



THE GLOBAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

The ILAC and IAF Handbook



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Global Vision



VISION:

Accredited once accepted everywhere

MISSION:

To be the global solution for the national, regional and international demonstration of equivalence of reliable results from testing, calibration, inspection and related activities in both voluntary and mandatory fields/sectors.



VISION:

Accreditation makes the world better.

MISSION:

IAF facilitates trade and supports sustainable development using internationally recognized accredited conformity assessment to deliver the confidence needed for market acceptance of goods and services.



Common Aims of IAF and ILAC

- Support conformity assessment schemes which reduces risk for businesses, regulators and the consumer by ensuring that accredited services can be relied upon
- Government and regulators relying on the Arrangements to further develop or enhance trade agreements
- To support world trade by eliminating technical barriers, realising the free-trade goal of *'tested, inspected or certified once and accepted everywhere'*

Quality Infrastructure

- Quality Infrastructure is the system comprising the organisations, the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes.
- Utilising standards, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment, this framework, supported by multilateral mutual recognition arrangements, has a positive impact on trade in the developed world and unlocks the trading potential of developing economies.



The IAF and ILAC Arrangements

- Accreditation body members deemed competent through a peer evaluation process
 - ISO/IEC 17011
 - IAF-ILAC 'A Series' documents
- Signatories must recognise certificates, reports and results issued as well as reference materials produced and proficiency testing programs provided by organisations accredited by other signatories
- Provides businesses with assurance that overseas bodies operate to the same standard
- Removes technical barriers to trade by eliminating redundant conformity assessment

IAF and ILAC Objectives

IAF and ILAC are global networks of accreditation bodies and organisations involved in conformity assessment activities.

Objectives include:

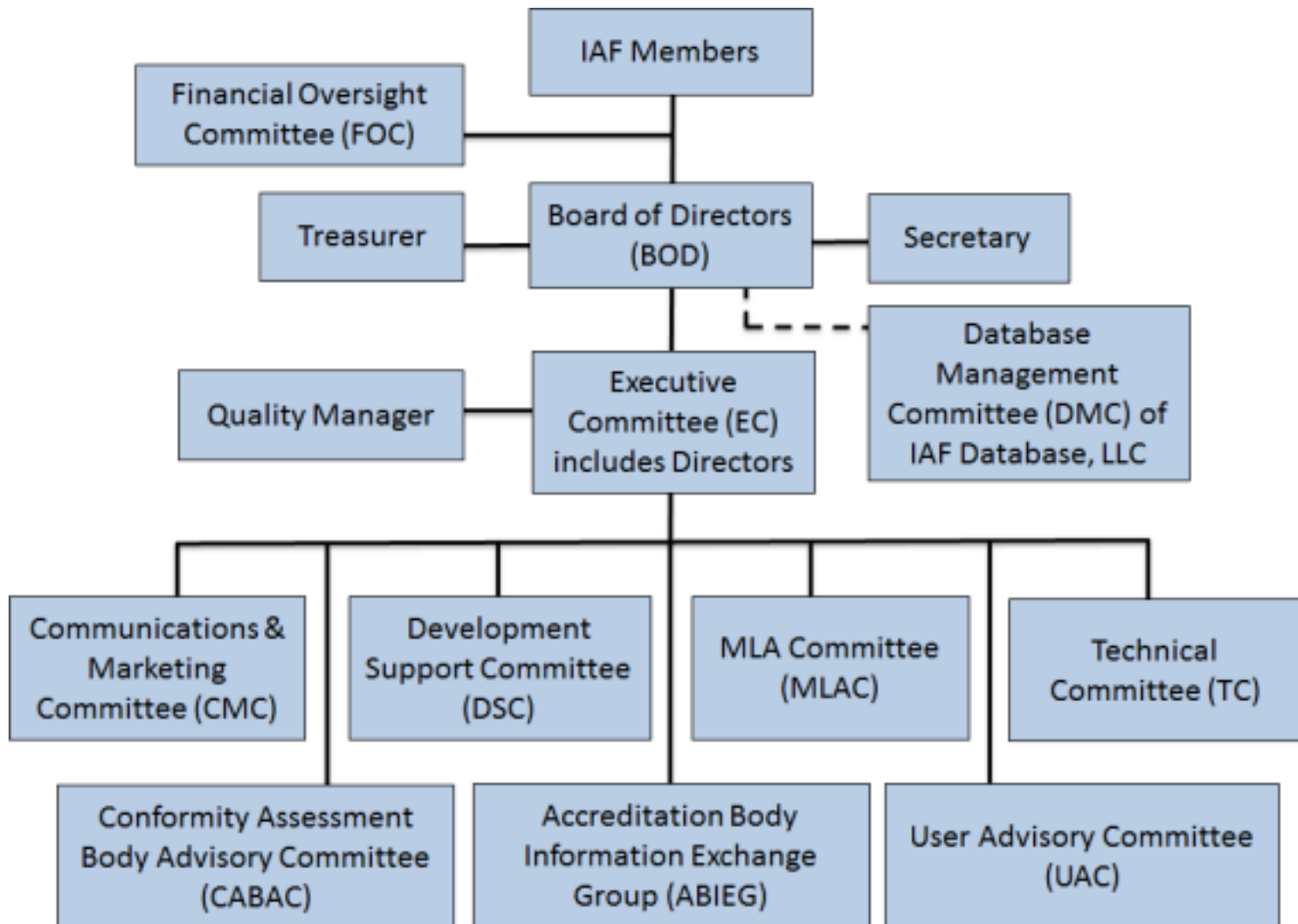
- Maintain the Arrangements, and expand coverage into new economies
- Increase cooperation with all relevant stakeholders
- Act as a central 'hub' to harmonise conformity assessment best practice
- Provide assistance to developing countries by providing appropriate support to new accreditation activities

