



# **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

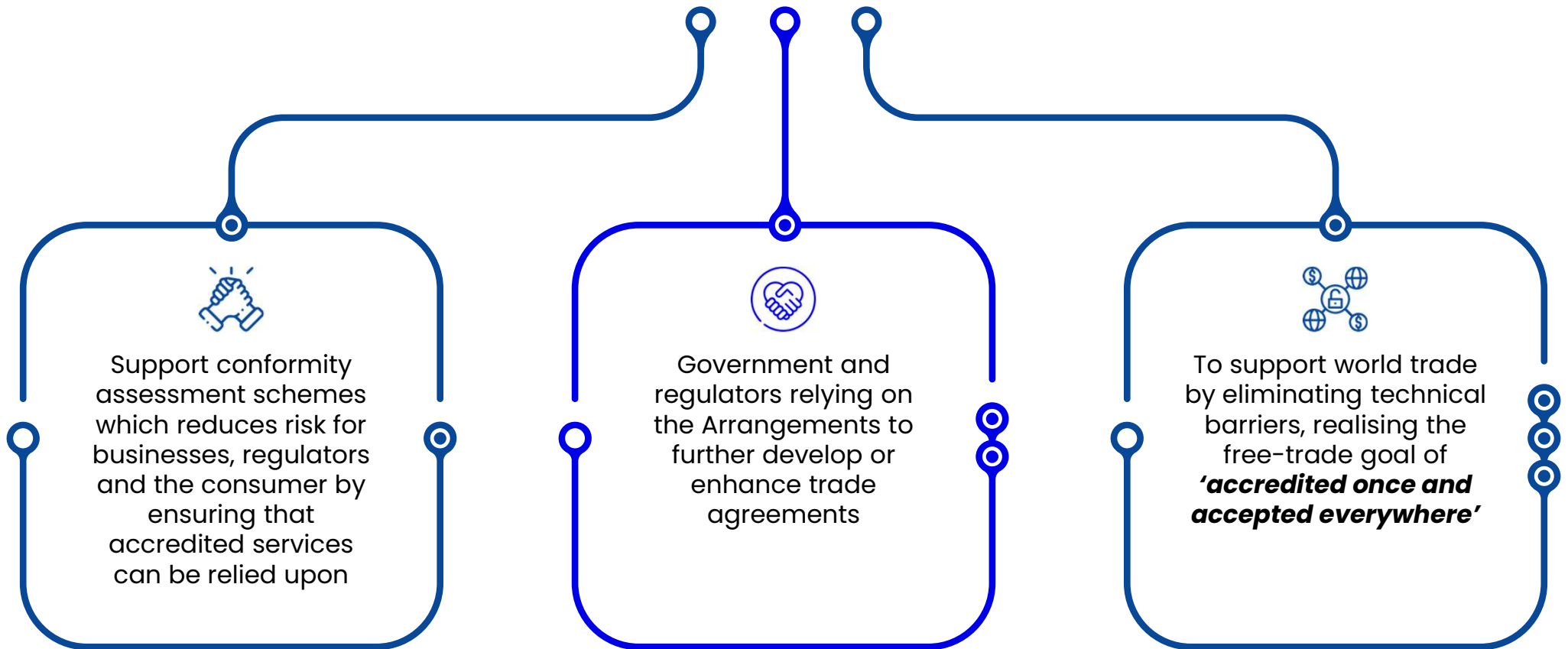
Accreditation makes the world better.



## MISSION

IAF facilitates trade and supports sustainable development using internationally recognized accredited conformity assessment to deliver the confidence needed for market acceptance of goods and services.

# COMMON AIMS OF IAF AND ILAC



# QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

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- 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.



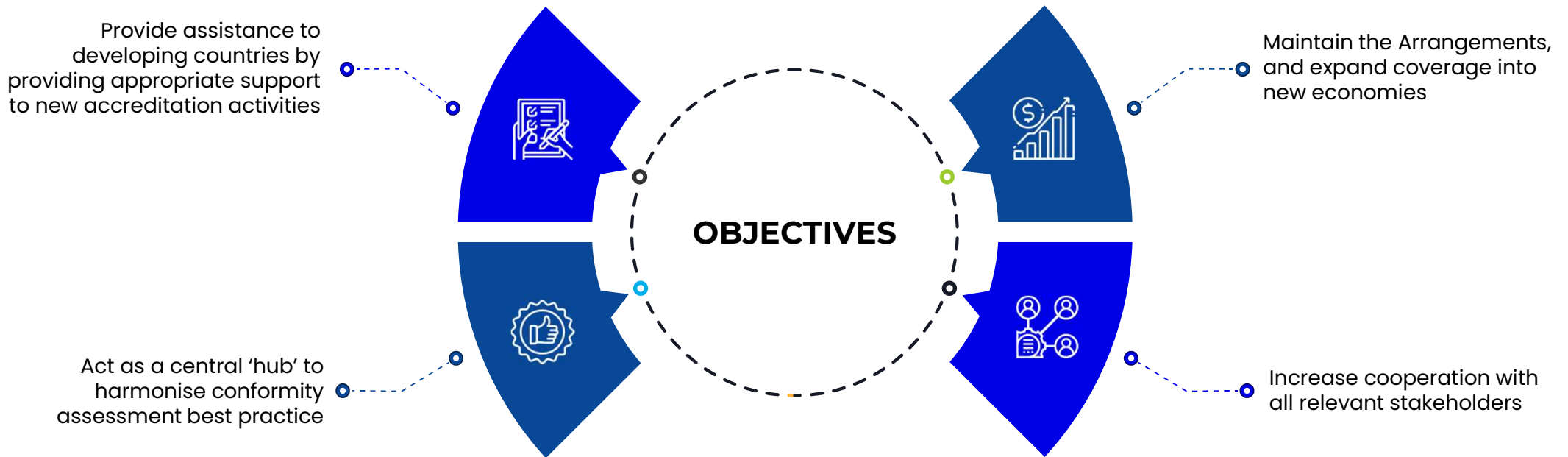


## The IAF and ILAC Arrangements

- 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 as well as reference materials produced and proficiency testing programs provided 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:



