

## **UNIDO and partners extend support for accreditation systems in developing countries**

VIENNA, 24 November 2017 – The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), will further advance their strategic partnership in the field of accreditation of conformity assessment bodies.

A memorandum of understanding on this was signed in Vienna today by LI Yong, the Director General of UNIDO; XIAO Jianhua, Chief Executive of IAF; and Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, Chair of ILAC. They met on the sidelines of the seventh session of the Least Developed Countries Ministerial Conference, organized by UNIDO.

The three institutions will jointly support the development of internationally-recognized accreditation systems in developing countries; enhance the impact of industrial development on economic growth; and assist the beneficial integration of developing countries and transition economies into global trade and value chains.

UNIDO, IAF and ILAC have a long-lasting tripartite cooperation. This has contributed significantly to supporting developing countries and transition economies in quality infrastructure development and capacity building, enhancing the impact of inclusive and sustainable industrial development on their economic growth, and promoting their integration into international trade and global value chains.

Quality infrastructure, including accreditation, plays a critical role in helping UNIDO Member States build effective and efficient productive capacity in line with market needs, as well as in complying with standards and regulatory requirements in national, regional and international markets.

Internationally-recognized accreditation systems are vital to reduce technical barriers to trade, trade costs and facilitate their integration into global markets and value chains, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNIDO quality infrastructure-related projects aim to build the capacities of developing countries in policy formulation, institutional strengthening and private sector development. In this respect, the partnership with the IAF and ILAC is vital for UNIDO's technical cooperation projects related to accreditation.

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