About IAF

- IAF is a global association of accreditation bodies and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, processes, services, persons, validation and verification and other similar programmes of conformity assessment.
- Its main purpose is to operate and maintain a global Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (the IAF MLA) that enables the mutual recognition of certificates and validation/verification statements issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by signatories to the IAF MLA, in order to provide recognised conformity assessment activities and global acceptance of conformity assessment certificates and statements.
- IAF also provides training, develops documentation (where required) to promote common accreditation practices, and a forum for sharing best practice.



IAF Structure



IAF Structure

IAF Members

The highest level of authority in IAF is the Members, who make decisions and lay down policies in Annual Meetings or via ballots (Section 3.02 of the IAF Bylaws).

Board of Directors (BOD)

The Board is responsible for legal actions, for developing broad policy directions for IAF, and for ensuring that the day-to-day work of IAF is carried out in accordance with policies approved by Members.

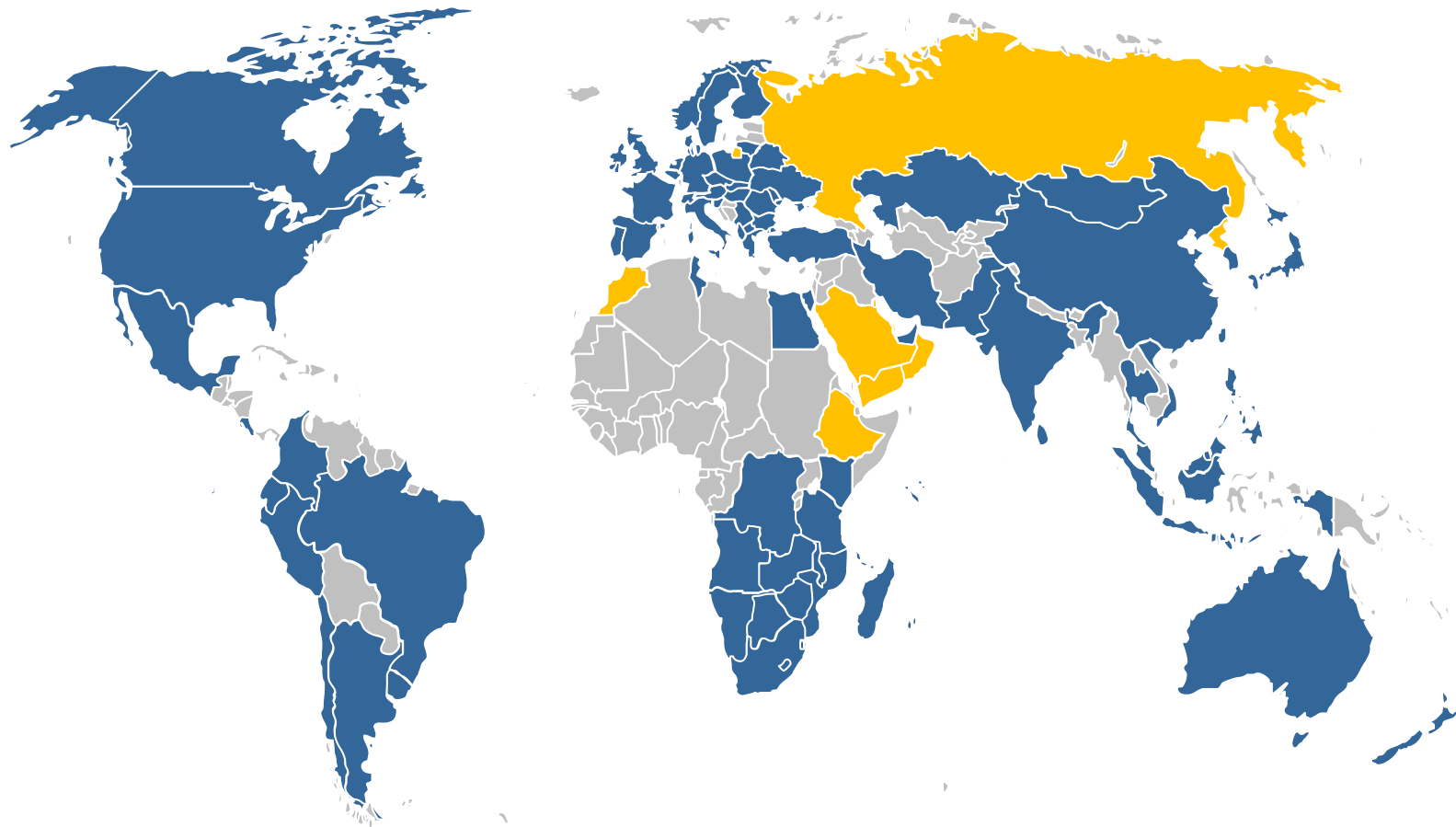
Executive Committee (EC) (includes Directors)

