



AGREEMENT FOR CLOSER COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COOPERATION (ILAC) AND THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM (IAF)

1. General Considerations

- 1.1 The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (hereinafter referred to as IAF) have been co-operating since 2001 to achieve improved alignment of their work programmes where this has potential to contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of both organisations and delivery of value to their stakeholders. In 2010, ILAC and IAF agreed to abolish the Joint Committee for Closer Co-operation between IAF and ILAC (JCCC) and replace it with joint meetings of the IAF and ILAC Executive Committees (JEC) in order to streamline the management and decision-making process of joint activities.

2 Purpose of the Agreement for Cooperation

- 2.1 The purpose of this Agreement for Cooperation is to record the basis for the relationship of ILAC and IAF working together.
- 2.2 With a view to facilitating the effective attainment of each organisation's vision, mission and objectives, ILAC and IAF agree to act in close cooperation with each other and to consult each other as appropriate in regard to matters of common interest.
- 2.3 Appropriate arrangements may be made by agreement from time to time between the Chairs of ILAC and IAF for the reciprocal representation of ILAC and IAF as observers at meetings convened under their respective auspices that consider matters in which the other has an interest.

3 Areas of cooperation and responsibility

- 3.1 The Parties agree to cooperate, in the context of their respective mandates, policies and resources, for the purposes of capacity-building, training and research in specific programmes and projects, common/joint policy development, identified by and agreed between the Parties from time to time, including the organisation of seminars and workshops at the national, regional and sub-regional levels, on accreditation related issues.
- 3.2 Areas of current joint activity may include, but shall not be restricted to:
- Joint General Assembly
 - Joint Development Support Committee
 - Joint Working Group on maintenance of the A Series
 - Joint meetings of the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee and IAF MLA Management Committee (dubbed the JMC)
 - Joint meetings of the ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC) and the IAF Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)

- 3.3 Liaison with other organisations, including, but not limited to, ISO, IEC, ITU, OIML and UNIDO (existing tripartite MoU partners).
- 3.4 The JEC shall oversee and initiate all joint activities, working groups and joint committees including the approval of terms of reference of each and shall prepare resolutions for approval by the Joint General Assembly.

4 Exchange of Information and Publications

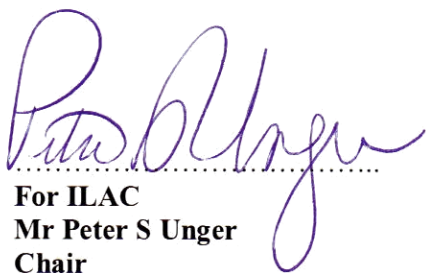
- 4.1 ILAC and IAF shall keep each other informed about work of mutual interest carried out by each organisation in particular on their trade-related technical assistance programmes to developing countries and liaison activities.
- 4.2 ILAC and IAF shall provide each other, free of charge, with copies of any of its publications which may be of interest to the other.

5 Administrative and Financial Arrangements

- 5.1 The implementation of the activities envisaged in this Agreement for Cooperation shall depend on the availability of the necessary financial resources, according to the regulations and procedures in force in the two organisations.
- 5.2 In the execution of the agreed activities, ILAC and IAF shall provide each other with logistic and administrative support as agreed by the JEC.

6. Final Clauses

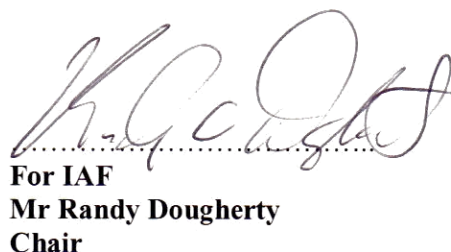
- 6.1 This Agreement for Cooperation may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties and will be reviewed for continuing relevance of content and effectiveness of implementation at least every 4 years.
- 6.2 Each party may terminate this Agreement by giving the other party at least six months written notice of such intention.
- 6.3 Existing projects which are due to be completed within one calendar year from the date of notice of termination shall not be affected by such termination unless otherwise provided for.
- 6.4 This Agreement for Cooperation shall enter into force upon signature by the Chairs of both ILAC and IAF.



For ILAC
Mr Peter S Unger
Chair

Date: 25 October 2012

Place: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



For IAF
Mr Randy Dougherty
Chair

Date: 25 October 2012

Place: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil