



ILAC MRA 2024 Annual Report



Introduction

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and its member accreditation bodies dedicate significant time and resources to uphold the integrity and consistency of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA), also referred to as the ILAC Arrangement. This is achieved through a robust peer evaluation process. Each peer evaluation produces a detailed report outlining the activities performed, which provides assurance to regulators, specifiers, and businesses that they can rely on the Arrangement.

This document presents the activities carried out by ILAC, in collaboration with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), as well as the evaluation activities conducted by both organisations and the Regional Cooperation Bodies (RCBs). It also highlights the work of the Arrangement Council and the Arrangement Management Committee (AMC), which operates jointly with IAF under the Joint Management Committee (JMC).



About ILAC

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) is the global authority for accreditation in the fields of laboratory testing, inspection, reference material production, proficiency testing provision, and biobanking. Its membership includes accreditation bodies, regional cooperation bodies, and stakeholder organisations from around the world.

Note: Laboratories, including medical laboratories, inspection bodies, reference materials producers, proficiency testing providers, and biobanks, are collectively referred to as conformity assessment bodies (CABs).

ILAC provides the global framework that supports the demonstration of competence and equivalence of accredited CABs. The core purpose of accreditation is to build confidence in the competence of these bodies, supporting activities that drive trade, protect health, safety, and the environment, and serve the public interest across economies.

The ILAC Arrangement is a multilateral mutual recognition arrangement for accreditation bodies. Signatory accreditation bodies agree to promote the acceptance of calibration, testing, inspection

reports, proficiency testing programs, and reference materials produced by accredited CABs. Each accreditation body must undergo a peer evaluation, aligned with international standards and ILAC procedures, before becoming a signatory.

**Note: The ILAC Arrangement is in the process of being extended to include the accreditation of biobanks. More details are provided later in this report under "On-going development of the ILAC MRA".*

ILAC, along with its recognised Regional Cooperation Bodies and signatory accreditation bodies, invests significant time and resources in the peer evaluation process to uphold and strengthen the integrity and recognition of the ILAC Arrangement. This annual report details the activities undertaken through these evaluations, ensuring that regulators, users, and consumers continue to trust the results, programs, and materials produced under the ILAC MRA.

The ILAC MRA

The ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) is an agreement among signatory accreditation bodies that recognises the equivalence of their accreditation programmes within the scope of their signatory status.

The primary goal of the ILAC MRA is to give confidence to users of laboratory and inspection body reports, proficiency testing programs, and reference materials, that these results and services are produced by technically competent conformity assessment bodies (CABs). These CABs are accredited by accreditation bodies that are signatories to the ILAC Arrangement.

The ILAC MRA ensures that CABs across different economies operate according to the same international standards. Signatory accreditation bodies undergo continuous peer evaluations to verify that their accreditation programmes remain current, relevant, and aligned with these standards.

More details on the ILAC MRA can be found in [ILAC P5: ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Scope and Obligations](#).

Scope of the ILAC MRA

The ILAC MRA encompasses a comprehensive range of accreditation schemes that reflect the evolving needs of global conformity assessment. These schemes ensure the competence of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) across various sectors, reinforcing confidence in their services worldwide.

The current [scope of the ILAC MRA](#) includes accreditation for the following:



Accreditation Scheme	Applicable Standard	Purpose and Scope
Calibration Laboratories	ISO/IEC 17025	Ensures precise and reliable calibration services.
Testing Laboratories	ISO/IEC 17025	Covers a broad range of testing activities to confirm product and material compliance.
Testing Medical Laboratories	ISO 15189	Supports the delivery of accurate and dependable medical laboratory results.
Inspection Bodies	ISO/IEC 17020	Verifies that inspection activities meet rigorous technical and impartiality requirements.
Proficiency Testing Providers	ISO/IEC 17043	Ensures the reliability and integrity of interlaboratory comparison programs.
Reference Material Producers	ISO 17034	Provides assurance of the competence of producers supplying certified reference materials.
Biobanks (In progress)	ISO 20387	Supports the management and quality of biological material repositories.

The ILAC MRA

In cases where no recognised RCB exists for an accreditation body or where the RCB’s scope does not cover all relevant schemes, ILAC offers a peer evaluation process for these bodies to become signatories as unaffiliated accreditation bodies.