The Executive Committee is responsible to the Board for the day-to-day work of IAF on the basis of decisions made by the Members and directions by the Board.

IAF Main Committees

- **MLA Committee (MLAC)** - Responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the IAF arrangement
- **Development Support Committee (DSC)** - Responsible for representing the interests of developing countries and operates in conjunction with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
- **Technical Committee (TC)** - Coordinates the work of its Working Groups and Task Forces and addresses technical matters
- **Communications & Marketing Committee (CMC)**
 - Handles the discussion, development and coordination of any matter related to communications and marketing activities at the global and regional levels
 - Strives to raise the awareness, lift the profile and improve the image of accreditation at global, regional and national levels.

Coverage of the IAF MLA (July 2021)



- IAF MLA Signatories
- IAF Members not yet Signatories

Status of the IAF MLA (July 2021)

There are **74** IAF MLA AB Signatories in the following main scope and sub-scope areas:

- Main Scope:
 - Management systems
 - Product
 - Persons
 - Validation and Verification
 - GHG Validation and Verification
- Sub Scope Level 4:
 - ISO/IEC 17021-3 QMS
 - ISO/IEC 17021-2 EMS
 - ISO/TS 22003 FSMS
 - ISO/IEC 27006 ISMS
 - Global G.A.P. IFA General Regulations
 - ISO/IEC TS 17021-10 OH&SMS
 - ISO 50003 EnMS
 - ISO/TS 22003, FAMI-QS Rules for CBs
 - ICAO CORSIA ETM - Volume IV, ISO 14064-3, ISO 14066
 - ISO/TS 22003, FSSC 22000 Scheme Parts 3 and 4
- Sub Scope Level 5:
 - ISO 9001 QMS
 - ISO 14001 EMS
 - ISO 22000 FSMS
 - ISO/IEC 27001 ISMS
 - Global G.A.P. IFA CPCCs
 - ISO 45001 OH&SMS
 - ISO 13485 MDMS
 - ISO 50001 EnMS
 - FAMI-QS Certification Scheme Code
 - ICAO CORSIA SARPs - Annex 16 Volume IV
 - FSSC 22000 Scheme Part 2
 - IPC-PL-11-006



IAF MLA 2020



5 recognised Regional Accreditation groups
74 ABs, representing a total of 82 economies.



ABOUT IAF

IAF is a global association of Accreditation Bodies (ABs), Associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies, and other bodies interested in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel, Validation & Verification and other similar programmes of conformity assessment.

IAF MLA

IAF's primary function is to manage a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) among its Accreditation Body members, which recognizes the equivalence of accreditation programs among signatories. Hence, the acceptance of products and services across national borders.

Gathering the evidence



BUSINESS BENEFITS
Evidence. Impact. Value.



PUBLIC SECTOR ASSURANCE

2 websites provide evidence to demonstrate the value of accreditation and accredited services with case studies and research papers:

business-benefits.org publicsectorassurance.org



IAFandILAC



@IAF_Global



IAF.news

The full Report can be downloaded from the IAF website: www.iaf.nu
Box 1811 | Chelsea | Quebec | J9B 1A1 | Canada | Secretary@iaf.nu



Management Systems Certification

ISO/IEC 17021-1

70 signatories
5281 accredited CBs



Validation and Verification

ISO/IEC 14065

ISO/IEC 17029

29 signatories
303 accredited V&Vs

Person Certification

ISO/IEC 17024

37 signatories
1006 accredited CBs

Product Certification

ISO/IEC 17065

64 signatories
3810 accredited CBs

10,400 Accredited

Certification Bodies and Validation & Verification bodies



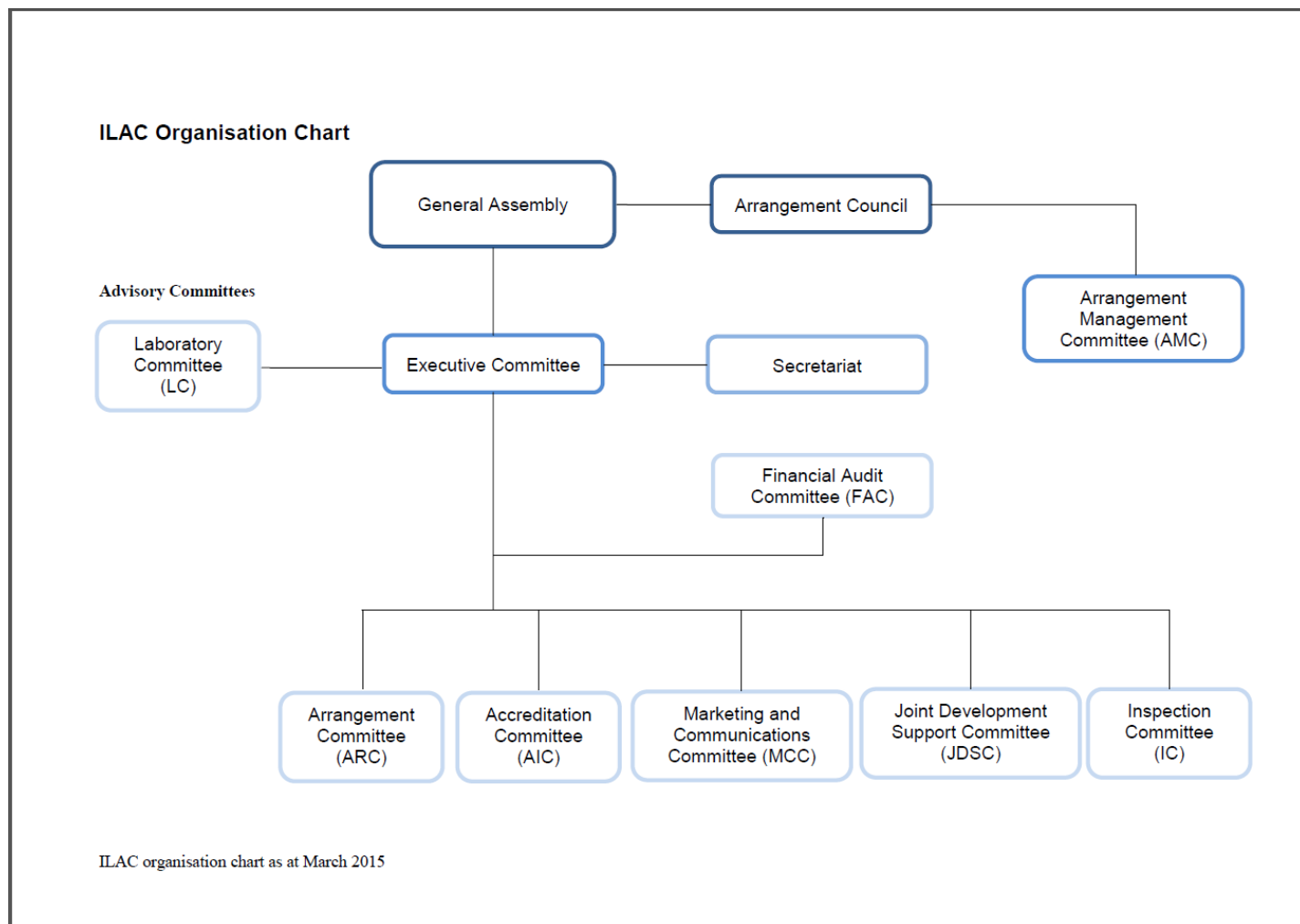
About ILAC

- 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 through out 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 multi-lateral, 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) 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.



