THE GLOBAL
ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

The ILAC and IAF Handbook

GLOBAL VISION

ilac

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.

IAF

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

Support conformity assessment schemes 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 *'accredited once and accepted everywhere'*

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 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:

Provide assistance to developing countries by providing appropriate support to new accreditation activities

Maintain the Arrangements, and expand coverage into new economies

OBJECTIVES

Act as a central 'hub' to harmonise conformity assessment best practice

Increase cooperation with all relevant stakeholders
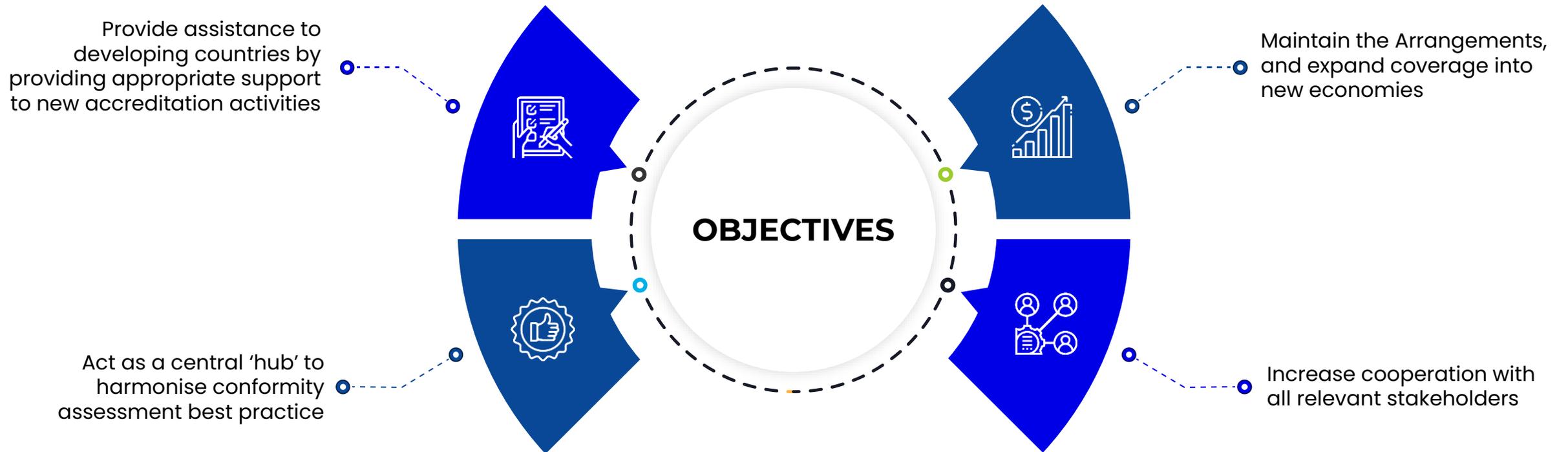
ABOUT IAF

- 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
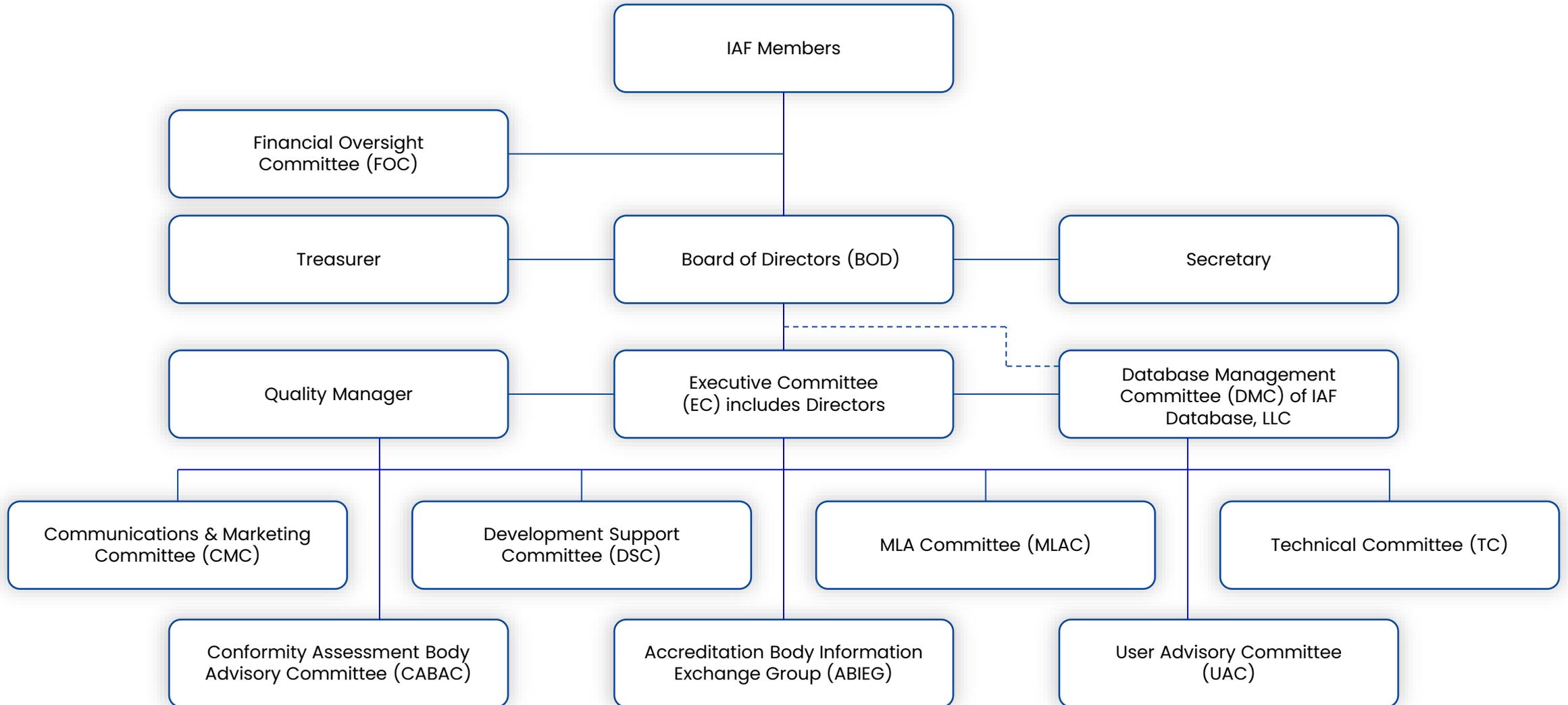
IAF STRUCTURE

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.

