



The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

& Benefits of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

2017 "Sound beginning in the CIPM MRA" course
Monday November 13th
BIPM, Sèvres, France

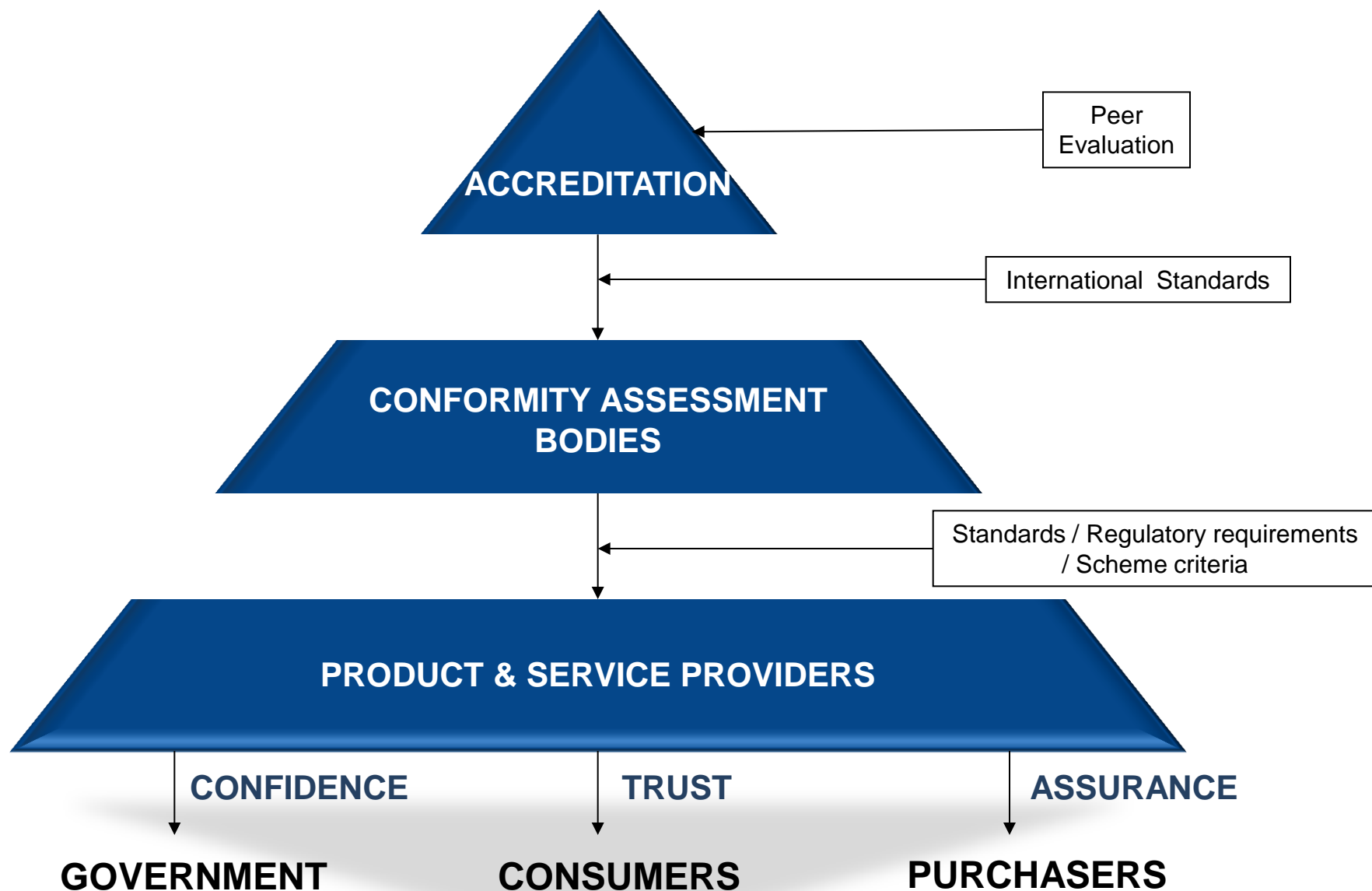
**Laurent Vinson, ILAC-AIC Member,
EA Laboratory Committee Chair**



What is accreditation?

‘Independent evaluation of conformity assessment bodies against recognized standards to ensure their impartiality and competence to carry out specific activities, such as tests, calibrations, inspections and certifications.’





