



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**  
**BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM (IAF),**  
**INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COOPERATION**  
**(ILAC), AND**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION**  
**(ISO)**  
**CONCERNING CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ON**  
**ACCREDITATION AS PART OF CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT**

The parties:

**Having regard** to the previous cooperative work between the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), which includes many years of on-going cooperation, including the provision of documents to the market that have become the basis for internationally accepted accreditation, and the active involvement in each other's activities at the policy and technical levels; and

**Recognizing** that ISO/IEC Standards and Guides provide the basis for accreditation by IAF and ILAC accreditation body members.

**Hereby agree** to the following understandings:

**A. Parties to the agreement**

1. The parties to this MOU are as follows:
  - a) the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) as represented by the IAF Chair;
  - b) the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Inc. (ILAC) as represented by the ILAC Chair; and
  - c) the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), as represented by the ISO Secretary General.

**B. Purpose and application of the MOU**

2. The purpose of this MOU is to record a high level understanding between the parties on their working relationship so as to achieve the scope of this MOU.
3. This MOU can provide a basis for other more specific agreements between the parties at the operational levels.
4. This MOU does not make any legal or otherwise enforceable commitments on behalf of any of the parties.

**C. Scope of the MOU**

5. The scope of this MOU covers the relationship between IAF, ILAC and ISO in matters of conformity assessment policy, standards development and practice as they relate to accreditation.



6. The scope of this MOU is alongside the roles and responsibilities that the parties already have towards each other, that arise from IAF and ILAC being liaison members of ISO committees, and of ISO having special status within IAF and ILAC.

#### **D. Areas of cooperation and responsibility**

##### **D1 Identification of conformity assessment policy, standards development and practice issues**

7. The parties will work together on conformity assessment policies, standards development and practice issues of mutual interest.
8. The parties will discuss and mutually agree on which party should take the lead on any collaborative action in response to the issues identified.
9. With regard to ISO, the principal ISO committee for contact, cooperation and responsibility for this MOU is the Committee on conformity assessment (CASCO). CASCO will facilitate communication with other relevant parts of ISO, including other committees and the ISO Central Secretariat as required.

##### **D2 Participation in the development of international standards and guidance documents**

10. ILAC and IAF may contribute to and participate in the development and revision of appropriate ISO/IEC and ISO documents and ISO may contribute to and participate in the development and revision of appropriate IAF and ILAC documents.

##### **D3 Creation, release and publicising joint IAF/ILAC/ISO communications**

11. The parties will prepare, release and publicise joint IAF/ILAC/ISO communications on matters of joint interest and with other bodies as appropriate.
12. External communications in the name of all the parties shall be mutually agreed by all the parties prior to their publication.

#### **E. Implementation and structures**

13. The above areas of cooperation shall be implemented through the following:
- a) involvement of representatives in each other's technical work. As such the normal liaison and observer rules and procedures for input shall apply;
  - b) to achieve the identification, preliminary analysis, coordination, and division of responsibilities for dealing with issues, the parties agree to join together to maintain a Joint Strategic Group (JSG) that will act as a central clearinghouse;
  - c) the preparation, implementation and maintenance of mutually agreed projects that:
    - i. establish and implement procedures to share, transfer and enable the resolution of complaints by the party most appropriate;
    - ii. recommend improvements in relevant International Standards and Guides, application documents and practice; and
    - iii. investigate by making use of customer surveys and other means and provide feedback to the parties and other relevant organizations;
  - d) attendance of an ISO representative(s) at the IAF and ILAC General Assemblies and related technical meetings, and attendance of IAF and ILAC representative(s)



at the ISO/CASCO plenary (and other ISO technical committee plenary meetings if a formal liaison with that technical committees has been established) free from the payment of attendance fees; and

e) regular review of a work program of mutually agreed actions by the parties.

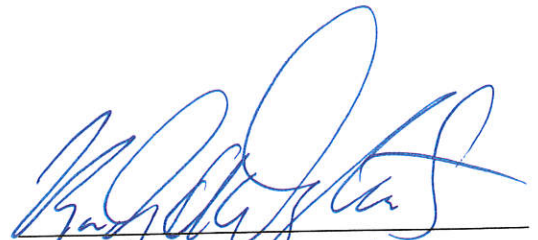
## F. Commencement, termination and period of operation

14. This MOU will commence on the date of its signing and will remain in effect until terminated or amended. Any of the parties may, upon giving six (6) calendar months notice in writing of its intention to do so, terminate this MOU.
15. This MOU may be amended (including changes to the scope) if mutually agreed upon. Such changes shall be incorporated as a written change to the MOU, and the MOU will be reissued in full as a new version.
16. Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MOU will be settled amicably by consultation between the parties.

## G. Signatures

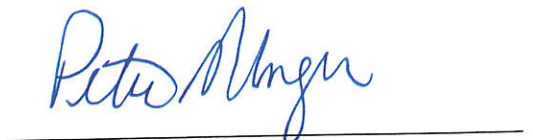
Signed on behalf of the:

International Accreditation Forum (IAF)  
Mr. Randy Dougherty  
Chair



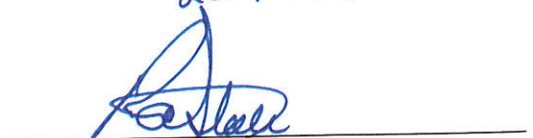
Date: 2014-04-10

International Laboratory Accreditation  
Cooperation (ILAC)  
Mr. Pete Unger  
Chair



Date: 2014-04-10

International Organization  
for Standardization (ISO)  
Mr. Rob Steele  
Secretary General



Date: 2014-04-10