IAF MAIN COMMITTEES

01 **MLA Committee (MLAC)**

Responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the IAF arrangement

02 **Development Support Committee (DSC)**

Responsible for representing the interests of developing countries and operates in conjunction with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

03 **Technical Committee (TC)**

Coordinates the work of its Working Groups and Task Forces and addresses technical matters

04 **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
- Strives to raise the awareness, lift the profile and improve the image of accreditation at the global, regional and national levels

EC members and guests

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
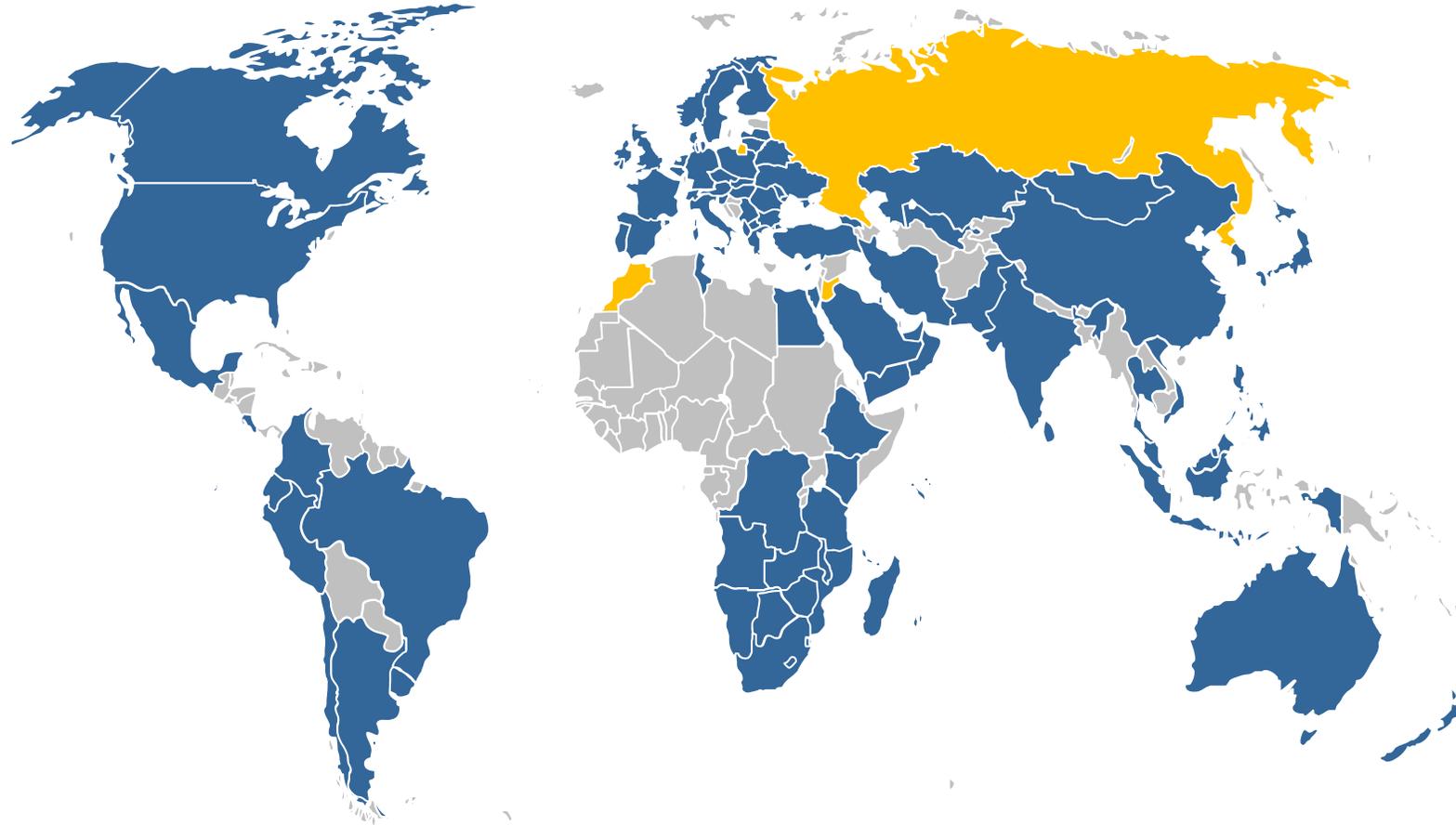EA Representative

