

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**AMONG**

**The Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)**

**AND**

**The Inter-American Metrology System (SIM)**

**AND**

**The Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT)**

**THE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT**, the three Regional Quality Infrastructure Organizations of the Americas: the **Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation** (hereafter IAAC), a civil non-profit association headquartered in Mexico City, Mexico, represented by its Chair, Ileana Martinez; the **Inter-American Metrology System** (hereafter SIM), a regional metrology organization represented by its President, José Dajes; and the **Pan-American Standards Commission** (hereafter COPANT), a civil non-profit association headquartered in La Paz, Bolivia, represented by its Executive Secretary, Kory Eguino,

**CONSIDERING:**

The Plan of Action of Panama 2012-2016, adopted at the Third Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology of the Americas (Panama, 2011), which identified National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) as a priority issue for competitiveness, innovation, trade and consumer safety in the Hemisphere and created a Ministerial Working Group to strengthen national quality systems, promote the importance of NQI in the region and design and coordinate regional and hemispheric projects on the aforementioned topics;

The long and successful history of three independent Regional Quality Infrastructure Organizations of the Americas, COPANT, IAAC, and SIM, each of which has active and broad participation from the countries in the Americas in their respective areas of expertise;

The complementary and mutually supporting nature of standards development, accreditation, and scientific, industrial and legal metrology as the key elements of quality infrastructure;

The recognition by all three organizations of the importance of collaborative action to enhance the results and impact of their activities in the broader context of quality infrastructure across the Region;

The shared goal to create a formal structure for joint projects, information sharing, and cross-functional training and development;

**AGREE TO ENTER INTO THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:**

**ARTICLE I  
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MOU is to create the *Quality Infrastructure Council of the Americas*, a partnership of peer regional organizations that provides a single point of contact for action and collaboration to support the expansion of National Quality Infrastructure in the Hemisphere. Cooperative activities will be explored and determined by the Parties within the framework of this MOU.

**ARTICLE II  
FORMS OF CO-OPERATION**

Activities carried out under this Agreement may include but are not limited to:

- 2.1 Co-organizing awareness and capacity building events for stakeholders, including public officials;
- 2.2 Offering joint seminars and training courses on priority areas;
- 2.3 Increasing the visibility of each other's services and activities among their respective networks;
- 2.4 Supporting each other's training activities;
- 2.5 Developing and implementing joint programs;
- 2.6 Exchanging documents, specific information and access to databases and general information;
- 2.7 Exchanging professional personnel to strengthen projects and programs;
- 2.8 Carrying out joint meetings to address matters of common interest.
- 2.9 Promoting cooperation and collaboration among each other's members at a national level.

### ARTICLE III FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

This Agreement in and of itself does not create obligations of a financial nature for any of the Parties beyond supporting their own costs to participate in the joint activities as described above.

### ARTICLE IV COORDINATION AND NOTICE

4.1. The Parties shall each designate one representative and one deputy as contact persons to be responsible for the coordination of the respective organizations' contribution, to channel information to the Council and to participate in Council meetings. The designated representatives of the Parties responsible for implementation of this Agreement and receiving notice hereunder are:

#### For IAAC

Ileana Martinez  
Chair  
Inter American Accreditation  
Cooperation  
Tel: +1 301-975-2766  
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#### For SIM

Jose Dajes  
President  
Inter-American Metrology  
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#### For COPANT

Joe Bhatia  
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Pan American Standards  
Commission  
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Executive Secretary  
Inter American Accreditation  
Cooperation  
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secretariat@iaac.org.mx

Claudia Santo  
Technical Committee Chair  
Inter-American Metrology  
System  
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Kory Eguino  
Executive Secretary  
Pan American Standards  
Commission  
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Cell: +591 79666604  
E-mail:  
keguino@copant.org

4.2. Each Party may change the designated representative by notifying the other Parties in writing.

4.3 Working collectively, the Council will seek to establish strategic partnerships and liaisons with appropriate organizations operating in the area of NQI, including, the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Industrial Development



Organization (UNIDO), Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) and other organizations.

## ARTICLE V GENERAL PROVISIONS

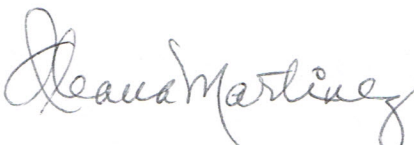
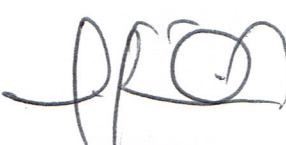

5.1 Modifications to this Agreement may only be made by mutual agreement in writing by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties.

5.2. This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties and shall remain in force indefinitely with periodic review by the Council at least every three years.

5.3 This Agreement may be terminated by mutual consent or by any of the Parties by written notice from one to the others with not less than thirty days notice.

5.4 This Agreement is a statement of intent of the Parties to cooperate and does not establish any legally binding obligations, financial or otherwise on the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement in triplicate on the date and at the place indicated below:

For the  <b>Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)</b>    <b>Ileana Martinez Chair</b>  Date <u>Aug 29, 2014</u> Place <u>Guatemala</u>	For the  <b>Inter-American Metrology System (SIM)</b>    <b>José Dajes President</b>  Date <u>2014.08.29</u> Place <u>Guatemala</u>	For the  <b>Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT)</b>    <b>Kory Eguino Executive Secretary</b>  Date <u>2014-08-29</u> Place <u>Guatemala City</u>
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