# ABOUT IAF

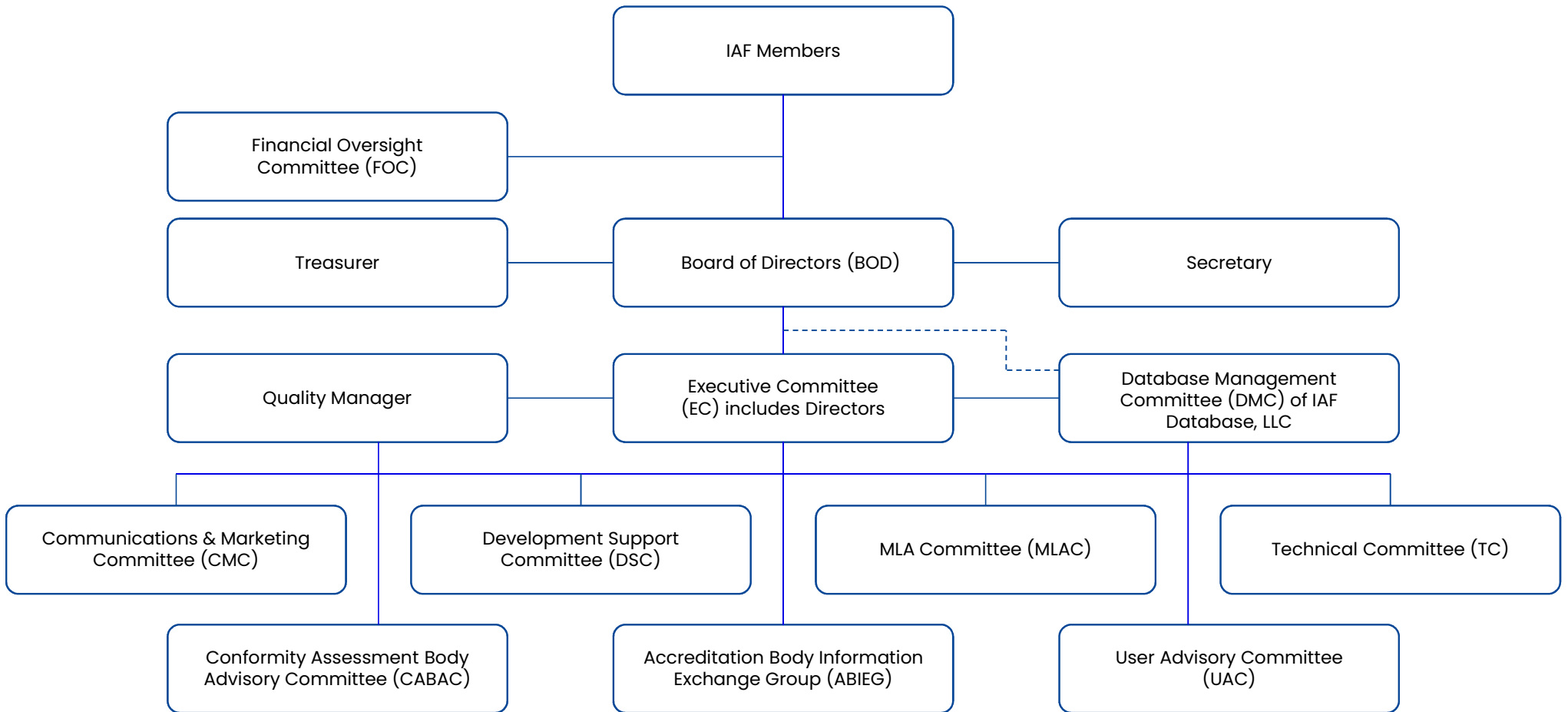
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- IAF is a global association of accreditation bodies and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, processes, services, persons, validation and verification and other similar programmes of conformity assessment.
- Its main purpose is to operate and maintain a global Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (the IAF MLA) that enables the mutual recognition of certificates and validation/verification statements 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 and statements.
- IAF also provides training, develops documentation (where required) to promote common accreditation practices, and a forum for sharing best practice.



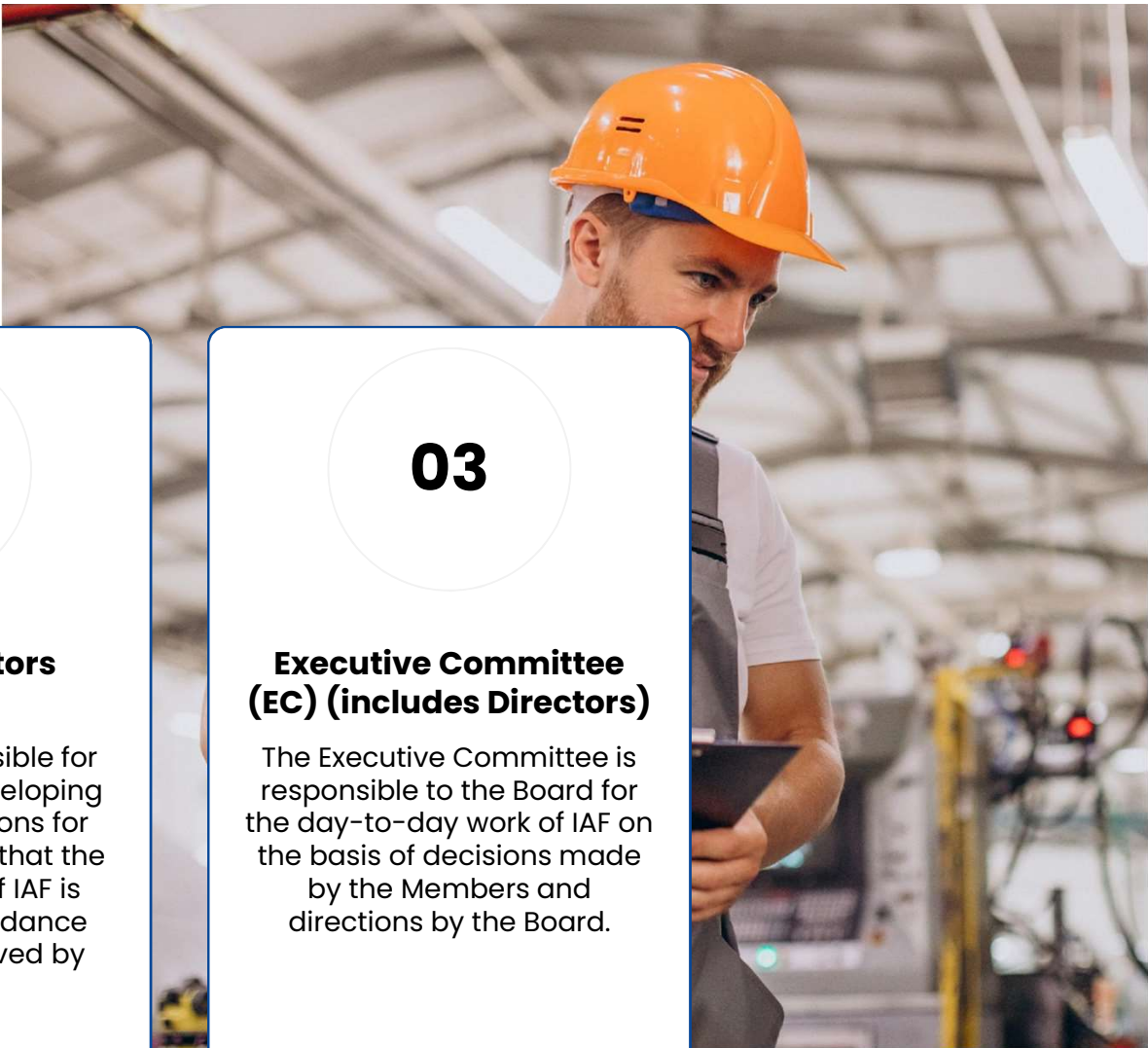


# IAF STRUCTURE



# IAF STRUCTURE

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**01**

## **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).

**02**

## **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.

**03**

## **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.



# EC members and guests

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Mr. Emanuele Riva  
IAF Chair



Ms. Lori Gillespie  
IAF Vice-Chair



Ms. Elva Nilsen  
IAF Secretary



Mr. Pedro Alves  
IAF Treasurer



Mr. Kevin Belson  
TC Chair



Mr. Carlos Martín Echeverría Cueva  
DMC Chair



Mr. Brahim Houla  
CMC Chair



Mr. Mrutunjay Jena  
UAC Chair



Mr. Peter Kronvall  
ABIEG Co-Chair



Mr. Marcus Long  
CABAC Chair



Mr. Rajesh Maheshwari  
ABIEG Co-Chair



Ms. Kylie Sheehan  
MLAC Chair

# EC members and guests

---



Ms. Amina Ahmed Mohammed  
ARAC Representative



Mr. Chankar Bheekhun  
SADCA Representative



Mr. Norman Brunner  
IAF JWG A-Series Co-Convenor  
(Guest)



Mr. Hany El Desouki  
AFRAC Representative



Ms. Etty Feller  
ILAC Chair (Guest)



Mr. Hamza Khan  
Quality Manager (Guest)