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
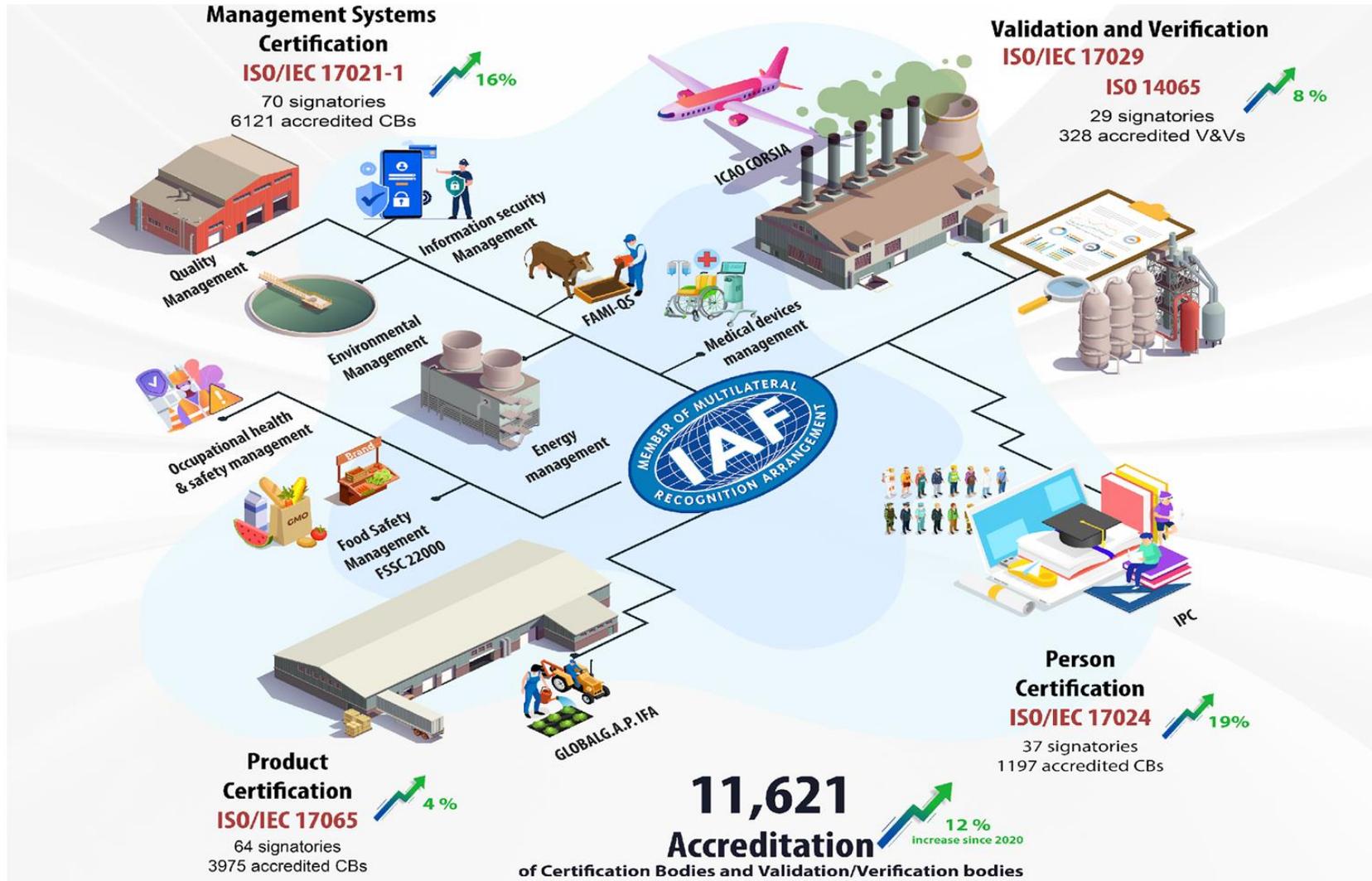
Sub Scope Level 4:

- 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
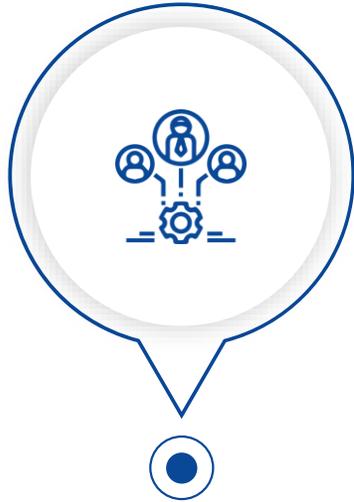- ISO 14066, ISO 14064-3

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

Management Systems Certification
ISO/IEC 17021-1   16%
70 signatories
6121 accredited CBs

Validation and Verification
ISO/IEC 17029
ISO 14065   8 %
29 signatories
328 accredited V&Vs

ICAO CORSIA

Quality Management

Information security Management

FAMI-QS

Medical devices management

Environmental Management

Occupational health & safety management

Energy management

Food Safety Management FSSC 22000

IPC

Person Certification
ISO/IEC 17024   19%
37 signatories
1197 accredited CBs

GLOBALG.A.P. IFA

Product Certification   4 %
ISO/IEC 17065
64 signatories
3975 accredited CBs

11,621
Accreditation   12 % increase since 2020
of Certification Bodies and Validation/Verification bodies

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.
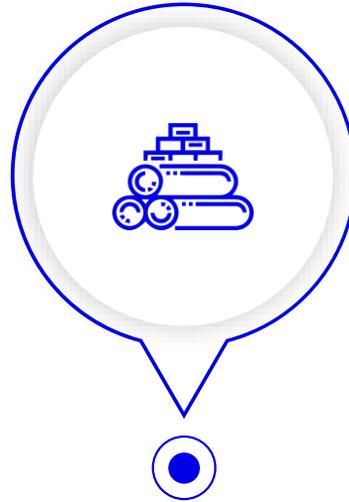
ILAC promotes the increased global use and acceptance by industry and government, of the results from accredited laboratories and inspection bodies, proficiency testing programs from accredited proficiency testing providers and reference materials produced by accredited reference material producers.
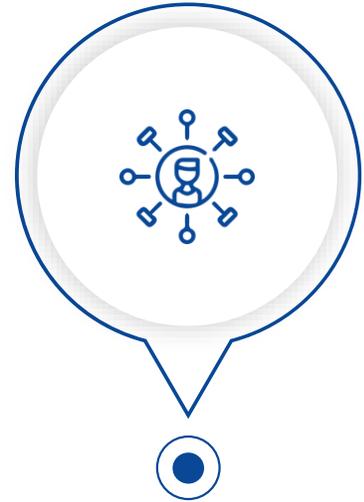
ILAC operates and manages the multi-lateral, mutual recognition arrangement (the ILAC MRA) to promote the acceptance of accredited test, calibration and inspection data and results, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers.

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.
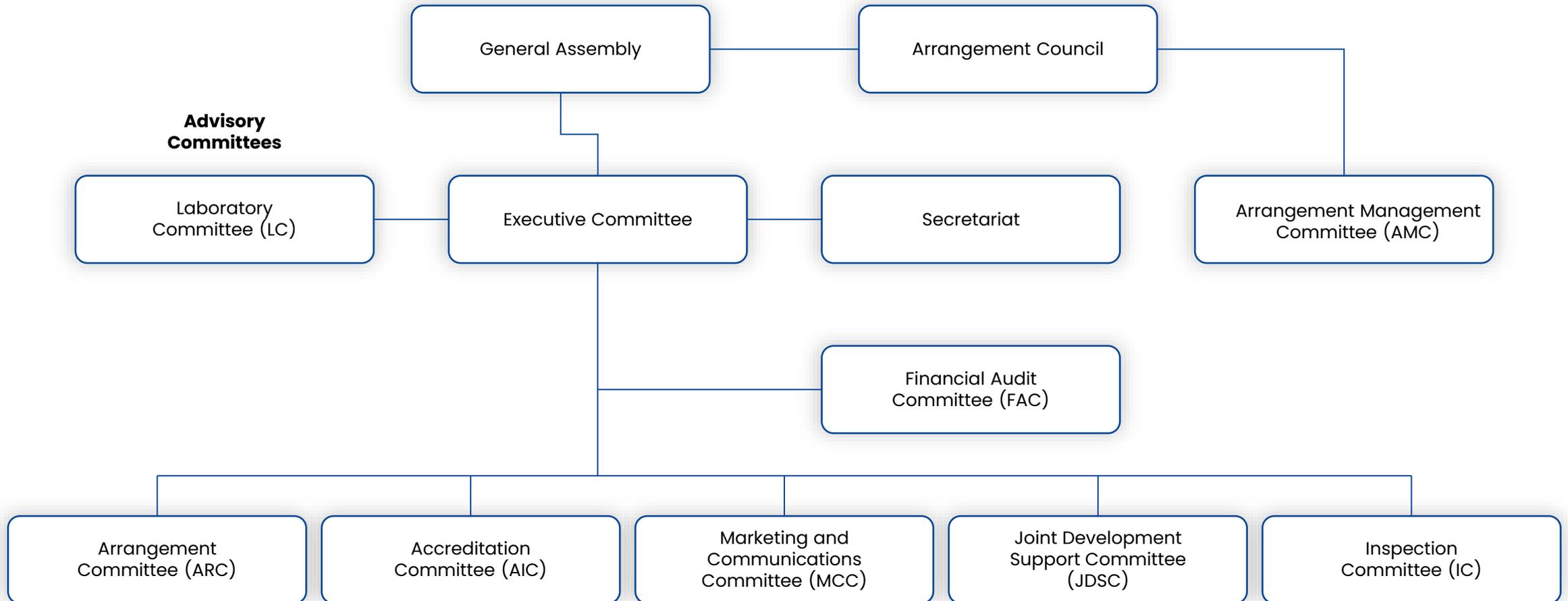
ILAC organization chart as at March 2015

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

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
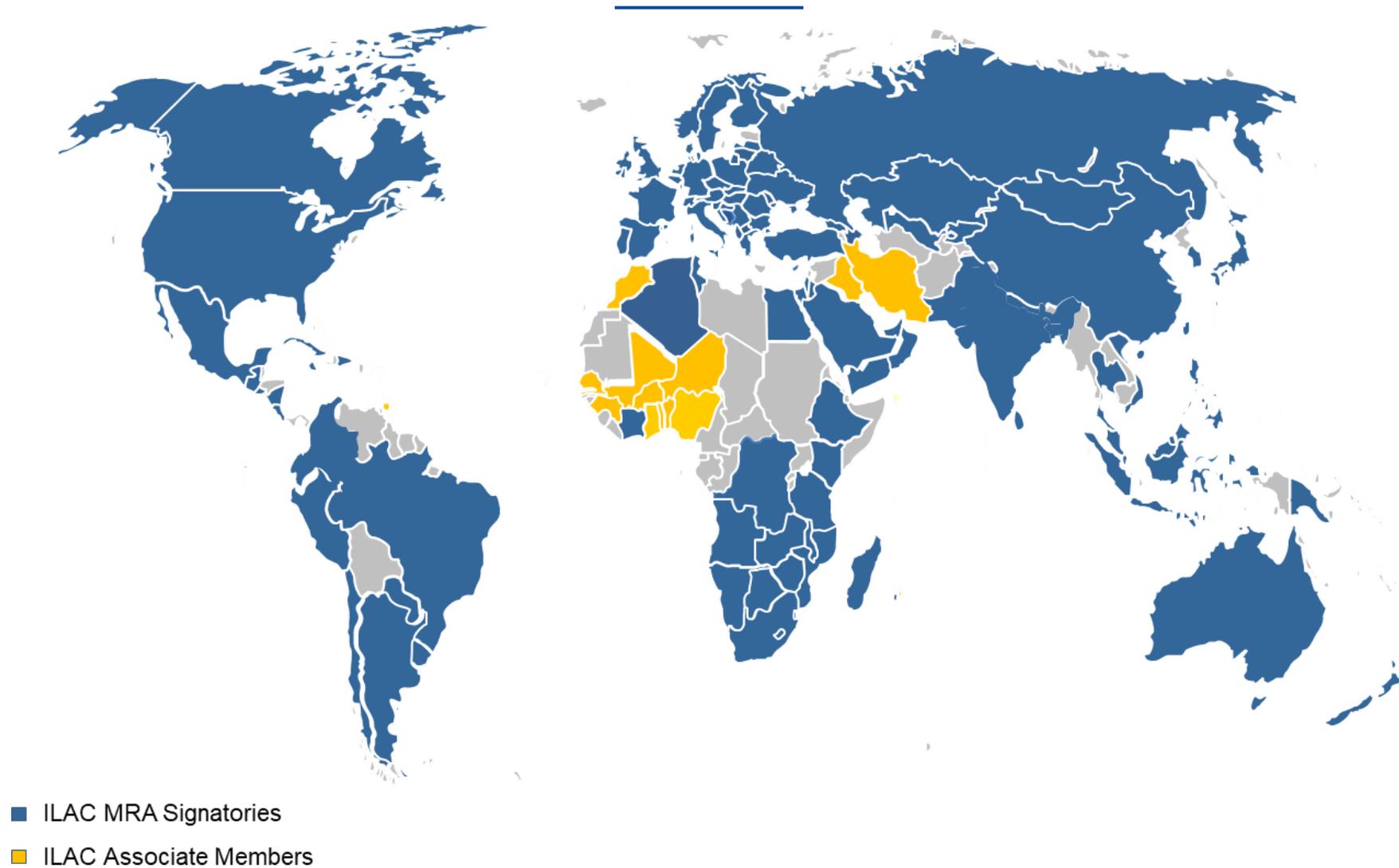APAC Representative

