



IAAC Report to SIM

IAAC meetings

IAAC held the XXX General Assembly annual meetings in Antigua, Guatemala, from August 12-19, 2022. This is the first General Assembly that IAAC carried out in a hybrid way with the largest participation in IAAC history if we count the face-to-face and virtual participants. A total of 120 representatives of accreditation bodies and conformity assessment organizations in the region attended. It was the first IAAC meeting held in person since March 2019 when the pandemic began more than 2 years ago. The Certification, Inspection and Laboratories subcommittee members reviewed the actions carried out up-to-date and held discussions about technical accreditation topics of interest to the region. The MLA Group and Committee reviewed the remote peer evaluation reports and discussed issues regarding the improvement of the MLA process and the extension of new IAAC MLA scopes.

IAAC celebrated World Accreditation Day

IAAC held a virtual event to celebrate World Accreditation Day #WAD 2022 with the participation of keynote speakers of IAF, ILAC, APAC, ISO/CASCO and Accreditation Bodies of the region, who addressed the theme of how Accreditation supports sustainable economic growth and the environment. The virtual event was well attended with over 450 participants. The IAAC WAD event was held a day prior to the actual WAD date, which allowed more participation without competing with other WAD celebrations held throughout the region. The IAAC WAD event was recorded on YouTube and is available on the IAAC channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBBqC9bwZvu2CTqnllygeIVA>

IAAC members also held virtual events to celebrate World Accreditation Day last June in the countries of the region, you may find links to their event in the IAAC website at <https://www.iaac.org.mx/index.php/en/2-uncategorised/145-world-accreditation-day-2020-wad>

IAAC celebrated its 25 Years

IAAC celebrated its 25th anniversary at a virtual event on March 23, 2022, where founding members spoke about the development of IAAC as a Cooperation and highlighted the plans for the future of accreditation in the region. The virtual event was recorded on YouTube and is available on the IAAC channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBBqC9bwZvu2CTqnllygeIVA>

IAAC Membership

IAAC currently has a total of 62 members, 28 of which are full members, 7 are associate members and 27 are stakeholders. In 2022, IAAC welcomed 5 new members in 2022, two full members, one associate member and two stakeholder members. The IAAC membership continues to grow and attract new accredited CABs.



IAAC MLA Signatories

IAAC currently has a total of 21 MLA signatory members from 18 countries. The IAAC MLA membership experienced an increase in scope extensions.

In May 2022, the MLA Group agreed via electronic ballot that the Organismo Nacional de Acreditación de Colombia (ONAC) of Colombia be accepted as an MLA signatory for the scope of Verification/Validation Bodies of Greenhouse Gases (ISO 14065).

- In May 2022, the MLA Group agreed via electronic ballot that the organismo nacional de acreditación (ONA) of Paraguay be accepted as an MLA signatory for the scope of Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025).
- In March 2022, the MLA Group agreed that ANSI National Accreditation Board, (ANAB) of USA extend its IAAC MLA to include the scopes of Persons Certification (ISO/IEC 17024), Product Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17065), including GLOBAL GAP, and Verification/Validation Bodies of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) (ISO 14065).
- In January 2022, the MLA Group accepted SCC of Canada, as new MLA signatory for the sub-scope of Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) Certification Bodies.

IAAC MLA recognition by IAF and ILAC

IAAC is recognized by IAF and ILAC as Regional Cooperation for the main scopes of Testing (including Medical) and Calibration Laboratories; Inspection Bodies; Proficiency Testing Providers (PTP); Reference Materials Producers (RMP); Management Systems Certification Bodies (with subscopes QMS, EMS, FSMS, ISMS, MDMS and EnMS), and Product Certification Bodies (with sub scope Global G.A.P).

IAAC is undergoing an IAF peer evaluation to extend MLA recognition to the scopes of Persons Certification Bodies and Green House Gases (GHG) Validation/Verification.

New IAAC MLAs

IAAC has started implementation of the FSSC 22000 subscope with 6 new MLA applicants who have submitted self-declarations to extend their MLAs.

The IAAC officers

The General Assembly full members elected the IAAC officials listed below for the 2022-2024 term.