ILAC's global role

Principal international forum for :

- Recognition of competent test and calibration labs and inspection bodies world-wide through its Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)**
- Development and appropriate harmonization of laboratory and inspection body accreditation practice**
- Promotion of laboratory and inspection accreditation as a trade facilitation tool**
- Assisting with the development of laboratory and inspection accreditation systems**

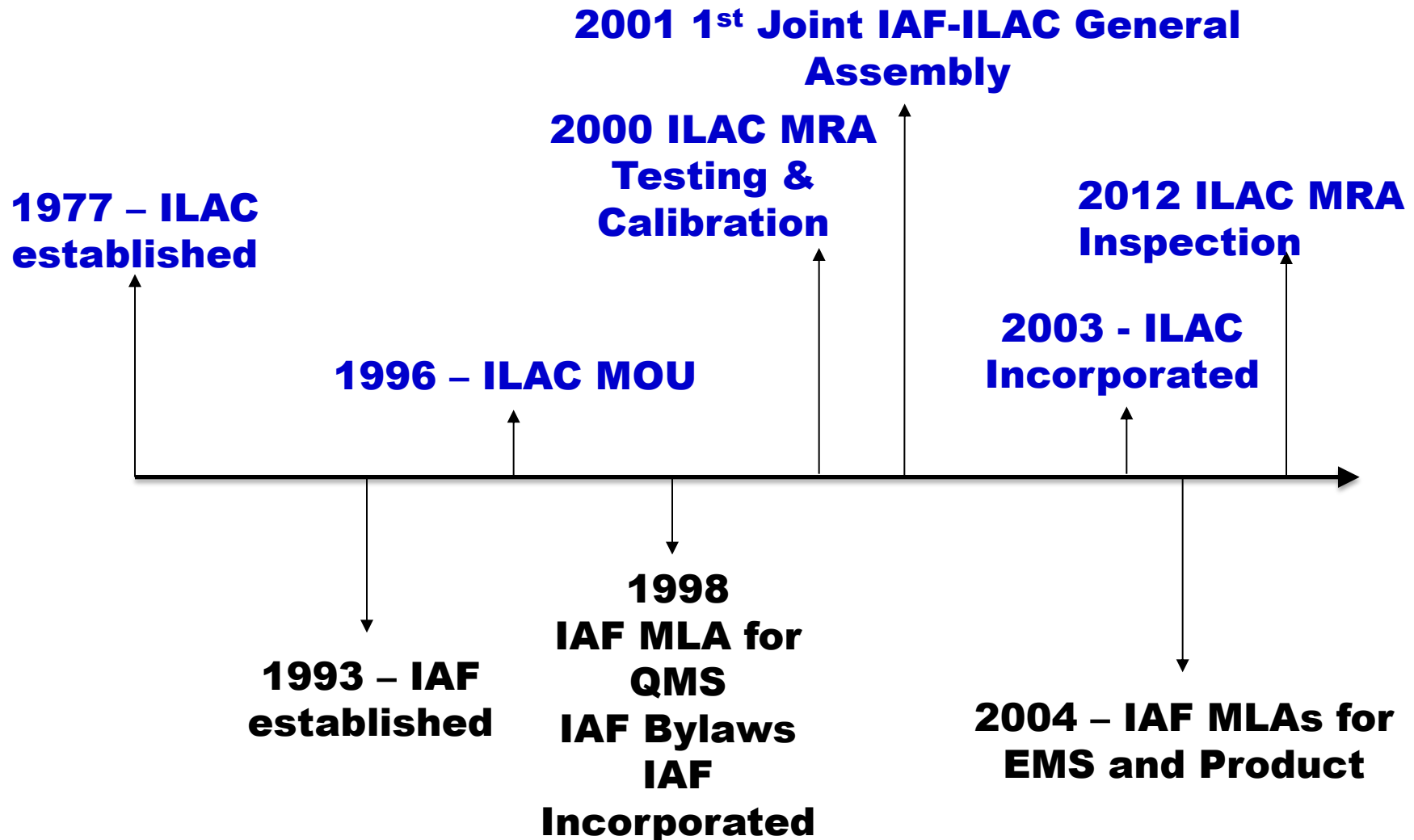


ILAC Goals

- Strengthen/deepen the existing ILAC MRA, promote the use of accredited labs and inspection bodies & appropriately link this activity to inter-governmental trade activity
- Continually promote the clear distinction between certification & accreditation to help reduce the confusion in the marketplace
- Provide assistance to developing countries by providing appropriate pre-MRA support to new accreditation systems
- Increase cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, i.e. labs, inspection bodies, regulators, industry groups, standard writing bodies and governments



