

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2021 ILAC ANNUAL MEETINGS

The ILAC annual meetings were held virtually from 13 October 2021 culminating in the ILAC General Assembly (GA) on 2 November 2021. SADCAS was represented at these meetings by Mrs Maureen Primrose Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the Technical Manager, Mr Xavier Mugari, the Quality Manager, Mrs Eva Muronda, Scheme Coordinator Medical and Mr Victor Mundembe, Scheme Coordinator for Inspection, Calibration and Legal Metrology. This was the third time that the ILAC / IAF meetings were held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 400 delegates attended the annual meetings.

The following ILAC meetings were attended by SADCAS representatives:

- ILAC Inspection Committee Meeting on 12 October 2021;
- Joint (ILAC/IAF) Development Support Committee on 13 October 2021;
- ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC) on 13 October 2021;
- ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC) on 26 October 2021; and
- ILAC General Assembly (GA) on 02 November 2021.

ILAC Chair's Address and Executive Committee Report

The Chair's report covered issues handled since the last General Assembly (GA) as follows:

- Accreditation strong foundation for the future especially now with COP26 going on to address the challenges presented by climate change.
- There will be no increase in membership fees as done for 2021.
- Agreement for the provision of Secretariat services by NATA (Australia) extended for 2 years effective 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023.

ILAC P XX Cooperation between ABs

- Dutch Legal Counsel finalised the MOU EU Competition law assessment ILAC Policy.
- Recommendation required a revision of the policy to mitigate any potential risks from competition compliance perspective. The revision also took into account the European Court of Justice ruling of May 2021 and the 2021 National Trade Estimate report on foreign trade barriers by the US Trade Representatives released in April 2021.
- Policy document Version 7 was sent to members on 22 October 2021 together with an assessment of the ILAC policy and Annex 2.
- A complaint has been received on 2 November 2021 stating that the ILAC Executive decision to proceed to referendum is not following ILAC rules.
- The complaint must be investigated before proceeding further.

Key International Partners

- ILAC WADA Communique published 1 April. WADA virtual WEBINAR held on 27 April included presentation on case study
- ILAC IAF Remote technique survey published. Summary report available in ILAC news and full report on website. 79% would like to see blend and remote used whether or not there is COVID. Remote technique gives same level of confidence
- ILAC and IAF assisted in the development of the OECD compendium of International Organisations
- UNIDO
 - Launched Best Practice in Laboratory Policy Development, held virtually April 23, 2021.
 - Remote Assessment –Best Practices and Guiding Principles”, held virtually on 24 June 2021.

Membership – Status Report

- Affiliate member category will cease to exist 31 December 2021.
- Of the five (5) members who were in affiliate, one has transitioned, one dropped off and the other 3 are in transition to the other categories of membership.

ILAC Secretariat Update

- ILAC Secretariat working fully remotely.
- There are 86 ILAC MRA signatories.
- The ILAC MRA Mark has been registered in 106 economies of which 100 registrations have been completed and six (6) are at provisional stage.
- New signatories under the Scope Proficiency Providers (PTP) and Reference Materials Producers (RMP) are allowed to use the ILAC MRA mark as long as they are signatory and the ILAC MRA Mark has been registered in their respective signatory economies.

Single International Organisation for Accreditation Report

- Presented by T Facklam
- Based on decision by IAF and ILAC in 2019 at GA in Frankfurt that a contractor shall be engaged to lead the one single organization. TF appointed following a tender for the task
- 3 meetings with steering committee (SC) have been undertaken
- Prepared documents and got feedback from the Steering Committee
- Interviews with IAF and ILAC leading persons
- Optimistic that mid 2024 we will have this one organization. Name will be decided on a little later on.
- What is the new organization?
 - International cooperation for accreditation and responsible for ensuring that Conformity assessment results to be used by reg, trade operator's industry and end users are reliable to contribute to a sustainable way to international trade, safety of persons and a clean environment- making the world better.
 - Should be a member organization.
 - Vision and mission of the single organization have been established but still need to be scrutinized.
 - Varying opinions on membership, membership rights of the different categories of membership and in particular voting rights. However, all the SC members agreed that the new organization shall provide for the different membership rights for the various categories of membership. Document circulated to the Joint IAF ILAC Executive Committee (JEC) with a deadline for comment of 1 November 2021.
 - Choice of country of registration shall take into account a number of criteria that have been set including language of operation in the country of registration.
 - Could not reach consensus on all off the points hence asked JEC to vote on the Bylaws alternatives.
- Way forward
 - If JEC provides clear decision on the issues requiring consensus the rules will be revised accordingly then circulated to members for comments following which the general rules will be finalized and given to a law firm to put it into the legal language
 - If no consensus then we would have to look at other options.