Further information on the ILAC structure is available on the [ILAC website](#)

ILAC Committees

- **Executive Committee (EC)** - Responsible for the day to day management of ILAC and its activities.
- **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.
- 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. This committee operates in-conjunction with the IAF MLA Management Committee for all joint ILAC/IAF evaluation related activities.
- **Arrangement Committee (ARC)** - Responsible for harmonized implementation and continual improvement of the ILAC Arrangement

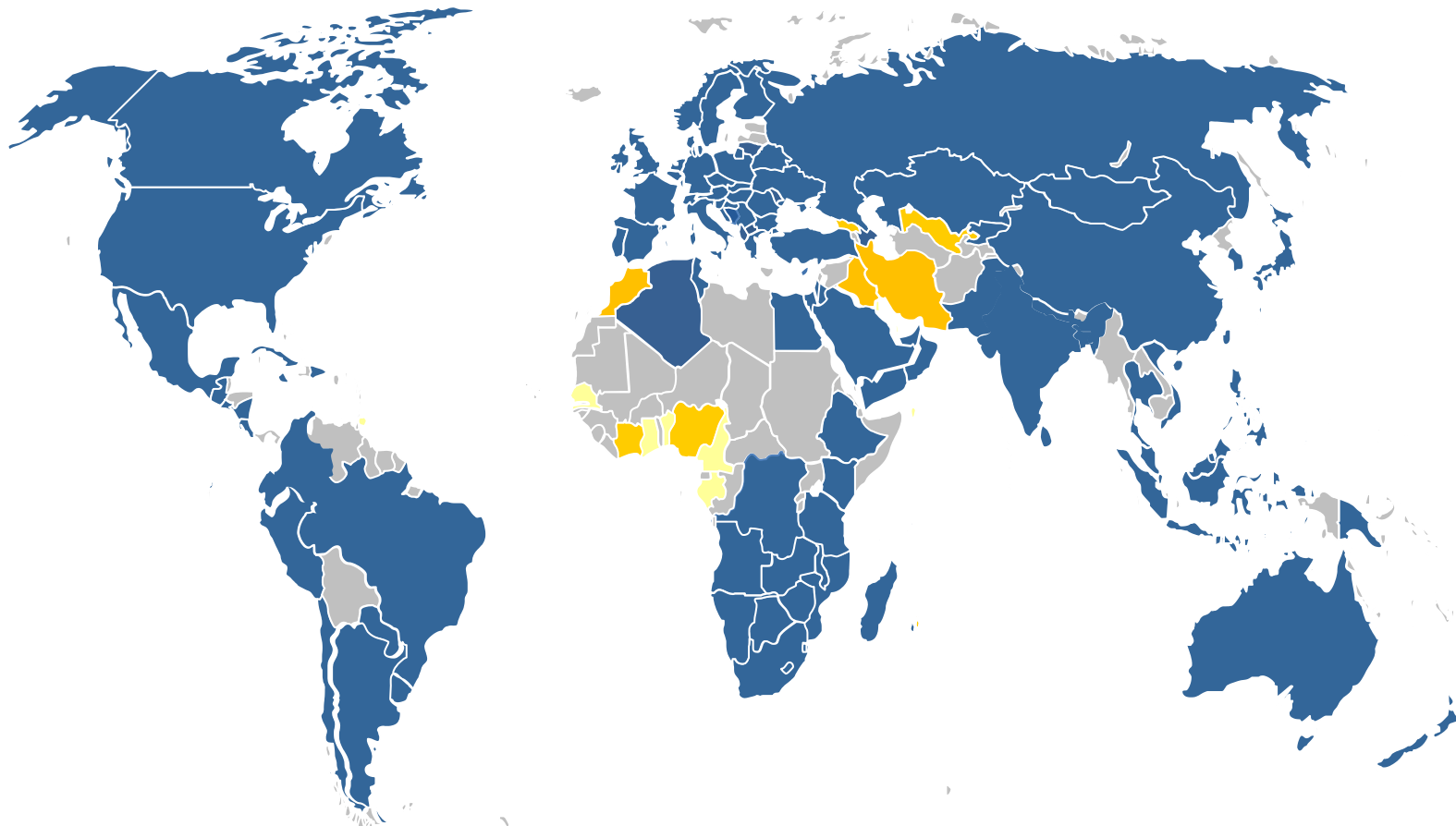
ILAC Committees (cont'd)

- **Accreditation Committee (AIC)** - Responsible for harmonisation and improvement of accreditation practice at the international level.
- **Laboratory Committee (LC)** - is a stakeholder group that provides a means of interaction and exchange of ideas between ILAC and the laboratory community.
- **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.

ILAC Committees (cont'd)

- **Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC)** - Responsible for representing the interests of developing countries and operates in conjunction with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).
- **Inspection Committee (IC)** - Responsible for the harmonisation and improvement of accreditation practices for inspection activities at the international level.

Coverage of the ILAC MRA (2 March 2021)



- ILAC MRA Signatories
- ILAC Associate Members
- ILAC Affiliate Members

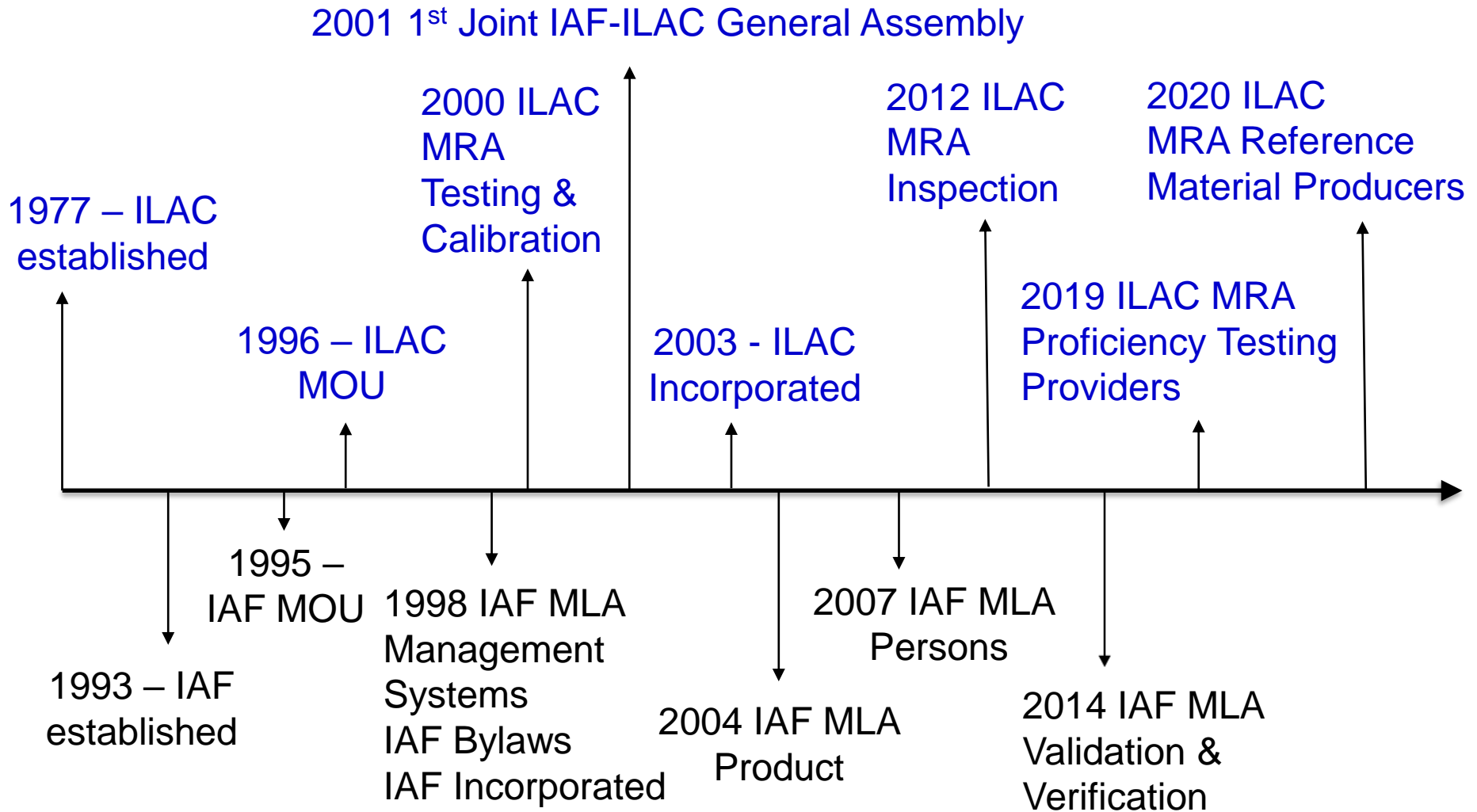


Status of the ILAC MRA (28 July 2021)

- The ILAC network of members includes 152 bodies from 128 different economies (103 Full Members/MRA Signatories, 15 Associates, 6 Affiliates, 22 Stakeholders, 6 Regional Cooperation Bodies)
- 103 ILAC MRA Signatories representing 105 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



IAF / ILAC Timeline



IAF/ILAC Multilateral MRAs



European
Cooperation
for
Accreditation
(EA)



Inter-American
Accreditation
Cooperation
(IAAC)



Asia Pacific
Accreditation
Cooperation
(APAC)



Southern African
Development
Community
Accreditation
(SADCA)



African
Accreditation
Cooperation
(AFRAC)



Arab
Accreditation
Cooperation
(ARAC)

- **A laboratory, inspection body, certification body, proficiency testing provider, reference material producer or validation/verification body accredited by one partner has equivalent competence to a laboratory, inspection body, certification body, proficiency testing provider, reference material producer or validation/verification body accredited by the other partner(s).**
- The structure of the global accreditation system is divided into two levels: the regional level (EA, ARAC, APAC, SADCA, AFRAC and IAAC) and the global level (ILAC and IAF).
- The IAF MLA recognises AFRAC, APAC, ARAC, EA and IAAC
- The ILAC MRA recognises AFRAC , APAC, ARAC, EA and IAAC

IAF/ILAC Multilateral MRAs (cont'd)

- Accreditation bodies in the major parts of the world are both members of a region and of the global associations.
- Exceptions are accreditation bodies from parts of the world, where a regional cooperation is not established yet; those accreditation bodies are only members of the global associations (unaffiliated bodies).
- Stakeholders and other interested parties may also be members of the global associations.
- Recognition of a region is achieved after successful peer evaluation by ILAC or IAF.
- ILAC and IAF rely on the evaluations undertaken by the recognised regions to grant and maintain signatory status for the accreditation bodies.