Ms. Maureen Logghe  
EA Representative



Ms. Andrea Melo  
IAAC Representative

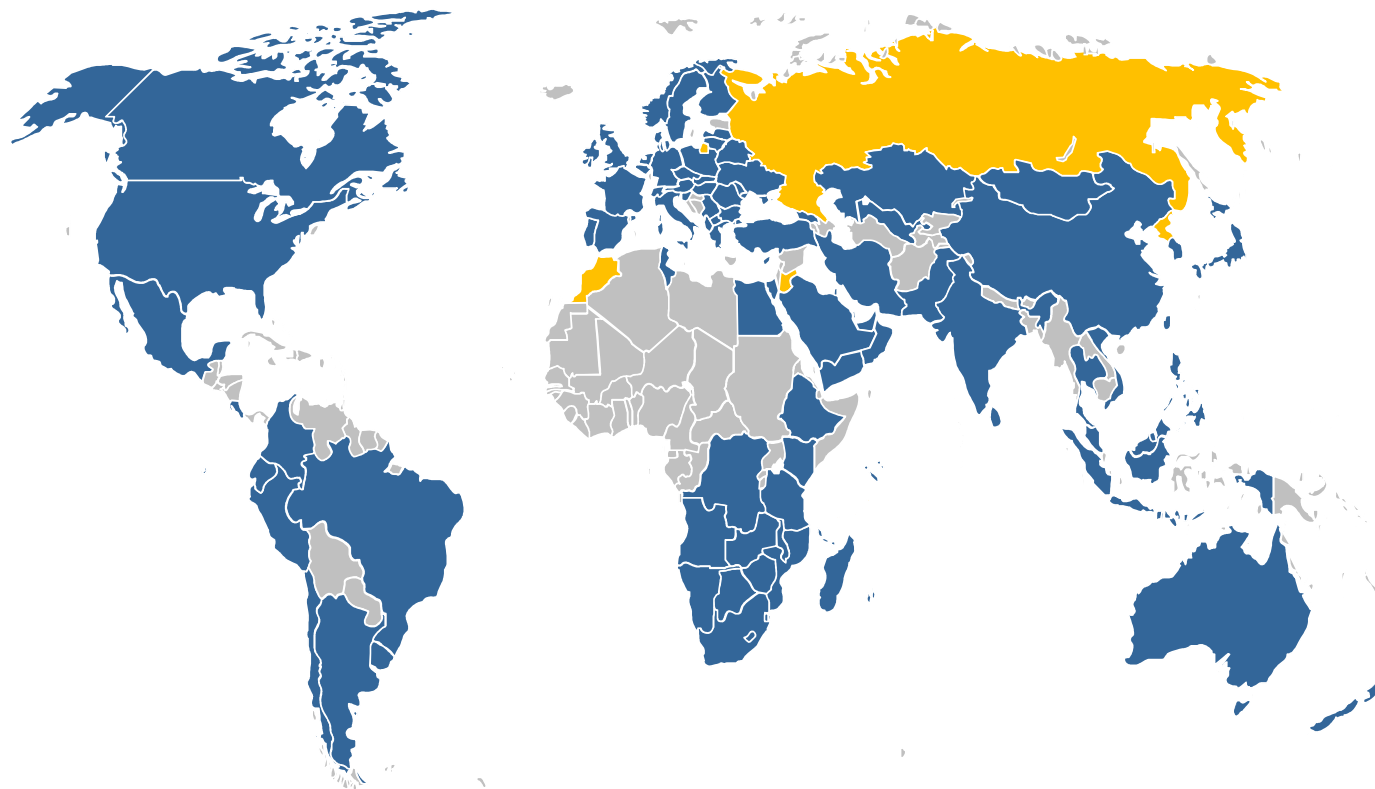


Mr. Raj Nathan  
APAC Representative



Mr. Rick Parsons  
Chief Financial Officer (Guest)

# COVERAGE OF THE IAF MLA (JANUARY 2023)



- IAF MLA Signatories
- IAF Members not yet Signatories



# STATUS OF THE IAF MLA (JANUARY 2023)

There are 82 IAF MLA AB Signatories in the following main scope and sub-scope areas:

## Main Scope:

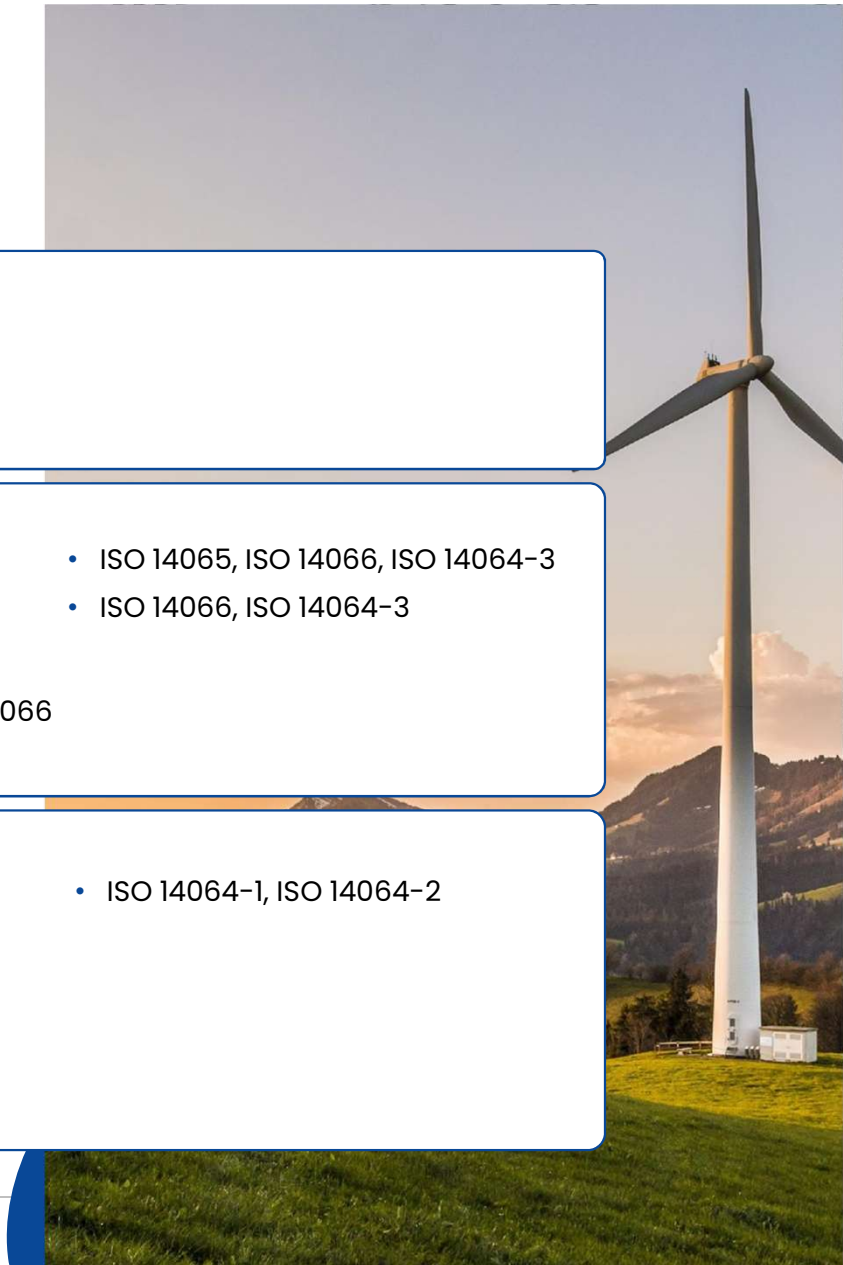
- Management systems
- Product
- Persons
- Validation and Verification
- GHG Validation and Verification