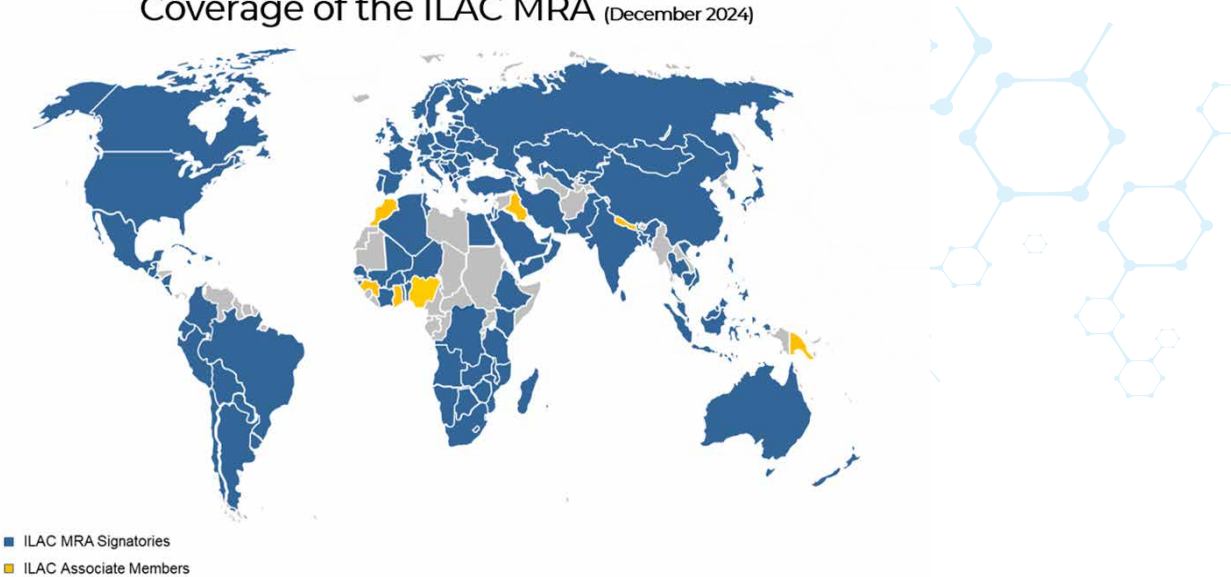
As of December 2024, the ILAC MRA included:

6 Regional Cooperation Bodies (RCBs) recognised under the ILAC MRA:

- African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC)
- Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (APAC)
- Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC)
- European co-operation for Accreditation (EA)
- Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)
- Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA)

116 accreditation body signatories representing 118 economies, operating under the MRAs/MLAs of these recognised RCBs.

Coverage of the ILAC MRA (December 2024)



New Signatories in 2024

Accreditation Body	Economy	ILAC MRA Scope(s)
Dirección Técnica de Acreditación del Instituto Boliviano de Metrología (DTA-IBMETRO)	Bolivia	Calibration & Testing (ISO/IEC 17025), Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020)
National Accreditation Centre of Iran (NACI)	Iran	Calibration & Testing (ISO/IEC 17025), Medical Testing (ISO 15189), Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020), Proficiency Testing Providers (ISO/IEC 17043)
National Accreditation Center LLC (NAC)	United States of America	Calibration & Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)

Scope Extensions in 2024

Accreditation Body	Economy	ILAC MRA Scope(s) Extension
Organismo Salvadoreño de Acreditación (OSA)	El Salvador	Medical Testing (ISO 15189)
Ethiopia Accreditation Service (EAS)	Ethiopia	Calibration (ISO/IEC 17025)
Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC)	Jamaica	Calibration (ISO/IEC 17025)
Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS)	Kenya	Proficiency Testing Providers (ISO/IEC 17043)
Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (SLAB)	Sri Lanka	Proficiency Testing Providers (ISO/IEC 17043)
Swiss Accreditation Service (SAS)	Switzerland	Proficiency Testing Providers (ISO/IEC 17043), Reference Material Producers (ISO 17034)
Emirates International Accreditation Centre (EIAC)	United Arab Emirates	Proficiency Testing Providers (ISO/IEC 17043)

The current list of signatories is available [here](#).

A signatory search function is also available [here](#). This tool allows users to search by accreditation body name, acronym, economy, and scope. Additionally, this search function can be embedded directly into your website to provide stakeholders with up-to-date information on ILAC MRA signatories.

» ILAC MRA AND SIGNATORIES

SEARCH SIGNATORIES

PASTE THIS CODE TO YOUR WEBSITE TO HOST THE ILAC MRA SEARCH FACILITY

Accreditation Body:

Acronym:

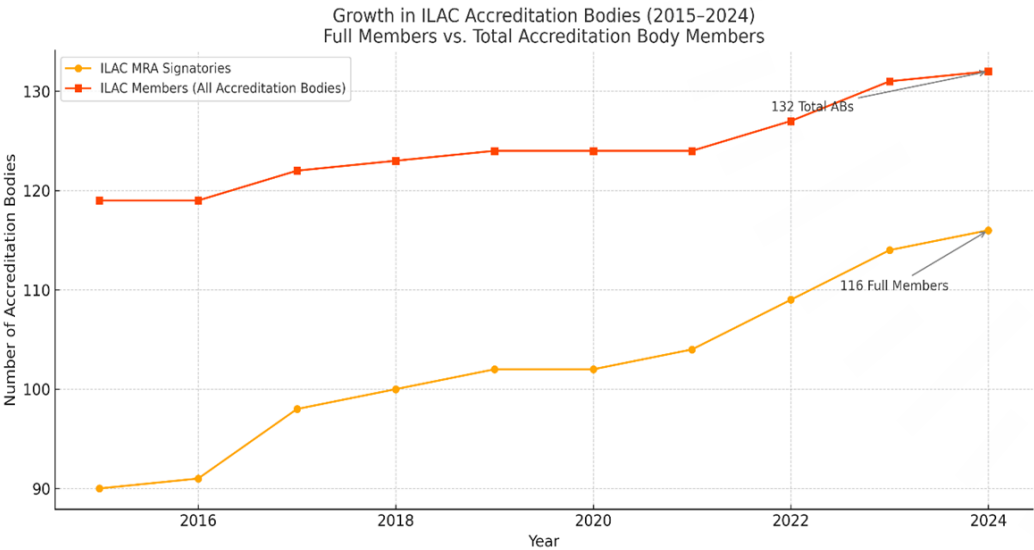
Economy:

Scope:

Find

ACCREDITATION BODY:

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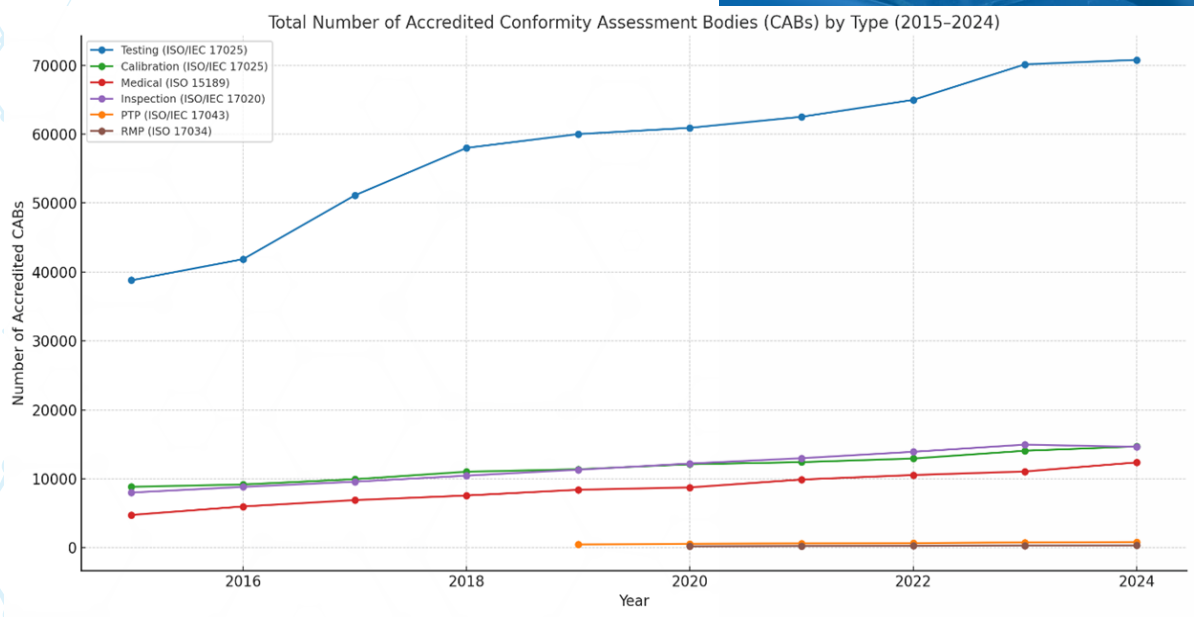
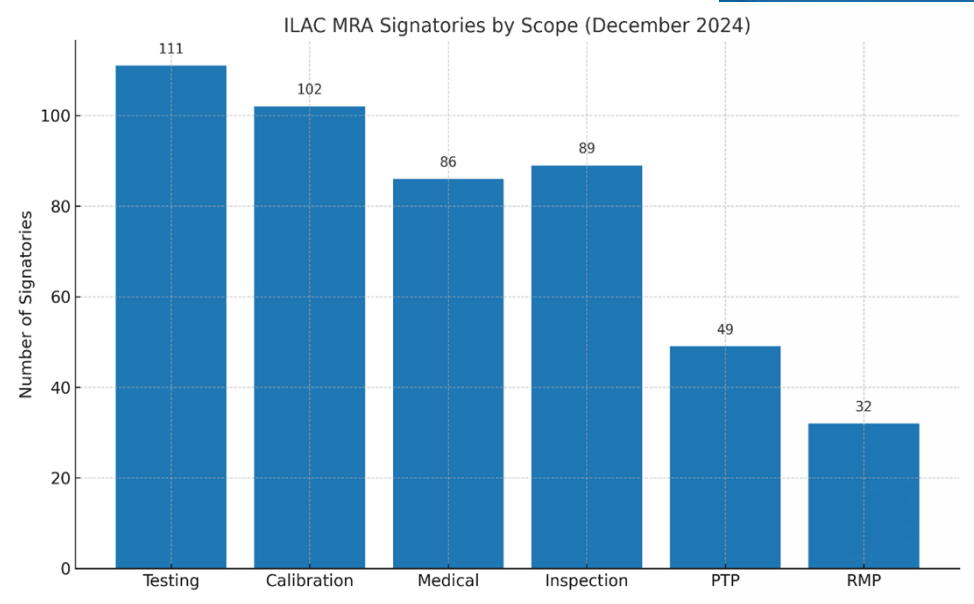


Global Growth

In recent years, ILAC has seen steady growth in its global reach, reflected in the increasing number of accreditation bodies joining its membership across diverse geographic regions.

Global Growth

The charts below highlight the global distribution and growth of ILAC MRA signatories and accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABs) by scope and type as of December 2024. These figures underscore the widespread adoption of international standards and the ongoing expansion of ILAC's recognition across critical sectors.



The ILAC MRA Mark

Signatories to the ILAC MRA, along with their accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABS), are authorised to use the ILAC MRA Mark through formal licensing agreements and in accordance with the provisions outlined in ILAC R7: Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark.

When displayed on reports or certificates, alongside the accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body, the ILAC MRA Mark indicates that the activity (e.g., calibration, testing, inspection, proficiency testing provision, or reference material production) was performed by a technically competent CAB accredited by an ILAC MRA signatory.

This Mark serves as a globally recognised symbol of trust, demonstrating adherence to internationally accepted standards and providing assurance to regulators, specifiers, and end users regarding the reliability and consistency of the results, services, and materials produced.



Evaluations

Accreditation Bodies (AB) are admitted to the ILAC MRA only after successfully completing a rigorous peer evaluation process. These evaluations are conducted by qualified teams to confirm that each AB operates in full compliance with relevant international standards and ILAC requirements.

ILAC, together with its Regional Cooperation Bodies (RCBs) and accreditation body members, continues to invest substantial time and resources to maintain a credible and robust peer evaluation system. The process is comprehensive, systematic, and essential to sustaining global confidence in the ILAC MRA. Full re-evaluations are conducted every four years and cover all economies and activities under the Arrangement.

During 2024, the following evaluation activities occurred:

- The peer evaluation of the Belarusian State Centre for Accreditation (BSCA) was conducted in February 2024. The evaluation and summary reports were finalised and reviewed by a designated Task Force Group (TFG). Comments were submitted by members of the ILAC Arrangement Council.
- The re-evaluation of ARAC commenced in September 2024. The process is currently ongoing.

The status of peer evaluations across the regions for 2024 is summarised in the following table:

Region	Evaluation Type	Timing	Status
ARAC	Re-evaluation	Started Sep 2024	Ongoing
AFRAC	Re-evaluation	Scheduled Feb 2025	Evaluation team approved
APAC	Re-evaluation	Planned Jun 2025	Evaluation team pending approval
SADCA	First Re-evaluation	Planned Aug 2025	Evaluation team approved
IAAC	Re-evaluation	Scheduled Sep 2025	Evaluation team approved
EA	Re-evaluation	Planned Jul 2026	Evaluation team pending approval

In addition to the evaluation carried out directly by ILAC, the recognised RCBs conducted the following peer evaluations in 2024:

ARAC (3) SADCA (-) APAC (22) IAAC (13) AFRAC (1) EA (16)

Evaluator Resources

In 2024, nine evaluators and four report reviewers participated in ILAC-led evaluation activities.

Decisions by the ILAC Arrangement Council

The ILAC Arrangement Council is composed of representatives from ILAC MRA signatory accreditation bodies, as well as ILAC Associate members, recognised Regional Cooperation Bodies (RCBs), and one stakeholder member. It holds formal responsibility for decisions related to the recognition of signatory status in the ILAC Arrangement, for RCBs, and for unaffiliated accreditation bodies.

After the peer evaluation is completed, the final report, which includes the resolution of any findings, is submitted to the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (AMC). The AMC, which oversees the day-to-day operations of the ILAC MRA, conducts a thorough review of the report

and, if necessary, consults with the evaluation team for clarification. Once the review is completed, the AMC issues a formal recommendation for a decision by the Arrangement Council. The evaluation process will continue with the next stage of decision-making in 2025.

In 2024, the peer evaluation of the Belarusian State Centre for Accreditation (BSCA) was completed. The ILAC Arrangement Council reviewed the final evaluation report along with the Evaluation Summary Report, and comments were submitted as part of this process. The evaluation process will continue with the next stage of decision-making in 2025.

On-going development of the ILAC MRA

ILAC remains committed to expanding and enhancing the ILAC MRA, including its technical scope. A significant area of development is the inclusion of biobank accreditation.

In October 2019, the ILAC General Assembly adopted a resolution recognising ISO 20387 – Biobanking, General Requirements for Biobanking as the applicable international standard for accrediting biobank facilities. A second resolution, adopted in November 2021, endorsed the extension of the ILAC MRA to cover biobanking as a Level 2 activity, based on the criteria outlined in the Level 3 normative document, ISO 20387.

To support this expansion, relevant ILAC MRA documents were revised and published in June 2022. Following this, in December 2022, APAC submitted a formal application to extend its recognition under the ILAC MRA to include biobank accreditation.

Improvement Activities

In 2024, ILAC and IAF continued their coordinated efforts to strengthen the consistency, credibility, and effectiveness of peer evaluation activities. This work is conducted through the Joint Management Committee (JMC), composed of members from both the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee and the IAF MLA Management Committee. The JMC oversees all peer evaluation matters that were previously managed separately by ILAC and IAF.

This unified structure supports the strategic objective of establishing a single international accreditation organisation, the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated, which will be an integration of both organisations and will ultimately replace ILAC and IAF.



Collaboration through the JMC

The JMC now serves as the central platform for managing all peer evaluations and for harmonising policies and procedures between ILAC and IAF. The alignment has improved operational efficiency, reduced duplication, and allowed for more cohesive oversight of evaluations at both the regional and individual accreditation body levels.

Key JMC Initiatives in 2024



Revisions of Foundational Evaluation Documents

The JMC advanced the revision of two key documents:

- IAF/ILAC A1, which sets requirements and procedures for the evaluation of Regional Accreditation Groups (RCBs).
- IAF/ILAC A2, which covers the evaluation of individual accreditation bodies.

These updates incorporate outcomes from a 2023 workshop, particularly the integration of risk-based evaluation principles to improve the focus and efficiency of the peer evaluation process.

Evaluator Training Program

The JMC Training Task Force Group made significant progress in 2024 toward developing a training package for evaluators involved in evaluating Regional Cooperation Bodies. This initiative aims to ensure consistency, technical competence, and alignment in peer evaluations under the joint ILAC–IAF framework. The training will also play a critical role in supporting future evaluation activities under the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated structure.