The Benefits of the IAF/ILAC Multilateral MLAs/MRAs

For Government

- Facilitator of trade
- An efficient enforcement and monitoring tool

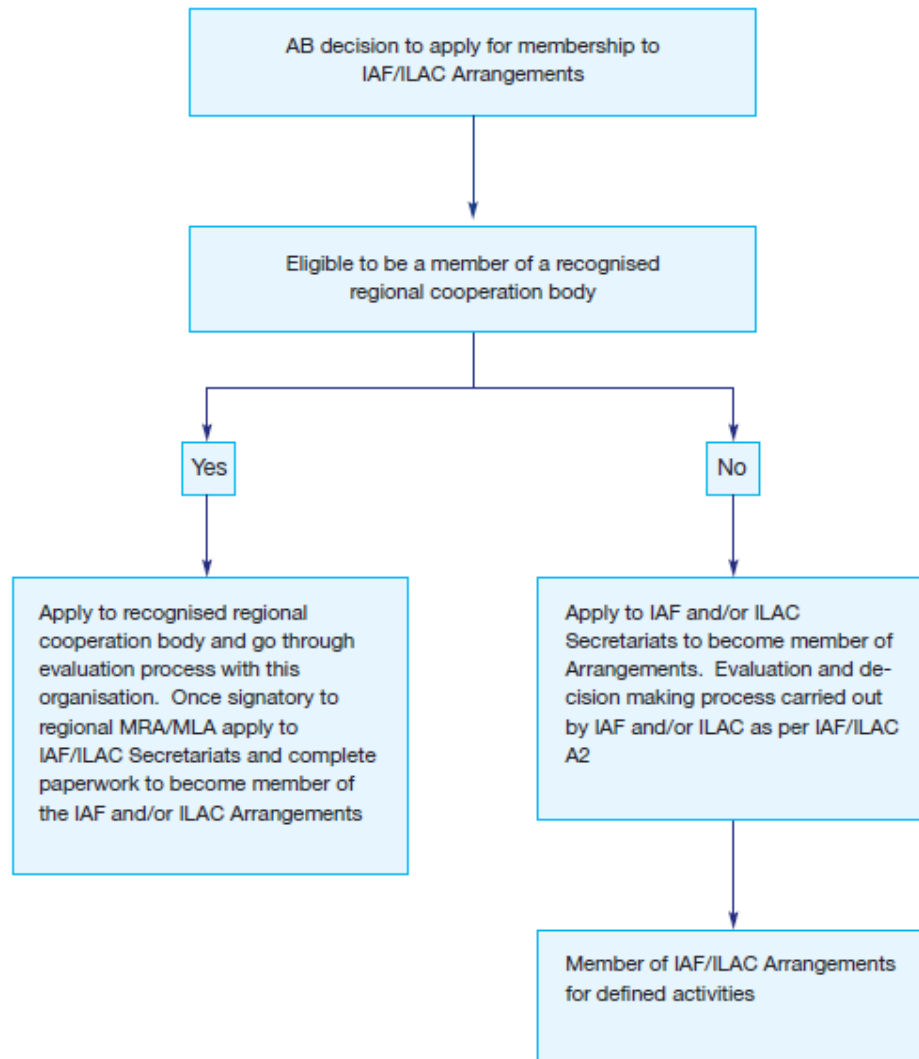
For Business

- 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

The Route to signing the Arrangements



Application of the Global Accreditation System

- www.publicsectorassurance.org was launched by ILAC, IAF, ISO, IEC AND IIOG to illustrate the value of accredited conformity assessment.
- It enables government officials and regulators to access international case studies in policy areas, showcasing how different tools are able to deliver results
- The site contains links to independent research, where conformity assessment is being used in policy areas such as:
 - Economic development
 - Healthcare
 - Environmental protection
 - Energy
 - Food safety
 - Construction
 - Crime and security
- There are also good examples of the added value of quality infrastructure on business-benefits.org which includes case studies, research papers, and supporting materials that confirm these benefits for the business community.

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 (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.

Membership Types



Full Members (Signatories)

Accreditation bodies that have been accepted as signatories to the ILAC MRA, and abides by its terms and conditions and by the ILAC evaluation procedures.