Mr Emanuele Riva
IAF Chair (Observer)
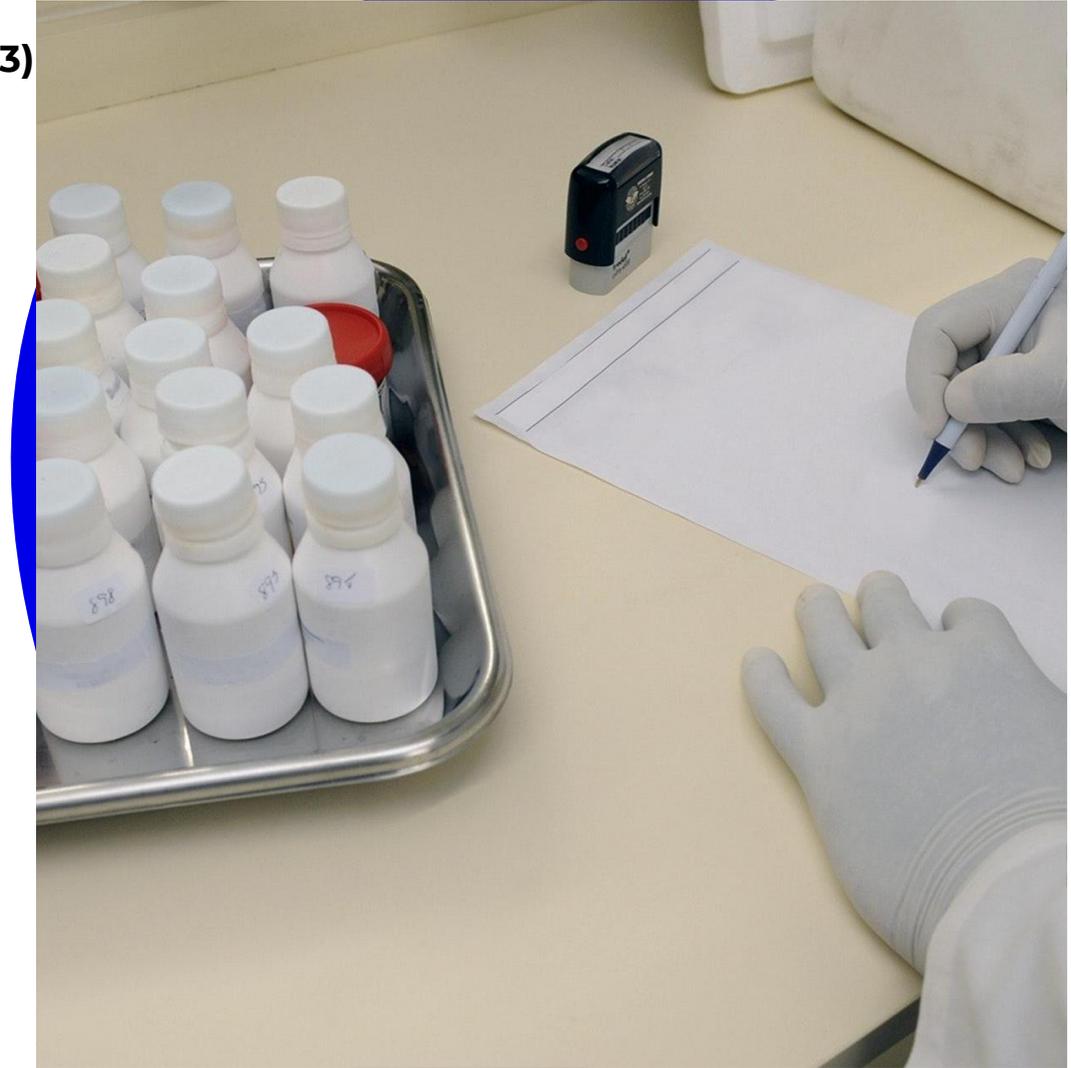
Dr Andreas Steinhorst
EA Representative

Ms Yolanda Vinnicombe
Acting AFRAC Representative

Coverage of the ILAC MRA (June 2022)

- ■ ILAC MRA Signatories
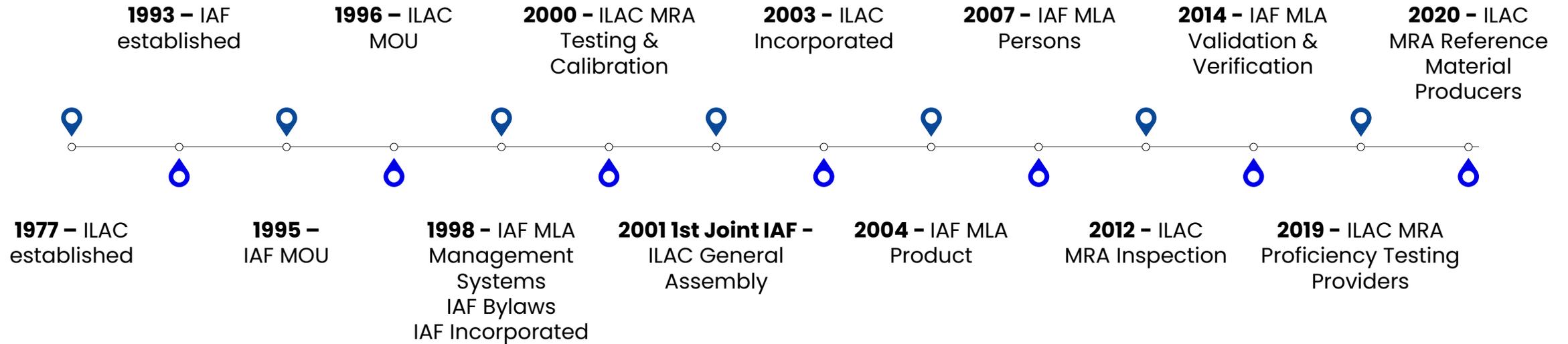- ■ ILAC Associate Members

