



## Snapshots of IO Practices

### IAF and ILAC co-operation and establishment of one international organisation for accreditation

**Organisation(s): International Accreditation Forum (IAF), International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)**

*The Snapshots of IO Practices present examples of specific efforts undertaken by an international organisation to work towards more effective international instruments. They aim to highlight examples of practices within the five focus areas of the Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking (IO Partnership), namely the variety and development of international instruments, their implementation, evaluation, ensuring stakeholder engagement, and co-ordination among IOs. The snapshots are submitted by the secretariats of the relevant international organisations implementing the relevant practice. The practices were compiled by the OECD Secretariat and focal points of the IO Partnership (UNCITRAL, OIE, WHO, ISO, WCO, BIPM, and SIECA), with a brief review to ensure consistency and comparability of the information provided within the snapshots. The inclusion of a practice in these snapshots implies no endorsement or assessment of that practice on the part of the OECD Secretariat or the focal points of the IO Partnership.*

1	Overview of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
1.1	Organisation	International Accreditation Forum (IAF) International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)	
1.2	Area of relevance among the IO partnership focus themes (variety of instruments, implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation, co-ordination)	Co-ordination	
1.3	Name of the Practice	IAF and ILAC co-operation and establishment of one international organisation for accreditation	
1.4	Name of person(s) completing the template		

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2	Description of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
2.1	Please describe the practice shortly, providing information on its core features.	<p>IAF and ILAC collaborate in the field of accreditation and are planning for the establishment of one international organisation for accreditation. Current joint activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducting joint peer evaluations of regional accreditation groups and accreditation bodies in accordance with IAF/ILAC A1 and IAF/ILAC A2, and jointly developing relevant documents (<a href="https://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF-ILAC_Joint_Publications/36">https://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF-ILAC_Joint_Publications/36</a>)</li> <li>- Holding Joint Annual meetings and Mid-Term meetings operating a number of joint committees, including the Joint Executives Committee, Joint IAF MLA MC/ILAC (MRA) AMC Committee, Joint General Assembly, Joint Working Group A-Series, Joint Working Group Communications, Joint Development Support Committee and Steering Committee for Establishment of a Single International Organisation for Accreditation</li> <li>- Liaisons occasionally represent both organisations in the context of meetings with other IOs.</li> </ul>	<p>Intersection between co-ordination (WG5) and evaluation (WG4), with respect to the conduct of joint peer evaluations of regional accreditation groups and accreditation bodies.</p> <p>Intersection between co-ordination (WG5) and the development of international instruments (WG1), in relation to the joint development of relevant documents.</p> <p>Intersection between co-ordination (WG5) and implementation (WG2) with regard to the collective participation in committees and meetings across IAF/ILAC.</p>
2.2	What are the objectives of the practice?	<p>Sharing information and resources, increasing efficiency through alignment of work programmes, minimising the duplication of work. It is envisioned that the establishment of one international organisation for accreditation will streamline IAF and ILAC processes as well as improve efficiency and decrease membership costs for ABs who are currently members of both organisations. In addition, it will improve the opportunities for presenting one accreditation 'voice' in international fora and with other IOs, as well as the ABs, CABs and regulators that use the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA.</p>	

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2.3	What have been the key results of the practice?	Close co-operation has minimised the duplication of work (e.g. replacing two separate peer evaluations with one combined or joint peer evaluation, sharing the task of arranging meetings) and saved resources. Shared meetings and joint committees have increased the flow of information between the organisations and supported the development of shared initiatives for the promotion of accreditation (e.g. World Accreditation Day).	
2.4	In what year was the practice introduced?	IAF and ILAC have been collaborating since 2001 to align their work programmes where beneficial. A formal Agreement for Closer Co-operation was signed in 2012, and the decision to replace the two organisations with one international organisation was agreed on by the IAF and ILAC General Assemblies/Joint General Assembly in October 2019. <a href="https://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ga-resolutions/">https://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ga-resolutions/</a>	
2.5	Has the practice been updated/reformed since then? If yes, when and how has it evolved over time?	The degree of co-operation and number of joint activities have increased, culminating in the decision to establish one organisation in 2019. Documents for joint peer evaluations are continually revised, as are the terms of reference for joint committees. A Steering Committee for the Establishment of a Single International Organization for Accreditation was formed in response to the decision in October and is currently progressing this work. <a href="https://ilac.org/about-ilac/partnerships/international-partners/iaf/">https://ilac.org/about-ilac/partnerships/international-partners/iaf/</a>	
2.6	What do you consider to be the primary strengths of the practice?	Minimising duplication of work and saving resources, enabling information-sharing, advancing the promotion of accreditation. When IAF and ILAC are one organisation, it will be easier to promote accreditation within international contexts. Moreover, writing accreditation documents with the technical knowledge of both will lead to new technical solutions, benefitting the market.	