ILAC Arrangement Council and Arrangement Management Committee report

- Two (2) new signatories Nepal and Saudi Arabia Accreditation Bodies.
- Seven (7) extended their scopes of recognition to include RMP, ISO 15189 and PTP.
- One (1) suspension NAAU (Ukraine) which was lifted recently,

- Regional peer evaluation in full swing
 - African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) re-evaluation started February 2021
 - Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) re-evaluation started in 2021
 - Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC) re-evaluation started Sept 2020
 - InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) re-evaluation started September 2021
 - SADCA PE application approved in December 2020. Peer evaluation underway.
 - Addendum to IAF/ILAC A1 and A2 published and will remain in effect for the duration of pandemic. Allows exemptions to witnessing. Used addendum to prepare a schedule for regional PE and given to each of team leaders when preparing PE plans. This allows for consistency in PE
- Transition to 17025
 - ARAC, EA and IAAC accreditation bodies achieved 100% transition by 1 June 2021 deadline.
 - APAC, AFRAC and SADCA accreditation bodies did not achieve 100% transition and provided supporting information advising of the actions taken (e.g., suspension or withdrawal of accreditation) by the accreditation bodies in relation to the accredited laboratories that had not transitioned by the deadline. Two (2) accreditation bodies in the case of AFRAC, Two (2) accreditation bodies in the case of SADCA and 15 accreditation bodies in the case of APAC.
- Impact of COVID on Evaluations
 - Resulted in the publication of IAF/ILAC-A1/A2: Addendum 01/2021 – IAF/ILAC Approach to Remote Peer Evaluations of Regions and Single Accreditation Bodies during the COVID-19 Pandemic to help maintain the harmonization of processes and the robustness of the IAF, ILAC and Regional peer evaluation systems.
- Projects underway
 - Structure of MRA/MLA
 - Survey of regions on the arrangement structures
 - Does IAF and ILAC need to go to 5 Levels – General consensus on this is to maintain the 5 levels
 - Rethink to the recognition of these 5 levels at reg- Does
 - Reengineering of the peer evaluation process at regional level

ILAC Arrangement Committee Report

- Management of extraordinary events
 - 30-day comment was conducted in May/June 2021.
 - The collected comments have been provided to the convenor and are under review.
- ISO 20387 on Biobanking proposed resolution to be considered at this GA as level 3 document.

Accreditation Committee (AIC) Report

- **ILAC G 17** issued early this year.
- **ILAC P9** went for 60-day comments. The nature of the comments is such that there is need for a face-to-face discussion to decide the way forward
- **WG 15189**
 - In January 2021 ILAC received CD2 of ISO 15189 for ballot and comments.
 - Many of ILAC's comments to CD1 has been taken into account but there were still some issues of concern.
 - A small group from the AIC WG 15189, collated the ILAC comments for the CD2 then submitted them in to TC 212 in March 2021.
- **WG Assessor qualification**
 - ILAC G 3 issued in 2019
 - ILAC G 11 withdrawn
- **WG Sampling** – Has prepared a position paper dealing with measurement uncertainty in sampling. Paper to be advanced once we have more experiences.

- **WG Scopes** – ILAC G 18 was circulated to members for 60-day comment and is expected to go for ballot in November 2021.
- **WG Metrology**
 - CD VIM 4 circulated for comment
 - Comments submitted to JJCGM WG2
 - CD2 will be necessary
- **WG 17043**
 - ILAC submitted comments on CD 1 and CD 2 ISO 17043 to ISO DIS expected end of 2021
- **WG 17034**
 - Agreed that MRA on Biobanking will be based on ISO 20387 as Level 3 document

Inspection Committee Report

- Held two (2) meetings on 22 April and 12 October 2021. Each meeting attended by 250 participants
- ILAC P 15
 - Reminder on implementation of ILAC P15 by 22 November 2021
 - FAQs available on website
 - ILAC P15 maintenance group disbanded
- Work ongoing on Inspection FAQs and information will feed into revision of ISIO/IEC 17020.
- Sampling as part of inspection – Task Group established to consider any issues /improvements needed when ISO/IEC 17020 is next revised.
- ISO/IEC 17020 up for systematic review next year and if confirmed no revision will be undertaken but if not confirmed then a revision will be undertaken early 2023. ILAC IC keeping a log of anomalies and issues to inform ISO.
- ISO CASCO feedback on interpretation of independence following the definition published in 1700 and it was decided that no change needed in ILAC P15

Marketing and Communications Committee Report

- 2 new brochures published
 - ILAC COVID-19 / Specifying Accreditation for COVID-19 Testing: Published (October 2021). SADCAS has adopted this brochure.
 - Biobanking (October 2021)

Decisions/Resolutions

- 5 Decisions made outside GA meeting including the extension of timeframe for strategic plan
- Adopted 9 resolutions all of which were balloted on before the meeting.

2022 Meetings

- Refer to highlights of 2021 IAF annual meetings