



Item 11: International cooperation

Item 11.3: Updates by other organisations in liaison

11.3d) Report by ILAC



ILAC Report for the 55th CIML Meeting
20 - 22 October 2020

ILAC Meetings

Details of the ILAC 2019 Annual meetings, 2020 and 2021 meetings are shown in the table below. Both the ILAC-IAF Mid-Term and Annual Meetings have been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and ILAC work is being progressed via email and on-line meetings. Planning is currently underway for the second half of 2020 and 2021 to ensure that key decision making activities and work items are not impacted by the cancellation of face to face meetings.

Information on future meetings and events can also be found in the [ILAC Calendar](#).

ILAC Meetings	Dates	Locations
ILAC-IAF Annual Meetings	21 – 30 October 2019	InterContinental Hotel, Frankfurt, Germany The adopted resolutions of the 23rd ILAC General Assembly can be downloaded from the ILAC website at Resolutions of the Twenty-Third ILAC General Assembly, Frankfurt, 28 and 30 October 2019 .
ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee /IAF Communications and Marketing Committee	19-20 March 2020	On-site meeting cancelled due to COVID-19 and replaced with online meeting 19 March 2020.
ILAC-IAF Mid-Term Meetings	30 March – 6 April 2020	On-site meeting cancelled due to COVID-19. Individual meetings conducted on-line as required.
ILAC-IAF Annual Meetings	27 October - 5 November 2020	On-site meetings cancelled due to COVID-19. Individual meetings are being scheduled on-line as required.
ILAC-IAF Mid-Term Meetings	March/April 2021	On-site meetings cancelled due to COVID-19. Individual meetings will be scheduled on-line as required.
ILAC-IAF Annual Meetings	28 October - 6 November 2021	Le Westin Hotel, Montréal, Canada

COVID-19 Update

Information on the ILAC response to the COVID-19 pandemic can be found on the ILAC website where new material and updates are regularly published [Latest ILAC News](#).

Decision to Establish a Single International Organisation for Accreditation

The members of ILAC and IAF agreed, during the Joint General Assembly meeting on 29 October 2019, to adopt the resolutions shown below and then subsequently confirmed the adoption of these resolutions during the ILAC and IAF General Assemblies held on 30 October 2019.

JGA Frankfurt Resolution 1 – Recommendation to Establish a Single International Accreditation Organisation (1): The Joint General Assembly endorses the recommendation of the Joint Executive Committee to establish a single international organisation for accreditation on the basis of the results of the “Survey In Support of the IAF 2020 – 2025 and ILAC 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plans”

JGA Frankfurt Resolution 2 – Recommendation to Establish a Single International Accreditation Organisation (2): The Joint General Assembly endorses the recommendation of the Joint Executive Committee to create a Steering Committee, reporting to the Joint Executive Committee, to lead the process to establish a single international organisation for accreditation. In this regard, a contractor will be engaged and the costs for the project will be shared equally by IAF and ILAC.

The Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee for the establishment of a single international organisation for accreditation were adopted by the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) in May 2020.

The Steering Committee prepared a tender document for the selection of a contractor to assist IAF and ILAC in the establishment of a single international organisation for accreditation. The closing date for submission of proposals for the tender was 14 August 2020. The Steering Committee is currently reviewing the submissions received and it is expected the outcome of the review process will be available by late October 2020.

The ILAC MRA

The ILAC MRA was extended to include the accreditation of proficiency testing providers (PTP) using ISO/IEC 17043 in May 2019.

In April 2020, the ILAC MRA was extended to include the accreditation of reference material producers (RMP) using ISO 17034.

This latest extension of the ILAC MRA has been implemented as a result of the decision of the members of the ILAC Arrangement Council that endorsed the recommendation of the AMC to recognise the EA MLA for the accreditation of RMP. This is a result of the re-evaluation of EA that included the extension for RMP carried out in 2018/2019.

In addition, the recognition of the APAC MRA to the ILAC MRA has also been extended this year to include the accreditation of RMP using ISO 17034 following the extra-ordinary evaluation of APAC carried out in 2109/2020 for RMP.

As at 22 September 2020 there were 21 signatories to the ILAC MRA for the accreditation of RMP. The full list of signatories to the ILAC MRA and now including the signatories for the accreditation of RMP using ISO 17034, is available from <https://ilac.org/signatory-search/>. This directory is searchable by economy and scope of signatory status as well as the name and acronym of the accreditation bodies that are signatories to the ILAC MRA. The scope of

recognition of the recognised regions to the ILAC MRA is available from <https://ilac.org/ilac-mra-and-signatories/recognised-regional-cooperation-bodies/>.

Information on the acceptance of calibration, testing and inspection results, programs provided by PTP and reference materials produced by RMP via the ILAC MRA is available from <https://ilac.org/ilac-mra-and-signatories/>.

