



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

CLASSIFICATION

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AVAILABILITY

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Original: English



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. INTRODUCTION

The accreditation bodies of the nations in the American Region decided in November 1996 to create the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC).

In 2004, after IAAC was legally established, had Bylaws and a significant number of administrative, procedural and governance rules, it was decided to update the Memorandum of Understanding by which it was established. The text of this MOU has been updated since that time.

Signing the MOU confirms membership in IAAC. New members will henceforth sign the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

2. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The accreditation bodies of the nations or bloc of nations in the American Region state their intention to be part of the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation. IAAC is established and operates in accordance with the IAAC Bylaws, the IAAC Quality Manual and the rules established in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

IAAC members agree to work to strengthen the established accreditation principles and formally agree to use the relevant guides and standards of the ISO/IEC and the mandatory documents of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) in developing their programs.

3. VISION, MISSION, QUALITY POLICY AND GOALS

IAAC's vision, mission, quality policy and its goals are described in the IAAC Quality Manual and in the IAAC Bylaws.

4. MEMBERSHIP

IAAC membership categories (full members, associate members and stakeholder members) as well as their rights and obligations are defined in the IAAC Bylaws.



5. IAAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The IAAC General Assembly rules, composition and its authority are described in the IAAC Bylaws.

6. IAAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The IAAC Executive Committee's responsibilities, terms of reference, and composition are defined in the Executive Committee's Terms of Reference and approved by the General Assembly.

7. MULTILATERAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS

Accreditation Bodies will demonstrate willingness to reach equivalence of operation of their accreditation system and their respective programs, which will result in entering into a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement, in accordance with IAAC goals as described in the IAAC Bylaws.

8. VALIDITY OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

8.1 This MOU may be amended by agreement of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the full members, provided that all members have had two months advance notification, together with all corresponding information.

8.2 If a member intends to terminate its participation in IAAC and withdraw from this MOU, it shall notify the IAAC Chair at least three months prior to the date of withdrawal.

8.3 Questions on interpretation of this MOU are to be resolved by the General Assembly.

8.4 The MOU will not create any legal obligation, but the signatories must implement it in good faith. The members will retain autonomy in their own operations.



SIGNATORY

The undersigned, ratifies each and every one of the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and commits his/her best efforts to comply with its objectives.

ORGANIZATION		
COUNTRY/ COUNTRIES		
MEMBER CATEGORY		
SIGNATURES	Authorized Representative	Date:
	IAAC Chair	Date: