

## THE 12<sup>th</sup> ARSO CONTINENTAL ESSAY COMPETITION 2024-2025

**Theme:** *"Role of Education about Standardization (EaS) in shaping Education and African Students for the Sustainable Development opportunities and challenges in the 21st Century"*

### 1. BACKGROUND

African Organization for Standardization ARSO is an intergovernmental body, established by the African Union and UNECA in 1977 with the principal mandate to harmonize African Standards and conformity assessment procedures in order to reduce Technical Barriers to Trade and therefore promote intra African and international trade as well as enhance the industrialization of Africa. Furthermore, ARSO is responsible for ensuring the well-being and safety of the African Community.

Therefore, being an African organization, ARSO undertakes all necessary efforts to bring on all stakeholders in the journey to shape sustainable solutions towards consumers' safety and trade promotion. To promote the standardization culture and ensure youth are engaged and enlightened in all continental initiatives where ARSO plays an important role, ARSO organises Essay competitions on Standardisation on annual basis. This essay competition serves as a platform for the youth to provide innovative ideas in the area of standardization which may support the industrial development in Africa and consumer safety.

The First Continental Essay Competition was held in 2013-2014, and since 2014 up to now Rwanda has consistently joined other African members' states in raising standardization culture among the educated youth through essay competition. It is against this background that ARSO is organizing and inviting members to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> Continental Essay Competition under the theme, *"Role of Education about Standardization (EaS) in shaping Education and African Students for the Sustainable Development opportunities and challenges in the 21st Century"*.

The Competition is organized at National level and the best five winners will proceed to the continental level for re-evaluation and selection of the final competition winners at continental level.

It is in this framework that Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) is entrusted to organise the competition at the National level. In the running of this competition, RSB is responsible for:

- Engaging and sharing out the relevant documents to Colleges/ Universities or any other legible higher learning institution having candidates with an interest to participate in the competition,
- Conducting awareness focusing on the theme of concern,
- Providing any information needed to facilitate competition contestants,
- Receiving, assessing and marking the essays from the participants at national level, and
- Awarding or giving recognition to the winners as appropriate.

For better and improved organization of the competition at national level, RSB will work closely with all interested higher learning institutions through their offices for students or career guidance in order to engage and direct all interested students to attend this competition.

## 2. KEY NOTE TO CONSIDER

While developing essays, contestants should take note that Education about Standardisation (EaS) is key pillar in shaping African students to harness sustainable development opportunities and tackle challenges in the 21st century. By promoting global standards adoption, ensuring quality and consistency, fostering innovation, supporting environmental sustainability, and enhancing regulatory frameworks, EaS education equips African youth to contribute effectively to their societies and the global community.

## 3. ENTRY RULES AND CONDITIONS

Basic Essay Requirements:

- I. **Length of essays:** Essays should be between 1000 and 1200 words
- II. Century Gothic, size 12
- III. English or French
- IV. **Information on the author:** Authors may use up to 50 words to describe themselves. Information should include their names, course and year of study, name, town and country in which their university is located.  
  
*N/B: this will not be part of the 1000 - 1200 words*
- V. **Contacts of authors:** Authors should provide us with their postal, physical, telephone and email addresses on the first page of the essay together with the title of the essay and information on the author.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY

Open to Citizens of all African Countries Only **below the age of 35 years** living in Africa and studying in a university/college recognized by the local commission for university education or equivalent body in their countries.

## 5 PLAGIARISM NOTE

Please note that AI Generated Essays upon review on the AI Checker will be in admissible and will be automatically disqualified if the Score is more than 20% as per the AI Plagiarism Checker Software.

Kindly note that you shall sign the **Disclaimer Notice** as you register for the Essay.

Ensure that your essay is eligible by ensuring the Essay Submitted has never been published in any form or shown or accepted for other competitions.

Note that Participants are only allowed to **submit one essay**.

