS

2.1. Analysis of Internal Factors

2.1.1.Strengths: The major strengths of ANSA are qualified human resource, modern and well-equipped training center, national standardization law, national standard mark, supreme council of standards, and participation in High Economic Council (HEC) and Council of Ministers (CM). ANSA's major accomplishments are development of 617 national standards mostly adopted from international standards, laboratory equipment and capacities for petroleum products, construction materials, electro-technical, food and metrology that constitutes a revenue channel for the organization.

2.1.2.Weakness: The major challenges faced by ANSA includes inadequate compensation (salaries) for technical experts, lack of policy and strategy, lack of awareness programs, inadequate coordination among different departments within the organization, inability to operationalize food, construction and electro-technical laboratories, lack of a supervision and monitoring system, and lack of required legislatives and procedures for different activities such as standardization, conformity assessment and metrology.

2.2. Analysis of External Factor

2.2.1.Opportunities: ANSA has obtained membership in major international and regional organizations (ISO, IEC, SARSO, SMIIC, and RISCAM) that has facilitated transfer of knowledge in the standardization to the country. The need for a functioning metrology system to provide traceability to international weights and measures, interest and technical and financial support from international organizations, and political support of the Government of Afghanistan and more specifically the Supreme Council of Standards (SCS) could be identified as major opportunities for ANSA. Moreover, the Government of Afghanistan has adopted an export-oriented economic policy and initiated air corridors and traditional trade and transit routes (e.g. Silk Route, Lapis Lazuli Route, etc.). To facilitate access to more lucrative markets in the region and globally, Afghan products and services will need access to standards and accredited and recognized conformity assessment services such as certification and testing. Lack of competition by private sector in providing conformity assessment services could be considered an opportunity for ANSA to initiate its testing and certification services.

2.2.2.Threats: Major threats for ANSA operations include intervention duplication and overlap of roles and responsibilities, security that prevents expansion of activities, and resistance to the enforcement of standardization law and technical regulations in the country.

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS

3.1. Vision: To be Afghanistan's leading provider of world-class standards, conformity assessment (inspection, testing and certification) and metrology expertise to facilitate trade and support sustainable economic development, ultimately improving the health, safety and welfare of Afghan people and contributing to the environmental protection efforts.

3.2. Mission: To realize the strategic vision, ANSA is mandated to develop and strengthen the national quality infrastructure through introducing and implementation of legislatives and policies, development and promotion of standards, and providing conformity assessment services that could facilitate access and competitiveness of Afghan goods and services and local and international markets. The regulatory function of ANSA will ensure safety and fair trade in the country.

3.3. The Goals of ANSA: As an independent entity in the Government of Afghanistan, ANSA has two major goals to achieve:

- Establishment and development of national quality infrastructure
- Support the realization of the economic objectives of the Government of Afghanistan for export promotion and trade-related economic development of the country.

3.4. Values: As a professional institution mandated by the Government of Afghanistan to develop national standards and establish national metrology system as well as to provide conformity assessment services, ANSA commits to abide with the principle values.

- **Expert:** We recognize the importance, and encourage the continuous honing, of our technical expertise to ensure we are always abreast of developments.
- **Dedicated:** We ensure a consistent and positive approach in our work through the dedication and enthusiasm of our staff.
- **Impartial:** We protect ANSA's impartiality which guarantees no predisposition in our work or in our dealings with business and public alike.
- **ENGAGING:** We respect our customers and demonstrate an engaging and respectful approach in listening and being responsive in our dealings with others.
- **Pride in Our Work:** We see pride in our work as bywords for excellence with each individual responsible for the highest of standards in their work.

4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strategic Objective One (SO#1): Implement institutional reform, develop legal framework, build technical and managerial capacity, and expand international relations

The current organizational structure of ANSA does not support the major functions of the organization and provides for implicit redundancy in support and service side. Technical and managerial capacity remains a major challenge for ANSA to initiate critically required services. A number of legislatives need to be developed in order to provide strong legal foundation for ANSA services and regulatory activities. Institutional strengthening and coordination appeared as the main area of intervention required to improve the effectiveness of ANSA activities and the NQI as a whole. In order to do this, the first strategic objective aims to strengthen ANSA's capacity to play an active role at the NQC to plan, organize, guide, coordinate, monitor and promote all NQP activities. As outlined in NQP, the NQC will be established at the highest political level, ideally chaired by Vice President. This new governance will contribute to managing many of the activities outlined in this Strategy. Under this strategic objective, a full review (stocktaking) of the existing legislative and regulatory framework as well as the organizational structure and capacity-building within ANSA is also foreseen.

