



# THE GLOBAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

The ILAC and IAF Handbook



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# Global Vision



## **VISION:**

Accredited once accepted everywhere

## **MISSION:**

To be the global solution for the national, regional and international demonstration of equivalence of reliable results from testing, calibration, inspection and related activities in both voluntary and mandatory fields/sectors.



## **VISION:**

IAF, along with ILAC, to be preferred partners for worldwide recognition of accredited conformity assessment results that meet the market, regulatory and public needs.

## **MISSION:**

Facilitate trade, support regulators, protect consumers and the environment, and facilitate sustainable development by operating a worldwide mutual recognition arrangement among accreditation bodies in order that the results issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by IAF members are accepted globally.



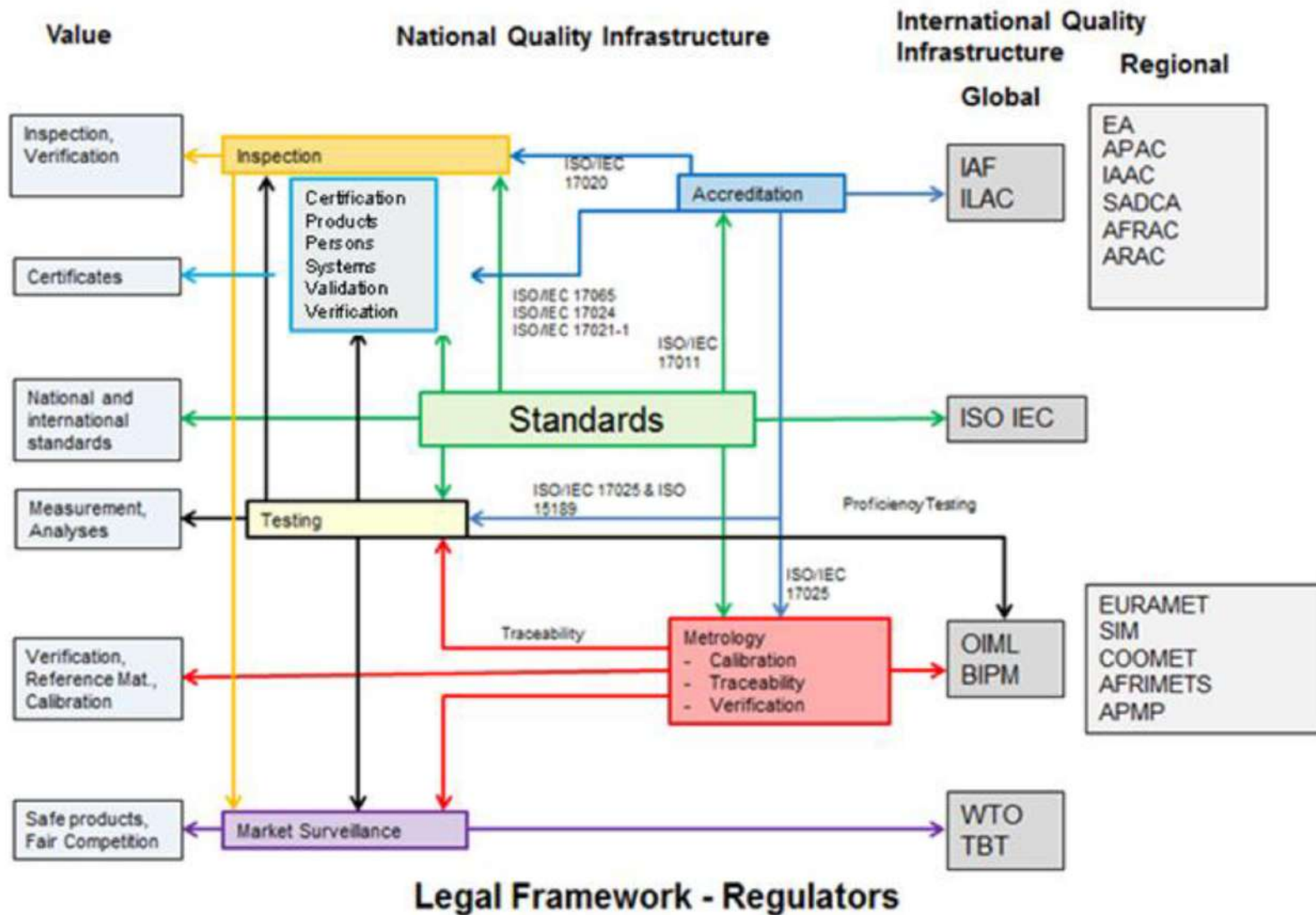


# Common Aims of IAF and ILAC

- Support conformity assessment programmes which reduces risk for businesses, regulators and the consumer by ensuring that accredited services can be relied upon
- Government and regulators relying on the Arrangements to further develop or enhance trade agreements
- To support world trade by eliminating technical barriers, realising the free-trade goal of *'tested, inspected or certified once and accepted everywhere'*