Andrea Melo of Cgcre, Brazil, IAAC Chair



Sharonmae Shirley of JANAAC, Jamaica, IAAC Vice-Chair
Rhonda Banks, ANAB, USA, IAAC Treasurer
Paola Mársico of OAA, Argentina, IAAC MLAC/MLAG Chair
Aldoney Costa of Cgcre, Brazil, IAAC MLAC/MLAG Vice-Chair
Alba Cabrera, ONA, Paraguay, Management Committee Chair
Maria Miranda, ONARC, Cuba, Management Committee Vice Chair
Eduardo Ceballos, INN, Chile, Technical Committee Vice Chair
Mirta Leiva, ONA, Paraguay, Promotions Subcommittee Chair
Verónica Ruano, SAE, Ecuador, Promotions Subcommittee Vice-Chair
Carlos Archila, OGA, Guatemala, Chair of Technical Committee
Rita Cinca, OAA, Argentina, Chair of Certification Bodies Subcommittee
Will O'Neill, SCC, Canada, Vice-Chair of Certification Bodies Subcommittee

Training Activities

- IAAC held a virtual workshop on the ISO/IEC 17029:2019 standard "Conformity assessment. General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies". The workshop was held from September 21-23, and October 5-6, 2022. Participants included 30 representatives of ABs throughout the region and 1 representative from the APAC region.
- A virtual workshop for IAAC peer evaluators was held on August 2, 2022, regarding the IAAC peer evaluation process and document updates, as well as discussions of case study findings to harmonize peer evaluators' practices. 79 peer evaluators of the region were trained in this workshop.
- IAAC held a webinar on Digital Transformation in Accreditation on July 28, 2022. International Quality Infrastructure and private sector keynote speakers presented case studies on how their organizations are implementing Digital Transformation. A panel of IAAC Accreditation Body representatives shared their experiences and IAAC members discussed a regional proposal to develop Digital Transformation for Accreditation in the countries of the region with the generous support of a PTB project.
- IAAC held a virtual workshop for IAAC peer evaluators regarding ISO/IEC 17024, IAAC and IAF requirements, in January 2022. Peer evaluators qualified for the scope of Persons Certification analyzed case studies and exchanged experiences with the purpose of harmonizing evaluation practices.
- IAAC held a workshop for IAAC accreditation bodies to share the experience achieved in the management of "Flexible Scopes", in December 2021. The workshop was organized by the IAAC Laboratories Subcommittee.



- IAAC held a workshop on the IAF MD 25 mandatory document regarding the suitability of the Conformity Assessments Schemes.

Technical Cooperation Project

IAAC is participating in a technical cooperation project titled "Quality Infrastructure for Circular Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean" by the 3 regional organizations for accreditation, standards and metrology: the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), the Panamerican Standards Commission (COPANT) and the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM). Sponsor organizations include the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) of Germany and the Organization of American States (OAS). Circular Economy is a topic of great relevance worldwide and IAAC members have the unique opportunity to participate in their countries' efforts as key players, demonstrating that accreditation goes hand in hand with innovation and development of new economic paradigms.

The project focuses on three value cycles: plastics, construction and agri-food. In March 2022, IAAC, SIM and COPANT members participated in the 2nd regional workshop to develop country projects in the three areas. Over 100 representatives of accreditation, standards and metrology organizations participated in the interactive planning workshop under the guidance of experts in Circular Economy, using the CABUREK methodology. 16 accreditation bodies are participating in the development of national circular economy projects together with their quality infrastructure partner organizations.

IAAC representatives participated in a CABUREK workshop, in Otavalo, Ecuador, in October 2022, to review the progress achieved on the national projects and to exchange experiences with Quality Infrastructure colleagues and Circular Economy experts from the region.

In February 2022, IAAC became a member of the Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Cooperation with the Regions

The **Quality Infrastructure Council of the Americas (QICA)**, comprises the three independent regional organizations involved in quality infrastructure in America: the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT), the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM) and the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), each of which has an active and broad participation in American countries in their respective areas of expertise.

QICA is a platform to develop joint projects, information sharing, and cross-functional training and development that, by acting collaboratively, exceeds the abilities of any organization acting alone.



A Working Group of QICA representatives from IAAC, SIM and COPANT met in June in Mexico City, to draft a five year strategic plan to promote Quality Infrastructure in the region.

Cooperation with COPANT and SIM

The Chairs of IAAC, COPANT and SIM attend each other's General Assemblies. IAAC and SIM representatives exchange ideas and provide feedback to their committees on technical issues of mutual interest. The IAAC, SIM and COPANT Secretariats collaborate and work together on Technical Cooperation project activities and other issues of regional interest. IAAC provides keynote speakers as requested, during COPANT and SIM General Assemblies and conferences.

IAAC fosters strong relationships with regional accreditation Cooperations. IAAC and the Asia-Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) regularly carry out joint peer evaluations of their common members, regularly share peer evaluators as well as MLA practices. IAAC carried out 3 joint peer evaluations with APAC in 2022. The APAC MRA Chair virtually attended the IAAC MLA hybrid meetings held in Antigua, Guatemala, in August 2022.

IAAC regularly exchanges technical information with the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), the Southern African Development Community Accreditation (SADCA) and the Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC), regarding best practices in MLA management. IAAC also exchanges information with the European Accreditation Cooperation (EA) on the latest developments and trends in the region.

IAAC Meetings

The next IAAC Executive Committee meetings will be virtual and are scheduled to take place from March 13-17, 2023.

The IAAC General Assembly meetings will be held on site, in Brazil, in August 2023.