## Sub Scope Level 4:

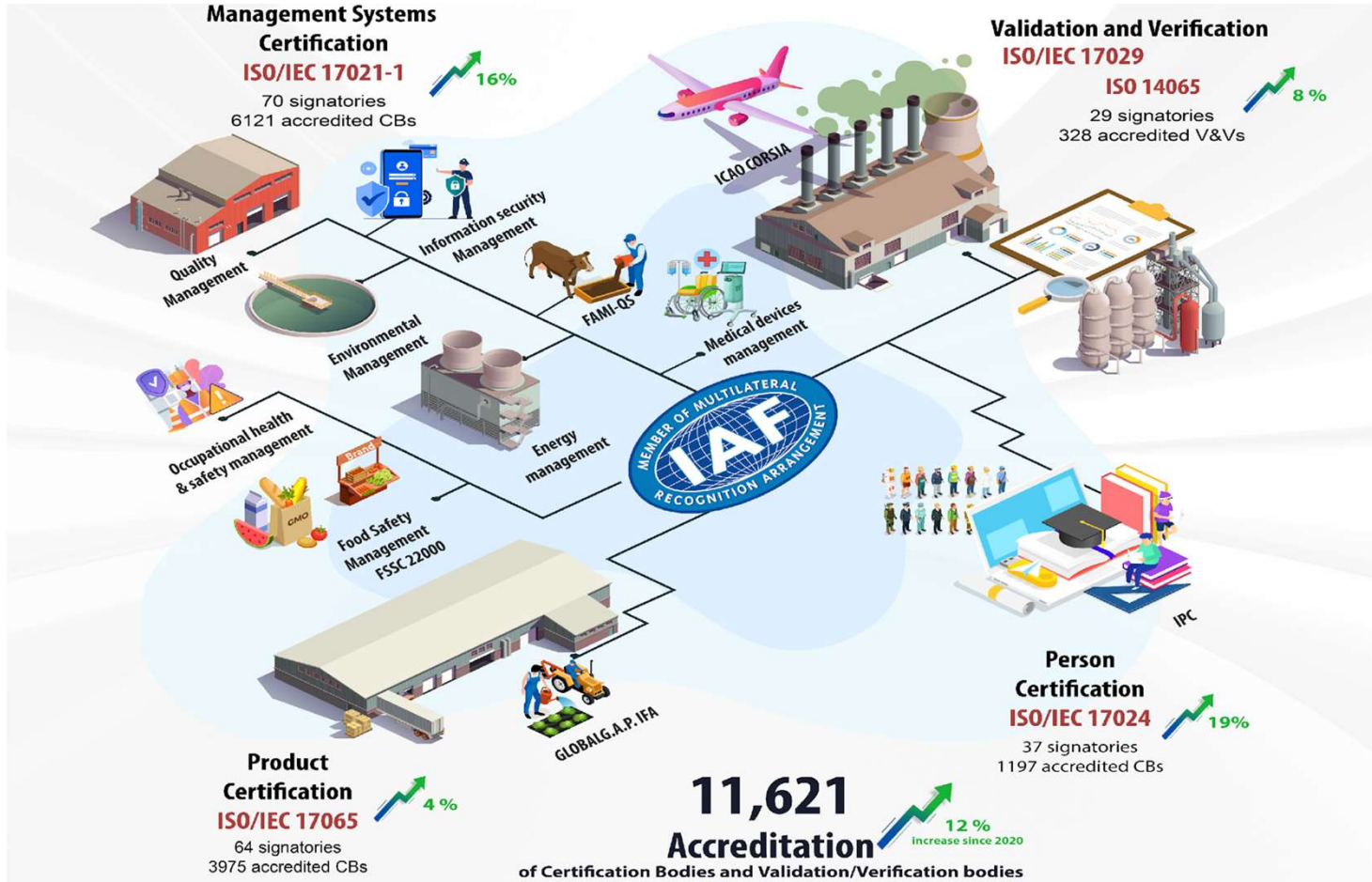
- ISO/IEC 17021-3 QMS
- ISO/IEC 17021-2 EMS
- ISO/TS 22003 FSMS
- ISO/IEC 27006 ISMS
- GLOBALG.A.P. IFA General Regulations
- ISO/IEC TS 17021-10 OH&SMS
- ISO 50003 EnMS
- ISO/TS 22003, FAMI-QS Rules for CBs
- ICAO CORSIA ETM - Volume IV, ISO 14064-3, ISO 14066
- ISO/TS 22003, FSSC 22000 Scheme Parts 3 and 4
- ISO 14065, ISO 14066, ISO 14064-3
- ISO 14066, ISO 14064-3

## Sub Scope Level 5:

- ISO 9001 QMS
- ISO 14001 EMS
- ISO 22000 FSMS
- ISO/IEC 27001 ISMS
- GLOBALG.A.P. IFA CPCCs
- ISO 45001 OH&SMS
- ISO 13485 MDMS
- ISO 50001 EnMS
- FAMI-QS Certification Scheme Code
- ICAO CORSIA SARPs - Annex 16 Volume IV
- FSSC 22000 Scheme Part 2
- IPC-PL-11-006
- ISO 14064-1, ISO 14064-2



# IAF MLA 2021

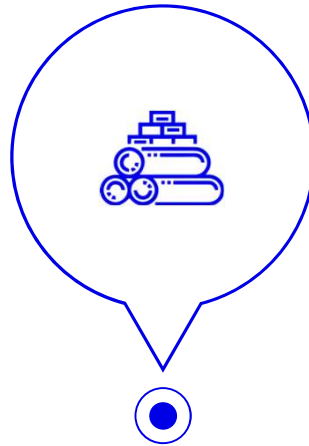




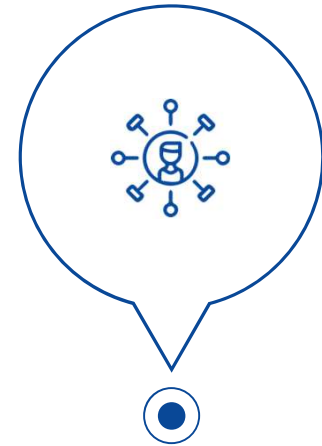
# ABOUT ILAC



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.