As at 22 September 2020, there were **101 ILAC MRA signatories**, representing **103 economies**. The ILAC MRA covers recognition for accreditation in the areas of calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), testing (ISO/IEC 17025), medical testing (ISO 15189), inspection (ISO/IEC 17020), proficiency testing providers (ISO/IEC 17043) and reference material producers (ISO 17034). The list of signatories to the ILAC MRA is available from the [ILAC MRA Signatory Search](#).

The *ILAC MRA Annual Report 2019* was published in May 2020 and is available from the [ILAC MRA and Signatories page](#). A single page infographic highlighting the key points from this Annual Report is also available from the [Publications](#) page.

As a result of an ILAC ballot the transition period for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 adopted as part of the ILAC Resolution GA 20.15 (November 2016) has been extended from 30 November 2020 to 1 June 2021. This extension has been granted to ensure all accreditation bodies and the accredited laboratories are able to achieve the remaining transitions in a robust manner under the restrictions imposed as a result of the global coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

At the end of the transition period, the accreditation of a laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 will not be recognised under the ILAC Arrangement.

The ISO/ILAC ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Transition Communique available from <https://ilac.org/about-ilac/partnerships/international-partners/iso/> has been updated to reflect this extension to the transition period.

The transition policy published by ILAC and IAF in October 2017 requires all accreditation bodies that are signatories to the ILAC MRA and IAF MLA to have completed the transition to the 2017 version of ISO/IEC 17011 by November 2020. This transition period has not been extended and ILAC and IAF released a statement detailing guidelines on the evaluation activities required to ensure all accreditation bodies will be able to achieve this transition in the remaining time. The statement is available from <https://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/joint-ilac-iaf-series/> and joint IAF-ILAC publications area of the IAF website

Case studies and research on the recognition of the ILAC MRA by governments and regulators are available from the [Public Sector Assurance website](#). The website is a collaborative initiative of the INetQI members and as of October 2019, there were **325** case studies, **88** research papers and **57** supporting materials available to view.

The [Business Benefits website](#) a reference website designed to demonstrate the monetary value of standards, conformity assessment and accreditation for businesses. The website represents another successful collaboration of the INetQI partners. In October 2019 there were **95** case studies categorised into 6 areas of value. All of the case studies identify a clear financial benefit. The site also includes **74** research papers and contains a powerful filter that allows users to source information by standard, economy and sector.

ILAC Membership

ILAC membership as at 22 September 2020 is as follows:

- 101 Full Members (signatories to the ILAC MRA) representing 103 economies;
- 14 Associates representing 20 economies;
- 9 Affiliates representing 13 economies;
- 23 Stakeholders;
- 6 Regional Cooperation Bodies (includes 5 Recognised Regional Cooperation Bodies)

The ILAC membership consists of 153 organisations from 128 different economies worldwide. Over 79,800 laboratories, 11,300 inspection bodies, 400 PTPs and 190 RMPs are accredited by the ILAC Full Members (signatories to the ILAC MRA). The latest statistics and graphs on the number of accreditation bodies, accredited laboratories, inspection bodies and PTPs are available from the [ILAC Facts & Figures page](#). This information on the website will be updated to include the statistics for accredited reference material producers as the data is gathered from the ILAC Full Members who extend their signatory status to the ILAC MRA for the accreditation of RMP.

ILAC Executive

As a result of the resignation of Jon Murthy, Chair of the ILAC MCC in December 2019 we were pleased to welcome Ms Verónica Ramírez (ema) to the role of Acting ILAC MCC Chair effective 20 December 2019 to the ILAC Executive Committee.

Amendment of the ILAC Articles of Association and Bylaws

As a result of the positive decision by the ILAC members the amended Articles of Association were registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce on 11 November 2019 and the revised Articles of Association and Bylaws were published in November 2019. Work is ongoing to align the ILAC's policies, procedures and processes with the amended Articles of Association and the revised Bylaws as necessary.

ILAC Strategic Plan Progress Update

The ILAC Executive Committee continues to review the implementation of *ILAC-R3 ILAC Strategic Plan 2015-2020* and the actions detailed in *Supplement 1 to ILAC R3*.

The ILAC Strategic Plan also continues to be a standing item for each of the ILAC committees. ILAC-R3 can be downloaded from the [ILAC Publications and Resources section](#).

ILAC Liaisons and other International Activities

ILAC carries out a number of regular liaison activities with our international partners, participating in both the routine meetings that underpin these relationships as well as any relevant ad hoc events that may be scheduled throughout the year. During 2019 ILAC was represented at numerous international conferences, workshops and meetings. ILAC's liaison representatives have continued to represent ILAC during 2020 with face to face meetings being replaced by on-line meetings as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Participation via on-line meetings is continuing throughout the remainder of 2020.