- Review and revise the organizational structure of ANSA to ensure the logical balance of technical vs. administrative staff
- Design and implement comprehensive capacity building program (technical, managerial and language) to ensure transfer of up-to-date knowledge and technology in all QI fields
- Develop, review and/or revise the legal framework supporting the NQI and technical regulatory regime
- Improve international relation, conclude agreements with counterpart organizations and international institutions and participate in international (ISO, IEC, International Telecommunication Union, Codex, WTO-TBT and others) and regional (SARSO, RISCAM, SMIIC and others) forums.

Strategic Objective Two (SO#2): Develop national standardization system in compliance to the WTO and ISO principles and requirements

The national standardization system shall correspond the national needs for internationally recognized standards developed on the basis of agreement and consensus. The system shall support ANSA's participation in regional and international standardization activities as well as harmonization of standards.

Standards can be used as the technical basis for trade in end-products and services between willing buyers and sellers, or as a means of facilitating compliance to technical regulations. They are also used extensively

by companies in production, product, service and process environments. They are developed by a transparent, open and consensus-based process, involving interested stakeholders, and define fitness for

purpose in the case of standards for products, and good practice in the case of processes or services. Management system standards assist organizations in the management of their operations. The widespread use of standards is a necessary precursor to the evolution of a culture of quality in society.

ANSA needs to ensure harmonization of Afghanistan's national standards to international standards as well as those regional standards that ANSA is associated with. Though ANSA has officially adopted Code of Good Practice for Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 to WTO TBT Agreement), putting these principles in practice require substantial adjustments in the current procedure.

- Develop a need-based action plan for development of national standards with due consideration to the priority export sectors identified by National Export Strategy (NES) as well as those sectors with a potential for import substitution.
- Facilitate participation of all interested parties and stakeholders across the country in the standard development process.
- Strengthen standardization activity by participating in international technical committees while discussing the text in mirror committees within the country.
- Harmonize national standards to regional and international standards
- Disseminate standards and Afghanistan Building Codes (ABC) to users in public and private sector

Strategic Objective Three (SO#3): Develop conformity assessment services including inspection, testing and certification to achieve wider international recognition and support access of Afghan goods and services to more lucrative markets

Internationally recognized CA services could improve competitiveness of Afghan goods and services in local, regional and international markets. Accredited certificates could contribute to access of Afghan exports to more lucrative markets. Establishment and development of National Laboratory Complex with an efficient inter-laboratory network could support other QI functions.

Full international recognition of ANSA will provide confidence in the conformity assessment services offered in Afghanistan and will remove barriers for industry and trade. As such, this strategic objective aims to develop, improve and upgrade conformity assessment services of ANSA to attain accreditations, and to support the National Accreditation Focal Point/Bureau to conclude the MRAs with partner countries representing key markets for private sector operators.

- Strengthen accredited conformity assessment services of ANSA offered to the public and private sectors.
- Establish Certification Unit in compliance to ISO guides and standards for product and management system certification. ANSA will remain the sole government institution to provide voluntary certification services.

- Establish National Laboratory Complex with full-fledged labs in national priority areas such as petroleum products, construction and geo-technical, food, textile, electro-technical, etc. The national laboratory complex could also provide testing services for or on behalf of regulatory bodies as well as forensic testing. ANSA will also lead a National Laboratory Network to strengthen the laboratory capacity at public and private labs, improve inter-laboratory coordination and comparison and encourage accredited testing services in the country.
- Coordinate and cooperate with National Accreditation Focal Point to conclude required activities to have conformity assessment services internationally recognized (MRAs).
- Develop an effective inspection system to ensure compliance to the relevant standards and requirements
- Develop and implement an effective mechanism for Public Private Partnership (PPP) for establishment and operation of laboratories

Strategic Objective Four (SO#4): Develop National Metrology System including Legal Metrology and Scientific Metrology

The national metrology system shall provide for unique measurement system in the country to support fair trade, consumer protection and public health and safety. Implementation of International System of Units (SI) could ensure exact quantity of goods.

ANSA will set up national measurement system according to the national needs. The size, structure and tasks of the Metrology Department should be directed to the national needs of society, industry and science. The primary function of the Scientific Metrology Division shall be essentially related to the development of scientific and applied research on measurement standards (étalons) and measurement standards technology (e.g.: development of new measurement techniques and of new measurement standards) and also to the realization, maintenance and dissemination of measurement units of the SI,

which will allow for the provision of traceability at the national level. Within the Scientific Metrology Division, a calibration

Services unit should be created. The primary function of this unit will be to provide calibration services for industry and other government organizations.

