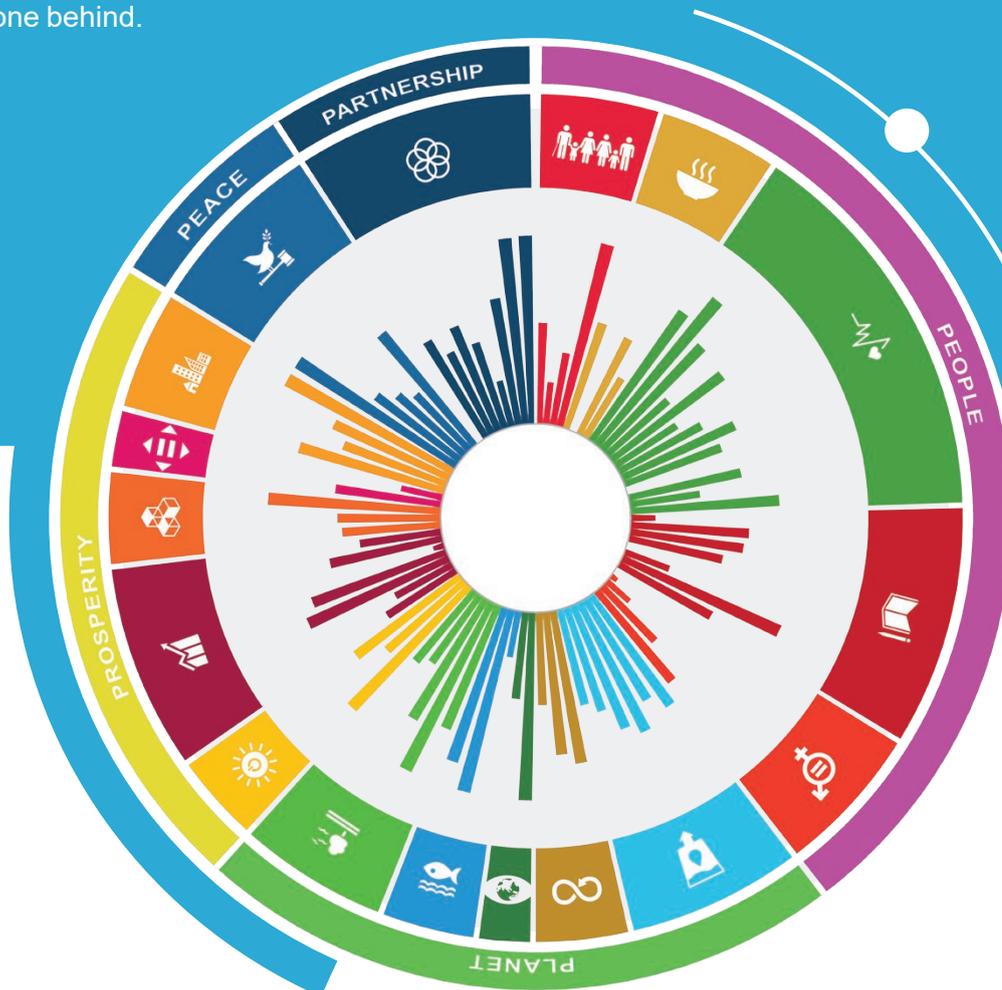


Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by world leaders at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 25 September 2015, is a broad and ambitious plan of action.

At its core are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets with the overarching objective of leaving no one behind.



The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a blueprint for a better world. This ambitious plan to enhance prosperity, eradicate poverty and protect the planet is recognized globally as essential for a sustainable world. It requires consensus, collaboration and innovation from all parts of society, including local and national governments, business, industry and individuals.

The 2030 Agenda, articulated across 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which bring together economic, social and environmental dimensions, includes the three key pillars: people, prosperity and planet. Accreditation, in collaboration with other quality infrastructure institutions including metrology, standardization, conformity assessment and market surveillance, provides the technical foundations that are critical to the functioning of developed and developing societies. It is an enabler for industrial development, trade competitiveness in global markets, efficient use of natural and human resources, food safety, health and environmental protection.

The positive impact of accreditation is therefore clearly aligned with the pillars of People, Prosperity and Planet, and provides policymakers, businesses and other stakeholders with the solutions to implement, measure and monitor many of the objectives and targets contained in the SDGs, and the support to achieve them.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



MEETING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE

This group of SDGs is centered on improving wellbeing. These goals focus on addressing hunger, reducing inequalities, and providing access to good health. Accreditation supports the needs of people as it verifies that products are safe, and quality expectations are met. Accredited measurement ensures that consumers are protected, while health and social care systems are delivered by competent professionals.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Accreditation creates competitive domestic markets, and facilitates trade for both importers and exporters through the removal of technical barriers.