# Quality Infrastructure



# Quality Infrastructure

- Quality Infrastructure is the system comprising the organisations, the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes.
- Utilising standards, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment, this framework, supported by multilateral mutual recognition arrangements, has a positive impact on trade in the developed world and unlocks the trading potential of developing economies.



# The IAF and ILAC Arrangements

- Accreditation body members deemed competent through a peer evaluation process
  - ISO/IEC 17011
  - IAF-ILAC 'A Series' documents
- Signatories must recognise certificates, reports and results issued by organisations accredited by other signatories
- Provides businesses with assurance that overseas bodies operate to the same standard
- Removes technical barriers to trade by eliminating redundant conformity assessment





# IAF and ILAC Objectives

IAF and ILAC are global networks of accreditation bodies and organisations involved in conformity assessment activities.

Objectives include:

- Maintain the Arrangements, and expand coverage into new economies
- Increase cooperation with all relevant stakeholders
- Act as a central 'hub' to harmonise conformity assessment best practice
- Provide assistance to developing countries by providing appropriate support to new accreditation activities



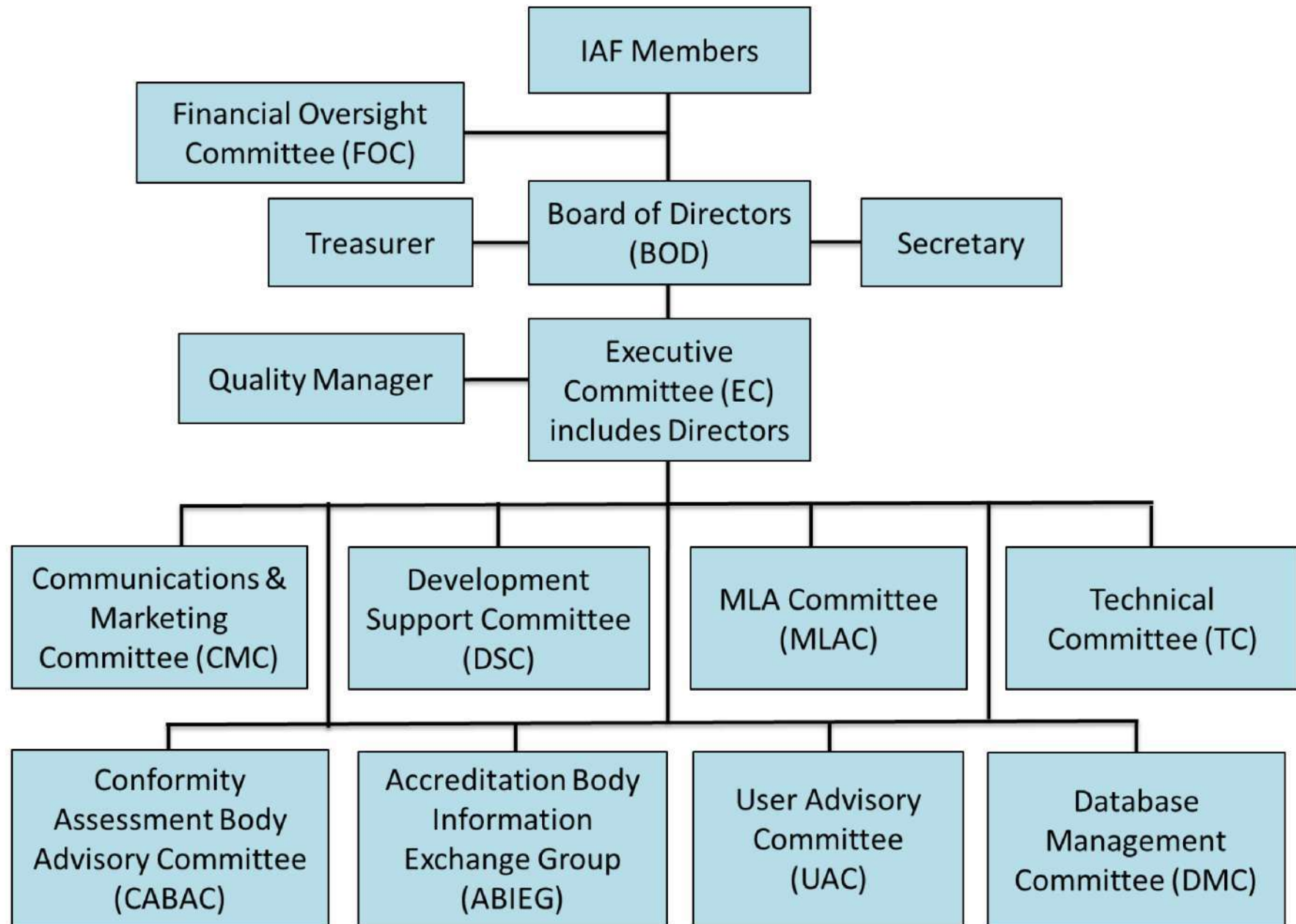


# About IAF

- IAF is a global association of Conformity Assessment Accreditation Bodies and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services, persons and other similar programmes of conformity assessment.
- Its main purpose is to operate and maintain a global Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (the IAF MLA) that enables the mutual recognition of certificates issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by signatories to the IAF MLA, in order to provide recognised conformity assessment activities and global acceptance of conformity assessment certificates.
- IAF also provides training, develops documentation (where required) to promote common accreditation practices, and a forum for sharing best practice.