Strategic Alignment Meetings

The JMC convened virtually in April 2024 and in person in October 2024. These meetings focused on streamlining procedures, aligning reporting formats, and preparing for the transition to the single global accreditation framework. Both sessions reaffirmed the shared direction and coordination between ILAC and IAF.

International Standards

During 2024, two international standards included in Level 1 and Level 3 of the ILAC MRA were subject to active transition processes:

- **ISO 15189:2022** was published in December 2022, with a transition period established through 31 December 2025.
- **ISO/IEC 17043:2023** was published in May 2023, with the transition period set to conclude on 31 May 2026.

All Regional Cooperation Bodies (EA, APAC, AFRAC, SADCA, ARAC, and IAAC) submitted updates on the implementation of these transitions as part of their 2024 reports. The AMC noted that both transitions are progressing as planned.

New and Revised Publications

In 2024, ILAC shifted its publication focus toward the development of foundational documentation for the future Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) under the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated, which will replace the current ILAC and IAF frameworks.

Under the oversight of the Joint Management Committee (JMC), a series of draft and planned documents are being prepared to define the structure, operations, and obligations of the new global MRA. The following MRA documents represent the framework in development:

Document Title	Document Number	Status
Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Structure, Scope and Obligations.	MRA-001	Draft available for JMC members' review and feedback
Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Management of the ACRONYM MRA	MRA-002	Draft available for JMC members' review and feedback
Policies and Procedures for the Management of the Scope of the Arrangement	MRA-003	Pending
Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Cooperation Body	MRA-004	Pending
Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body	MRA-005	Pending
Use of the MRA Mark and Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies	MRA-006	Draft available for JMC members' review and feedback
Template Report for the Peer Evaluation of an Accreditation Body based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017	MRA-007	Pending
Exchange of Documentation among MRA Signatories for the Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies	MRA-008	Under consideration by the IAF MLA TFG for cooperation
Inquiries on MRA Signatory Equivalence and on the Acceptance of Certification Documents	MRA-009	Under consideration by the IAF MLA TFG for cooperation

These documents reflect the collaborative efforts of ILAC and IAF to build a unified, coherent, and forward-looking system for international accreditation recognition. Work on these publications will continue in 2025, with the goal of finalising the core documentation to enable a successful launch of the new global MRA framework.



Ongoing promotion of the ILAC MRA

ILAC continues to promote the value and global relevance of accreditation through real-world examples and evidence-based resources. These materials demonstrate how accreditation supports policy development, regulatory efficiency, and improved public outcomes.

Case studies from around the world are regularly added to the [Public Sector Assurance](#) website. These illustrate the role of accreditation in key policy areas such as healthcare, environmental protection, energy, food safety, construction, crime prevention, and national security. Each case study is also linked to one or more of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, highlighting accreditation's contribution to broader global priorities.

The site also features independent research and additional reference material to help governments, regulators, and public agencies better understand how accreditation can be used as an effective policy tool.

Supporting the needs of government, regulators, and the public sector remains a core objective of the global conformity assessment community.

In parallel, the [Business Benefits](#) website continues to grow, offering a collection of case studies, research papers, and supporting materials that demonstrate the economic value of standards, conformity assessment, and accreditation for industry.



Ongoing promotion of the ILAC MRA

World Accreditation Day was celebrated on 9 June 2024 by the global accreditation community, including ILAC and IAF, under the theme: “Accreditation: Empowering Tomorrow and Shaping the Future.”

The theme highlighted the essential role of accreditation in addressing current global challenges while enabling innovation and progress. It emphasised how accredited conformity assessment underpins confidence in new technologies, digitalisation, cybersecurity, sustainability claims, and environmental and social governance (ESG) performance, especially as the world navigates rapid economic, technological, and societal change.

It provided the opportunity for ILAC and IAF members to share examples with stakeholders, regulators and consumers of how accreditation and conformity assessment are adapting to advances in technology, changes in consumer behaviours and regulatory environment, new trust mechanisms, and changing business models.