Conformity assessment ensures food is fit and safe for consumption and helps achieve sustainable agriculture and food production.

This in turn, contributes to eradicating hunger and securing adequate nutrition and clean water for all people, allowing people to live healthy lives and improve their social and economic well-being. As the ILAC and IAF mutual recognition arrangements facilitate trade, they contribute to economic development.

By using gender-sensitive standards and favoring technical competence, conformity assessment has a positive impact on gender equality and on the economic empowerment of women.

Lastly, using accredited conformity assessment helps prevent unsafe, unhealthy or environmentally harmful products from entering the marketplace.

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Case Study: CNAS medical laboratory accreditation supports good health and well-being

Medical laboratories play an important role in the evaluation of human health status and the correct diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of diseases. The quality and technical level of medical laboratories are directly related to the health and well-being of the public.

China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS) issued its first medical laboratory accreditation certificate in August 2005. By the end of December 2020, CNAS had accredited 453 medical laboratories. Accreditation has been recognized by medical laboratories in China as an important tool to improve quality and technical ability. In December 2007, CNAS became a signatory to the mutual recognition agreements of the Asia-Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) and the ILAC on medical laboratory accreditation. CNAS Accreditation will continue to make greater contributions to the construction of a healthy China.



Case Study: GhaNAS, NiNAS and SOAC accreditation supports public health systems in West Africa

Accreditation supports public health in West Africa, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has a regional standardization mechanism called the ECOWAS Standards and Harmonization Model (ECOSHAM). The latter allowed the adoption of two regional standards, for the benefit of all member states, relating to hand sanitizers and barrier masks for use by the general public. The ECOWAS accreditation mechanism is based on the Ghanaian accreditation body (GhaNAS), the Nigerian accreditation body (NiNAS) and the West African Accreditation System (SOAC) which covers eight member states. The three bodies are taking over in order to accredit the product certification services of the member states for certification schemes based on the two validated standards.



BUILDING PROSPERITY

This theme of the SDGs relates to industry, innovation and infrastructure, decent work and economic growth.

Accreditation creates competitive domestic markets, as well as facilitating trade for both importers and exporters through the removal of technical barriers.

Economic development, a key driver of building prosperity, is linked to domestic and cross-border trade. The need to meet regulatory requirements, national standards, trading partner requirements, and consumer needs can be demonstrated through reliable accredited conformity assessment.





SDG 7 Accredited conformity assessment services underpin effective policies and programmes by which countries can implement the energy transition required to achieve SDG 7. Exceptional efforts need to be pursued to address these challenges and to achieve SDG 7. Solving the energy conundrum is probably humanity's hardest challenge, along with climate change, where accreditation is making a difference.

SDG 8 calls for structural transformation and economic growth by increasing the capacity of local industries for value addition, economic diversification, and export promotion, as well as for the creation of decent jobs in industry and industry-related services.

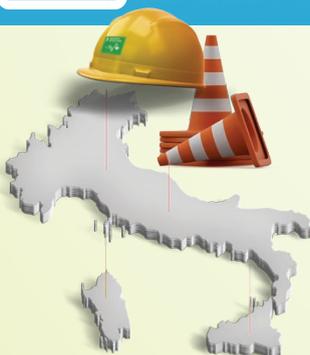
The ILAC and IAF mutual recognition arrangements aim to facilitate international trade, which is an essential component of a country's path to prosperity.

Accredited conformity assessment services in this regard cover a multitude of services, including product life cycle assessments based on objective and internationally recognized criteria, inspection and certification of the design and operation of environmentally benign technologies and services, and the audit of health and safety management systems.



Prosperity in the context of the SDGs seeks to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives, and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

Scaling Up Nutrition (2015)



Case Study: Italian Study identifies the benefits of accredited H&S management systems

A study carried out by Accredia, the Italian Accreditation Body, INAIL, a public insurer, and AICQ, the Italian Quality Institute, has identified that companies with accredited certification of their health and safety management system experience reduced severity and frequency of workplace accidents.

In order to increase adoption of accredited certification, the insurer is able to provide lower premiums due to the lower risk. This scheme protects the health and wellbeing of the worker.



