



MISSION:

Facilitate trade and support regulators 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.

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.

IAF STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND ACTIONS

Strategic Direction 01: To achieve more efficient expansion of the IAF MLA to meet the needs of the market.

Strategic Action #1-1: To define the scope of the MLA by different accreditation activities (main scope) based on international standards for conformity assessment bodies (e.g. ISO/IEC 17021, ISO/IEC 17024 and ISO/IEC 17065) and conformity assessment scheme(s) or standard(s) (sub-scope) upon endorsement by IAF.

Strategic Action #1-2: To adapt the current process for recognition of a MLA signatory's sub-scope in line with the Strategic Action #1-1.

Note: The adapted process in line with the Strategic Action #1-1 includes the followings:

a) a new accreditation service operated by a MLA signatory under a main scope, based on a conformity assessment scheme or standard endorsed by IAF as sub-scope, will be recognized as the MLA signatory's sub-scope normally on the basis of the MLA signatory's application for the sub-scope extension with declaration that the sub-scope has been introduced and relevant requirements as defined by Region/IAF have been met, and the extended sub-scope will be normally evaluated at the subsequent peer evaluation for the MLA signatory unless otherwise specified, e.g. in exceptional cases, inclusion of a sub-scope for a MLA signatory under a main scope will need peer evaluation as specifically defined by IAF for the sub-scope;

b) a conformity assessment scheme or standard developed at the regional or national level may also be endorsed by IAF as sub-scope, if requested, so



that the IAF MLA Mark can be used on the certificates issued by the CABs accredited by the MLA signatories with the sub-scope for the regional or national conformity assessment scheme or standard.

Strategic Direction 02: To improve the peer evaluation process, including ensuring the availability of competent peer evaluator resources at the international and regional level.

Strategic Action #2-1: To establish a policy for obtaining financial and personnel resources to support the peer evaluation process.

Strategic Action #2-2: To appoint specific peer evaluators to serve as team leaders for a designated time in order to improve consistency and competence.

Strategic Action #2-3: To review the current IAF process of conducting peer evaluations of Regions, and to consider changes in methodology that could result in a more effective and efficient system.

Strategic Action #2-4: To create a process to give confidence on continual effectiveness of the peer evaluations carried out by Regions.

Strategic Action #2-5: To involve stakeholders in peer evaluation activities and/or make peer evaluation conclusions available to stakeholders upon request.

Strategic Direction 03: To promote wider acceptance of accreditation, including accredited conformity assessment results, and the IAF MLA by major stakeholders e.g. regulators and end users.

Strategic Action #3-1: To expand collaborative relationships with technical, stakeholder and partner organizations to promote the value of accreditation and the MLA.

Strategic Action #3-2: To increase the evidence base to demonstrate the value of accreditation and the MLA.

Strategic Action #3-3: To establish a mechanism to capture information regarding Regulatory and Public Authority and other user recognition of accreditation and the MLA, to use as references and case studies.

Strategic Action #3-4: To utilize existing sources and create new networks to use as communications channels to promote accreditation and the MLA.

Strategic Action #3-5: To identify the underlying reasons for non-recognition so that suitable actions can be taken to address them.



Strategic Direction 04: To improve consistency of accreditation practices among ABs

Strategic Action #4-1: To increase cooperation between ABs in order to better understand and take into account different cultures, which may influence practices, while ensuring consistency and equivalence.

Strategic Action #4-2: To obtain feedback from customers regarding potential inconsistencies between ABs for consideration by the IAF Technical Committee for improving harmonization, and by the MLA Committee at peer evaluations.

Strategic Direction 05: To facilitate the development of accreditation in developing economies by increasing support to the developing ABs/Regions.

Strategic Action #5-1: To develop a multi-year strategic plan for seeking support from funding agencies for projects to support specific economies.

Strategic Action #5-2: To develop and promote use of online platforms (such as webinars and e-learning packages) to deliver training and to share best practice information.

Strategic Action #5-3: To improve the opportunities for the developing ABs to participate in relevant IAF activities and obtain support from IAF.

Strategic Action #5-4: To provide support to the developing Regional Accreditation Groups in qualifying peer evaluators from the Regions.

Strategic Direction 06: To reduce the duplication and variation of work between IAF and Regional Groups

Strategic Action #6-1: To improve the communication and coordination between IAF and the Regions by defining a process for information sharing and coordination of any new work initiatives with international relevance from Regions, to ensure IAF leadership and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Strategic Action #6-2: To establish an internationally agreed and documented peer evaluation process (e.g. relevant peer evaluation forms and other working documents) to be used at the peer evaluation process based on A series documents) for evaluation of ABs by IAF, ILAC, or Regions without the need for any additional process documentation at the Regional level.