The legal metrology division will be mandated to ensure the appropriate trust, quality and uniformity of all measurements related to health, safety, environment, trade and consumer's protection, verification, pattern approval, and other metrological control related activities.

- Establish the legal and institutional framework for legal metrology system
- Establish the national metrology laboratory in the priority areas which will also be capable to provide calibration services
- Participate in regional and international metrology activities and forums such as BIPM, OIML and ensure traceability of Afghan weights and measures to international system
- Implement SI as the national measurement units in the country
- Market surveillance and implement validation and certification mechanisms for measurement instruments such as scales, weights, etc.
- Develop and database of registered importers, manufacturers and suppliers of measuring instruments and service providers

Strategic Objective Five (SO#5): Develop and implement a comprehensive and widespread research, training and awareness and promotion campaign in order to foster quality culture in the country

In order to ensure that standards, codes and quality infrastructure services meet the national requirements of the country in terms of socio-economic, geographical, and cultural peculiarities, ANSA will establish the institutional capacity to conduct scientific researches, training and awareness projects and program through ANSA Research, Training and Information Center (ARTIC) that would be upgraded to a national institute during the course of the implementation of this strategy. The center will play a pivotal role in improving the quality of goods and services, building human capacity, and inviting national conferences and debates.

Lack of the awareness and knowledge from importance of standardization and related quality infrastructure services has significantly impeded the application and use of standards by businesses. A pool of expertise needs to be developed in order to promote, provide technical support and supervise the application and implementation of quality requirements inferred either by target market or regulatory system.

Inadequate knowledge of the role and importance of standardization and quality in improving competitiveness, coping with the challenges for access to better markets both locally and globally and ensuring sustainability of business through achieving customers' trust and confidence remains a major challenge to implementation of standards and quality culture in the country. There is no reliable and easy-to-access source for the private sector to acquire market intelligence and information on regulatory

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requirements of the target markets. This has played a key role in rejection and/or unacceptance of Afghan exports in EU and US markets. Demand for quality should be created through educating the people on quality aspects of goods and services.

- Establish ANSA Research, Training and Information Center and upgrade it to a national institute with required institutional capacities and allocation of human and financial resources
- Design and implement research projects/program in different aspects of national quality infrastructure
- Design and implement comprehensive standard training and awareness program including short term and medium term courses
- Celebrate relevant national and international events and initiate "Quality Award" in order to foster quality culture in the country.

Strategic Objective Six (SO#6): Reform and strengthen the regulatory arm of ANSA in order to ensure compliance to the provision of WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

The technical regulatory system shall be based on Regulatory Risk Assessment, prevent unnecessary barriers to trade, provide for equivalence system and ensure safety of goods and services.

ANSA has a regulatory arm with the mandate to inspect imports and locally produced products (except for food and pharmaceuticals) for safety as per the technical regulations. Currently, ANSA had custom offices that inspect imported petroleum products and is planning to initiate inspection of construction materials in near future. Though, the national standard bodies in most developed countries have ceased involvement in regulatory affairs, it is still common in some developing countries that standard bodies also perform regulatory functions and scarcity of resources could be a major reason for this dual role.

- Ensure that the scope for regulatory function is well defined within the principles set out by WTO TBT agreement and there is no conflict with voluntary conformity assessment services.
- Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other regulatory bodies to ensure unified regulatory regime/procedure is followed.
- Adopt Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) and ensure that technical regulations are only developed for safety, health, environmental, national economy and security purposes.
- Design and implement an efficient market surveillance system that will focus on priority products.

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- Design and implement mandatory National Standard Mark schemes for selected products

5. MANAGING FOR RESULTS

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It is the translation of priorities into implementable projects that will achieve the substantial increase in export competitiveness and import substitution envisaged by the Strategy. These goals will be achieved by optimizing institutional support and strengthening capacities to respond to demands. The allocation of human, financial and technical resources is required to efficiently coordinate and implement, and monitor overall implementation.

Successful execution of activities will depend on the ability of ANSA and to some extent of other stakeholders to plan and coordinate actions in a tactical manner. Diverse activities must be synchronized across public and private sector institutions to create sustainable results. Hence, it is necessary to foster an adequate environment and create an appropriate framework for Strategy implementation.

