



# **THE ARRANGEMENT COMMITTEE (ARC) OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COOPERATION**

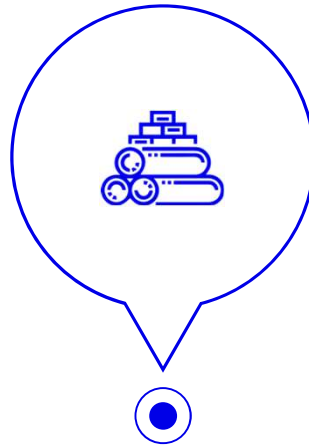
**13 November 2024**



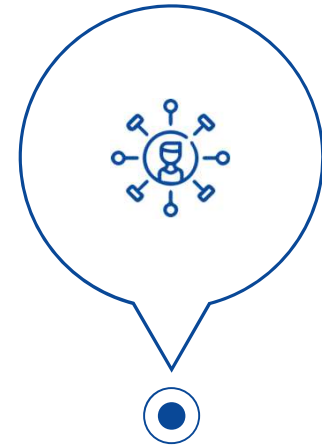
# ABOUT ILAC



ILAC is the international authority on laboratory, inspection, reference material producer and proficiency testing provider accreditation with a membership consisting of accreditation bodies and affiliated organisations throughout the world.



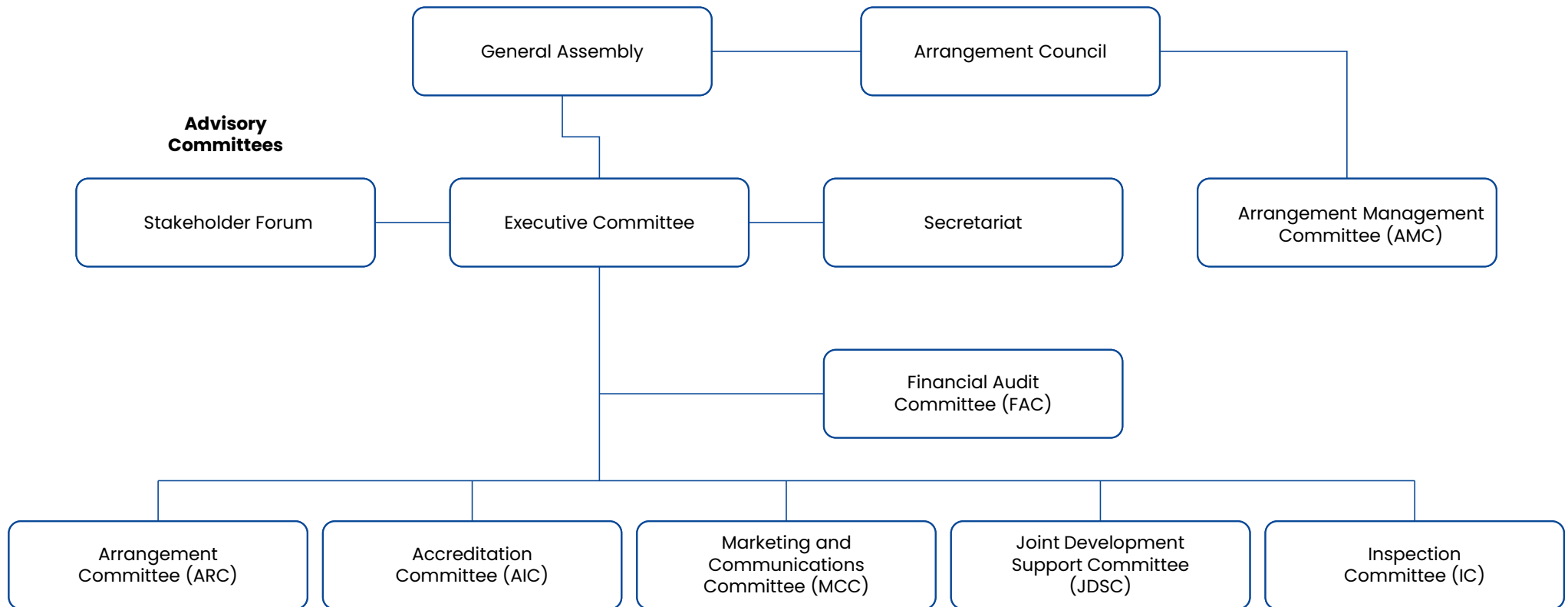
ILAC promotes the increased global use and acceptance by industry and government, of the results from accredited laboratories and inspection bodies, proficiency testing programs from accredited proficiency testing providers and reference materials produced by accredited reference material producers.