# IAF Structure



# IAF Structure

## IAF Members

The highest level of authority in IAF is the Members, who make decisions and lay down policies in Annual Meetings or via ballots (Section 3.02 of the IAF Bylaws).

## Board of Directors (BOD)

The Board is responsible for legal actions, for developing broad policy directions for IAF, and for ensuring that the day-to-day work of IAF is carried out in accordance with policies approved by Members.

## Executive Committee (EC) (includes Directors)

The Executive Committee is responsible to the Board for the day-to-day work of IAF on the basis of decisions made by the Members and directions by the Board.

# IAF Main Committees

- **MLA Committee (MLAC)** - Responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the IAF arrangement
- **Development Support Committee (DSC)** - Responsible for representing the interests of developing countries and operates in conjunction with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
- **Technical Committee (TC)** - Coordinates the work of its Working Groups and Task Forces and addresses technical matters
- **Communications & Marketing Committee (CMC)**
  - Handles the discussion, development and coordination of any matter related to communications and marketing activities at the global and regional levels
  - Raise the awareness, lift the profile and improve the image of accreditation at global, regional and national levels.





# Status of the IAF MLA (December 2018)

There are **77** IAF MLA Signatories in the following main-scope and sub-scope areas:

- Main Scope:
  - Management systems
  - Product
  - Persons
  - Validation and Verification
- Sub Scope Level 4:
  - Global G.A.P. IFA General Regulations
  - ISO/TS 22003 FSMS
  - ISO/IEC 27006 ISMS
  - ISO/IEC TS 17021-3 QMS
  - ISO/IEC TS 17021-2 EMS
  - ISO 50003 EnMS
- Sub Scope Level 5:
  - ISO 9001 QMS
  - ISO 14001 EMS
  - ISO 22000 FSMS
  - ISO/IEC 27001 ISMS
  - Global G.A.P. IFA CPCCs
  - FAMI-QS Certification Scheme
  - ISO 13485 MDMS
  - ISO 50001 EnMS
  - IPC-PL-11-006

Applications are being accepted for the above and the following scopes: ICAO CORSIA  
Version 1