A key success criterion for the Strategy is the ability to coordinate activities, monitor progress and mobilize resources for its implementation. Until the NQC is established, ANSA would propose establishment of Advisory Committee under the existing Supreme Council of Standards (SCS) to effectively coordinate and

Plan the implementation of this Strategic Plan and Quality and SPS Cross-sector Strategy/NES. The advisory committee will be responsible for overall coordination, the provision of policy guidance and the monitoring of Strategy implementation until the NQC is established. The advisory committee could continue as a technical commission of the NQC.

The advisory committee shall be composed of:

Public sector:

- Ministry of Commerce and Industries
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Economics
- Afghan National Standards Authority
- Export Promotion Agency

Private sector:

- Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries

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- Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries
 - Exporters Association

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- Representatives of the Priority Sectors shall be invited (as and when required) to the meetings of the Advisory Committee

Overall, it is proposed that the advisory committee be responsible for the following responsibilities related to the implementation of NQP and strategies:

- Create a shared understanding of key challenges and opportunities facing the NQI function
- Set goals and targets that, if achieved, will strengthen NQI provision and enhance Afghanistan's overall capacity to protect consumers and meet the changing demands of international markets
- Propose key policy changes to be undertaken and promote these policy changes among decision makers
- Support the coordination, implementation and monitoring of NQI activities by the Government, private sector, institutions or international organizations to ensure alignment to goals and targets; and, as required, contribute to resource identification and alignment;

6. KEY SUCCESS FACTORS FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

6.1. Capacities for managing the implementation

The presence of the strategic advisory committee on NQI (and later the NQC) to oversee the implementation of the Strategies is a key success factor but it is not sufficient to effectively fulfil its assigned functions. It is important that its secretariat has sufficient capacities and skills to ensure effective management of the implementation of NQP and strategies. The secretariat should have knowledge of best practices in monitoring, programming, mobilizing resources and communicating results. It is important to ensure that the secretariat is adequately resourced and capacitated to effectively assume these responsibilities.

6.2. Private Sector Support and Participation

As the primary beneficiary of Strategy implementation – through improved productive capacities, reduced costs of doing business, facilitated administrative procedures, enhanced access to finance, etc. – the private sector will need to be directly involved. The private sector clearly expressed during the design of NQP and Quality and SPS Cross-sector Strategy its willingness to contribute, directly or in partnership with public institutions, to the implementation of the policy and strategy. Their

implementation efforts can range from providing business intelligence to institutions to contributing to development projects, establishing processing and transformation units, advocacy, etc. In brief, the private sector's practical knowledge of business operations is essential to ensuring that the activities of the strategy are effectively implemented and targeted.

6.3. Proactive Networking and Communication

ANSA as well as the key implementing institutions of Cross-sector Strategy need to be well aware of the content of the Strategy and the implications for their 2019–2023 programming. This networking and communication is essential to build further ownership and provide institutions with the opportunity to confirm which activities they can implement in the short-to-long term. Communication and outreach to sector stakeholders is equally important to create momentum and support for the recommendations of the strategies. This active communication normally serves to speed up implementation through larger engagement of all parties.

6.4. Resources for implementation

The advisory committee (and later the NQC), together with the ministries and authorities, will need to create a buy-in and support for efficient implementation. Resource mobilization is crucial and indispensable in supporting strategy implementation. Resource mobilization involves identification of priority activities from the strategy and proactive networking with various resource providers ranging from the Ministry of Finance to development partners, as well as national and foreign investors.

In addition to National Budget support, resource mobilization will also target development partners and foreign investors to support key areas of the Strategy PoA. The various implementation modalities detailed will determine the success of strategy implementation. However, high-level support from the Government, in collaboration with strong championship by the private sector, will be the real driver of successful strategy implementation.

7. BENEFITS TO THE AFGHANISTAN ECONOMY AND CONSUMERS

7.1. NQI and its contribution to GDP and GDP growth

NQI-related activities in an economy are sure to have a positive impact on GDP that is mainly due to conformity assessment services, contribution to new or improved products or services, taxes along the value chain, and direct revenues generated by NQI institutions.

7.2. Protecting the domestic market, consumers, the environment, safety and health in Afghanistan

Strengthened and well-delivered NQI services will ensure the protection of the domestic market and thereby Afghan consumers, their health and safety, and the environment, which results in socioeconomic development. Strengthened NQI services ensure that products and manufacturing

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process meet international quality requirements and ensure that only safe products reach domestic

Consumers. Improved services and competition in the provision of these services will reduce costs of compliance in production processes and create a quality culture. The risk of fraudulent products not meeting the standard requirements in the domestic market will be minimized, thereby creating trust in trade practices among consumers.

