



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO), THE INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COOPERATION (ILAC) AND THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM (IAF)**

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### **1. General Considerations**

- 1.1 Recognising the central role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (hereinafter referred to as UNIDO) in coordinating all activities of the United Nations System in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) in developing countries including countries with economies in transition,
- 1.2 Considering the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (hereinafter referred to as IAF) as global organizations for matters of accreditation, having as their objective to assist the removal of technical barriers to trade by putting in place a network for mutual recognition of accreditation and results from accredited organisations throughout the world, based on transparent operations and use of international standards,
- 1.3 The Director General of UNIDO, the Chair of ILAC and the Chair of IAF have, in accordance with their constitutions and relevant by-laws, agreed upon the following Memorandum of Understanding to govern cooperation between UNIDO, ILAC and IAF and the coordination of their activities in all areas where their functions and activities are complementary and mutually supportive.

## **2 Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding**

- 2.1 The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to maintain the strategic partnership between the Parties in the field of accreditation of conformity assessment bodies in order to facilitate the integration of developing countries into the global quality infrastructure, to enhance the impact of industrial development on economic growth, and to assist the beneficial integration of the developing countries and transition economies into the global economy.
- 2.2 With a view to facilitating the effective attainment of the objectives set forth in their respective constituent instruments, UNIDO, ILAC and IAF agree to act in close co-operation with each other and to consult each other as appropriate in regard to matters of common interest.
- 2.3 Appropriate arrangements may be made by agreement between the Director-General of UNIDO and the Chairs of ILAC and IAF for reciprocal representation of UNIDO, ILAC and IAF as observers at meetings convened under their respective auspices which consider matters of mutual interest.

## **3 Fields of Cooperation**

- 3.1 The Parties agree to cooperate, in the context of their respective mandates, policies and resources, for the purposes of capacity-building, training and research in specific programmes and projects, including those operating under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), identified by and agreed between the Parties from time to time.
- 3.2 The Parties shall undertake joint projects and organise seminars and workshops at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels, on accreditation related issues, when required.

## **4 Exchange of Information and Publications**

- 4.1 UNIDO, ILAC and IAF shall keep each other informed about work of mutual interest carried out by each organisation, in particular, on their trade-related technical assistance programmes to developing countries.
- 4.2 UNIDO, ILAC and IAF shall arrange for the furnishing, free of charge, by each organisation of the necessary number of copies of its periodicals and other publications which may be of interest to the other.

## **5 Administrative and Financial Modalities**

- 5.1 The implementation of the activities envisaged in this Memorandum of Understanding shall depend on the availability of the necessary financial and human resources, according to the regulations and procedures in force in the three organisations.
- 5.2 In the execution of the agreed activities UNIDO, ILAC and IAF shall support each other with all their logistic and administrative work.
- 5.3 The modalities of joint projects under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be contained in a project agreed upon by the Parties. The following contact persons are specified for the purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding:
- (a) For UNIDO: The Director of the Department of Trade, Investment and Innovation
  - (b) For ILAC: The Secretary of ILAC
  - (c) For IAF: The Secretary of IAF

## **6. Final Clauses**

- 6.1 This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties.
- 6.2 Each Party may terminate this agreement by giving the other Parties at least six months' written notice of such intention.
- 6.3 Existing projects which are due to be completed within one calendar year from the date of notice of termination shall not be affected by such termination unless otherwise provided for.
- 6.4 Nothing in or relating to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be deemed a waiver of any of the privileges and immunities of UNIDO, IAF or ILAC.
- 6.5 The Parties do not intend to create any legally binding relationship or obligations by entering into this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 6.6 This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon signature by the Director General of UNIDO and the Chairs of both ILAC and IAF. It shall remain in force for a period of five years from the effective date and shall be automatically extended for similar five-year periods unless one Party notifies the other Parties of its intention to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding pursuant to paragraph 6.2 above.
- 6.7 Representatives of the Parties commit to meet biennially to discuss the outcome of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 6.8 This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed by the Parties every five years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the present Memorandum of Understanding in three copies in English, all the three texts being equally authentic.

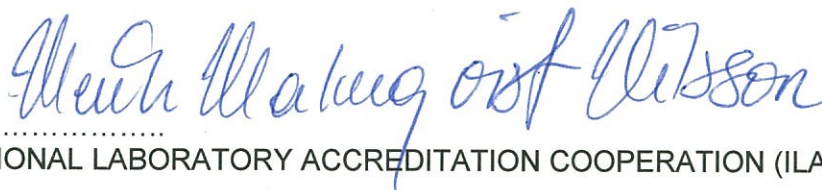


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For INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM (IAF)

Mr. Xiao Jianhua  
Chair

Date: 2017-11-24

Place: Vienna



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For INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COOPERATION (ILAC)

Ms. Merih Malmqvist Nilsson  
Chair

Date: 24. Nov. 2017

Place: Vienna

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For UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

Mr. LI Yong  
Director General



Date:

Nov. 24 2017

Place:

Vienna