ILAC operates and manages the multilateral, Mutual Recognition Arrangement (the ILAC MRA) to promote the acceptance of accredited test, calibration and inspection data and results, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers.

# ILAC STRUCTURE

**The General Assembly (GA)** is the primary body of ILAC and ensures that specific tasks are pursued in accordance with the objectives of ILAC. All members of ILAC are eligible to nominate one representative.



ILAC organization chart as at March 2015

# ILAC COMMITTEES



## Arrangement Council

Arrangement Council - is the decision making body for determining signatory and recognition status under the ILAC MRA. The members are delegates nominated by the Full and Associate members.



## Arrangement Management Committee (AMC)

The Arrangement Management Committee (AMC) - is responsible for the day-to-day management activities of the ILAC MRA on behalf of the Arrangement Council and provides advice on its further development and operation.



## Arrangement Committee (ARC)

Responsible for harmonized implementation and continual improvement of the ILAC Arrangement



## Accreditation Committee (AIC)

Responsible for harmonisation and improvement of accreditation practice at the international level.

# ILAC COMMITTEES



## Inspection Committee (IC)

Responsible for the harmonisation and improvement of accreditation practices for inspection activities at the international level.



## Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC)

Responsible for internal and external marketing and communication issues. It is involved with the promotion of ILAC's objectives, and the publication of ILAC documents, newsletters and other information. This committee operates in conjunction with the IAF Communications and Marketing Committee.



## Stakeholder Forum (SF)

Provides a means of interaction and exchange of ideas between ILAC and the stakeholder organisations that the forum members represent.



## Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC)

Responsible for representing the interests of developing countries and operates in conjunction with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

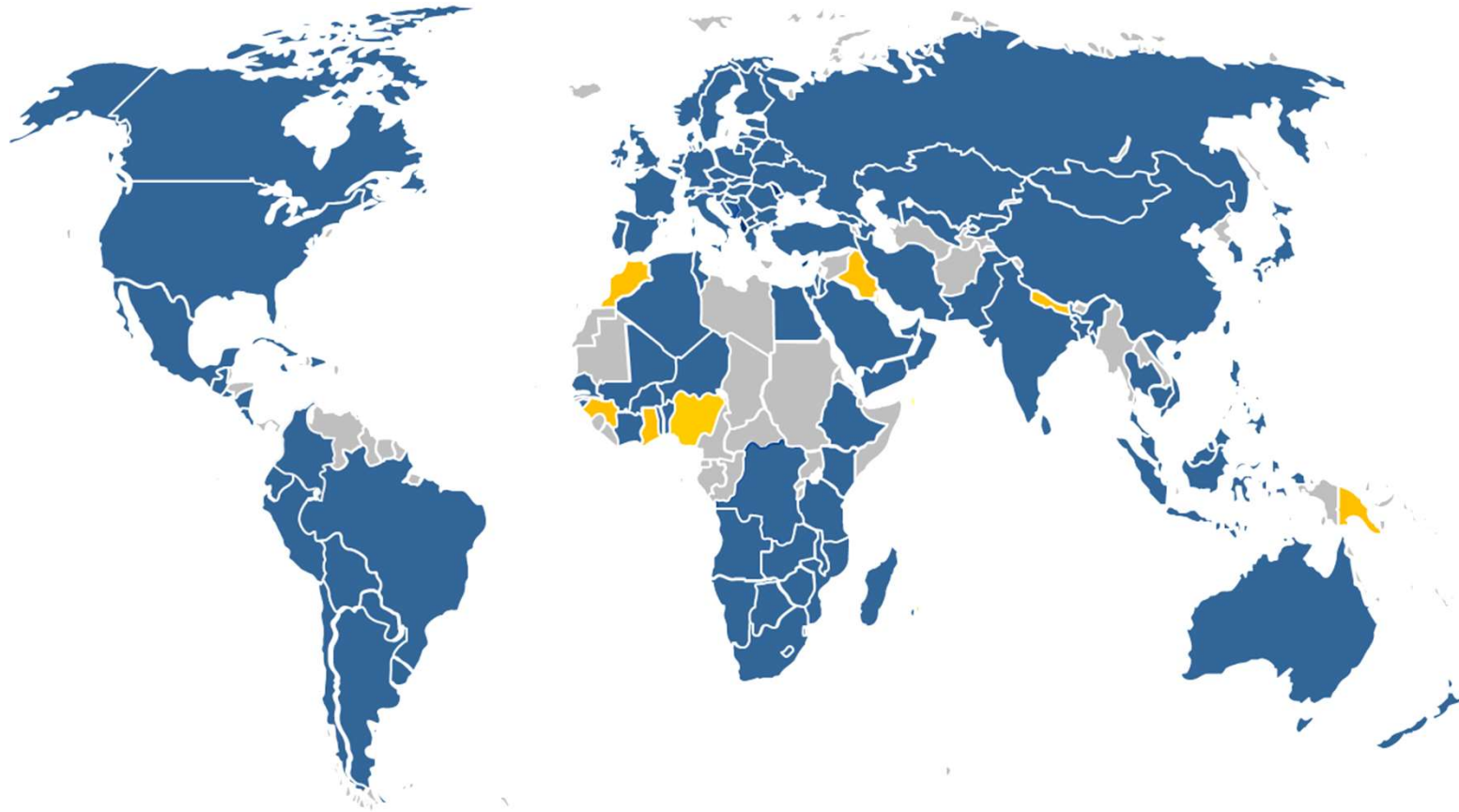
# STATUS OF THE ILAC MRA (10 May 2024)

