



**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between
the Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and
the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), hereinafter referred to as
(the Parties)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Considering that cooperation between IAAC and AFRAC is of mutual benefit for the development of accreditation in the Americas and in Africa.
- 1.2 Considering that IAAC and AFRAC have constituencies that include those from developing countries; and
- 1.3 Considering the need to foster national, regional and global schemes for the operation and recognition of reliable accreditation systems.

IAAC and AFRAC agree to the following -

2. PARTIES TO THE MoU

- 2.1 The **Parties** to this MoU are
 - (a) IAAC represented by its Chair; and
 - (b) AFRAC represented by its Chair.

3. PURPOSE AND APPLICATION OF THE MoU

- 3.1 The purpose of this MoU is to record an understanding between the Parties on their working relationship to achieve the scope of the MoU.
- 3.2 This MoU is a general understanding between the Parties and provides a basis for other more specific agreements between the Parties at operational levels.

3.3 This MoU shall not be binding on the Parties and shall not make legally enforceable commitments or impose a legal duty on the Parties.

3.4 This MoU merely constitutes a statement of the mutual intentions of the Parties with respect to its contents and each Party represents to the other that -

3.4.1 it does not constitute a binding obligation on either Party; and

3.4.2 it creates no rights in favour of either Party.

4. SCOPE OF THE MoU

4.1 The scope of this MoU covers the relationship between IAAC and AFRAC on matters relating to accreditation and conformity assessment.

4.2 The scope of this MoU supports the roles and responsibilities that the Parties already have towards each other arising from their memberships in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and/or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), or the organization that supersedes them.

5. AREAS OF COOPERATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

5.1 Training and Development

5.1.1 The Parties shall foster participation in training activities organised jointly and/or by either party, when deemed suitable.

5.1.2 The Parties shall foster recruitment and/or secondment of qualified personnel through internships and consultancies for each other and for each other's member accreditation bodies, when deemed suitable.

5.1.3 The Parties shall cooperate when organizing seminars, events and workshops for Inter-American and African countries that are in line with each other's objectives and beneficial to both parties, whenever appropriate.

5.1.4 The Parties shall consider jointly organizing training activities to build a pool of experts and peer evaluators from the regions to support conducting peer evaluation activities.

5.2 Information Exchange

5.2.1 The Parties shall exchange information on the development of regional accreditation cooperations, experience on operation of regional accreditation associations and other relevant topics.

5.2.2 The parties shall exchange information on general publications, free of charge, to support each other's objectives and work programs.

5.3 Support on Technical Matters

5.3.1 The Parties shall support common efforts on matters of a technical nature related to accreditation schemes. (e.g., joint assessments, evaluations, digital transformation, operation of multilateral recognition arrangements, etc.)

5.3.2 The Parties shall set up joint working groups when required.

5.4 Adoption of Common Positions

5.4.1 The Parties shall seek common positions on issues of mutual interest such as developing accreditation bodies and regional accreditation schemes.

5.4.2 The Parties shall mutually support each other's positions at regional and international level when appropriate. To do this, there should be some prior communication or exchange with the other region, so that the objective of expressing this position jointly is made known.

5.5 Projects and Fund-Procurement

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

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 The above-named areas of cooperation shall be implemented through the following mechanisms -



6.1.1 Representatives from each Party may participate in each Party's technical work as necessary. As such, the normal liaison and observer rules and procedures for input shall apply.

6.1.2 The IAAC Executive Committee and the AFRAC Executive Committee shall be responsible for managing this MoU, unless otherwise agreed, and coordinating issues arising from it.

6.1.3 Each Party's representative(s) may attend the respective general assemblies and related technical meetings.

6.1.4 Both Parties will assign a representative for each party who will be responsible in coordination and follow up on the implementation of this MoU.

6.1.5 Joint working groups may be established when needed to discuss/advise on technical matters.

6.1.6 As a result of this MoU, no financial commitments are imposed on any of the participated parties.

7. COMMENCEMENT, TERMINATION, AMENDMENT AND DURATION OF MoU

7.1 This MoU shall commence on the date of the last Party signing and shall remain in effect until terminated or amended. Any Party may, upon giving three (3) calendar months' notice, in writing of its intention to do so, terminate this Agreement.

7.2 This MoU shall be subject to review at the request of either Party to ensure the Agreement reflects Parties intentions.

7.3 This MoU may only be amended by the Agreement of both Parties, and any such amendment(s) shall be set out in writing and signed by both Parties as a new Agreement.

Signed in Berlin, Germany, on October 8th, 2024.

For and on behalf of IAAC

For and on behalf of AFRAC



IAAC-AFRAC MoU V.2

4
