Message from AFSEC President

With the COVID-19 continuing with unexpected variants, 2021 was equally challenging as 2020. We however continued to pursue our goals with the resources available to us culminating in some achievements including:

1. Publication of various versions of our communication and marketing flyers.
2. Development of a Conformity Assessment Guide
3. Updating of AFSEC official website: www.afsec-africa.org
4. Participation in IEC General Meeting (Dubai, UAE)
5. Participation in Power Africa IEEE Virtual Conference
6. Participation in PAQI Meetings and forum. (Accra, Ghana and Durban, SA)
7. Participation in Intra Africa Trade Fair 2021 (Durban, SA)
8. Meeting of a number of TCs

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our hardworking experts for all your contribution even in these challenging times. I would similarly want to thank our Secretary General and the entire staff of the AFSEC Secretariat for your support. Finally, our thanks go to PTB for their continued support and sponsorship.

We are starting 2022 with further training for our regional representatives (RRs) and hope this will help boost our membership drive.. Best wishes to all in this new year!
Status of Communication Strategy Implementation

AFSEC developed and published with the support of PTB, awareness materials (Newsletter, a Motion Graphic Video, Flyers and associated Presentations) to use them as tools for promoting AFSEC among Targeted Stakeholders identified in the Communication Strategy. Some Flyers were developed for Regional Representatives be addressed to APUA and Power Pools, Centers of Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency (CREEEs), Regulatory Bodies (REGs) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), while other Flyers were developed for National Committees (NECs) addressing both Industry & Private Sectors and Academia & Research Centers. These Flyers include information about AFSEC (activities, Strategy, achievements, etc…), the Message that needs to be conveyed and the impact of collaboration between AFSEC and these Stakeholders.

A Flyer was published as well for both AFSEC published guides and the ongoing/future guides, with an abstract about each guide.

All these Flyers are available in both English & French languages and in both printable & web formats. The Link for the Motion Graphic Video highlighting AFSEC Activities is:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clOG8oqjXgl

AFSEC 11th Management Committee Virtual Meeting

The 11th Management Committee Virtual Meeting was virtually held on 29th June 2021 followed by a Special Meeting on 10th August 2021. Important Decisions were taken at both meetings notably accepting the financial statements for the financial years ending 2020 with the balance sheet and income statement for submission to the General Assembly, forming a Project Team of three Groups to start the Harmonization of Proposed Standards, under Cassava Project Phase II. Submitting to the GA ARSO Proposal forming a joint Committee to develop an ASHAM Joint Document was decided, while Zachesus Mwatha, Eastern Regional Representative, was appointed to represent AFSEC at ARSO SMC. The Communication Training of Regional Representatives was approved to be conducted with the Support of PTB.

The 85th IEC General Meeting- Dubai-UAE from 2-7 October 2021

During the IEC General Meeting held in Dubai, A Bilateral Meeting with IEC was held to discuss ways of cooperation and support to promote AFSEC Standardization process. Another Meeting with NEC Emirates took place to learn about UAE Experience in applying Conformity Assessment. AFSEC attended the Workshop for Industrializing Countries (WIC), as well as the Affiliate Forum discussing “How to establish NEC and attract Power Utilities and Regulators in NEC Work”. During this Forum, some Case Studies were introduced.

The 20th Anniversary of Affiliate Country Program was celebrated back to back to this General Meeting.
AFSEC attended the APUA 23rd Consultative Meeting where a Concept Note for the proposed cooperation with APUA/Power Pools- with the support of PTB - was addressed to establish a AFSEC/APUA Joint Standardisation Study Committee and to Identify experts that will be assigned to work with AFSEC TC8 working on “System Aspects of Electrical Energy Supply” to develop the Interconnection Guide. This is a part of implementation of Communication Strategy where APUA/Power Pools are considered as one of AFSEC Stakeholders.

The Conformity Assessment CA Guide

With the support of PTB, the Conformity Assessment CA Guide was developed by the Conformity Assessment Committee. AFSEC CA guide maps various processes that can be introduced in an African Country whereby conformance/quality control can assist. The guide also assists to identify how to Harmonise Electrotechnical Conformity Assessment with related Quality Infrastructures in Africa. It attracts high-level professional expertise, to provide an appropriate framework for reflection and sharing of experiences, where topics relating to the issues affecting the development of standardization and conformity assessment were addressed.

This guide aims to develop good regulatory practice in conformity assessment activities whose economic impact in Africa is vital. It was published by PTB in November 2021.

PAQI 19TH Joint Meeting and IATF 2021: Durban, South Africa, 15-20 November 2021

AFSEC participated at the Meeting focusing on activities within PAQI, namely the joint work with ARSO as well as AFSEC participation in the Harmonization of Standards Proposed under Cassava Project.
AFSEC participation at “Intra- African Trade Fair- IATF 2021” was visualized with the Promotional Materials and the Video Motion Graphic presented at PAQI Booth

Moderation Training for AFSEC TC Members & Secretariat

With the support of PTB, Moderation training was conducted for both AFSEC and ARSO in October/November 2021 to learn more about the capabilities of virtual applications. At least 30 of AFSEC members attended the four rounds of the training from AFSEC Secretariat, Conformity Assessment Committee and Technical Committees.
Communication Training for Regional Representatives
As part of the Orientation of the New Regional Representatives ARRs in order to fulfill their duties, a tailored Communication Training was conducted in December 2021, with support of PTB. The aim of the communication training is to build their communication and presentation skills while addressing the external stakeholders.
They were trained to utilize the Advertising Materials (Presentations and Flyers) which were developed by AFSEC with the support of PTB.
The Communication Training was repeated for selective members of AFSEC who will be acting as AFSEC Spokespersons.
Two Webinars were conducted with African Centers of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency CREEEs, and with Egyptian Electric Utility & Consumer Protection Regulatory Agency (EGYPTERA).
The impact of these webinars were the receipt of both the RECREEE and Egypttera requesting to join AFSEC as Affiliated Organizations.

Cooperation with CENELEC
A draft concept note was developed “Quality Infrastructure: Creates The Passport To Trade In Africa” , where AFSEC is considered one of CENELEC partners who will support the implementation of this concept note that includes the following objectives:

- Creation of the African Single Electricity Market that will lead to economic development, trade, business within Africa and between Africa and Europe; through the strengthening of the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI)
- Improve the investment, regional trade, access to global markets and export opportunities.

Cooperation with IEEE
A number of Virtual meeting were held with IEEE, following up with new activities in both entities and discuss the progress of the Action Plan.

Status of AFSEC Website:
The AFSEC Domain is now registered in Egypt and all Data from the old website which was located in South Africa was migrated. The AFSEC Website is now secured after acquiring the SSL Certificate.
Also official mails whose domain is “afsec-africa.org” were created to AFSEC members.