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

1993 – IAF established

1996 – ILAC MOU

2000 – ILAC MRA Testing & Calibration

2003 – ILAC Incorporated

2007 – IAF MLA Persons

2014 – IAF MLA Validation & Verification

2020 – ILAC MRA Reference Material Producers

1977 – ILAC established

1995 – IAF MOU

1998 – IAF MLA Management Systems
IAF Bylaws
IAF Incorporated

2001 1st Joint IAF – ILAC General Assembly

2004 – IAF MLA Product

2012 – ILAC MRA Inspection

2019 – ILAC MRA Proficiency Testing Providers

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.

01

ILAC and IAF rely on the evaluations undertaken by the recognised regions to grant and maintain signatory status for the accreditation bodies.

05
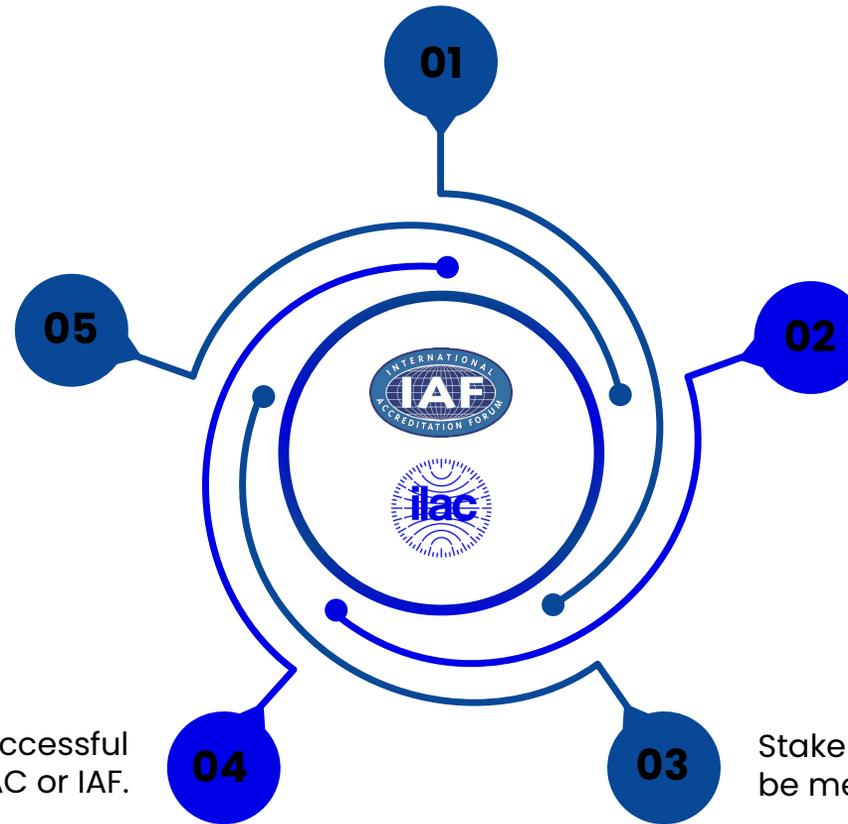
Exceptions are accreditation bodies from parts of the world where a regional cooperation is not established yet; those accreditation bodies are only members of the global associations (unaffiliated bodies).

02

Recognition of a region is achieved after successful peer evaluation by ILAC or IAF.

04

Stakeholders and other interested parties may also be members of the global associations.

03

THE BENEFITS OF THE IAF/ILAC MULTILATERAL MLAS/MRAS

For Government
- Facilitator of trade
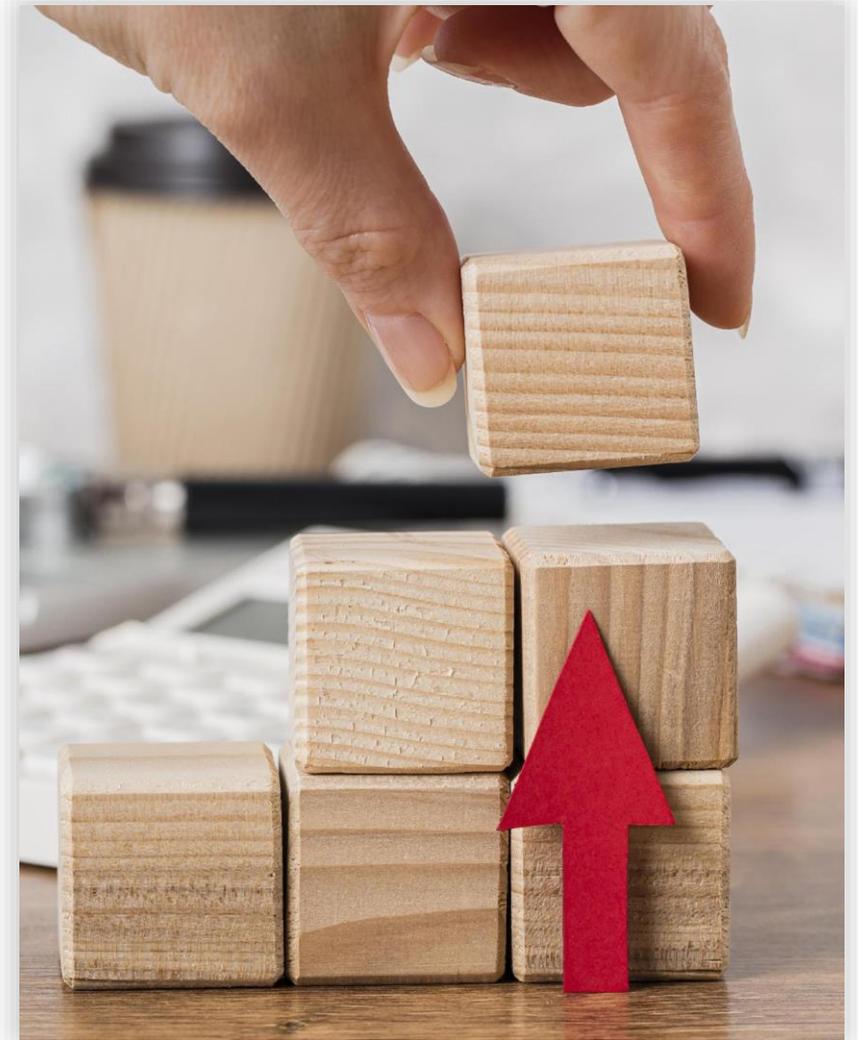- An efficient enforcement and monitoring tool