- The ILAC network of members includes 157 bodies from 133 different economies (116 Full Members/MRA Signatories, 16 Associates, 20 stakeholders, 6 Regional Cooperation Bodies)
- 116 ILAC MRA Signatories representing 118 economies
- ILAC MRA covers testing, calibration, inspection, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers
- Signatories represent about 95% of Global GDP
- Almost 76,500 accredited laboratories
- Over 10,500 accredited inspection bodies
- Over 400 accredited proficiency testing providers
- Over 30 reference materials producers





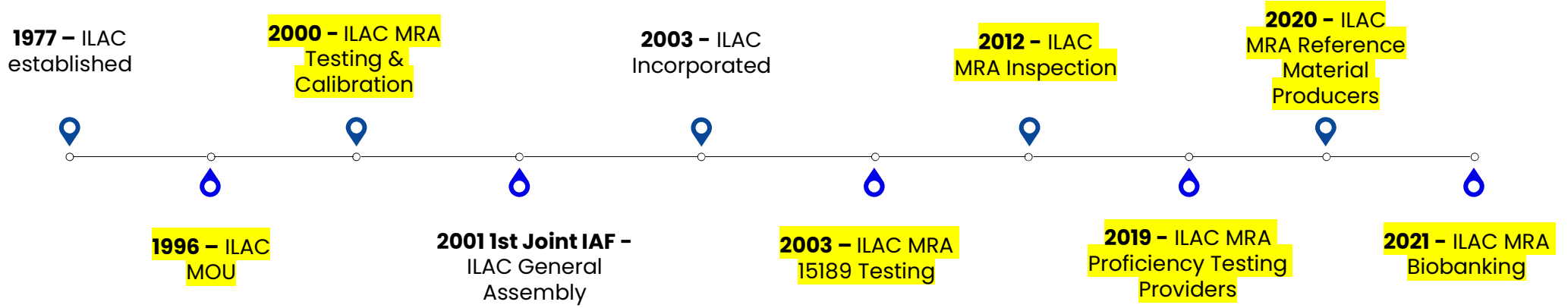
# Coverage of the ILAC MRA (April 2024)



