The objective of maturity models is improvement of Software-Product Quality, which is related to the quality of the Software-Development Process. ISO 15504 provides a structured approach to assessments of processes and can be used for process improvement as well as for capability determination. Therefore it offers benefits for the assessed organization as well as for acquirers.

A Process Reference Model of ISO 15504 describes a set of processes in terms of purpose and expected outcomes. The Measurement Framework of ISO 15504 defines six capability levels. Process Attributes, which are assigned to each level, and provides a 2-dimensional view of process capability (process dimension and capability dimension) is the basis for collection of evidence and the rating of process capability.