IAF / ILAC Timeline

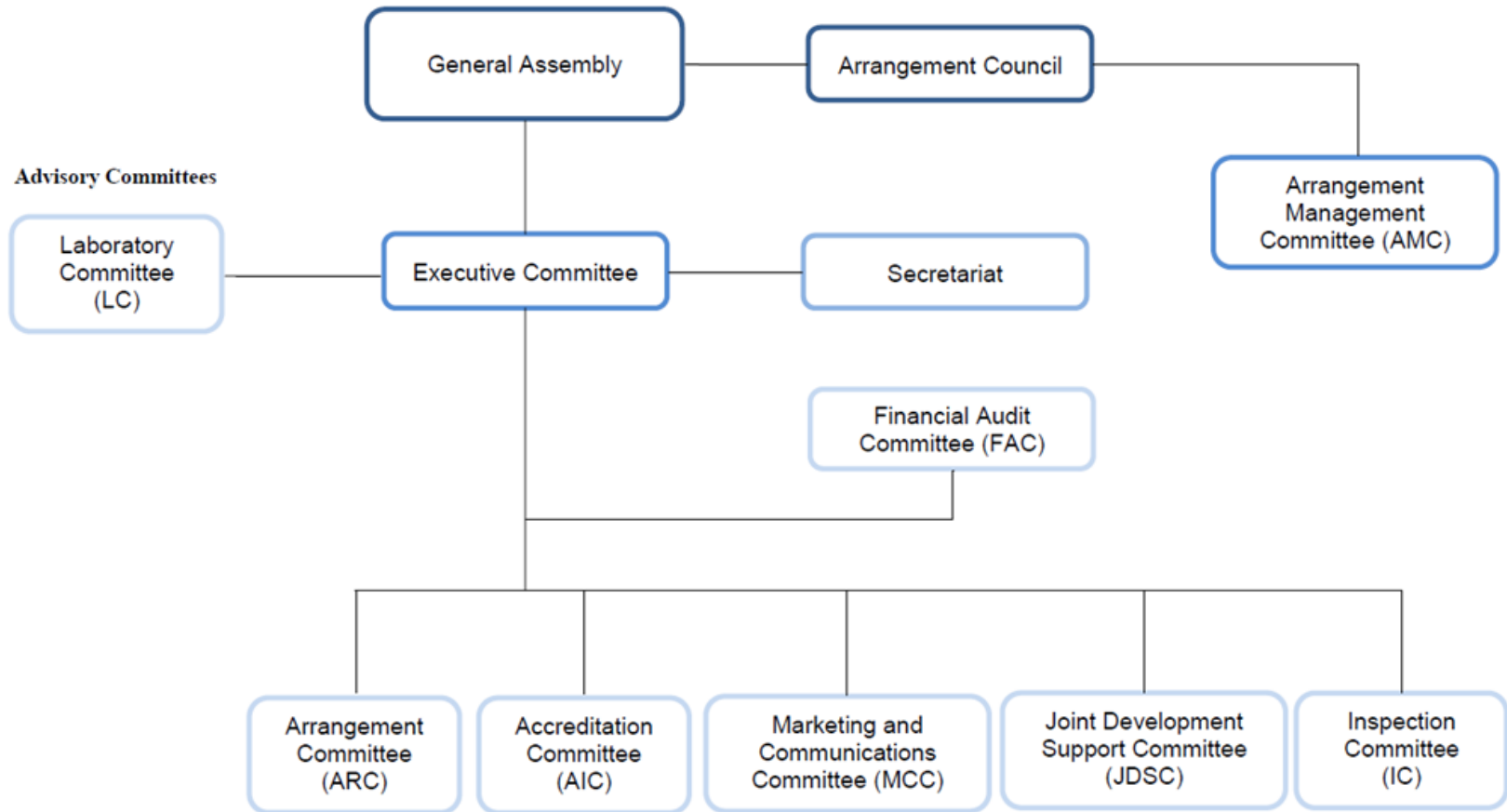


How is ILAC structured ?

- General Assembly: highest decision making body consisting of one representative from each membership category**
- General Assembly: meets once each year and these meetings are now held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF)**
- All classes of membership and other interested parties (liaison organisations such as the BIPM, OIML, ISO/CASCO, IEC, IFCC, ITU, UNIDO, WTO, WADA) are invited to contribute to ILAC's work**



Organisation Chart



ILAC organisation chart as at March 2015



ILAC Committees

- **Executive Committee (EC)** - Responsible for the day to day management of ILAC and its activities.
- The **Arrangement Council** is the decision making body for determining signatory and recognition status under the ILAC MRA. The members are delegates nominated by the Full and Associate members.
- **Arrangement Management Committee** - Responsible for the day-to-day management activities of the ILAC MRA on behalf of the Arrangement Council and provides advice on its further development and operation.
- **Arrangement Committee (ARC)** - Responsible for harmonized implementation and continual improvement of the ILAC Arrangement.



