Woman Leader Award in Accredited Conformity Assessment

Contest Rules

1. Objective

The "Women Leader in Accredited Conformity Assessment" Award aims to recognize women who, from their leadership role in an Accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) by an IAAC signatory accreditation body, have promoted trust, technical competence and innovation in their organization, contributing to the strengthening of accredited conformity assessment.
This recognition seeks to highlight women who are a source of inspiration for other businesswomen and professionals in the Americas and the Caribbean, showcasing business initiatives that promote the inclusion, participation and development of other women in the field of accredited conformity assessment.

2. Entity Organizer

The contest is organized by the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), with the support from the German Institute of Metrology (PTB).

3. Participation Criteria

Applications must be submitted through the Accreditation Bodies, full members of IAAC.

Women leaders who head a Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) and meet the following conditions may apply:

3.1. Accreditation: The nominated Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) must be accredited by an Accreditation Body that is a full member of IAAC and must maintain this accreditation in good standing at the time of application. Furthermore, the specific accreditation scope under which the CAB operates and which serves as the basis for its nomination must be covered by the IAAC's international recognition (MLA/MRA) of which its Accreditation Body is a signatory.

3.2. .

3.3. Legal Age: Have a minimum legal constitution of five (5) years, demonstrating institutional stability and operational continuity.

3.4. Female Leadership: Being led by a woman in a leadership position (General Director, President, Manager or equivalent) for at least the last two (2) years.

3.5. Evidence of outstanding leadership: Submit documentary evidence and a video of no longer than three (3) minutes demonstrating that the leader's management has been distinguished by:

- ✓ Promote trust in conformity assessment services. Boost the technical competence and quality of the CAB's services.

- ✓ Promote innovation in processes, services or management models, preferably in areas of digital transformation or circular economy, environmental sustainability or gender equality..
- ✓ Develop or support initiatives that benefit or strengthen the participation of women in the organization or in the technical community.
- ✓ Promote the use of accredited conformity assessment within their country.

To streamline and standardize the evaluation of submitted documents, it is proposed to include the following template as **Annex 1: Documentary Evidence Form**. for each sub-criterion, attaching the corresponding physical or digital evidence.
Note: This form is mandatory. Evidence must be clear, verifiable, and directly linked to the management of the nominated leader during her leadership period

4. Submission of nominations

The accreditation body may submit a maximum of three (3) proposals for CABs led by a female leader, accompanied by the following documentation:

- ✓ Completed application form.
- ✓ Letter of motivation signed by the Director of the CAB.
- ✓ Evidence of compliance with the established requirements (legal registration, current accreditation certificate, etc.).
- ✓ Video with a description of the business project and its results or impacts.
- ✓ Evidence of the impact of her initiatives to support other women.
- ✓ Cover letter issued by the Accreditation Body that presents the proposal.

5. Evaluation and Judging Panel

The Judging Panel will consist of:

- ✓ Chair of IAAC.
- ✓ Chair of IAAC
- ✓ Chair of the Management Committee (MC)
- ✓ Chair of the Stakeholders Committee (STKC).
- ✓ Chair of the Promotion Committee Subcommittee (PSC).
- ✓ A representative of the IAAC Associate Members (not belonging to an Accreditation Body).
- ✓ A representative of the PTB or an independent organization

6. The jury will evaluate the nominations according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Weight (%)	Description (What is being evaluated?)	Example Indicators (How can it be measured?)
Leadership and management of the CAB	30%	Evaluates the leader's ability to strategically direct the CAB, ensure its financial and operational	Sustained growth of the CAB, improvement in management indicators, positive work

		sustainability, and foster a strong and ethical organizational culture.	environment, implemented strategic plans, team stability.
Impact on confidence and technical competence	20%	Assesses the leader's tangible contribution to strengthening client and market trust in the CAB's services, and to raising the level of technical competence of the organization and its personnel.	Client testimonials, successful proficiency testing results, no substantial complaints, investment in training, successful external audits.
Innovation and continuous improvement	30%	Analyzes initiatives implemented to modernize processes, services, or business models, with emphasis on areas such as digital transformation, circular economy, or efficiency improvement.	Implementation of new technologies, development of innovative services, awards for innovation, documented success cases.
Initiatives to support women	20%	Recognizes the commitment and concrete actions to promote the inclusion, professional development, and leadership of other women within the CAB or in the related technical community.	Mentorship programs, equity policies, percentage of women in management positions, exclusive training, established support networks.

7. Contest schedule

Stage	Date
Consult the PSC Committee for comments	November 17 – December 1, 2025
Comments from the Executive Committee	December 8 – December 19, 2025
Presentation of final proposal and vote by the Executive Committee	January 5 – February 6, 2026
Official launch of the competition	March 19, 2026
Application submission	March 19 – May 4, 2026
Evaluation and selection of the winning proposal	May 28, 2026 - June 4, 2026
Official announcement of the winner (World Day ofAccreditation)	June 11, 2026
Official presentation of the award (IAAC General Assembly, Lima, Peru)	September 18, 2026

8. Prize

- Official IAAC recognition, presented during the IAAC General Assembly (Lima,Peru, September 18, 2026).
- Fully paid internship to attend the IAAC Stakeholder Committee meetings, Subcommittees, Business Meeting and General Assembly (September 14–18, 2026). (Sponsored by the PTB).
- Free one-year membership as an IAAC stakeholder
- Dedicated space to present your business project during the General Assemblyfrom IAAC

2026.

9. **Final provisions**
   - Participation in this contest implies full acceptance of these rules.
   - IAAC may declare the prize void if the entries do not meet the established criteria of quality and merit.
   - The jury's decisions are final.
   - Any aspect not covered in these rules will be resolved by the IAAC Executive Committee.
   - **Assignment of Image and Content Rights:** Participation in this contest implies the express and irrevocable authorization by the candidate (and, where applicable, the represented CAB) to IAAC, for the use, reproduction, public communication, and dissemination, without territorial or time limit, of the video and any graphic or testimonial materials submitted as part of the application. These may be used by IAAC and its allies (such as PTB) in any medium (digital, print, audiovisual) for the purposes of promoting the contest itself, disseminating the highlighted initiatives, and increasing the visibility of female leadership in accredited conformity assessment, without generating any right to remuneration for the candidate. IAAC commits to making ethical use of said material, always linked to the objectives of the award.

Annex 1: Documentary Evidence Form.

Nº	Criterion / Sub-criterion to be demonstrated	Brief description of the evidence provided (What is it and what does it demonstrate?)	Name of the document/file (e.g., Certificate, photo, report, etc.)	Link or reference (if applicable)	Corresponding Period (Date/s)
1	Promoting trust and technical competence	E.g.: Accreditation certificate with no major findings.	Cert_Accreditation_CAB_2025.pdf.pdf		
		E.g.: Successful proficiency testing results.	Report_PT_CAB_2024.pdf		
2	Fostering innovation	E.g.: Certificate of implementation of a digital system.	Certificate_Digital_Management_System.pdf		
		E.g.: Published case study on a new service.	Case_Study_Service_X.pdf	[Link]	
3	Initiatives to support women	E.g.: Minutes of the establishment of the equity committee.	Minutes_Equity_Committee_CAB.pdf		
		E.g.: Mentorship program with list of participants..	Mentorship_Program_2024.pdf		
4	Promoting the use of conformity assessment	E.g.: Activities carried out.			
		E.g.: Success stories.			