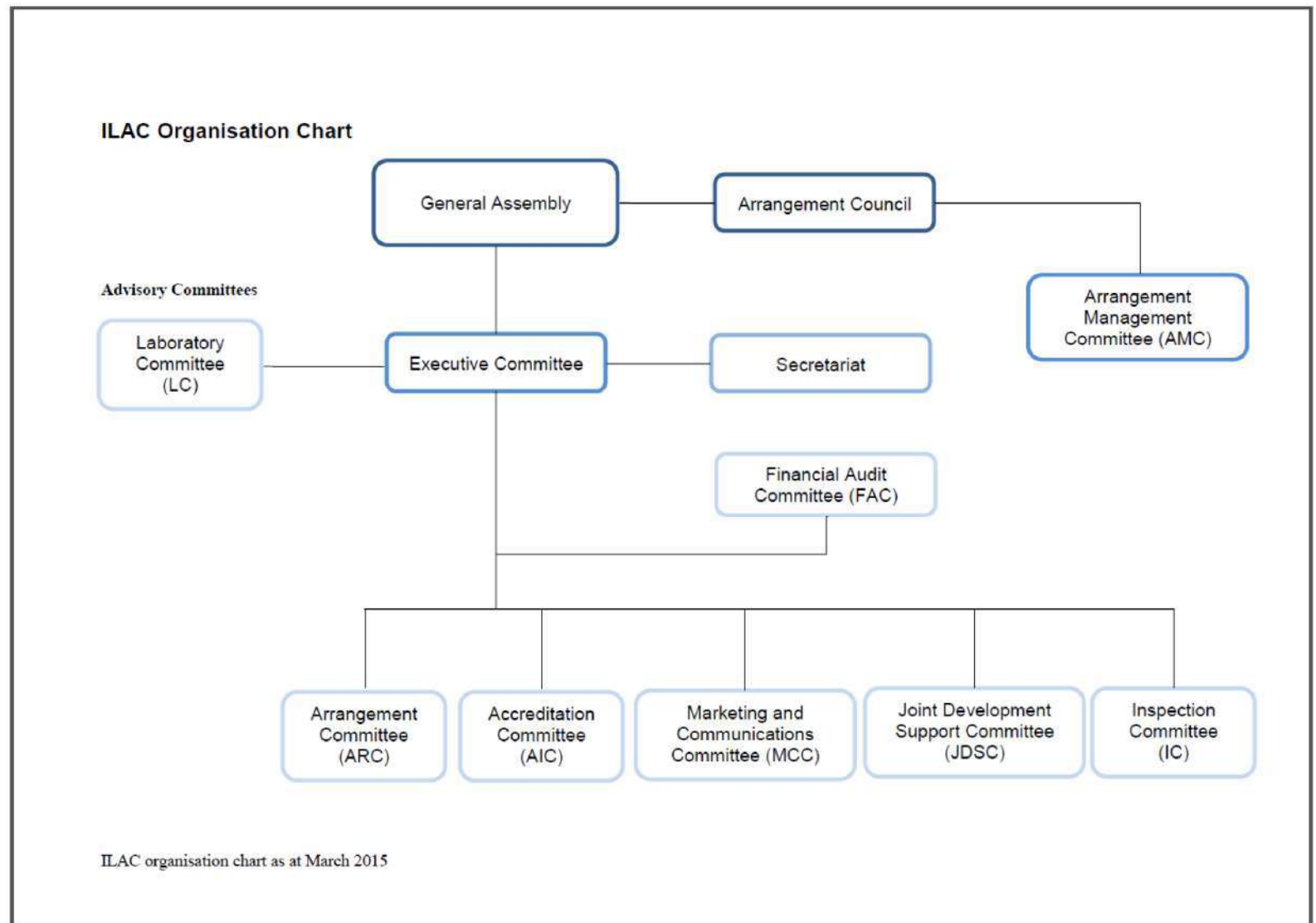
# About ILAC

- ILAC is the international authority on laboratory, inspection, reference material producer and proficiency testing provider accreditation with a membership consisting of accreditation bodies and affiliated organisations through out the world.
- ILAC promotes the increased use and acceptance by industry and government, of the global results from accredited laboratories and inspection bodies.
- ILAC operates and manages the multi-lateral, mutual recognition arrangement (the ILAC MRA) to promote the acceptance of accredited test, calibration and inspection data and results.



# ILAC Structure

**The General Assembly (GA)** primary body of ILAC and ensures that specific tasks are pursued in accordance with the objectives of ILAC. All members of ILAC are eligible to nominate one representative.



Further information on the ILAC structure is available on the [ILAC website](#)





# ILAC Committees

- **Executive Committee (EC)** - Responsible for the day to day management of ILAC and its activities.
- **Arrangement Council** - is the decision making body for determining signatory and recognition status under the ILAC MRA. The members are delegates nominated by the Full and Associate members.
- The **Arrangement Management Committee (AMC)** - is responsible for the day-to-day management activities of the ILAC MRA on behalf of the Arrangement Council and provides advice on its further development and operation.
- **Arrangement Committee (ARC)** - Responsible for harmonized implementation and continual improvement of the ILAC Arrangement



# ILAC Committees (cont'd)

- **Accreditation Committee (AIC)** - Responsible for harmonisation and improvement of accreditation practice at the international level.
- **Laboratory Committee (LC)** - is a stakeholder group that provides a means of interaction and exchange of ideas between ILAC and the laboratory community.
- **Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC)** - Responsible for internal and external marketing and communication issues. It is involved with the promotion of ILAC's objectives, and the publication of ILAC documents, newsletters and other information.