ILAC Committees (cont'd)

- **Accreditation Committee (AIC)** - Responsible for harmonisation and improvement of accreditation practice at the international level.
- **Laboratory Committee (LC)** is a stakeholder group that provides a means of interaction and exchange of ideas between ILAC and the laboratory community.
- **Inspection Committee (IC)** - Responsible for the harmonisation and improvement of accreditation practices for inspection activities at the international level.



ILAC Committees (cont'd)

- **Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC)** -
Responsible for representing the interests of developing countries and operates in conjunction with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).
- **Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC)** -
Responsible for internal and external marketing and communication issues. It is involved with the promotion of ILAC's objectives, and the publication of ILAC documents, newsletters and other information.



The ILAC Arrangement

- **Accreditation body members deemed competent through a peer evaluation process:**
 - **ISO/IEC 17011**
 - **IAF-ILAC A series documents**
- **Signatories must recognise certificates, reports, and results issued by organisations accredited by other Signatories**
- **Provides business with assurance that overseas bodies operate to the same standard**
- **Removes technical barriers to trade by eliminating redundant conformity assessment**



ILAC MRA



European
Cooperation
for
Accreditation
(EA)



Pacific Accreditation
Cooperation (PAC)



Inter-American
Accreditation
Cooperation
(IAAC)



Asia Pacific
Laboratory
Accreditation
Cooperation
(APLAC)



Southern African
Development
Community
Accreditation
(SADCA)



African
Accreditation
Cooperation
(AFRAC)



Arab
Accreditation
Cooperation
(ARAC)

- **A laboratory or inspection body accredited by one partner has equivalent competence to a laboratory or inspection body accredited by the other partner(s).**
- The structure of the global accreditation system is divided into two levels: the regional level (EA, ARAC, APLAC, PAC, SADCA, AFRAC and IAAC) and the global level (ILAC).
- The ILAC MRA recognises EA, APLAC, IAAC and ARAC.