- ILAC MRA Signatories
- ILAC Associate Members



# ILAC TIMELINE

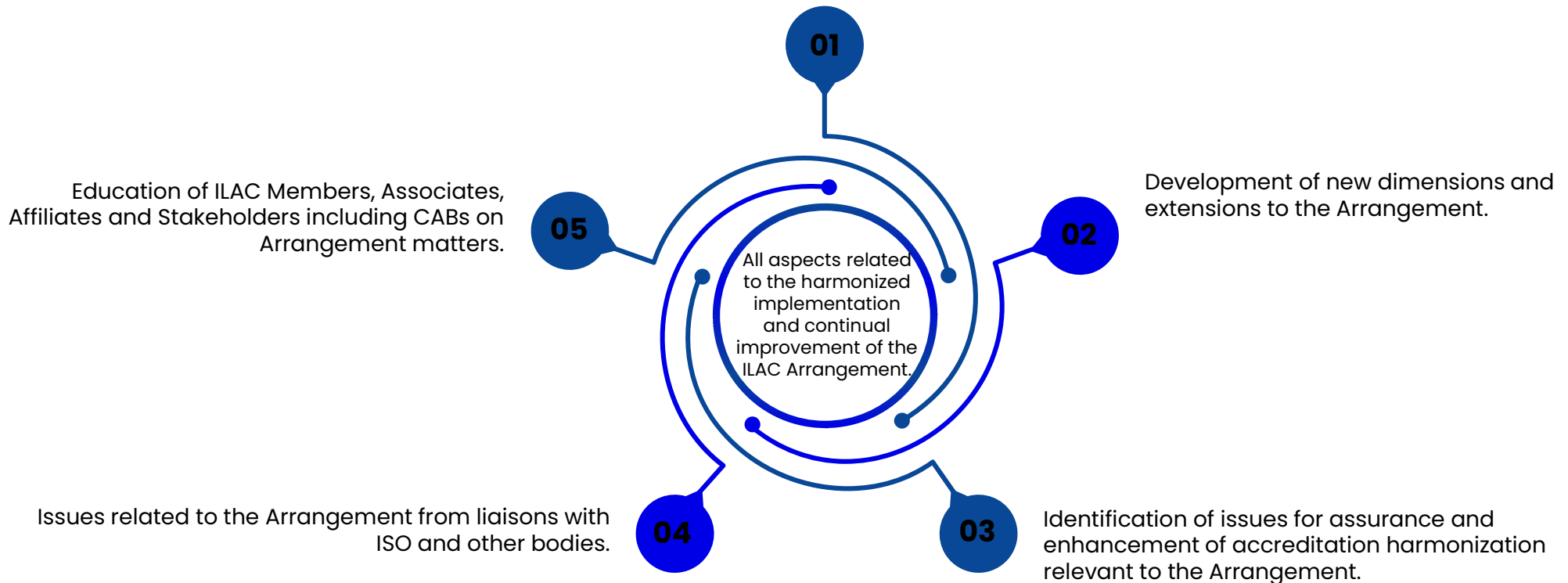




# ARC – Arrangement Committee

## Terms of Reference

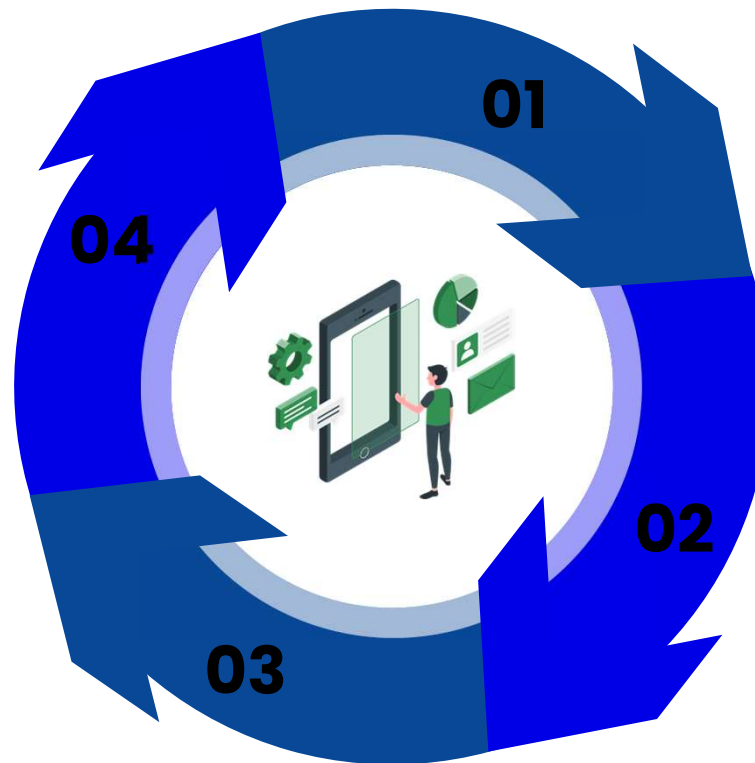
Development and maintenance of procedures and requirements for the implementation of the Arrangement.



# HOW DO THE COMMITTEES WORK?

The decisions and agreements reached during meetings are recorded in either Minutes or for the Annual Meetings as Resolutions.

Voting may be in person at meetings or by letter-ballot.



Committees, Subcommittees, Working Groups, and Task Forces typically meet once or twice a year, in conjunction with the Mid-Term Meetings of IAF and ILAC and the Annual meetings.

When discussing issues and documents, the goal is a consensus approach, but, at times, formal voting is required.

# THE BENEFITS OF THE IAF/ILAC MULTILATERAL MLAS/MRAS



### For Government

- Facilitator of trade
- An efficient enforcement and monitoring tool



### For Business

- Greater acceptance of products and services
- Avoid costs associated with repeat conformity assessment
- Informed procurement



### For Consumers

- Public confidence in goods and services
- Minimises product failures or recalls



# WHAT ARE MY OBLIGATIONS AS AN AB?

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## Participating in Annual Meetings and Committees

- All members are able and encouraged to join, participate and contribute to the work of ILAC and IAF. This can be done by attending meetings or by email correspondence.
- Task Forces are generally set up to complete a particular task and are disbanded on completion.
- Working Groups are generally discussion groups in a particular area.
- Active participation and contribution to the work of IAF and ILAC in the Mid-Term and Annual Meetings.

