



Importance of stakeholder participation in IAF/LAC and its challenges in GLOBAC

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1 Context

The role of stakeholders in corporate governance

(in G20/OECD Principles of Corporate Governance)

“The competitiveness and ultimate success of a corporation is the result of teamwork that embodies contributions from a range of different resource providers (...) and other stakeholders.

Corporations should recognise that the contributions of stakeholders constitute a valuable resource for building competitive (...) companies

It is, therefore, in the long-term interest of corporations to foster (...) co-operation among stakeholders. The governance framework should recognise the interests of stakeholders and their contribution to the long-term success of the corporation.”

IAF/ILAC WAD 2021 Brochure

(on how accreditation supports the implementation of SDGs)

“Accreditation, in collaboration with other quality infrastructure institutions including metrology, standardization, conformity assessment and market surveillance, provides the technical foundations that are critical to the functioning of developed and developing societies”.

Notably, the importance of conformity assessment stakeholders in pursuing these goals is further addressed, for example when meeting the need of people, building prosperity and protecting the planet, where the positive impact of conformity assessment itself and of accredited conformity assessment are highlighted, thus establishing an indelible bond between Accreditation Bodies and the Stakeholders when pursuing the most basic accreditation sustainability purposes.”

Different models on stakeholders' engagement

- **ISO's all voices heard goal:** "To realize our vision, our system must foster diversity and inclusivity. We need to ensure that we attract and retain the best experts and enable everyone to participate. We must listen to all voices, both in the development of standards and when making decisions as an organization."
- **INetQI purpose description:** "(...) to bring together all specialized organizations that operate at an international level and that are active in promoting and implementing activities on metrology, accreditation, standardization and conformity assessment as tools for sustainable economic development."
- **IAF Charter statements:** "We bring together, on a worldwide basis, partner accreditation bodies and representatives of stakeholder groups that seek to facilitate global trade through the acceptance of accredited certificates of conformity and validation and verification statements."
- **ILAC Bylaws:** "(...) Representative international, regional and national organizations having an interest in the work of ILAC (...)."
- **IAAC Member structure:** "(...) Other bodies and groups related to or interested in conformity assessment are also involved in IAAC activities. IAAC has 3 categories of membership: Full, Associate and Stakeholder Members (...)"

2

Benefits of Stakeholder's engagement

Effective stakeholder participation enhances accreditation policies and actions, and its effectiveness by:

- raising **awareness and enabling better understanding** of complex issues for all parties involved, thereby building accreditation capacity
- **building trust, collaboration, shared development and support** for policies and actions, thereby leading to less conflict and easier implementation
- addressing stakeholder perceptions of risks and impacts, and helping to **develop measures to increase benefits** for accreditation bodies and all stakeholder groups, including the most vulnerable

and ...:

- increasing the **credibility, accuracy and comprehensiveness** of the accreditation activities, drawing on diverse expert, on local but also global markets, direct knowledge and practices
- Combating misperceptions and rumours, while **jointly and effectively addressing technical interpretations** but also fraudulent behaviour
- increasing **transparency, accountability, legitimacy and respect** for Accreditation Bodies as well as for stakeholders' rights
- enabling **enhanced governance and strategy**, by strengthening the effectiveness of policies and the credibility of committees work and outcome

...and through:

- striving for ideas coming from different sources and **building on each-other ideas** is the fundamental baseline for improvement and innovation
- working together towards the point of **consensus or shared motivation**, helping accreditation bodies and stakeholders to arrive at a decision and ensuring an investment in a meaningful work outcome

3

Current lines of work



Consolidate membership
and contribution/participation



Identify and convey positions
and consensus, needs and
expectations on issues affecting our
industry



Promote awareness
on the role and work of CABAC,
UAC, ILAC Stakeholders' Forum and
its members



Work on common projects
Assess and address common needs
and promote consistency (such as
with respect to GLOBAC)



Develop appropriate tools
for information and communication,
for members and their members



Identify actions
On challenges and opportunities for
the conformity assessment industry
and for the quality infrastructure



Support other IAF Members
Being other stakeholders or accreditation
bodies (regions/individual)



**Address accredited conformity
assessment context**
regarding inputs and changes coming from the
market standardization Bodies, Regulation
Entities , Clients and Consumers, Coalitions, etc.

4 Future Challenges

Stakeholders aim to:

- **Consolidate new structure** under GLOBAC, while having one Committee but addressing different needs, contribution and debate withing the stakeholders' community
- **Be of relevance** for its members, their clients, for other stakeholders and, most notably, for accreditation bodies
- **Have an indelible contribution** to the integrity and effectiveness of the quality infrastructure and, in particular, to the conformity assessment industry

Make accreditation better...everyday!



Thank you

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