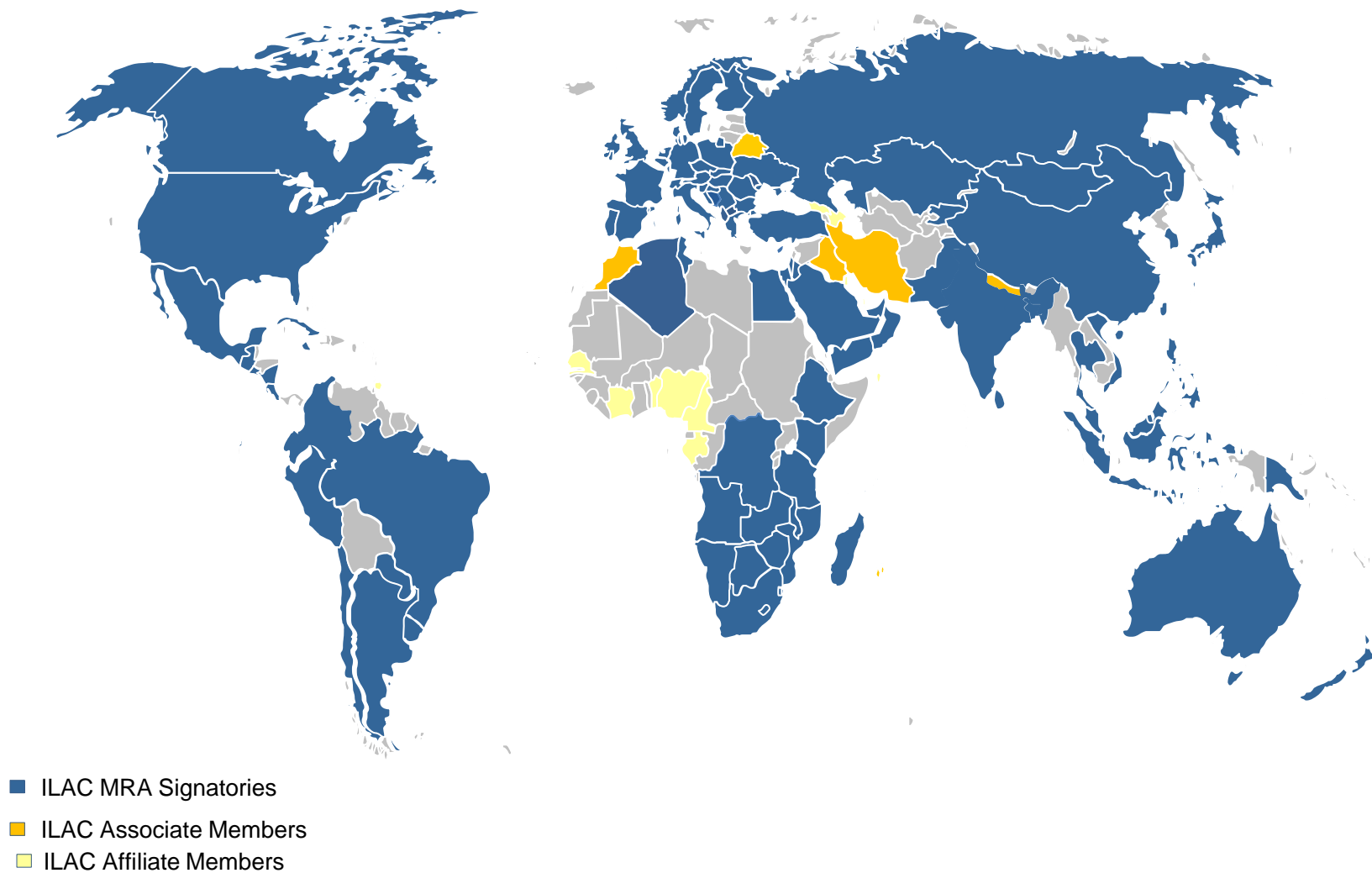


ILAC MRA (cont'd)

- Accreditation bodies in the major parts of the world are both members of a region and of ILAC.
- Exceptions are accreditation bodies from parts of the world, where a regional cooperation is not established yet; those accreditation bodies are only members of ILAC (unaffiliated bodies).
- Stakeholders and other interested parties may also be members of ILAC.
- Recognition of a region is achieved after successful peer evaluation by ILAC.
- ILAC relies on the evaluations undertaken by the recognised regions to grant and maintain signatory status.



Coverage of the ILAC MRA (October 2017)



Status of the ILAC MRA (November 2017)

- The ILAC network of members includes 152 bodies from 120 different economies (97 Full Members/MRA Signatories, 11 Associates, 11 Affiliates, 24 Stakeholders, 6 Regional Cooperation Bodies)
- 97 ILAC MRA Signatories representing 100 economies
- ILAC MRA covers testing, calibration and inspection
- Signatories represent about 95% of Global GDP
- More than 57,000 accredited laboratories
- Approximately 8,000 accredited inspection bodies



The Benefits of the ILAC MRA

For Government

- Facilitator of trade
- An efficient enforcement and monitoring tool

For Business

- Greater acceptance of products and services
- Avoid costs associated with repeat conformity assessment
- Informed procurement

For Consumers

- Public confidence in goods and services
- Minimises product failures or recalls



ILAC Partners



**International
Accreditation Forum**



World Anti-Doping Agency



**International Organization
of Legal Metrology**



**International
Electrotechnical
Commission**



**International Federation
for Clinical Chemistry**



**International
Organisation for
Standardisation**



**UN Industrial
Development
Organisation**



**International Committee on
Weights & Measures**



**International
Telecommunications
Union**

ILAC liaises and cooperates with many international bodies such as MoU partners to achieve shared objectives



ILAC-BIPM partnership

On the ILAC and BIPM websites, you can find ILAC-BIPM partnership pages :

<http://ilac.org/about-ilac/partnerships/international-partners/bipm>

<http://www.bipm.org/fr/worldwide-metrology/liaisons/ilac.html>

Including:

- BIPM-ILAC Memorandum of Understanding**
- Joint BIPM, OIML, ILAC and ISO Declaration on Metrological Traceability**
- Joint ILAC – CIPM Communication regarding the Accreditation of Calibration and Measurement Services of National Metrology Institutes**



Summary

- **Commitment to developing a harmonised global approach for accreditation practices**
- **Maintaining the Arrangement to ensure equal reliability of accredited services**
- **Promoting greater acceptance by regulators and businesses to remove technical barriers to trade, and avoiding the need for duplicate testing or inspections**
- **Supporting developing economies to establish an accreditation infrastructure**



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Thanks for your attention

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