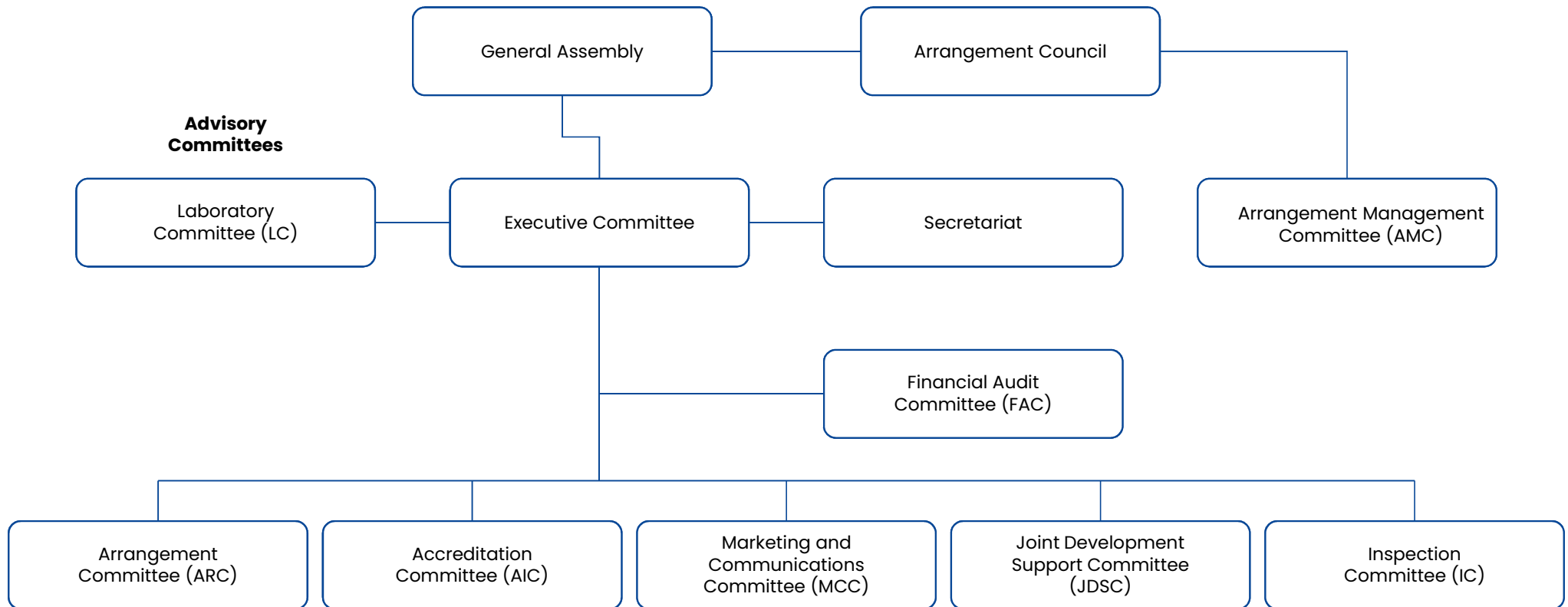
ILAC promotes the increased global use and acceptance by industry and government, of the results from accredited laboratories and inspection bodies, proficiency testing programs from accredited proficiency testing providers and reference materials produced by accredited reference material producers.



ILAC operates and manages the multi-lateral, mutual recognition arrangement (the ILAC MRAs) to promote the acceptance of accredited test, calibration and inspection data and results, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers.

# ILAC STRUCTURE

**The General Assembly (GA)** is the 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.



ILAC organization chart as at March 2015

# ILAC COMMITTEES



## Arrangement Council

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.



## Arrangement Management Committee (AMC)

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



## Accreditation Committee (AIC)

Responsible for harmonisation and improvement of accreditation practice at the international level.

# ILAC COMMITTEES



## **Inspection Committee (IC)**

Responsible for the harmonisation and improvement of accreditation practices for inspection activities at the international level.



## **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. This committee operates in conjunction with the IAF Communications and Marketing Committee.



## **Laboratory Committee (LC)**

Laboratory Committee (LC) - is a stakeholder group that provides a means of interaction and exchange of ideas between ILAC and the laboratory community.



## **Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC)**

Responsible for representing the interests of developing countries and operates in conjunction with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

# EC members

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Ms Etty Feller  
Chair



Ms Maribel Lopez  
Vice Chair



Ms Annette Dever  
ILAC Secretary



Ms Jennifer Evans  
AMC Chair



Mr Jeff Gust  
LC Chair



Ms Dana Leaman  
ARC Chair



Mr Erik Oehlenschlaegar  
AIC Chair



Ms Verónica Ramirez  
MCC Chair



Ms Sharonmae Shirley  
JDSC Chair



Ms Lorraine Turner  
Inspection Committee Chair

# EC members

---



Ms Amina Ahmed Mohammed  
ARAC Representative



Mr Ferney Chaparro  
IAAC Representative



Mr Ron Josias  
SADCA Representative/ILAC  
Treasurer



Mr Trace McInturff  
APAC Representative



Mr Emanuele Riva  
IAF Chair (Observer)

