



IAAC Report to SIM

Activities from March to October 2023

IAAC meetings

IAAC held virtual meetings from March 13-17, 2023. 70 representatives of accreditation bodies and conformity assessment organizations joined meetings of the Executive Committee, MLA Group, MLA Committee and Technical Committees.

The Executive Committee members reviewed the IAAC strategic plan's actions, conducted the annual management review, discussed and made decisions on key issues reported by the IAAC Committees and Subcommittees regarding the development of accreditation in the region.

The MLA Group reviewed the peer evaluation reports of MLA signatories undergoing reevaluations or applying for MLA scope extensions, and members' transition reports to international standards. The MLA Committee discussed improvements to the MLA process and to the process for selection, training, qualification and monitoring the performance of IAAC peer evaluators. The MLA Committee created Peer Evaluator Working Groups for scheme suitability based on IAF MD 25, risk assessment, and flexible scopes of accreditation.

The Technical Committee discussed the need for a definition of flexible scope in ISO/IEC 17011 as a harmonized and transversal definition at a regional level. The Laboratories Subcommittee discussed the harmonization of flexible scope related terms, the need to develop a template of examples on the use of flexible scope, and the transition to ISO/IEC 17043. The Certification Bodies Subcommittee discussed the latest news on the IAF Certsearch database, updates on the ISO/IEC 17024 and ISO 14066:2011 under review by ISO. The Inspection Bodies Subcommittee discussed metrological aspects in inspection, created a Working Group to discuss the GAFTA scheme, drafted a paper on the technical competence of inspectors and discussed the revision ISO/IEC 17020.

IAAC Membership

IAAC currently has a total of 64 members, 27 of which are full members, 8 are associate members and 29 are stakeholders. In 2023, IAAC welcomed 2 new members, one full and one stakeholder. The IAAC membership continues to grow.

IAAC MLA recognition by IAF and ILAC

IAAC is recognized by IAF and ILAC as a Regional Cooperation and received a peer evaluation by IAF/ILAC in 2022 to confirm that it complies with the relevant international accreditation standards and requirements.



In February 2023, the ILAC Arrangement Council approved that IAAC maintains recognition as a Regional Cooperation Body for the ILAC MRA scopes of Calibration and Testing Laboratories using ISO/IEC 17025, Medical Laboratories using ISO 15189, Inspection Bodies using ISO/IEC 17020, Proficiency Testing Providers using ISO/IEC 17043 and Reference Material Producers using ISO 17034.

Also in February 2023, the IAF MLA Management Committee approved that IAAC maintains recognition as a Regional Cooperation Body for the IAF MLA scopes of Quality Management Systems (QMS) Certification Bodies, Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Certification Bodies, Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies, Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) Certification Bodies, Medical Devices Management Systems (MDMS) Certification Bodies, Energy Management Systems (EnMS) Certification Bodies, Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OH&SMS) Certification Bodies using ISO/IEC 17021-1; and Product Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17065) including 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. The evaluation is in process.

IAAC MLA Signatories

The IAAC MLA continues to grow, IAAC currently has a total of 22 MLA signatory members from 20 countries. The IAAC MLA Group accepted two new signatories in 2023 which is a 10% increase since last year.

New IAAC MLA Signatories

On August 28, 2023, the MLA Group agreed that the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) be accepted as an IAAC MLA signatory for the scopes of, Persons Certification (ISO/IEC 17024), Verification/Validation Bodies (ISO/IEC 17029), and Proficiency Testing Providers (ISO/IEC 17043).

On August 28, 2023, the MLA Group agreed that the Consejo Nacional de Acreditación (CNA) of Panama be accepted as an IAAC MLA signatory for the scopes of Testing and Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025) and Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020).

On August 28, 2023, the MLA Group agreed that the Dirección Técnica de Acreditación (DTA-IBMETRO) of Bolivia be accepted as an IAAC MLA signatory for the scopes of Testing and Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025) and for Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020).

On July 27, 2023, the MLA Group agreed via electronic ballot that the Servicio de Acreditación Ecuatoriano (SAE) of Ecuador, be accepted as an MLA signatory for the scope of Medical Laboratories (ISO 15189).



On March 16, 2023, the MLA Group agreed that Coordenação Geral de Acreditação, (Cgcre), of Brazil be accepted as an IAAC MLA signatory for the scope of Persons Certification (under ISO/IEC 17024).

On January 30, 2023, the MLA Group agreed via electronic ballot that the Ente Costarricense de Acreditación (ECA) of Costa Rica, be accepted as an MLA signatory for Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OH&SMS) Certification Bodies (Main Scope: ISO/IEC 17021-1; Sub-scopes: Level 4: ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; Level 5: ISO 45001) and for Energy Management Systems (EnMS) Certification Bodies (Main Scope: ISO/IEC 17021-1; Subscope: Level 4: ISO 50003. Level 5: ISO 50001).