Associates

Accreditation bodies not yet signatories to the ILAC MRA, that carry out accreditation of conformity assessment that is officially recognised in that economy.

Affiliates

Accreditation bodies that are currently operating, being developed, or intended to be developed.

Regional Cooperation Bodies

Formally established regional cooperations having objectives similar to and compatible with ILAC, which are committed to the obligations of the ILAC MRA and which consist of at least four economies.

Stakeholders

Representative international, regional and national organizations having an interest in the work of ILAC



Accreditation Body Members

Accreditation bodies that accredit bodies for validation/verification and certification of management systems, products, processes, services and personnel, as well as for other programmes of conformity assessment.

Accreditation body members must declare their intention to join the IAF MLA.

Association Members

Organisations involved in the use or implementation of certification or validation/verification systems.

Regional Accreditation Groups

Regional groupings of Accreditation Bodies whose aims include the maintenance of Regional Multilateral Recognition Arrangements recognising the equivalence of their members' accreditations.

ILAC Partners



International Accreditation Forum



World Anti-Doping Agency



International Organization of Legal Metrology



International Electrotechnical Commission



International Federation for Clinical Chemistry



International Organisation for Standardisation



UN Industrial Development Organisation



International Committee on Weights & Measures



International Telecommunications Union



International Halal Accreditation Forum



World Bank



INetQI

ILAC liaises and cooperates with many international bodies such as MoU partners to achieve shared objectives.

IAF Partners

IAF works with a number of organisations and cooperates with many international bodies, including numerous MoU partners, to achieve shared objectives.



International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation



International Organisation for Standardisation



UN Industrial Development Organisation



International Electrotechnical Commission



International Telecommunications Union



International Organization of Legal Metrology



The Global Food Safety Initiative



WORLD BANK GROUP

World Bank



International Civil Aviation Organization



GLOBALG.A.P.



International Halal Accreditation Forum



The Quality and Safety System for Specialty Feed Ingredients



International Personnel Certification Association



Foundation FSSC



INetQI



How do the Committees Work?

- 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.
- Voting may be in person at meetings or by letter-ballot.
- The decisions and agreements reached during meetings are recorded in either Minutes or for the Annual Meetings as Resolutions.

What are my Obligations as an AB?

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.

What are my Obligations as an AB? (cont'd)

Voting

- Voting may be conducted at the meetings, or by email, or electronically.
- ILAC and IAF members have an obligation to vote in a timely manner for documents that are circulated for letter-ballot.
- You will receive a notification of each ballot and deadlines by email and in most cases will be required to vote online, on the Members side of the websites.
- Failure to submit the required number of ballots within a 12-month period may lead to sanctions.

Peer evaluators

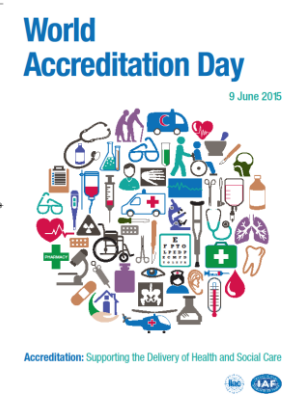
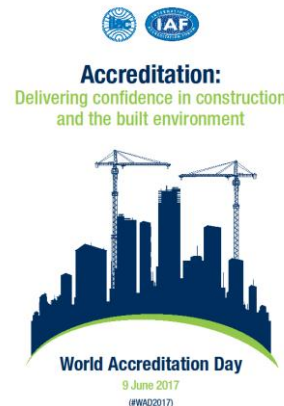
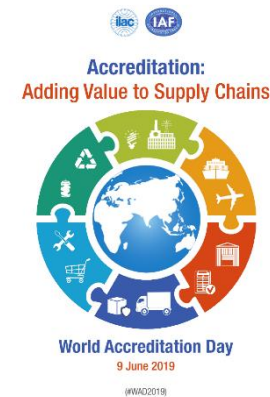
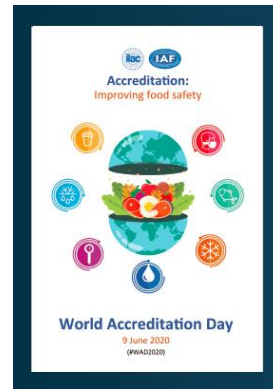
- ILAC and IAF welcome volunteers to be trained as peer evaluators.

World Accreditation Day

World Accreditation Day takes place on 9th June each year. A theme is agreed by the Joint Executives, and materials are available from the ILAC and IAF websites to support promotion in your economy. Major conferences, events, workshops, and press campaigns take place in over 90 economies.

World Accreditation Day 2021 (#WAD2021)

Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the SDGs



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/
- **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.

Contact Details

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