Through case studies, videos, and campaign materials, ILAC and IAF demonstrated how accreditation:

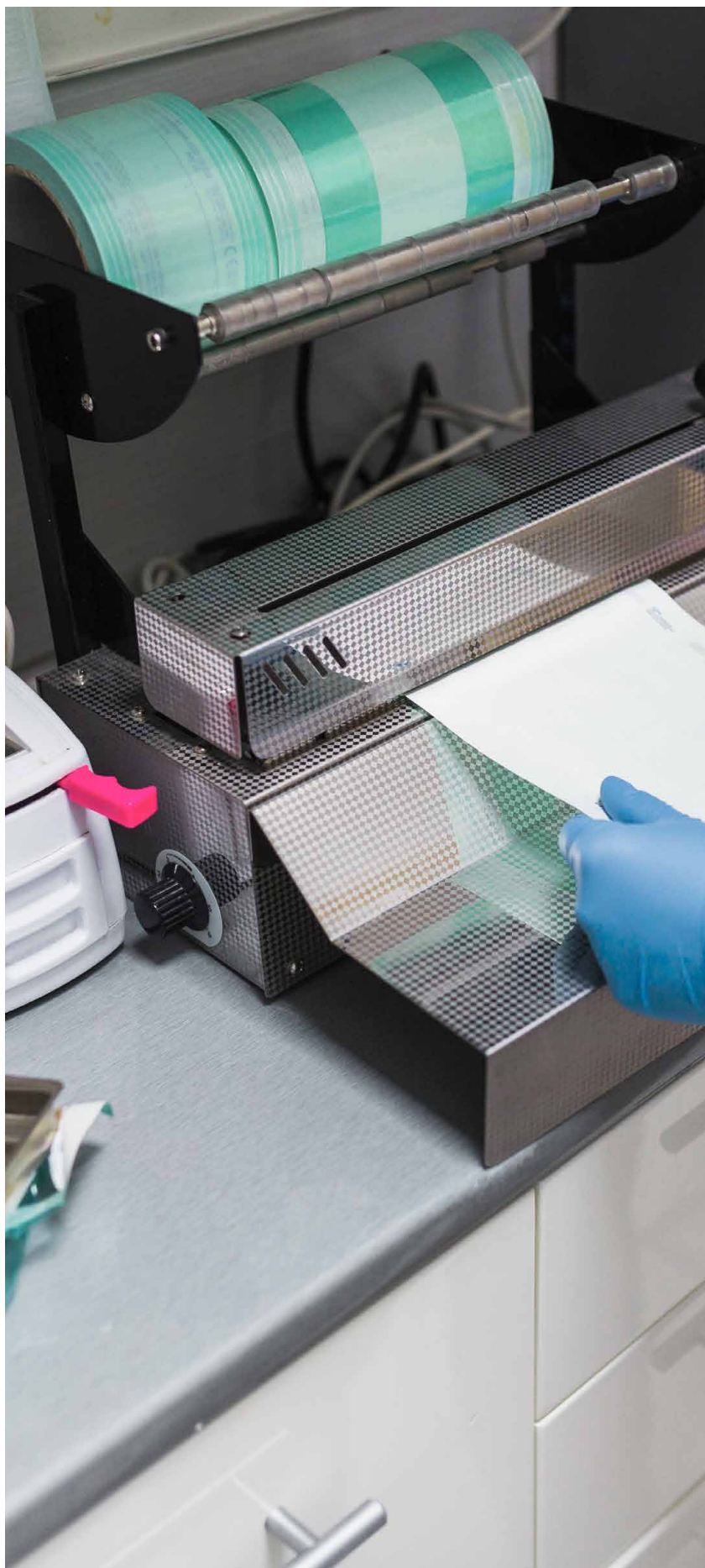
- Supports technological advancement, including smart infrastructure, blockchain, AI, and the Internet of Things;
- Enables data privacy, cybersecurity, and consumer protection;
- Promotes trust in ESG reporting and reduces the risk of greenwashing;
- Facilitates the transition to a circular economy and the achievement of climate goals;
- Encourages fair labor practices and supports diversity and inclusion.

Examples from Italy, India, Jordan, Mexico, West Africa, and Hong Kong showcased how accreditation enables progress in gender equity, food safety, renewable energy, water resource management, trustworthy media, and smart testing technologies.

This year’s celebration also emphasised how accreditation contributes to multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDGs 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, and 17.

For more on these initiatives, visit:
www.publicsectorassurance.org
www.business-benefits.org





Additional Information

The [ILAC](#) website provides information on the [ILAC MRA](#) and also includes [brochures](#) and information on [World Accreditation Day](#) celebrated on 9 June each year.

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www.youtube.com/channel/UCUMKbQYOBUnrGMHLmtU7ew