

5.4. Patents, Standards and Borders

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1. The ability to produce standardized products efficiently is necessary to compete in global technology product and component markets.
2. SMEs and firms from less-developed countries are systematically disadvantaged in global standard-setting organizations due to a lack of a large patent portfolio and experience within SSOs.
3. Four responses are currently possible in response to this exclusion: (i) do nothing/maintain status quo, (ii) protectionist measures, (iii) increase patenting by SMEs/LDC firms, and (iv) increase participation by SME/LDC firms in international SSOs.
4. Incentives must be provided, either by governments, NGOs, or SSOs, to increase participation by SMEs/LDC firms in SSOs.