## 6 SUBMISSION TIMEFRAME

- i. Deadline for submission of Essay at national level is **10<sup>th</sup> February 2025**, essay submitted after the deadline will be excluded from the competition;
- ii. Deadline for submitting the five winners by National Standards Bodies (NSBs) to ARSO is not later than 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024; NSB submission after this date will not be considered.

## 7 PRIZES FOR WINNERS

There will be two levels of winners:

### 1st Position

- USD 1,000
- Economy Class Return Air Ticket and Accomodation to the General Assembly in Tanzania (Zanzibar) in June | July 2025
- Recognition and Awarding During the General Assembly
- Publishing of the Essay on the ARSO Website

### 2nd position

- USD 800
- Recognition and Awarding During the General Assembly
- Publishing of the Essay on the ARSO
- Website, Publishing of the Essay on the ARSO Website

### 3rd Position

- USD 500
- Recognition and Awarding During the General Assembly
- Publishing of the Essay on the ARSO Website

## 8 ANNOUNCEMENT & SELECTION OF WINNERS

Either at national or continental level, winners will be selected through a fair and impartial selection process by the organizers. The decision of the judges shall be final, on the awarding procedures and process.

**National winners** will be announced through their emails and they will be awarded during the celebration of World Standards Day Celebration on **14 October 2025**.

**Continental winners** will be announced during the Africa Standards Day Celebration held yearly during the ARSO General Assembly Events in **Tanzania (Zanzibar) — June or July 2025**

## 9 COPYRIGHT

Dear Contestant, please note that by entering the competition; you have assigned copyright of your essay to the organizers of this event who may publish it in whole or in part on their respective websites, websites of national standards bodies, a wide range of publications for circulation both inside and outside Africa.

## Annex I: Proposed competition roadmap at NATIONAL LEVEL (RWANDA)

S/NO	Activity to be done	Description	Timeframe	Responsible
1	Post the competition document on RSB website and X platform	Prepare announcement and flyer to be posted on the website and X platform	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Standards publication & marketing Officer
2	Consult Higher Learning Institutions	Explain to the institutions the purpose of the competition and request for their commitment in its organization and collaboration to engaging as many students as possible	By 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Standards publication & marketing Officer  <i>NSD Management to assign any other staff to ensure the smooth proceeding of this outreach.</i>
3	Sessions for raising awareness on the theme of the competition and	Online sessions will be organized to ensure students understand the theme and will be directed on how to write essay	By 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	-Standards publication & marketing Officer In collaboration with assigned staff
4	filling in registration forms and their submission	-The contestants fill the forms and send them back via <a href="mailto:arsocompetition@rsb.gov.rw">arsocompetition@rsb.gov.rw</a>	By 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	
5	Write essays	Interested students write essays in accordance with the provided guidance and assisted by the relevant RSB assigned staff	By 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	-Essay writers -Standards publication & marketing Officer
6	Submission of essays	The essays sent via the provided email: <a href="mailto:arsocompetition@rsb.gov.rw">arsocompetition@rsb.gov.rw</a>	By 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Standards publication & marketing Officer
7	Marking of submitted essays	The RSB assigned team will mark submitted essays as per the ARSO guidelines	By 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Standards publication & marketing

				Officer/Assigned team of markers
8	Report of the competition	Prepare the report and submit it to the RSB DG Office for approval. This report includes how the competition was done and the winners at national level who will represent Rwanda at regional/continental level	By 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Standards publication & marketing Officer Director of SPTTA
9	Submit the report to ARSO secretariat	The approved report will be submitted to ARSO highlighting the list of contestants selected to represent Rwanda at Regional level.	By 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Standards publication & marketing Officer Director of SPTTA NSD Manager
10	Award the students who participated in the competition	Prepare certificate and provide awards for the winners	By 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	RSB management

#### PROPOSED ORGANIZING TEAM:

- KANYANGE Marlene
- NZABAMWITA Partick
- NDAYAMBAJE Jean Damascene
- NSENGIYUMVA Francois
- MUKABAYIZERE Denyse Joy
- NDABAVUNNYE Aloysie