



Commission Electrotechnique Internationale  
International Electrotechnical Commission  
Международная Электротехническая Комиссия

## **Message from IEC General Secretary to AFSEC**

IEC has grown considerably since the inaugural AFSEC assembly in 2008 – from 146 countries back then to 162 countries today. And that growth in membership and affiliates has been due, in large part, to the African nations' commitment to the constitution of national electrotechnical committees that are truly representative of their key stakeholders including electricity generators, the distribution industries, the standards body and/or the regulatory authorities.

Not only has Africa's commitment to the IEC increased since that inaugural meeting in Ghana. The IEC's commitment to Africa and to AFSEC has increased. With the signing of the IEC-AFSEC Cooperation Agreement in 2009, the two organizations have made formal commitments to each other. On the specific issue of IT tools, I am happy to note AFSEC will be trialling the popular IEC Collaboration Tools platform with a view to using this among the AFSEC members.

I would also like to underscore the IEC's commitment to the opening of a regional centre on the Continent in the coming years. The financial crisis of 2008 and 2009 put our plans back somewhat, but our tried and tested approach of regional offices – following on from those in Boston, Sao Paulo, Singapore and Sydney – has proven that an operational office with the language skills and more profound knowledge of the market needs is necessary.

Commitment to electrotechnical standardization and conformity assessment is a commitment that will last for generations. The IEC will work alongside the AFSEC members in bringing the benefits of the international standardization system and global conformity assessment to Africa.

Africa has a major role to play in the development and deployment of smart and safe electrification to all of the continent's citizens, and the IEC Family calls on Africa to continue to engage in the elaboration of international standards that are relevant and that can be adopted and implemented by countries at all levels of development.

We wish you a successful meeting.