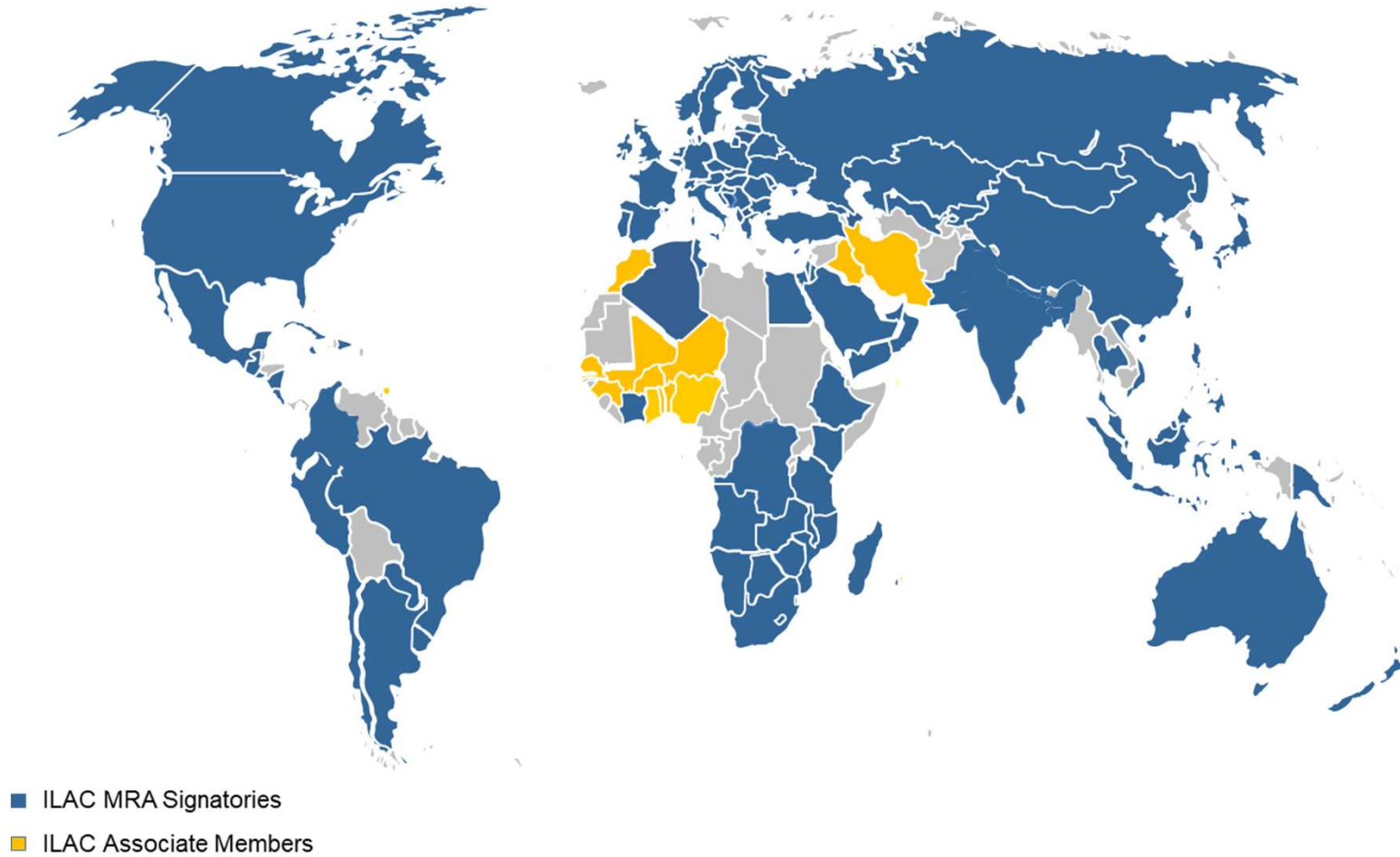


Dr Andreas Steinhorst  
EA Representative



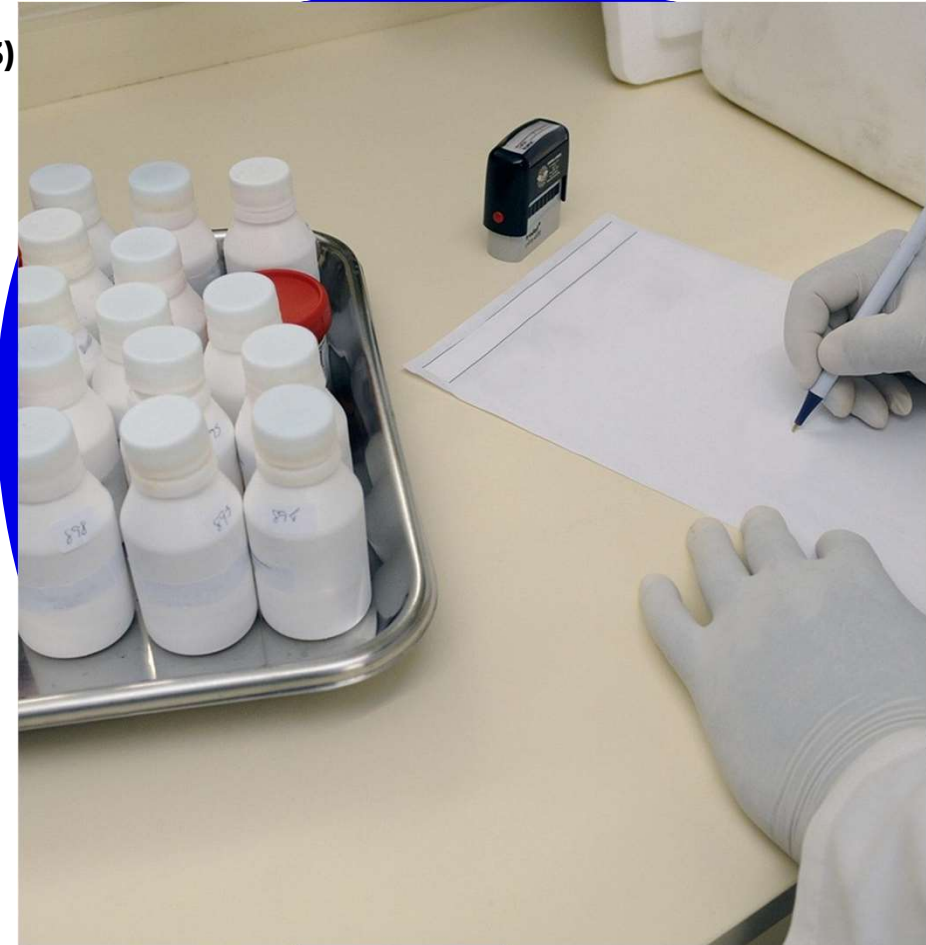
Ms Yolanda Vinnicombe  
Acting AFRAC Representative

# Coverage of the ILAC MRA (June 2022)



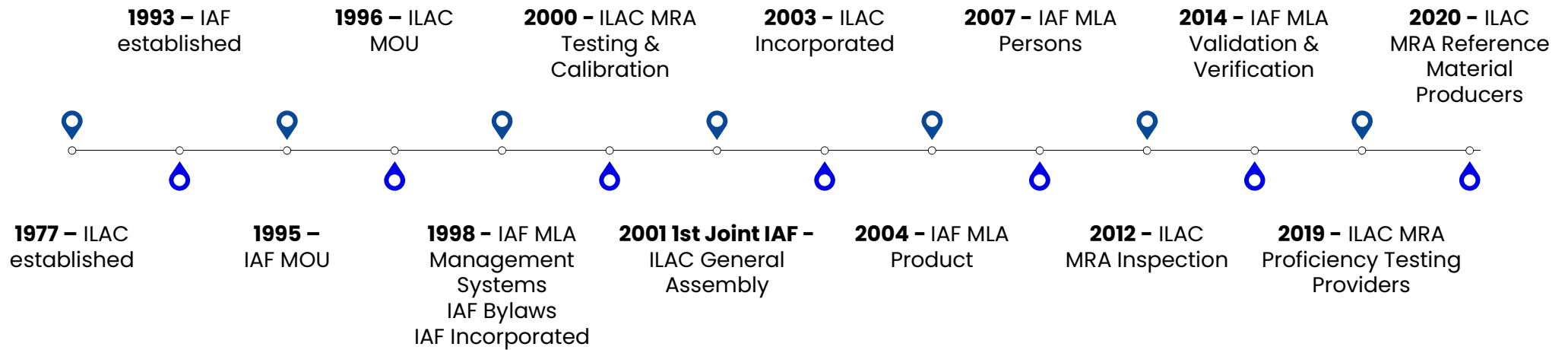
# STATUS OF THE ILAC MRA (12 January 2023)

- The ILAC network of members includes 153 bodies from 128 different economies (109 Full Members/MRA Signatories, 18 Associates, 22 Stakeholders, 6 Regional Cooperation Bodies)
- 109 ILAC MRA Signatories representing 116 economies
- ILAC MRA covers testing, calibration, inspection, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers
- Signatories represent about 95% of Global GDP
- Almost 76,500 accredited laboratories
- Over 10,500 accredited inspection bodies
- Over 400 accredited proficiency testing providers
- Over 30 reference materials producers





# IAF / ILAC TIMELINE



# IAF/ILAC MULTILATERAL MRAS

**A laboratory, inspection body, certification body, proficiency testing provider, reference material producer or validation/verification body accredited by one partner has equivalent competence to a laboratory, inspection body, certification body, proficiency testing provider, reference material producer or validation/verification 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.



European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA)



Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)



Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)



Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA)



African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC)

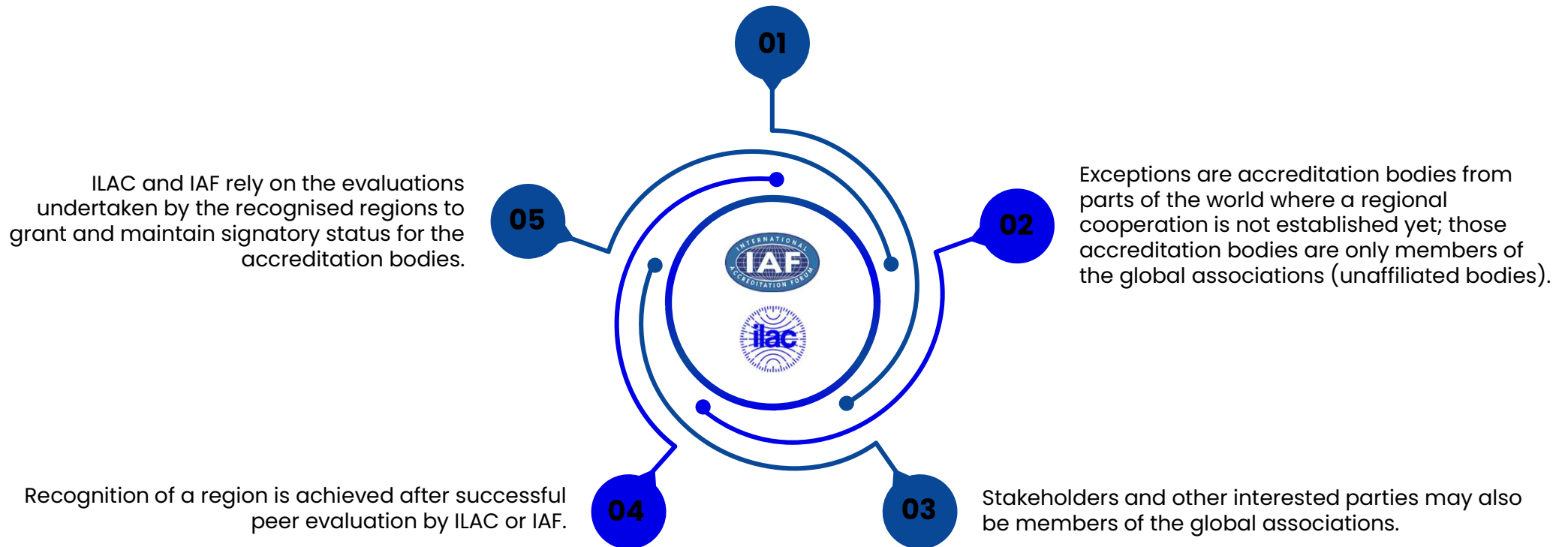


Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC)

