GLOBAL ACCREDITATION COOPERATION INCORPORATED
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2026–2028

“Global trust for a better world”

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This document sets out the Strategic Framework for Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI) for the period 2026–2028.

1.2 Scope

1.2.1 This document applies to Global ACI and its Members.

1.2.2 Accreditation enables conformity assessment results to be accepted everywhere – calibration, testing, inspection, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers, biobanking, certification, and validation/verification – reducing duplication, lowering costs, and facilitating global trade while maintaining confidence in safety, quality, and sustainability.

1.2.3 The formation of Global ACI marks a pivotal step in uniting the international accreditation community under a single, trusted framework.

1.2.4 This Strategic Framework builds on the legacy of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and sets the direction for Global ACI for the first three years (2026–2028). It focuses on delivering a smooth transition, strengthening global recognition of accredited results, and ensuring the continued credibility of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

2. VISION

A world where trusted and impartial accreditation builds confidence in people, markets, and societies – supporting safety, sustainability, and economic development including trade.

3. MISSION

To be the world's trusted global accreditation organisation – ensuring credible, consistent, and globally accepted accreditation results that strengthen trade, innovation, and sustainability.

4. CORE PURPOSE

To strengthen trust and consistency in accreditation, creating confidence across the world.

5. STRATEGIC THEMES

- **Transition and governance** – a unified structure; transparent processes; sustainable funding.
- **Trust and recognition** – a strong and credible MRA; global trust.
- **Brand and communication** – global awareness and clear identity.
- **Global partnerships** – strategic presence in global fora.
- **Member services** – capacity building and harmonisation.
- **Innovation and agility** – digital transformation and responsiveness.

6. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2026–2028

Six Strategic Objectives:

6.1 Build and Operate an Effective and Unified Global Organisation

6.1.1 Deliver a seamless transition from IAF and ILAC, protecting 30 years of achievement.

6.1.2 Establish efficient, transparent governance, balancing volunteer and contracted resources.

6.1.3 Develop a unified culture that values collaboration, inclusion, and professional competence.

6.1.4 Strengthen collaboration and cohesion between members.

6.1.5 Optimise processes to enable quick and efficient reaction to market needs.

6.1.6 Enable the Secretariat to provide responsive and high-quality support to members.

6.1.7 Ensure long-term financial sustainability.

6.2 Protect and Strengthen Global Recognition of the MRA

6.2.1 Maintain the credibility and integrity of the MRA.

6.2.2 Enhance harmonisation of accreditation practices across regions and accreditation bodies.

6.2.3 Ensure the harmonisation of peer evaluations between regions.

6.2.4 Promote wider acceptance of the MRA among regulators, scheme owners, and global organisations to meet market needs.

6.2.5 Promote the acceptance of accredited conformity assessment results to reduce technical barriers to trade in line with World Trade Organization (WTO) principles.

6.2.6 Ensure the MRA scope grows to strengthen new and emerging areas such as sustainability, circular economy, and digital trust.

6.3 Strengthen Communication and Brand Recognition

6.3.1 Launch a global communication campaign introducing and promoting the new organisation and its brand.

6.3.2 Increase visibility through participation in international conferences and high-level policy fora.

6.3.3 Simplify external communications to focus on outcomes and value, trust, safety, and trade.

6.4 Enhance Global Influence and Partnerships

6.4.1 Build strong engagement with key external stakeholders (such as international organisations, standards development bodies, scheme owners, consumer groups, and industry and trade bodies).

6.4.2 Articulate and communicate the value of accreditation and the MRA to different stakeholder groups, emphasising its role in sustainability, innovation, ensuring trust, reducing duplication, and facilitating trade.

6.4.3 Strengthen relationships within the global Quality Infrastructure (QI) community.

6.4.4 Represent the global accreditation community with a unified and authoritative voice.

6.5 Deliver High-Value Services to Members

6.5.1 Provide effective peer evaluation training and development, and capacity-building programmes to assure expected competence.

6.5.2 Offer targeted training, mentoring, and knowledge exchange for developing accreditation bodies.

6.5.3 Create efficient endorsement processes for new conformity assessment schemes.

6.5.4 Support digitalisation initiatives and promote data-driven management.

6.6 Foster Innovation and Future Readiness

6.6.1 Integrate new technology and digital tools to enhance efficiency, transparency, and participation.

6.6.2 Develop a position on how accreditation can be built into international digital trust architecture.

6.6.3 Encourage innovation in accreditation practices and service delivery.

6.6.4 Develop mechanisms to anticipate emerging needs and respond with agility.