New IAAC MLA scopes

In 2022, IAAC began the implementation of the Food Safety System Certification (FSSC) 22000 subscope with 6 new MLA signatories who submitted self-declarations to extend their MLAs. IAAC submitted its self-declaration as a region to IAF for recognition of this subscope.

IAAC officers

The IAAC key officers are:

Andrea Melo of Cgcre, Brazil, IAAC Chair
Sharonmae Shirley of JANAAC, Jamaica, IAAC Vice-Chair
Rhonda Banks, ANAB, USA, IAAC Treasurer
Paola Marsico of OAA, Argentina, IAAC MLAC/MLAG Chair
Rob Knake of NVLAP, USA, IAAC MLAC/MLAG Vice-Chair
Victor Gandy, IAAC Executive Secretary
Ferre Chaparro, IAAC Technical Secretary

Training Activities

IAAC organized a series of virtual training workshops and seminar sessions during 2023.

- On October 11, 2023, IAAC and the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM) held a joint workshop titled “Synergies between Metrology and Accreditation”. The virtual event was attended by representatives of Accreditation Bodies and Metrology Institutes of the Americas. The workshop included panel discussions regarding ways to achieve and maintain international recognition arrangements, the use of reference materials and compliance with ILAC policies on metrological traceability and the challenges and opportunities to strengthen joint and coordinated work between the ABs and NMIs to strengthen the Quality Infrastructure in the region.
- An IAAC virtual workshop for experienced IAAC peer evaluators was held on June 29, 2023. The main discussion topics were the proposed changes to the MD 002 IAAC MLA policies and procedures document and the PR 004 procedure to select, train, qualify, and monitor IAAC peer evaluators. There



was a report on the remote peer evaluation discussions in the IAF Digital Working Group. 98 peer evaluators participated in this workshop.

- An IAAC virtual workshop for new IAAC peer evaluators for Spanish speakers was held from April 10-20, 2023. 34 peer evaluators were qualified as trainee peer evaluators.
- An IAAC workshop for IAAC peer evaluators was held virtually on February 7, 2023. The topic was to create consensus among peer evaluators qualified for ISO/IEC 17029 standard. 7 peer evaluators were qualified to the standard.

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 Panama City, Panama, in October 2023, to review the final results 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.

Recent QICA Activities

The IAAC, COPANT, and SIM Secretaries represented the Quality Infrastructure Council of the Americas (QICA) at the Quality Week for Sustainable Industrial Development held on October 18, 2023, in Asuncion, Paraguay. The QICA representatives participated virtually in a discussion panel highlighting the critical role of quality infrastructure to underpin Circular Economy efforts in the country.

The IAAC Secretary represented QICA during the V Congress of Plastic Industry, on May 23, 2023, in Lima, Peru, with a virtual presentation on a quality infrastructure that generates confidence in the transition towards a Circular Economy.

The SIM Chair represented QICA with a keynote presentation at the 10th Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (X COMCYT), which was held on May 5, 2023, at the OAS headquarters in Washington D.C. The presentation highlighted Quality Infrastructure as a useful tool for governments and regulators to implement SDGs in the countries of the region.

The first QICA meeting with IAAC, COPANT, and SIM Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Secretaries was held virtually on February 1, 2023. During the meeting, each president spoke about the needs of COPANT, IAAC, and SIM, and ideas for working together and proposing activities and events of interest to the region were discussed. Comments were made on the need to define the structure and governance of QICA and it was agreed to hold periodic meetings of the Secretaries and of QICA's management.

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. The SIM Chair attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings held in Manaus, Brazil, in August 2023.

Cooperation with APAC, EA, AFRAC, ARAC and SADCA



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 6 joint peer evaluations together with APAC between 2022 and 2023.

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. Within the framework of regional cooperation, the IAAC Executive Secretary performed the internal audit of the SADCA Secretariat in 2022. IAAC also exchanges information with the European Accreditation Cooperation (EA) on the latest developments and trends in the region.

IAAC Promotion activities

IAAC held a virtual event to celebrate World Accreditation Day #WAD 2023 with the participation of keynote speakers of IAF, ILAC, UNIDO, WTO, and Accreditation Bodies of the region, who addressed the theme of how Accreditation supports the future of global trade. 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 is available on the IAAC channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@inter-americanaccreditatio6443/featured>

IAAC is actively engage on social media channels promoting IAAC and its activities. In December 2022, IAAC launched its new [LinkedIn](#) account with great success, in addition to its existing [Twitter](#) account and [You Tube](#) channel.

Upcoming IAAC Meetings

The IAAC General Assembly meetings will be held in Medellin, Colombia, from August 18-23, 2024.

The next IAAC Executive Committee meetings will be held virtually from March 18-22, 2024.