


ITU Forum on Conformance and Interoperability   
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ITU Guidelines for Developing Countries on Establishing  
Conformity assessment test labs in different Regions;  
Guidelines for the development, implementation and  
management of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)

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Guidelines for Developing   
Countries for Establishing Test Labs  
in Different Regions

- **Status** in the regions and needs
- **Funding and Training Sources**
- **Criteria** to establish Accreditation Bodies and Test Labs (**International Telecommunications Testing Centres (ITTCs)**)
- Economics and **Cost Implications** for ITTCs
- **Roadmap** for ITTC rollout

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## Conclusions from Guidelines



- Members to:
  - advise the ITU of **interoperability problems**
  - establish market access requirements (regulators)
  - assess **legislation and regulations**
  - **prioritize areas of concern** related to telecommunication products and systems
- Establishment of Accreditation bodies and approach to at least regional **MRAs and MLAs**
- Establishment of **Test Centres** on a regional basis, wide areas and possibly common infrastructures



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## Needs in Developing Countries for Test Labs



- Conformity Assessment Bodies activities contribute to create an orderly telecom apparatus marketplace
- Once standards and test suites are in place, test labs can check equipment for compliance
- Sharing test labs resources amongst countries and regions and must have sufficient scope to address regional priorities lowering overall costs
- A robust framework (following international procedures) is needed for trust and confidence in test results and among test labs



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## Steps to Establish an ISO 17025 Compliant Test Lab



- Management requirements and systems
- Lab requirements, test methods and procedures, audits, equipment handling
- Document control, calibration records and staff records
- Handling of test reports and calibration certificates
- Service to customers and handling of complaints



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## Funding and Training Sources



- UNIDO, major Banks in each region, specialized funding agencies for telecoms projects and others
- Requirements to access funds vary from low interest loans, to grants, seed funding and cost underwriting
- Repository of international telecom training organizations
- Costs of training may vary from just travel to and from location, to government and supplier subsidized training, to private for-profit fully costed training.



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**GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MUTUAL  
RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS/AGREEMENTS (MRAs) ON CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT**



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- a. Purpose - What is an MRA?
- b. Benefits of MRAs
- c. Types of MRAs
- d. Basic Obligations of Parties to an MRA

**2. Attributes of an MRA**

- a. Designation
- b. Accreditation
- c. Recognition
- d. Dispute resolution

**3. Development of an MRA**

- a. Framework for MRAs
- b. Coverage and scope
- c. Identification of parties to the MRA
- d. Examples of some MRAs on conformity assessment

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**4. Implementation of MRA**

- a. Pre-implementation preparation
- b. Confidence building and start-up
- c. Identification of scope – technical requirements and phases
- d. Identification of Contacts
- e. Information exchange
- f. Identification of MRA host and repository of signatories
- g. Nomination of Designating authorities
- h. Nomination of Recognition Authorities
- i. Identification of Accreditation Bodies
- j. Formation of Joint Committee
- k. Experience from implementation of existing MRAs

**5. Management of MRA**

- a. Joint management committee
- b. Update and surveillance of Accreditation Bodies and Conformance Assessment Bodies (CABs)
- c. Management of data
- d. Record of notifications and changes
- e. Termination and withdrawal from MRA

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6. Consultation and Training
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9. Recognition Authorities
10. Accreditation Bodies
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12. Procedures for contesting CAB competence
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  - Party contacts
  - Designation, Recognition and Accreditation bodies
  - Technical standards and scopes

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**Thank You !**