7.3. A State with better capacities to assess risks and enforce regulation

Institutional and legal framework improvement will ensure that Afghanistan has efficient surveillance and monitoring systems. Adopting RIA will help create effective, transparent and implementable regulations. This will give the country more capacity to enforce regulations under one coherent institutional framework and encourage industries to comply easily with standards. ANSA and other regulatory bodies will enhance institutional coordination and thereby be enabled to respond quickly to emerging demands and correctly enforce regulations. ANSA and other regulatory bodies can prioritize higher risk categories and focus its resources in those areas so the general public can benefit from the regulatory mechanism.

7.4. Business to have a level playing field

Private sector investment in national quality services is paramount for the NQI to develop. SMEs which have the potential to increase the export capacity need the services of CABs, which are mainly supported by the private sector. Developing the capacity and international recognition of private CABs

through accreditation and assistance will support SMEs to access NQI services at a reasonable price. On a levelled playing field, private CABs will have confidence to invest in developing their capacities and SMEs will have increased availability of services.

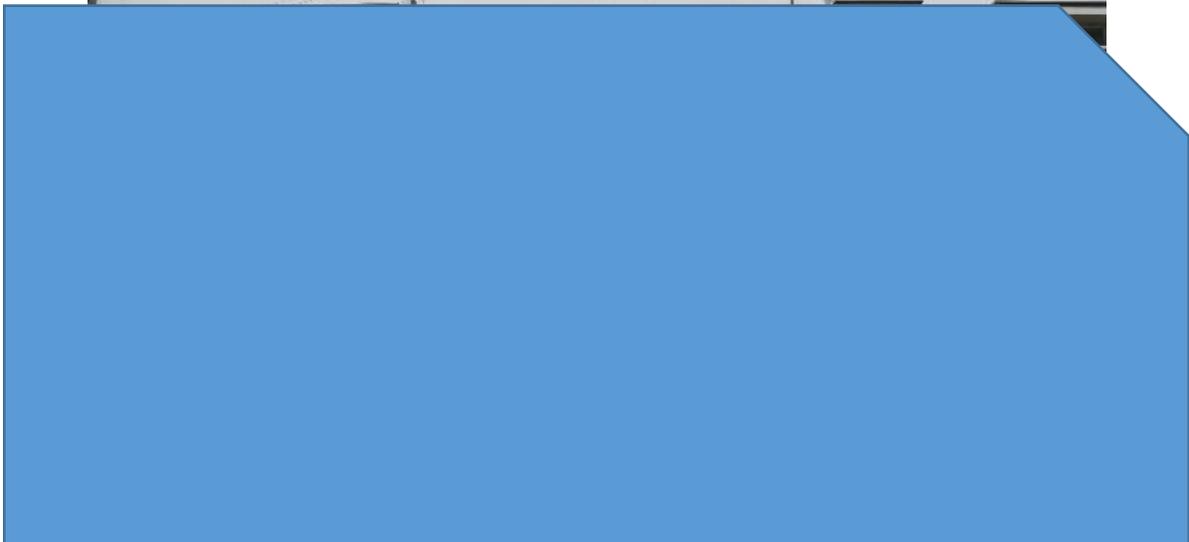
7.5. Export performance increased

NQI development will not only protect the domestic market but will also lead to higher export performance. Exporters will be enabled to provide quality-compliant products and services at an

affordable cost. This will contribute to Afghan exporters responding to increasingly stringent market requirements.

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

- ✦ In 2021, Afghanistan will have all NQI services accessible to priority sectors with international recognition.
- ✦ In 2023, Afghanistan's NQI will be operating with a higher level of inter-agency coordination led by the NQC, more active institutional participation in international and regional forums, regulations following Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), and conformity assessment services used by the public and private sectors and academia, including research, development and innovation.
- ✦ In the years following the implementation of this Strategy, Afghanistan will possess a competing quality in South Asia region; NQI will have a strong planning, coordinating, and monitoring by NQC leading to a quality culture; NQI institutions will participate and play key roles in international forums; and most of the conformity assessment schemes / services will be internationally recognized.
- ✦ A sound national quality infrastructure is sure to contribute to improved Gross Domestic Production (GDP) through reducing cost and increasing revenue of businesses as a result of improved competitiveness and more effective value chain for Afghan goods and services with resultant access of Afghan exports to more lucrative markets and introducing import substitutes in several areas.
- ✦ The national quality infrastructure will contribute to improving the health and safety of Afghan people and protecting the environment.





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