SDG 9 promotes socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic development by enhancing infrastructure, industry and innovation. Conformity assessment services continually endorse new technologies and support economic and industrial growth, build trade capacities in industries, and ensure that all countries can benefit from international trade and technological progress.

SDG 10 calls for more opportunities for all women and men, as well as across social groups, by building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation.

SDG 11 calls for effective development of cities and metropolitan areas that are considered as powerhouses of economic growth. Accredited conformity assessment services support levelling up living standards and reducing global carbon emissions, inadequate and overburdened infrastructure and services related to rapid urbanization.



Case Study: Accredited certification used in Spanish Tax incentives law for Research, Development and Innovation in science.

The Spanish corporate tax law offers applicants the possibility of providing the Tax Administration with reasoned reports about the fulfillment of R&D&i activities in order to obtain tax deductions. These reports need to be supported by a technical qualification report issued by a certification body accredited by Entidad Nacional de Acreditacion (ENAC), in order to provide substantial guarantees of credibility.



Case Study : Accreditation used by New Zealand government to assess Building Consent Authorities

The Department of Building and Housing published standards and criteria for accrediting Building Consent Authorities under the Building (Accreditation of Building Consent Authorities) Regulations 2006. International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) undertakes the assessments of Building Consent Authorities against these standards and criteria for registration by the Department of Building and Housing.

The aim is to ensure that buildings are built and maintained so they can be used safely. It requires that buildings are designed, constructed and able to be used in ways that promote sustainable development, and that the people protect those that live and work in them.



PROTECTING THE PLANET

This pillar of the SDGs addresses the protection of the natural world. Trade and consumerism have an impact on the environment, through the use of limited natural resources, pollution, and waste. This is impacting the climate, the sustainability of scarce natural resources, and pollution of air, land and oceans.

Accreditation underpins environmental performance by reducing contamination & greenhouse gases and controlling waste & pollution.



The impact of human activity on the planet has reached dangerous levels, threatening the sustainability and management of natural resources and the protection of the biosphere. The UN SDGs aim to adopt an integrated approach to economic development, in which environmental sustainability is a key priority.

Under the umbrella of the ILAC and IAF Mutual Recognition Arrangements, accreditation and accredited conformity assessment services provide an essential contribution to the implementation of policies and actions aiming to protect the planet.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



While substantial progress has been made in increasing access to clean drinking water and sanitation, billions of people—mostly in rural areas—still lack these basic services. Accredited water testing, water management systems certification and other conformity assessment services give national and local regulatory authorities, public or private operators of water and wastewater services, industries, households and other stakeholders the technical means for effectively managing water resources. This helps to improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials.

Case study: The India government mandates the use of accredited laboratories to ensure the availability of clean drinking water in rural areas

In most of the development blocks in India, drinking water is affected by various harmful elements. In fact, a large number of rural areas are affected by heavy metals in water such as arsenic, fluoride and iron. Polluted water isn't just dirty—it's deadly.

To ensure safe drinking water for all citizens, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has notified all its testing laboratories at the district level to obtain accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Bodies (NABL) to ensure technical competence and compliance to the international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017.



Worldwide consumption and production — a driving force of the global economy — rests on the use of the natural environment and resources in a way that continues to have destructive impacts on the planet. In accordance with agreed international frameworks, quality infrastructure, and especially accreditation, helps achieve environmentally sound chemical and waste management. This significantly reduces their release into the air, water and soil, minimizing their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

Case study: Accreditation supporting the safe recycling of ships in Europe

The EU Ship Recycling Regulation states that Independent Verifiers should be accredited as Inspection Bodies to ISO/IEC 17020. The objective of the Regulation is to reduce the negative impacts linked to the recycling of ships flying the flag of Member States of the Union. The use of competent organisations to carry out the verification provides confidence to the regulator that the work is being carried out effectively.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



We live in a time where there is continuous deterioration of coastal waters owing to pollution, and ocean acidification is having an adverse effect on the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity. This is also negatively impacting small scale fisheries. Accredited testing, inspection and certification has formed an essential part in the numerous voluntary fisheries and aquaculture standards published over the last 20 years along with schemes, and international agreements reached.



Climate change mitigation and adaptation depend on the transformation of economic activities to become “climate friendly”, or “carbon neutral”. Using accredited tests, measurements and verification and validation services strengthens the global response to the threat of climate change by playing a central role in energy efficiency programmes, energy generation from renewable sources and public policies such as carbon pricing, financing for low carbon development projects, and by incentivizing the promotion of low-carbon solutions and carbon emission reduction schemes like ICAO CORSIA.





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