The current list of ILAC liaison activities includes:

ILAC Liaisons with ISO:

- ISO-IAF-ILAC JSG (Joint Strategic Group)
- ISO/CASCO Plenary
- ISO/CASCO CPC (Chairman's Policy Committee)

- ISO/CASCO STAR (Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group)
- ISO/CASCO TIG (Technical Interface Group)
- ISO REMCO (Reference Materials Committee)
- ISO TC 212 Plenary (Clinical Laboratory Testing and In-Vitro Diagnostic Systems) and WG1 (ISO 15189 revision)
- ISO TC 272 WGs 1-5 (Forensic Sciences)
- ISO TC 276 WG2 (Biobanking)

ILAC Liaisons with ISO/CASCO Working Groups/Task Forces

- ISO/CASCO Common Elements WG 23
- ISO/CASCO WG 49 Revision of ISO/IEC 17000
- ISO/CASCO CPC TG Future of CASCO Toolbox
- ISO/CASCO WG 56 Revision of Guide 60 - Code of Practice
- ISO/CASCO WG 57 Revision of ISO/IEC 17043

ILAC Liaisons with Other Organisations

- BIPM-ILAC WG Bipartite
- BIPM-ILAC-ISO-OIML Quadripartite
- OIML-CS Management Committee (MC)
- CITAC (Cooperation on International Traceability in Analytical Chemistry)
- EUROLAB Conference
- IEC/IECEE International Electro-technical Commission (ILAC-IAF-IEC Steering Committee)
- INetQI International Network on Quality Infrastructure
- JCGM Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology Plenary and WGs 1 (GUM) and 2 (VIM)
- JCTLM Joint Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine

Information on ILAC's partnerships, including copies of communiqués, joint procedures, press releases and MoUs, is available from the [ILAC Partnerships page](#).

ILAC thanks all of the ILAC liaison officers, and their organisations, who volunteer their time to assist ILAC in carrying out these activities for the benefit of all ILAC members.

The Liaison information page, located in the member's area of the ILAC website, continues to serve as the main repository for the reports and documents produced as part of ILAC's liaison activities. ILAC members can also find copies of all ILAC comments submitted during ISO/CASCO ballots on international standards pertinent to the work of ILAC. The *ILAC Liaison Procedure*, which provides information relating to ILAC's liaison activities, can also be downloaded from this page.

ILAC Secretariat

The ILAC Secretariat is currently staffed as follows: Annette Dever, Sharon Kelly, Vanessa Oconer Muhi, Hannah Yeoh (0.6 FTE - contract to March 2021), Stephanie Sun, Rose De Rota (0.7 FTE) and Joëlle Nicolas (0.8 FTE).

Vanessa Oconer Muhi joined the Secretariat on 5 February 2020 in the role of ILAC Quality Officer. Vanessa was previously working as the Quality Coordinator for a large NATA accredited commercial laboratory.

World Accreditation Day was celebrated on 9 June 2020 with the theme:

“Accreditation: Improving food safety”

Documents and brochures published since August 2019 are as follows:

ILAC G8:09/2019 *Guidelines on Decision Rules and Statements of Conformity*

ILAC-R2A:11/2019 *ILAC Rules: Articles of Association*

ILAC-R2B:11/2019 *ILAC Rules: Bylaws*

IAF/ILAC B7:03/2020 *Accreditation: Supporting the Delivery of Health and Social Care*

IAF/ILAC B10:03/2020 *Accreditation: Delivering a safer world*

IAF/ILAC B11:03/2020 *Accreditation: Adding value to supply chains*

ILAC B13: 03/2020 *Why become an accredited reference material producer*

IAF/ILAC A1:03/2020 *IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group*

IAF/ILAC A3:03/2020 *IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Template report for the peer evaluation of an Accreditation Body based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017*

ILAC-P15:05/2020 *Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies*

ILAC-G29:06/2020 *Guidelines for harmonization of scopes of ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation of WADA anti-doping laboratories*

ILAC P10:07/2020 *ILAC Policy on Metrological Traceability of Measurement Results*

Factsheet: *Specifying Accreditation for COVID-19 Testing* (published Aug 2020)

Many of the ILAC documents and brochures have been translated into a range of different languages.

Follow [@ILAC_Official](#) on Twitter to receive the latest ILAC news, including information on meetings, events, liaison activities and new publications.

The latest edition of the newsletter published in April 2020 can be accessed via the following link <https://ilac.org/news-and-events/ilac-newsletter/>. Past editions of the ILAC Newsletters are also available to download from the ILAC website.

You can also [subscribe to the ILAC Newsletter](#).

[Subscribe to the latest news](#) to receive updates from ILAC members and liaisons.