# 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.



# THE BENEFITS OF THE IAF/ILAC MULTILATERAL MLAS/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

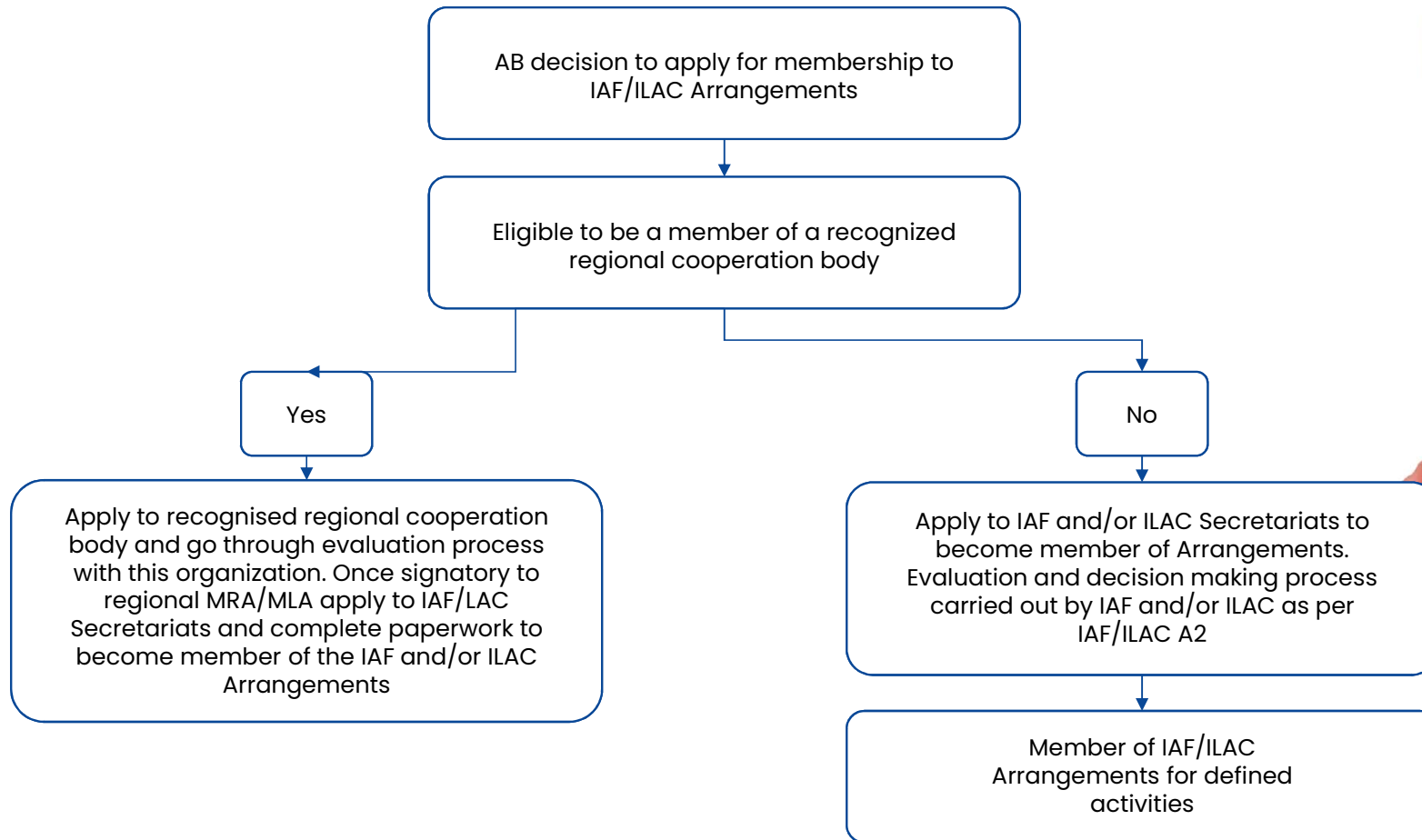


### For Consumers

- 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 IIOC 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



There are also good examples of the added value of quality infrastructure on [business-benefits.org](http://business-benefits.org) which includes case studies, research papers, and supporting materials that confirm these benefits for the business community.



# 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 Documents (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 and unaffiliated bodies.



# MEMBERSHIP TYPES



## **Full Members (Signatories)**

Accreditation bodies that have been accepted as signatories to the ILAC MRA, and abide 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 bodies that accredit bodies for validation/verification and certification of management systems, products, processes, services and personnel, as well as for 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 or validation/verification 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.

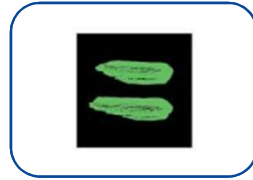


# ILAC PARTNERS

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



International Accreditation Forum



World Anti-Doping Agency



International Organization of Legal Metrology



International Electrotechnical Commission



International Federation of Clinical Chemistry



International Organisation for Standardisation



UN Industrial Development Organisation



International Committee on Weights & Measures



International Telecommunications Union



International Halal Accreditation Forum



World Bank



INetQI

# IAF PARTNERS

IAF works with a number of organisations and cooperates with many international bodies, including numerous MoU partners, to achieve shared objectives.



International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation



International Organisation for Standardisation



UN Industrial Development Organisation



International Electrotechnical Commission



International Telecommunications Union



International Organization of Legal Metrology



The Global Food Safety Initiative



World Bank



International Civil Aviation Organization



GLOBALG.A.P.



International Halal Accreditation Forum



The Quality and Safety System for Specialty Feed Ingredients



International Personnel Certification Association



Foundation FSSC



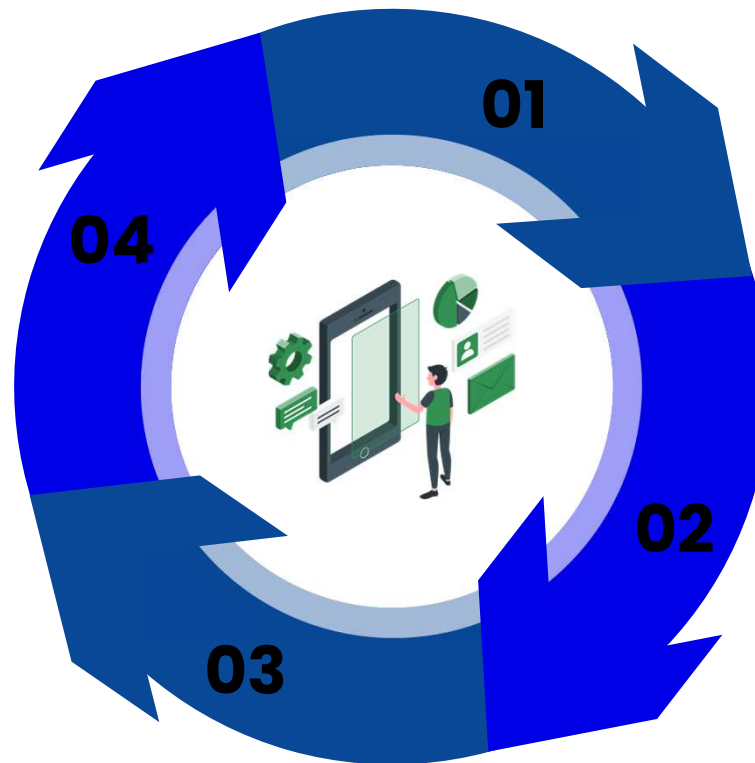
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# HOW DO THE COMMITTEES WORK?

