



2021-2026 IAAC STRATEGIC PLAN

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Introduction

The Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) is a regional organization that works through the joint efforts of organizations and professionals in the areas of accreditation and conformity assessment. IAAC coordinates its activities through the "2021-2026 IAAC Strategic Plan". This plan defines the objectives, goals, actions and responsibilities.

This Strategic Plan is based on the vision, mission, policies, objectives and documents of the of the IAAC Quality Management System, which are aligned with the ILAC and IAF requirements and documents.

2021-2026 Strategic Goals

The IAAC has five principal goals as described below:

1. To maintain, improve and expand the scopes of the IAAC MLA. and maintain international recognition as a Regional Cooperation by IAF and ILAC
2. To strengthen relationships at the international and regional level
3. To increase technical competence of members
4. To achieve and maintain economic/financial sustainability
5. To improve the efficiency of IAAC to strengthen its leadership

In the achievement of these five overarching goals, the following specific actions will be undertaken:

- a) To facilitate commercial exchange among the nations or bloc of nations of the Americas through a system of accredited conformity assessment bodies;
- b) To develop, maintain, improve and extend the scopes of the IAAC Multilateral Recognition Arrangements;
- c) To maintain status as a Regional Cooperation recognized by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), or by the international accreditation organization(s) that may replace them;
- d) To promote acceptance of accreditations granted by its accreditation member bodies, based on equivalence of operation of their accreditation system and their respective schemes, within the international accreditation framework, and in cooperation with other



- regional groups of accreditation bodies, as well as to promote international acceptance of results issued by duly accredited conformity assessment bodies;
- e) To promote the transfer of knowledge and technical information, sharing of information, visits by regional experts, and similar activities to assist new, developing and established accreditation schemes;
 - f) To facilitate collaboration, cooperation and mutual assistance among members;
 - g) To assist the current and potential IAAC members, on matters related to accreditation of conformity assessment bodies;
 - h) To harmonize the criteria for the operation of member accreditation bodies, based on relevant ISO/IEC international standards and guides and IAF and ILAC documents;
 - i) To facilitate the exchange of information between and among accreditation body members of IAAC and members of IAF and ILAC;
 - j) To promote cooperation in training of peer evaluators and personnel of accreditation bodies;
 - k) To facilitate the adoption and implementation of standards, guidelines and application of documents developed by relevant international bodies;
 - l) To encourage and support the development of accreditation bodies in the countries of the Americas;
 - m) To work with other relevant regional bodies in the Americas such as Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT), the Inter American Metrology System (SIM), and the regional accreditation cooperation bodies as well as with other relevant organizations to promote the regional Quality Infrastructure; and
 - n) To seek financial and institutional support from regional and international organizations to support IAAC and its members in the areas of accreditation and conformity assessment

Goal	Initiatives	Actions	Reference to the specific actions	Deliverables	Responsible	date	Status	
1. To maintain, improve and expand the scopes of the IAAC MLA. and maintain international recognition as a Regional Cooperation by IAF and ILAC	1.1 Continue to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of MLA to meet the needs of members, and regulators, taking advantage of the use of ICT	1.1.1. Improve peer evaluation processes	b)	MD 002 new version	MLAC	2022		
		1.1.2. Explore and analyze and develop opportunities for new schemes	c)	Update PR 025	MLAC	2021		
		1.1.3. Improve the development of new MLA scopes			MLAC	2022		
	1.2 Ensure sufficient, high quality, competent resources are available for all MLA schemes	1.2.1 To have the necessary peer evaluators according to the needs of IAAC			Plan with the needed evaluators	PEMS	2021	
		1.2.2 Maintain up-to-date register of trained and trainee peer evaluators			Peer Evaluators Database	Secretary	Perma nent	
		1.2.3 Develop appropriate training plans			Biannual Training plan	TSC	2021	
		1.2.4 Improve monitoring process for peer evaluators			New process for monitoring in place	PEMS	2023	
		1.2.5. Ensure the number of competent peer evaluators needed for each program			Plan with the needed evaluators	PEMS	2021	
	1.3 Retain Regional Recognition status within IAF/ILAC	1.3.1 Contribute resources to IAF/ILAC peer evaluations.			Plan with the needed evaluators	MLAC	2021	
		1.3.2 Improve the time of responses to the findings generated in the IAF/ILAC evaluations			Document the procedure	MLAC and Secretary	2021	

		1.3.3. Promote the acceptance of the global arrangements		Promotion plan	PSC	2021	
2. To strengthen relationships at the international and regional level	2.1 Increase the influence of members in IAF and ILAC, their activities, and decision-making	2.1.1 Ensure dissemination of information and outcomes to members	a)	Document the procedure	Chair	2021	
		2.1.2 Encourage IAAC members to participate and become engaged in IAF/ILAC	h)	Document the procedure	Chair	2021	
	2.2 Deepen and strengthen liaisons with other appropriate bodies/strategic partners	2.2.1 Liaise with other accreditation regions	g)	Participation plan	Chair	2021	
		2.2.2 improve participation in QICA activities	m)	Participation plan	Chair	2021	
		2.2.3 Liaise with other international and regional partner organizations such as PTB, OAS, IDB, etc.	a) f) l)	Participation plan	Chair	2021	
	2.3 Enhance stakeholder relationships	2.3.1 Promote greater participation of stakeholder representative bodies in the activities of IAAC	d)	Participation plan	PSC and STKC	2021	
		2.3.2 Promote stakeholder acceptance of benefits of accreditation and accredited conformity assessment	j)	Participation plan	Chair, PSC and STKC	2021	
	3. To increase competence of members	3.1 Improve understanding of the needs of members	3.1.1 Undertake regular feedback to understand the needs of members		Develop a plan for Survey	Chair and PSC	2021
3.1.2 Identify accreditation schemes for which support is needed				Record of the identified schemes	TSC	2021	

		3.1.3 Create a work plan to support identified schemes	e) k)	Work Plan	TSC	2022	
	3.2 Promote among members, the transfer of knowledge and experience in the development or improvement of accreditation schemes	3.2.1 Provide and coordinate training at the regional level in order to harmonize and disseminate best practices, with the use of ICT		Biannual Training plans	TSC	2021	
		3.2.2 Develop and implement competence-based training		Plan with the needed evaluators	TSC and PEMS	2023	
		3.2.3 Enhance information and knowledge transfer between members		Information procedure	TC	2024	
	3.3 Ensure that new members understand how IAAC, IAF and ILAC function	3.3.1 provide new members with briefings, information, guidance and support to help them understand IAAC and IAF/ILAC		Reviewed Induction procedure	Chair	2022	
4. To achieve and maintain economic / financial sustainability	4.1 Maintain financial stability	4.1.1 Set appropriate annual budgets and member fee levels whilst maintaining an adequate balance		Proposed changes	Treasurer	2021	
				Implement changes	Treasurer	2022	
		4.1.2 Continue to seek income from other sources to support activities		Plan of options	Treasurer	2021	
		4.1.3 Maintain close cooperation with any donors	n)	Cooperation plan	Chair	2022	
5. To improve the efficiency of IAAC to strengthen its leadership	5.1 Ensure that IAAC operates efficiently,	5.1.1 Plan leadership development and succession planning	i)	Working Group to review the	Chair	2021	



	taking advantage of the use of ICT	5.1.2 Improve the IAAC Secretariat services		IAAC structure and functioning	Chair	2021	
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