



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)
BETWEEN GLOBAL ACCREDITATION COOPERATION INCORPORATED
(Global ACI)**

AND

**THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION
(ISO)**

**CONCERNING CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ON
ACCREDITATION AS PART OF CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT**

The parties:

Having regard to the previous cooperative work between the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), which includes many years of on-going cooperation, including the provision of documents to the market that have become the basis for internationally accepted accreditation, and the active involvement in each other's activities at the policy and technical levels;

Having regard to the fact that in 2019 the IAF and ILAC members agreed by a majority vote to establish a single international organisation for accreditation, that the IAF and ILAC ceased active operations on 31 December 2025, that the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI) has become fully operational on 1 January 2026, and that from January 1 2026 Global ACI has assumed the roles and responsibilities previously held by IAF and ILAC;

and

Recognising that ISO/IEC Standards and Guides provide the basis for accreditation by Global ACI accreditation body members.

Hereby agree to the following understandings:

A. Parties to the agreement

1. The parties to this MoU are as follows:
 - a) The Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI), as represented by the Global ACI Chair; and
 - b) The International Organization for Standardization (ISO), as represented by the ISO Secretary-General.

B. Purpose and application of the MoU

2. The purpose of this MoU is to record a high-level understanding between the parties on their working relationship so as to achieve the scope of this MoU.
3. This MoU can provide a basis for other more specific agreements between the parties at the operational levels.
4. This MoU does not make any legal or otherwise enforceable commitments on behalf of any of the parties.

C. Scope of the MoU

5. The scope of this MoU covers the relationship between Global ACI and ISO in matters of conformity assessment policy, standards development and practice as they relate to accreditation.
6. The scope of this MoU is alongside the roles and responsibilities that the parties already have towards each other, that arise from Global ACI being liaison members of ISO committees, and of ISO having special status within Global ACI.

D. Areas of cooperation and responsibility

D1 Identification of conformity assessment policy, standards development and practice issues

7. The parties will work together on conformity assessment policies, standards development and practice issues of mutual interest. The parties will discuss and mutually agree on which party should take the lead on any collaborative action in response to the issues identified.
8. With regard to ISO, the principal ISO committee for contact, cooperation and responsibility for this MoU is the Committee on conformity assessment (CASCO). CASCO will facilitate communication with other relevant parts of ISO, including other committees and the ISO Central Secretariat as required.
9. With regard to Global ACI, the Secretariat is the principal contact for this MoU. The Secretariat will facilitate communication with other relevant Committees and Technical Working Groups as required.

D2 Participation in the development of international standards and guidance documents

10. Global ACI may contribute to and participate in the development and revision of appropriate ISO/IEC and ISO documents, and ISO may contribute to and participate in the development and revision of appropriate Global ACI documents.

D3 Creation, release and publicising joint Global ACI/ISO communications

11. The parties will prepare, release and publicise joint Global ACI/ISO communications on matters of joint interest and with other bodies as appropriate.
12. External communications in the name of all the parties shall be mutually agreed by all the parties prior to their publication.

E. Implementation and structures

13. The above areas of cooperation shall be implemented through the following:
 - a) Involvement of representatives in each other's technical work. As such the normal liaison and observer rules and procedures for input shall apply;
 - b) To achieve the identification, preliminary analysis, coordination, and division of responsibilities for dealing with issues, the parties agree to join together to maintain a Joint Strategic Group (JSG) that will act as a central clearing house;



- c) The preparation, implementation and maintenance of mutually agreed projects that:
 - i. establish and implement procedures to share, transfer and enable the resolution of complaints by the party most appropriate;
 - ii. recommend improvements in relevant International Standards and Guides, application documents and practice; and
 - iii. investigate by making use of customer surveys and other means and provide feedback to the parties and other relevant organisations;
- d) Attendance of an ISO representative(s) at Global ACI General Assemblies and related technical meetings, and attendance of Global ACI representative(s) at the ISO/CASCO plenary (and other ISO technical committee plenary meetings if a formal liaison with that technical committees has been established) free from the payment of attendance fees; and
- e) Regular review of a work program of mutually agreed actions by the parties.

F. Commencement, termination and period of operation

- 14. This MoU will commence on the date of its signing and will remain in effect until terminated or amended. Any of the parties may, upon giving six (6) calendar months' notice in writing of its intention to do so, terminate this MoU.
- 15. This MoU may be amended (including changes to the scope) if mutually agreed upon. Such changes shall be incorporated as a written change to the MoU, and the MoU will be reissued in full as a new version.
- 16. Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MoU will be settled amicably by consultation between the parties.

G. Signatures

Signed on behalf of the:

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated
(Global ACI)
Mr. Brahim Houla
Chair

Date:

International Organization for Standardization
(ISO)
Mr. Sergio Mujica
Secretary-General

Date: 14 April 2026