The decisions and agreements reached during meetings are recorded in either Minutes or for the Annual Meetings as Resolutions.

Voting may be in person at meetings or by letter-ballot.



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.

# WHAT ARE MY OBLIGATIONS AS AN AB?

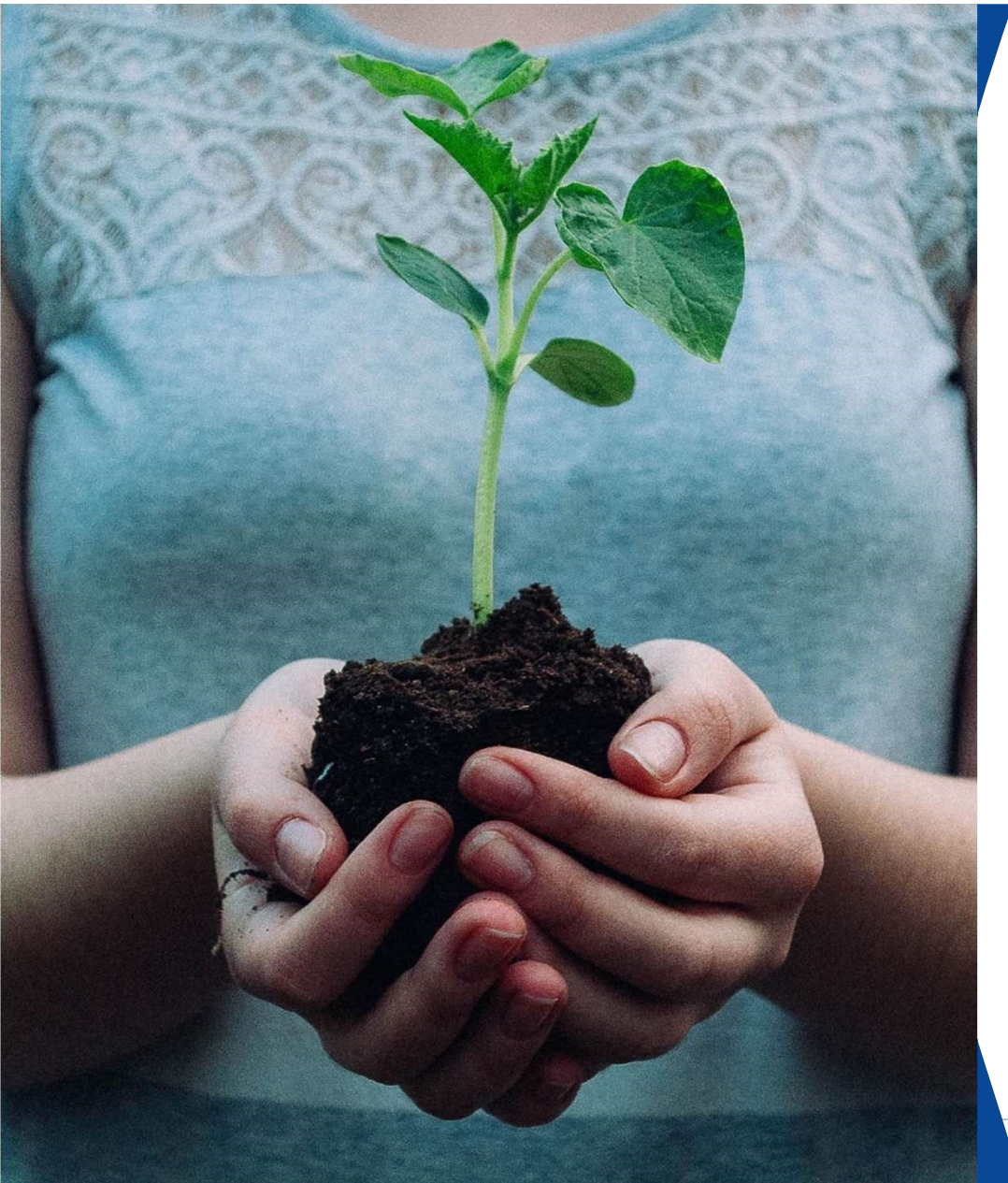
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## Participating in Annual Meetings and Committees

- 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)

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### 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.

# WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY

World Accreditation Day takes place on 9th June each year. A theme is agreed by the Joint Executives, and materials are available from the ILAC and IAF websites to support promotion in your economy. Major conferences, events, workshops, and press campaigns take place in over 90 economies.

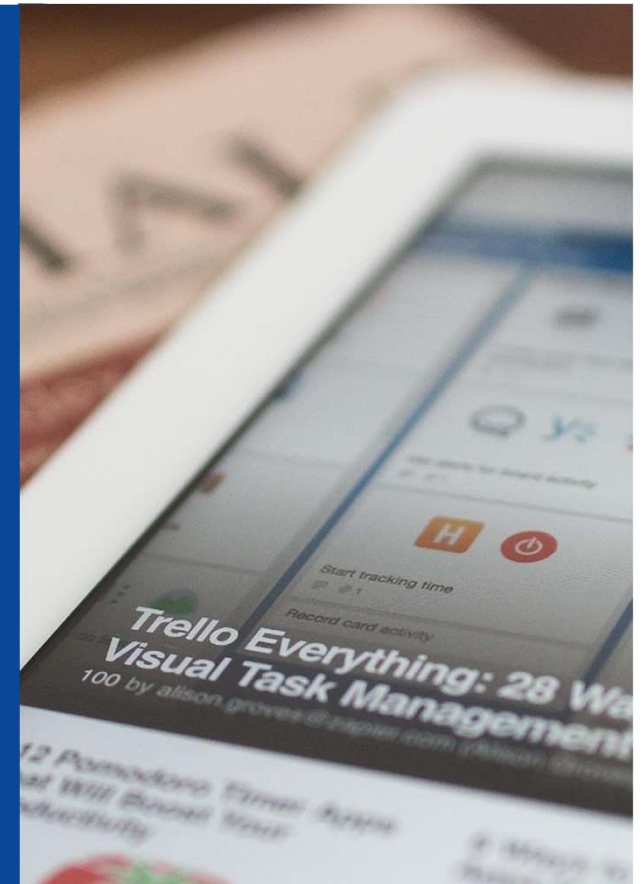
World Accreditation Day 2022 (WAD2022)  
Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment



# SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

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

- ILAC News – published twice a year <http://ilac.org/news-and-events/ilac-newsletter/>
- IAF Outlook – published three times a year <http://www.iaf.news>
- 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 IAF updates – <https://bit.ly/2SdgR4x>
- 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/>
- <https://iaf.nu/en/iaf-documents-categories/>
- Annual Reports – ILAC and IAF publish an Annual report each year that sets out the key developments and status of the MRA / MLA.





## CONTACT DETAILS



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The ILAC Secretariat



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