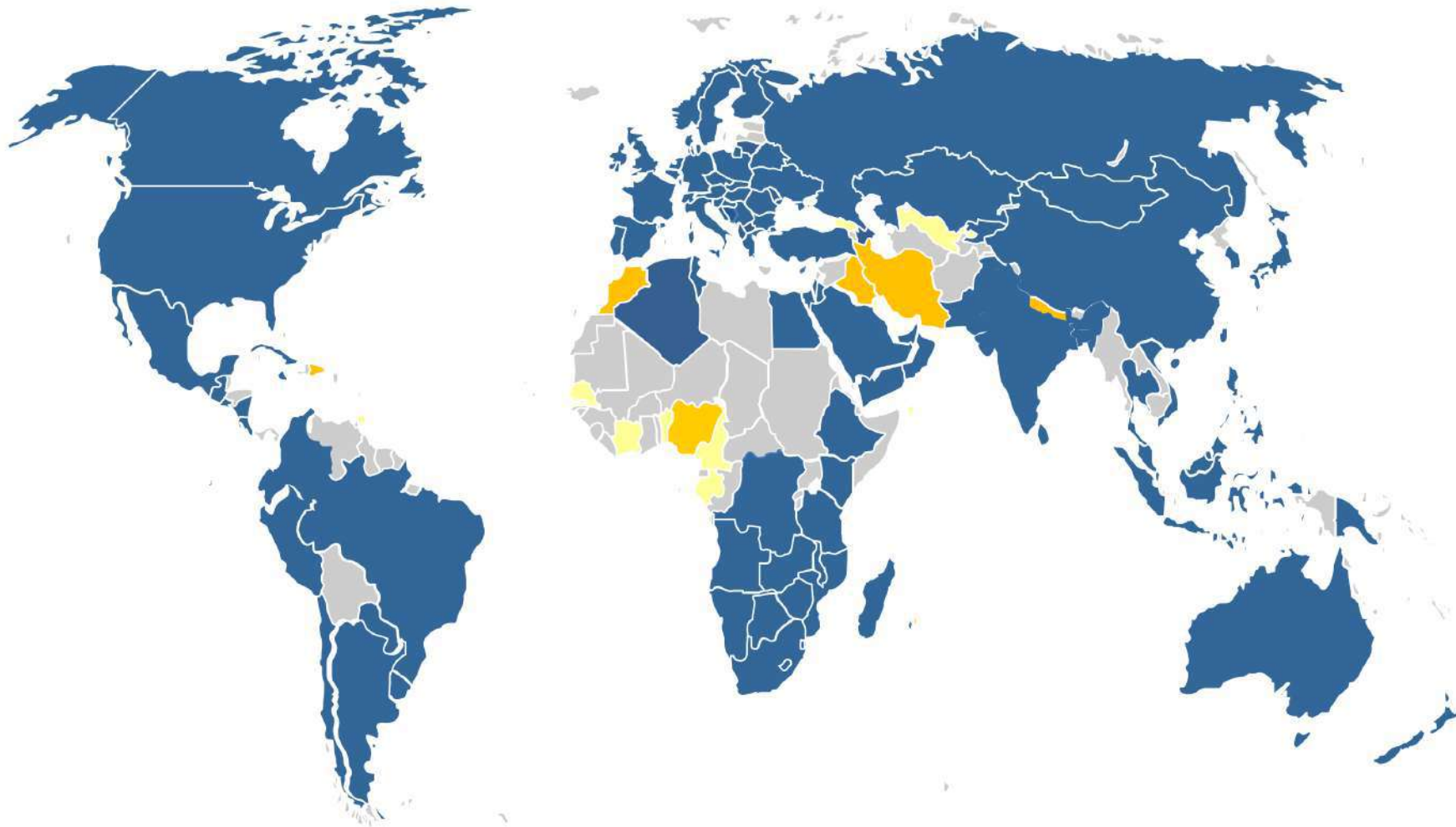


# ILAC Committees (cont'd)

- **Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC)** - Responsible for representing the interests of developing countries and operates in conjunction with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).
- **Inspection Committee (IC)** - Responsible for the harmonisation and improvement of accreditation practices for inspection activities at the international level.



