



## GOGLA calls on Governments, Policy Makers and other key Decision Makers to support Quality Products and Quality Assurance

### Background

Off-Grid Lighting plays a key role in fostering sustainable development of the Off-Grid Energy market especially in developing countries. Advances in LED lighting and battery technology, coupled with innovative electronic solutions have the potential to accelerate access to energy for millions of off-grid people and communities, enhancing their quality of life and creating new opportunities. On the other hand, poor quality and counterfeit products undermine confidence in the industry, increase costs for the consumer, generate unnecessary e-waste and jeopardise the overall opportunity for sustainable solutions.

To overcome these challenges, the joint effort of all involved stakeholders, including industry, governments, policy makers and aid organizations, is required to ensure a coherent approach and long lasting success.

### Industry Position

The Off-Grid Lighting industry represented by GOGLA believes that an effective, harmonized, and affordable means of assuring product quality and protecting consumers, with corresponding efforts to inform and raise awareness are key success drivers for the development of a sustainable Off-Grid Lighting market.

The work of Lighting Global (formerly Lighting Africa) over the last few years to produce a Quality Assurance framework, now adopted as an IEC Technical Specification, has been a major step towards this becoming a reality. The framework defines test methods, quality, warranty, and safety standards, and “truth-in-advertising” performance requirements. In addition, it defines consumer facing reporting requirements for warranties and selected performance indicators. By using independent third party testing, products are subjected to transparent and reproducible verification.

The view of GOGLA is that this standard should now be adopted as the common standard by Governments, Policy Makers and other parties committed to driving the adoption of sustainable Off-Grid Lighting solutions.

From the consumer’s perspective this approach provides security, transparency and confidence in a growing market and reduces the cost of robust, high quality products. For Government and Policy Makers committed to enabling Lighting and Energy access, it facilitates faster deployment by reducing the overhead costs for producers, simplifying administrative procedures and accelerating market penetration. However, where governments reject this approach and require their own or additional domestic laboratory testing, the consequences are likely to be significant costs and delays in accessing markets for producers which would then be passed on to consumers. In contrast, widespread adoption will facilitate the continuing development of the standard as markets, product and enabling technologies evolve.

### Recommended Actions

Governments, Policy Makers and Decision Makers committed to enabling Off-Grid Lighting and Energy access should adopt a single set of harmonized requirements. The QA framework and IEC technical specifications developed by Lighting Global and GOGLA should be the basis for this without exception. Provided that testing is carried out at a qualified laboratory to the appropriate technical standard, e.g. IEC TS 62257-9-5 in the case of pico-solar products, there should be mutual acceptance of test results. Lighting Global Verification Letters or other similar and verifiable documentation should be uniformly accepted as proof that a product has met the requirements. Policy Makers, Governments and Aid Organizations should invest in market development by raising awareness of the QA framework developed by Lighting Global and GOGLA.