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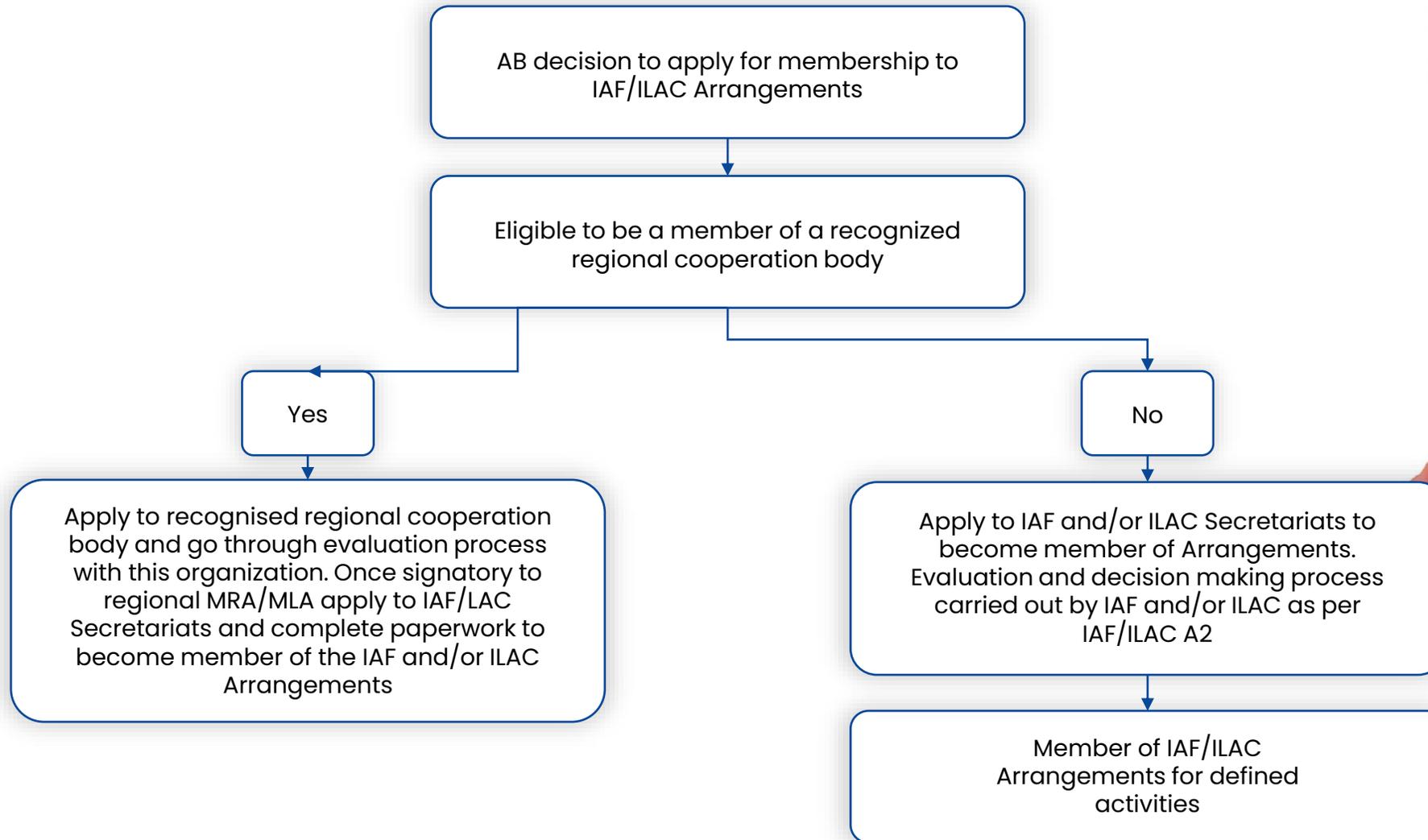- Avoid costs associated with repeat conformity assessment
- Informed procurement

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

THE ROUTE TO SIGNING THE ARRANGEMENTS

AB decision to apply for membership to IAF/ILAC Arrangements

↓

Eligible to be a member of a recognized regional cooperation body

Yes

Apply to recognised regional cooperation body and go through evaluation process with this organization. Once signatory to regional MRA/MLA apply to IAF/LAC Secretariats and complete paperwork to become member of the IAF and/or ILAC Arrangements

No

Apply to IAF and/or ILAC Secretariats to become member of Arrangements. Evaluation and decision making process carried out by IAF and/or ILAC as per IAF/ILAC A2

↓

Member of IAF/ILAC Arrangements for defined activities

APPLICATION OF THE GLOBAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

- 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

EXAMPLE

There are also good examples of the added value of quality infrastructure on 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
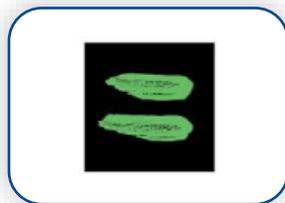
World Anti-Doping Agency

