# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

# BETWEEN

# THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

# AND

# THE GLOBAL ACCREDITATION COOPERATION INCORPORATED

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This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, (hereafter referred to as the “MoU”), is made and entered into between

the **International Bureau of Weights and Measures,** the intergovernmental organization, through which its Member States act together on matters related to measurement science and measurement standards (i.e., metrology), the headquarters of which is located in Sèvres, France (hereinafter referred to as the "BIPM"),

AND

The **Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated** is the specialised body administering a global multilateral recognition arrangement (MRA) among accreditation bodies responsible for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies including: calibration laboratories, testing laboratories, medical laboratories, inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers, biobanks, management system certification bodies, product certification bodies, personnel certification bodies and verification and validation bodies, having as their objective the formal recognition of competent conformity assessment bodies, for specified scopes (hereinafter referred to as the ”Global ACI”),

hereinafter referred to as the "Parties" collectively or "Party" individually.

## PREAMBLE

**RECOGNIZING** that the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), established by the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875, has the mission to work with the National Metrology Institutes of its Member States, the Regional Metrology Organizations and strategic partners world-wide, and to use its international and impartial status to promote and advance the global comparability of measurements for: scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, improving the quality of life and sustaining the global environment;

**CONSIDERING** Resolution 2 (1999) adopted by the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM), the BIPM's plenary organ, which recognized the mutual recognition arrangement MRA related to national measurement standards and to calibration and measurement certificates issued by national metrology institutes drawn up by the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM), the BIPM's executive organ;

**NOTING** that the BIPM and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15 November 2023, under which they agreed to cooperate in recognition of the need to strengthen the links between metrology and accreditation;

**NOTING** that as of 1 January 2026, the Global ACI assumed the roles and responsibilities previously held by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and ILAC; therefore, an MoU between the BIPM and Global ACI should supersede and replace the MoU signed between the BIPM and ILAC;

**NOTING** that the BIPM and the Global ACI cooperate within the International Network on Quality Infrastructure (INetQI) which promotes the understanding, value and acceptance of the quality infrastructure and metrology as one of its key components, and provides guidance and support for its effective implementation and integration world-wide;

The Parties have agreed as follows:

## Article I
## Purpose

The purpose of this MoU is to establish a non-binding and non-exclusive framework for cooperation between the Parties in respect of matters of common interest in light of their respective mandates and within the scope of Article II below.

## Article II
## Scope of mutual cooperation

Subject to their respective rules, regulations and procedures, the Parties agree to cooperate with each other to strengthen the links between metrology and accreditation and to coordinate their actions related to national and international measurement infrastructure, namely in the following areas (collectively, the "Activities"):

- To make appropriate cross references to their Multilateral Recognition Arrangements and promote cooperation at the regional level;
- To ensure the timely exchange of information on matters of common interest;
- To harmonize future policy on matters of common interest;
- To provide, from their respective communities, cross representation on international assessments;
- To ensure mutual representation within working groups engaged in the development and maintenance of selected documents;

- To agree to meet at least on an annual basis;

- To encourage their members and regional cooperations to explore cost effective arrangements for the respective bodies' use of each other's services to extend the national and international measurement systems into the broader community of users;

- To cooperate in the development, implementation, and promotion of the SI Digital Framework as part of a wider digital transformation of the international scientific and quality infrastructure, including, but not limited to, actions within the scope of the *Joint Statement of Intent on the digital transformation in the international scientific and quality infrastructure* of March 2022.

Reciprocal representation:

Each Party may invite the other Party to attend sessions of governing bodies, conferences and meetings it organizes on matters of common interests, in accordance with their respective rules and regulations.

**Article III**

**Exchange of information and confidentiality**

Without prejudice to their respective confidentiality obligations, the Parties will keep each other informed concerning projected activities of common interest within the scope of this MoU.

They will arrange for the exchange of information and documents of mutual interest.

**Article IV**

**Intellectual property rights**

Nothing in this MoU will be construed as granting or implying rights to, or interest in, the intellectual property rights owned respectively by the Parties.

Any intellectual property rights arising from any work created under the agreed Activities under this MoU will jointly belong to the Parties, unless the Parties otherwise agree in writing.

**Article V**

**Name, emblem and seal**

Neither Party shall use the name, acronym, emblem or official seal or logo of the other Party, in any form or manner whatsoever, without prior written authorization of the concerned Party.

The name, acronym, emblem or official seal or logo of either Party may not be used for commercial purposes.

**Article VI**
**Focal Point**

The Director of the BIPM and the Chair of the Global ACI shall designate representatives for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the present MoU and other related arrangements which may be established by the Parties

**Article VII**
**Non-binding nature of this MoU**

This MoU is not intended as, and will not be deemed or construed as, a binding agreement between the Parties.

Any dispute between the Parties arising out of or relating to the interpretation or implementation of this MoU will be amicably settled between the Parties.

**Article VIII**
**Financing of Activities and Implementation**

Nothing contained in this MoU will create any fiduciary or legal obligation or responsibility for either Party. This MoU will not create any financial obligation, whether express or implied, for either Party. It is understood that there will be no exchange of funds between the Parties.

The implementation of any specific programme or project in pursuance of the Activities listed in Article II, including their financing, will be subject to a separate written agreement between the Parties defining their respective responsibilities, rights and obligations.

The Parties may publicly announce the nature and scope of the mutual cooperation foreseen under this MoU.

**Article IX**
**Privileges and immunities**

Nothing in or relating to this MoU will constitute or be deemed or construed as a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges, immunities, exemptions or facilities enjoyed by the Parties or their staff under international law or by virtue of the international conventions or agreements, or applicable domestic legislation.

**Article X**
**Status of Personnel**

The employees, staff members, officials**,** agents, contractors or representatives of one Party carrying out the Activities pursuant to this MoU will not be considered as employees, staff members, officials, agents, contractors or representatives of the other Party.

**Article XI**
**Modification and termination**

This MoU may only be modified or supplemented pursuant to a written amendment mutually agreed to and signed by the Parties. Any such amendment will be annexed to this MoU and will form an integral part hereof.

This MoU will be reviewed by the Parties every five years.

This MoU may be terminated by either Party, on 31 December of any year, by written notice given to the other not later than 30 June of that year.

Notwithstanding the above, the provisions of this MoU will survive any termination to the extent necessary to permit the orderly conclusion of Activities and programmes then in progress within the framework of this MoU. To this end, the Parties will take the necessary steps to ensure that termination does not prejudice ongoing Activities and is not detrimental to the interests, financial or otherwise, of each other.

**Article XII**
**Entry into force**

This MoU will become effective on the date of its signature by all Parties, or by their duly authorized representatives, and its provisions will remain applicable until this MoU is terminated in accordance with its terms.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the present MoU in two copies in English, all the two texts being equally authentic.

**For the International Bureau of Weights and Measures:**



Annette Koo
Director of the BIPM

Date: 22 October 2026

Place: Sèvres, France

**For the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated:**



Brahim Houla
Chair of Global ACI

Date: 21 October 2026

Place: Panama City, Panama