# Coverage of the ILAC MRA (November 2018)



- ILAC MRA Signatories
- ILAC Associate Members
- ILAC Affiliate Members





# Status of the ILAC MRA (November 2018)

- The ILAC network of members includes 153 bodies from 126 different economies (100 Full Members/MRA Signatories, 13 Associates, 10 Affiliates, 24 Stakeholders, 6 Regional Cooperation Bodies)
- 100 ILAC MRA Signatories representing 103 economies
- ILAC MRA covers testing, calibration and inspection
- Signatories represent about 95% of Global GDP
- Almost 68,000 accredited laboratories
- Over 9,500 accredited inspection bodies



# IAF/ILAC Multilateral MRAs



European  
Cooperation  
for  
Accreditation  
(EA)



Inter-American  
Accreditation  
Cooperation  
(IAAC)



Asia Pacific  
Accreditation  
Cooperation  
Incorporated  
(APAC)



Southern African  
Development  
Community  
Accreditation  
(SADCA)



African  
Accreditation  
Cooperation  
(AFRAC)



Arab  
Accreditation  
Cooperation  
(ARAC)

- **A laboratory, inspection body or certification body accredited by one partner has equivalent competence to a laboratory, inspection body or certification body accredited by the other partner(s).**
- The structure of the global accreditation system is divided into two levels: the regional level (EA, ARAC, APAC, SADCA, AFRAC and IAAC) and the global level (ILAC and IAF).
- The IAF MLA recognises AFRAC , APAC, ARAC, EA and IAAC
- The ILAC MRA recognises AFRAC , APAC, ARAC, EA and IAAC



# IAF/ILAC Multilateral MRAs (cont'd)

- Accreditation bodies in the major parts of the world are both members of a region and of the global associations.
- Exceptions are accreditation bodies from parts of the world, where a regional cooperation is not established yet; those accreditation bodies are only members of the global associations (unaffiliated bodies).
- Stakeholders and other interested parties may also be members of the global associations.
- Recognition of a region is achieved after successful peer evaluation by ILAC or IAF.
- ILAC and IAF rely on the evaluations undertaken by the recognised regions to grant and maintain signatory status.





# The Benefits of the IAF/ILAC Multilateral MRAs

## For Government

- Facilitator of trade
- An efficient enforcement and monitoring tool

## For Business

- Greater acceptance of products and services
- Avoid costs associated with repeat conformity assessment
- Informed procurement