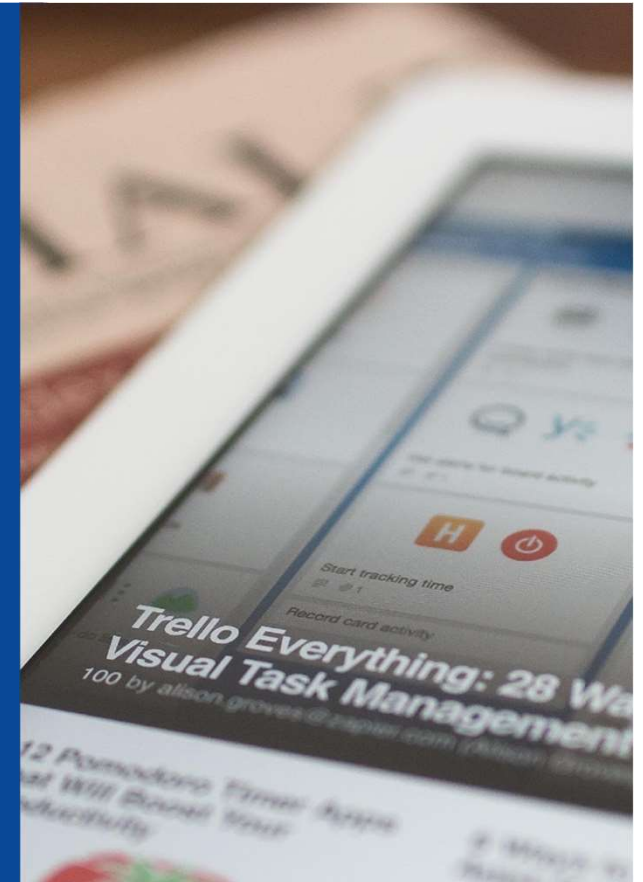
## Promoting the MRA / MLA

- All members are obliged to support the acceptance of the Arrangements.

# SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

To remain up-to-date with developments, the following sources of information are available:

- ILAC News – published twice a year <http://ilac.org/news-and-events/ilac-newsletter/>
- IAF Outlook – published three times a year <http://www.iaf.news>
- ILAC and IAF Intranets – The members only areas of the websites contain valuable information for members, including access to meeting papers, ballots, technical documents, guidance notes, and promotional tools. Contact the Secretariats for access.
- Subscribe to the latest IAF updates – <https://bit.ly/2SdgR4x>
- Subscribe to the latest ILAC updates – [http://ilac.org/latest\\_ilac\\_news/](http://ilac.org/latest_ilac_news/)
- ILAC and IAF Publications – a wide range of publications are available to download from:
- <http://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/>
- <https://iaf.nu/en/iaf-documents-categories/>
- Annual Reports – ILAC and IAF publish an Annual report each year that sets out the key developments and status of the MRA / MLA.



# DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Both organisations publish documents that set out the rules, policies and procedures that members must adhere to. Guidance and informative documents are also available to share best practice and ensure a common interpretation of accreditation practices.



## **Brochures (B Series)**

General ILAC brochures or promotional publications

## **Guidance (G Series)**

The interpretation of accreditation criteria for specific applications for accreditation bodies and accredited organisations.

## **Rules (R Series) - Rules (Requirements)**

Documents including the Articles and Bylaws and other documents covering the operation of ILAC as an incorporated entity.

## **Procedural (P Series)**

Procedural and policy publications for the operation of the ILAC Arrangement, and which form part of the criteria for ILAC Arrangement evaluations.



## **General Information and Promotional Documents**

To raise awareness and understanding of IAF

## **Policy Documents (PL Series)**

IAF and Member policy requirements

## **MLA Documents (ML Series)**

Policy and procedures to support the operation of the MLA

## **Informative Documents (ID Series)**

To support the consistent application of requirements

## **Mandatory Documents (MD Series)**

Mandatory documents to be used by ABs and CABs

## **Procedures Documents (PR Series)**

Procedures to follow in implementing the IAF programs

## **Joint IAF / ILAC (A Series) –**

Joint IAF and ILAC documents used for the evaluation of regions and unaffiliated bodies.







## CONTACT DETAILS

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IAFandILAC