



STATEMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

BETWEEN

**THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY COOPERATION IN
ACCREDITATION**

AND

**THE INTERAMERICAN ACCREDITATION
COOPERATION**

THIS STATEMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION (STC) is made this 29th day October 2004 between THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COOPERATION IN ACCREDITATION (hereinafter referred to as "SADCA"), on the one hand, and THE INTERAMERICAN ACCREDITATION COOPERATION (hereinafter referred to as "IAAC"), on the other hand.

WHEREAS cooperation between SADCA and the IAAC would lead to mutual benefit in the development of accreditation in SADC and the Americas;

WHEREAS SADCA and the IAAC have constituencies primarily composed of developing accreditation bodies; and

WHEREAS there is need to foster national, regional, interregional and global schemes for operation and recognition of reliable accreditation bodies,

NOW THEREFORE, SADCA and IAAC agree on the following:

ARTICLE 1 PURPOSE AND APPLICATION OF THE STC

1. The purpose of this STC is to establish cooperation between the Parties on their working relationship.
2. This STC is a high level cooperation between the Parties and provides a basis for other more specific agreements between the Parties at operational levels.
3. This STC does not make any legal or otherwise enforceable commitment on behalf of either Party.

ARTICLE 2
SCOPE OF THE STC

1. The scope of this STC covers the relationship between SADCA and IAAC on matters of accreditation and conformity assessment policy.

2. The scope of this STC is alongside the roles and responsibilities that the Parties already have towards each other arising from their membership in the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

ARTICLE 3
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

1. The Parties shall foster participation in training activities organized by each Party, when deemed suitable.

2. The Parties shall foster the development of qualified personnel through attachments and consultancies on each other and on each other's member accreditation bodies.

ARTICLE 4
INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The Parties shall exchange information on accreditation programs, regional accreditation schemes, experience on operation of regional accreditation associations, and other pertinent topics.

ARTICLE 5
SUPPORT ON TECHNICAL MATTERS

The Parties shall support common efforts on matters of technical nature related to accreditation programs (e.g., interlaboratory comparisons, joint assessments, operation of multilateral recognition arrangements, etc.).

ARTICLE 6
ADOPTION OF COMMON POSITIONS

The Parties shall seek common positions on issues of mutual interest, such as developing accreditation bodies and regional accreditation schemes particularly for developing countries at international meetings.

ARTICLE 7
PROJECTS AND FUND-PROCUREMENT

The Parties shall cooperate in projects and procurement of funds from donor organizations in support of accreditation and conformity assessment when deemed suitable.

ARTICLE 8
PROJECTS AND FUND-PROCUREMENT

The areas of cooperation set out in this STC shall be implemented through, inter alia, the following mechanisms:

- a) involvement of representatives in each other's technical work and in this respect the normal liaison and observer rules and procedures for input shall apply;

- b) performance of each Party's Executive Committee as a central units for attention and coordination of issues arising from this STC; and
- c) attendance of Parties' representative(s) at their respective general assemblies and related technical meetings, free from the payment of attendance fees.

ARTICLE 9 COMMENCEMENT

This STC shall commence on the date of its signature by both parties.

ARTICLE 10 AMENDMENTS

1. This STC shall be reviewed upon the request of either Party and may be amended by mutual agreement in writing.
2. Any amendment shall entail re-issuing the STC in full as a new version.


ARTICLE 11 TERMINATION

Either Party may terminate this STC at any time by giving the other Party a written notice of three months.

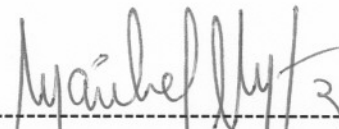
**ARTICLE 12
DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this STC shall be settled amicably by negotiations or by such other means as the Parties shall mutually agree.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives of the Parties herein have duly affixed their respective signatures on the two originals of this STC in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.




Beatrice Mary Mutabazi
SADCA CHAIR

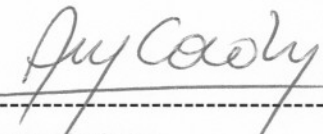


María Isabel López Martínez
IAAC CHAIR

AS WITNESS:



Michael Andrew Peet
SADCA Regional Coordinator



Ana María Coro
IAAC CHAIR ELECT