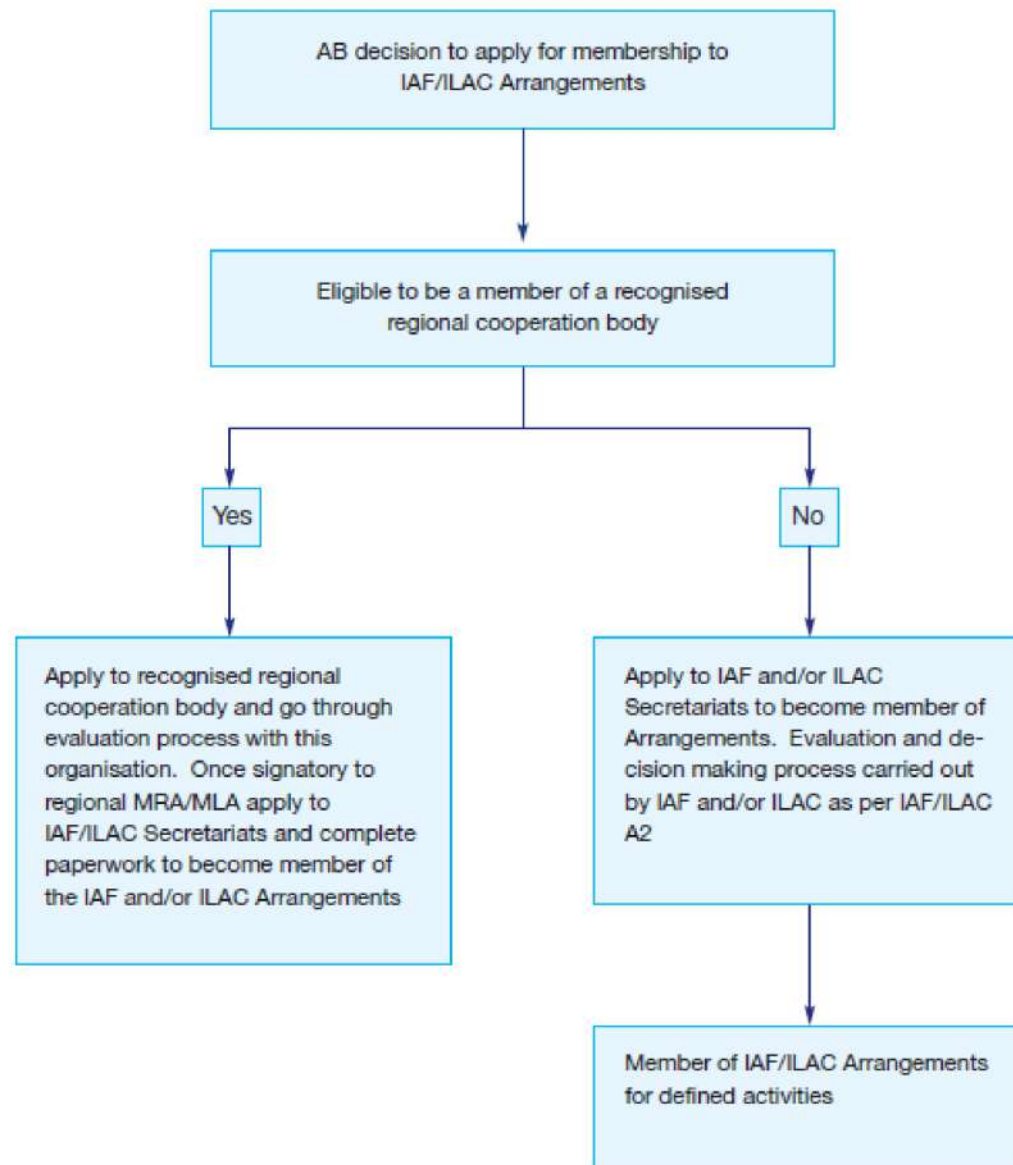
## For Consumers

- Public confidence in goods and services
- Minimises product failures or recalls





# The Route to signing the Arrangements



# Application of the Global Accreditation System

- [www.publicsectorassurance.org](http://www.publicsectorassurance.org) was launched by ILAC, IAF, ISO, IEC AND IIOG to illustrate the value of accredited conformity assessment.
- It enables government officials and regulators to access international case studies in policy areas, showcasing how different tools are able to deliver results
- The site contains links to independent research, where conformity assessment is being used in policy areas such as:
  - Economic development
  - Healthcare
  - Environmental protection
  - Energy
  - Food safety
  - Construction
  - Crime and security



# Documents and Publications

Both organisations publish documents that set out the rules, policies and procedures that members must adhere to. Guidance and informative documents are also available to share best practice and ensure a common interpretation of accreditation practices.



## **Brochures (B Series)**

General ILAC brochures or promotional publications

## **Guidance (G Series)**

The interpretation of accreditation criteria for specific applications for accreditation bodies and accredited organisations.

## **Rules (R Series) - Rules (Requirements)**

Documents including the Articles and Bylaws and other documents covering the operation of ILAC as an incorporated entity.

## **Procedural (P Series)**

Procedural and policy publications for the operation of the ILAC Arrangement, and which form part of the criteria for ILAC Arrangement evaluations.

## **General Information and Promotional Documents**

to raise awareness and understanding of IAF

## **Policy Documents (PL Series)**

IAF and Member policy requirements

## **MLA Documents (ML Series)**

Policy and procedures to support the operation of the MLA

## **Informative (ID Series)**

To support the consistent application of requirements

## **Mandatory Documents (MD Series)**

Mandatory documents to be used by ABs and CABs

## **Procedures Documents (PR Series)**

Procedures to follow in implementing the IAF programs

## **Joint IAF / ILAC (A Series) –**

Joint IAF and ILAC documents used for the evaluation of regions, unaffiliated bodies and inspection bodies.



# Membership Types



## Full Members (Signatories)

Accreditation bodies that have been accepted as signatories to the ILAC MRA, and abides by its terms and conditions and by the ILAC evaluation procedures.

## Associates

Accreditation bodies not yet signatories to the ILAC MRA, that carry out accreditation of conformity assessment that is officially recognised in that economy.