International Organization of Legal Metrology

International Electrotechnical Commission

International Federation 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

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

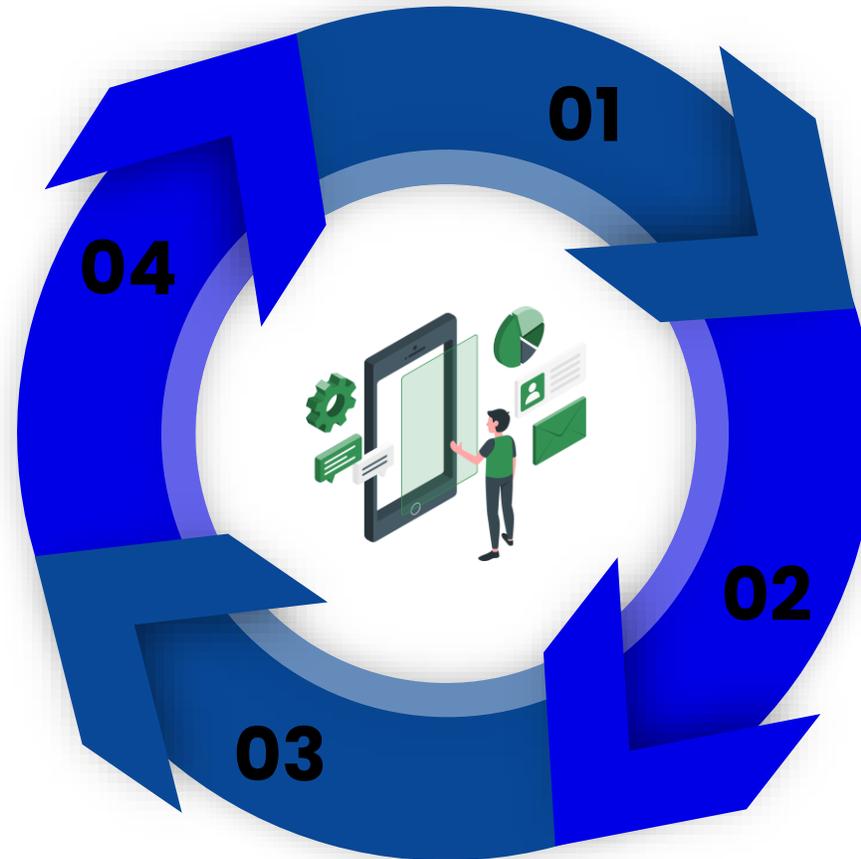International Personnel Certification Association

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.

01

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.

04

02

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

When discussing issues and documents, the goal is a consensus approach, but, at times, formal voting is required.

03

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.

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
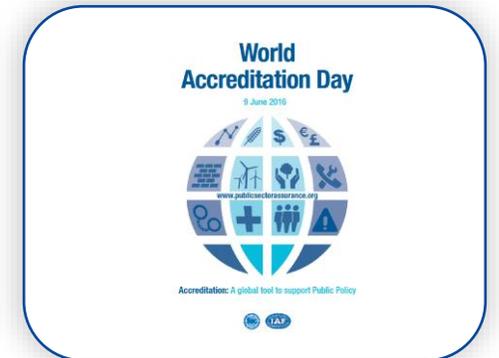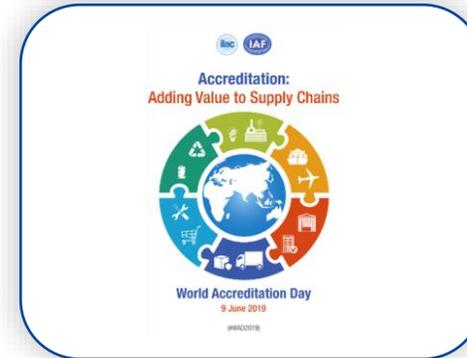
SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

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/**

- 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.
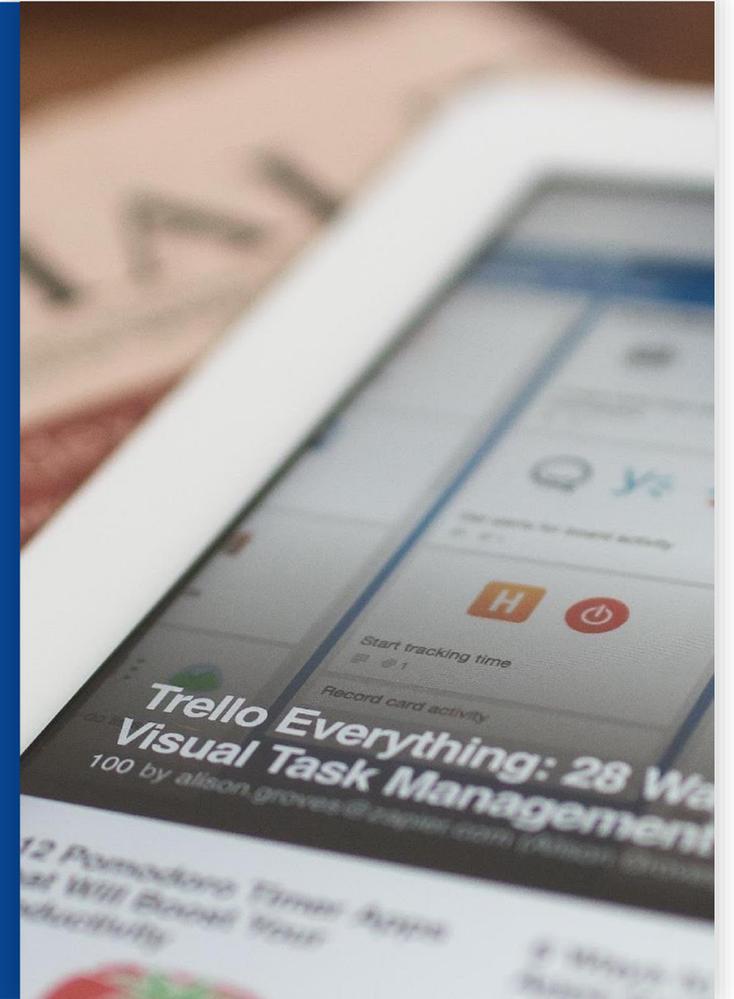
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