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2.7	What do you consider to be the main challenges faced during the implementation of the practice?	The establishment of one organisation will be challenging, since IAF and ILAC have different Bylaws/Articles of Association and a number of different rules and procedures. In addition, the Stakeholder members from the current two organisations represent different sectors and will need to be considered as a priority in the new organisation.	Intersection with area of IO Partnership on 'Strengthening the Implementation of International Instruments'
2.8	Does the practice have a formal/normative basis within the organisation or is it conducted informally? Does this basis make the practice mandatory or voluntary?  If there is formal basis, please provide the relevant link or documentation.	See: IAF/ILAC Agreement on Closer Co-operation: <a href="https://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/201210IAFILAC_MOU_FINAL.pdf">https://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/201210IAFILAC_MOU_FINAL.pdf</a> IAF/ILAC Joint Publications: <a href="https://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF-ILAC_Joint_Publications/36">https://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF-ILAC_Joint_Publications/36</a> Resolution to establish one organisation: <a href="https://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/IAFFrankfurt2019GAResolutions%20-%20Final.pdf">https://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/IAFFrankfurt2019GAResolutions%20-%20Final.pdf</a> RFP for one establishment of one organisation: <a href="https://ilac.org/about-ilac/partnerships/international-partners/iaf/">https://ilac.org/about-ilac/partnerships/international-partners/iaf/</a> IAF and ILAC also have other documentation in this regard, such as the Terms of Reference for joint committees.	
2.9	At what frequency is the practice applied? i.e. is it conducted once or on an iterative basis?	Co-operation is ongoing. Usually joint committees meet twice a year, and various joint peer evaluations are conducted via an ongoing schedule. The peer evaluation process has been addressed in a separate IO Practice template submission.	
2.10	Is this practice applied systematically, (e.g. with respect to every normative instrument, according to specific criteria or on an ad hoc basis)?	The guidelines for joint documentation are followed whenever applicable.	
2.11	Please provide specific details or examples to illustrate the practice (including supporting links and documents).	Ref. 2.8 above.	

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



3	Design of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
3.1	Who designed the practice (e.g. Was it developed internally, in collaboration with other organisations, etc?)	The joint documentation and practices were developed within IAF and ILAC including inputs from both members and external stakeholders (e.g. WTO, UNIDO, UNECE, ISO, IEC, ITU).	
3.2	Which stakeholders were engaged with in the design of the practice?	Numerous stakeholders provide input into IAF and ILAC activities, including joint activities. Ref. the IAF Association Member category. ( <a href="https://www.iaf.nu/articles/Association_Members/24">https://www.iaf.nu/articles/Association_Members/24</a> ) and the ILAC stakeholder category ( <a href="https://ilac.org/ilac-membership/members-by-category/">https://ilac.org/ilac-membership/members-by-category/</a> ). Stakeholders are invited to comment on documents, vote on ballots (IAF) and participate in meetings.	The involvement of stakeholders in the cooperative activities of the IAF and ILAC, in the form of providing comments, voting on ballots (IAF) and participation in meetings, reveals an intersection between co-ordination (WG5) and stakeholder engagement (WG3).
3.3	How long did it take to design the practice?	Co-operation has been ongoing and evolving since 2001.	
3.4	What resources were needed to design the practice initially (i.e., staff, budget etc.)?	Estimating the cost of e.g. developing joint documentation is difficult, since participation in IAF and ILAC committees and peer evaluations is on a volunteer basis with support from the Secretariats. However, the IAF and ILAC conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of collaborative activities in 2018, which formed the basis for the creation of a single organisation for accreditation. This was undertaken by a dedicated Joint Task Force on Governance, which is also pursuing the integration of the organisations. IAF and IAF have committed to share costs equally for the establishment of a single organisation.	

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



3.5	What challenges were encountered during the design of the practice and how were they overcome?	Challenges have been in harmonising as much as possible despite various differences in rules and procedures and stakeholder needs.	
3.6	Has the practice been tested before implementation (i.e. pilot phase)? If yes, please describe.	No	
<b>4</b>	<b>Implementation of the Practice</b>		<b>Comments and intersections</b>
4.1	Which units are responsible for implementing the practice within your IO?	Member organisations conducting joint peer evaluations, joint committees, the IAF and ILAC Secretariats.	The collaborative conduct of peer evaluations and committee meetings indicates an intersection between co-ordination (WG5) and the implementation of international instruments (WG2).
4.2	Are IO members involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	No, other than IAF/ILAC	
4.3	Are external actors beyond the organisation or its membership involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	No.	
4.4	Which resources are needed to implement the practice (e.g., staff and budget)?	Generally co-operation can save costs, e.g. by allowing IAF and ILAC to negotiate more effectively when making meeting arrangements, streamlining their administrative procedures and communications activities, and reducing the costs of marks. However, the establishment of a single organisation will be a large expenditure initially (roughly USD\$200,000).	

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



5	Outputs and Evaluation of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
5.1	Has the practice been evaluated or reviewed?	No	
5.2	If yes, who carried out the evaluation (please specify whether it was done internally or externally)	N/A	
5.3	If yes, please describe the evaluation methodology? ( e.g. were any quantitative or qualitative indicators/criteria used to measure/assess the outcomes of the practice?).	N/A	
5.4	If yes, what were the conclusions of the evaluation, and has the practice evolved subsequently? If possible, please attach related documents or provide a link.	N/A	
6	Additional comments and information	Answers	Comments and intersections
6.1	Is there any more information or documentation that would be valuable to share in relation to the practice (e.g. links, reports, meeting minutes, supporting documents)?	As per links provided in answers above.	
Sources			
<a href="https://www.iaf.nu/">https://www.iaf.nu/</a>			