## Affiliates

Accreditation bodies that are currently operating, being developed, or intended to be developed.

## Regional Cooperation Bodies

Formally established regional cooperations having objectives similar to and compatible with ILAC, which are committed to the obligations of the ILAC MRA and which consist of at least four economies.

## Stakeholders

Representative international, regional and national organizations having an interest in the work of ILAC



## Accreditation Body Members

Accreditation Body that accredit bodies for certification of quality systems, products, services, personnel, environmental management systems as well as other programmes of conformity assessment.

Accreditation body members must declare their intention to join the IAF MLA.

## Association Members

Organisations involved in the use or implementation of certification systems.

## Regional Accreditation Groups

Regional groupings of Accreditation Bodies whose aims include the maintenance of Regional Multilateral Recognition Arrangements recognising the equivalence of their members' accreditations.

## Observer Organisations



# ILAC Partners



**International  
Accreditation Forum**



**World Anti-Doping Agency**



**International Organization  
of Legal Metrology**



**International  
Electrotechnical  
Commission**



**International Federation  
for Clinical Chemistry**



**International  
Organisation for  
Standardisation**



**UN Industrial  
Development  
Organisation**



**International Committee on  
Weights & Measures**



**International  
Telecommunications  
Union**



**International Halal  
Accreditation Forum**



**World Bank**

ILAC liaises and cooperates with many international bodies such as MoU partners to achieve shared objectives.



# IAF Partners

IAF works with a number of organisations and cooperates with many international bodies to achieve shared objectives. IAF has signed MoUs with the following organisations:



**International Laboratory  
Accreditation Cooperation**



**International  
Telecommunications  
Union**



**International Organization  
of Legal Metrology**



**International Organisation for  
Standardisation**



**UN Industrial Development  
Organisation**



**International  
Electrotechnical  
Commission**



**World Bank**

**WORLD BANK GROUP**



**International Halal  
Accreditation Forum**

**GLOBALG.A.P. GLOBALG.A.P.**



# How do the Committees Work?

- Committees, Subcommittees, Working Groups, and Task Forces typically meet once or twice a year, in conjunction with the Mid-Term Meetings of IAF and ILAC and the Annual meetings.
- When discussing issues and documents, the goal is a consensus approach, but, at times, formal voting is required.
- Voting may be in person at meetings or by letter-ballot.
- The decisions and agreements reached during meetings are recorded in either Minutes or for the Annual Meetings as Resolutions.



# What are my Obligations as an AB?

## Participating in Annual Meetings and Committees

- All members are able and encouraged to join, participate and contribute to the work of ILAC and IAF. This can be done by attending meetings or by email correspondence.
- Task Forces are generally set up to complete a particular task and are disbanded on completion.
- Working Groups are generally discussion groups in a particular area.
- Active participation and contribution to the work of IAF and ILAC in the Mid-Term and Annual Meetings

## Promoting the MRA / MLA

- All members are obliged to support the acceptance of the Arrangements.





# What are my Obligations as an AB? (cont'd)

## Voting

- Voting may be conducted at the meetings, or by email, or electronically.
- ILAC and IAF members have an obligation to vote in a timely manner for documents that are circulated for letter-ballot.
- You will receive a notification of each ballot and deadlines by email and in most cases will be required to vote online, on the Members side of the websites.
- Failure to submit the required number of ballots within a 12 month period may lead to sanctions.

## Peer evaluators

- ILAC and IAF welcome volunteers to be trained as peer evaluators.





# Sources of Further Information

To remain up-to-date with developments, the following sources of information are available:

- **ILAC News and IAF Online News** – published twice a year.  
<http://ilac.org/news-and-events/ilac-newsletter/>  
[http://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF\\_Newsletter/164](http://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF_Newsletter/164)
- **ILAC and IAF Intranets** – The members only areas of the websites contain valuable information for members, including access to meeting papers, ballots, technical documents, guidance notes, and promotional tools. Contact the Secretariats for access.
- **Subscribe to the latest ILAC updates** – [http://ilac.org/latest\\_ilac\\_news/](http://ilac.org/latest_ilac_news/)
- **ILAC and IAF Publications** – a wide range of publications are available to download from:  
<http://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/>  
<http://iaf.nu/articles/Publications/6/>
- **Annual Reports** – ILAC and IAF publish an Annual report each year that sets out the key developments and status of the MRA / MLA.





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