SESSION 8
INTRODUCTION TO ESTABLISHING INNOVATIVE WAYS OF TESTING THROUGH MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT (MRA)

15TH TO 19TH NOVEMBER, 2021

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Presentation Outline

- ☐ General Introduction
- ☐ Principles and Basic characteristics of parties to an MRA
- ☐ Benefits
- ☐ Types of MRA
- ☐ Stages of MRA Establishment
- ☐ Case study- Africa
- ☐ Recommendations of MRA development & Implementation
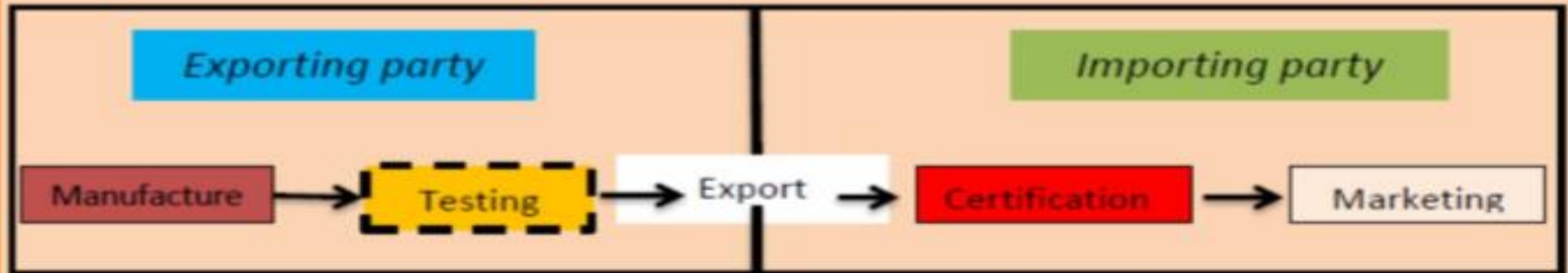
Mutual Recognition Agreements/Arrangement (MRA)

- A voluntary agreement between two or more parties for the recognition of telecommunication equipment test results for the purposes of conformity assessment.

- A principle to encourage trade and reduce technical regulatory barriers between signatories with emphasis on

➢ Test Results
➢ Certification Documents
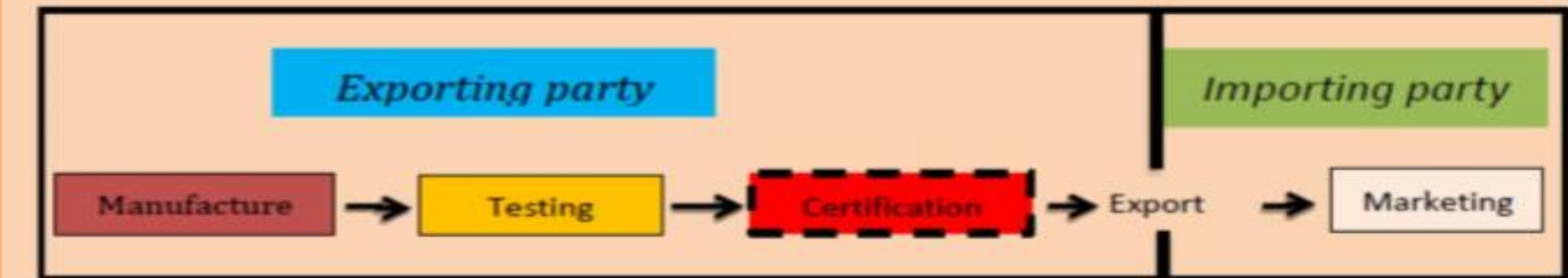
Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA)

Test Reports vs Certification Documents

Figure 4: Phase 1 – Mutual acceptance of test reports

Exporting party — Importing party

Manufacture → Testing → Export → Certification → Marketing

Source: Andrew Kwan

Figure 5: Phase 2 – Mutual acceptance of certification

Exporting party — Importing party

Manufacture → Testing → Certification → Export → Marketing

Source: Andrew Kwan

Principles and Basic characteristics of parties to an MRA

- Belong to the same geographic region

- Have common telecom standards and conformity assessment procedures

- Similar trade and interest

BENEFITS, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AN MRA

FOR REGULATORS:

- reduction of regulatory resources required to certify terminal attachment and radio equipment;

- an opportunity to reallocate a portion of these former certification costs to other areas;

- a potential stepping stone towards further harmonizing of technical requirements and of regional and national conformity assessment systems; and

- access to a pool of knowledge about the latest global trends and experiences regarding conformity assessment and regulatory systems.

BENEFITS, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AN MRA

FOR CONSUMERS:

- increasing consumer access to the widest variety of available technology;

- faster access to equipment at a lower cost; and

- speeding the development of telecommunication and Internet infrastructure.

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BENEFITS, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AN MRA

FOR MANUFACTURERS:

❑ an opportunity to test and certify products one time to the requirements of multiple markets and ship products without further conformity assessment;

❑ increase certification efficiency for products exported to foreign markets, thus increasing export opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and

❑ decreasing time-to-market for companies manufacturing telecommunication equipment with shorter and shorter product life cycles, thus maximizing export opportunities and allowing for rapid reinvestment in research and development for next-generation technologies.

BENEFITS, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AN MRA

FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES:

- Allowing conformity assessment bodies (CABs) to increase the value of their service by offering their clients a substantially wider portfolio, including testing and certifying products for multiple markets.
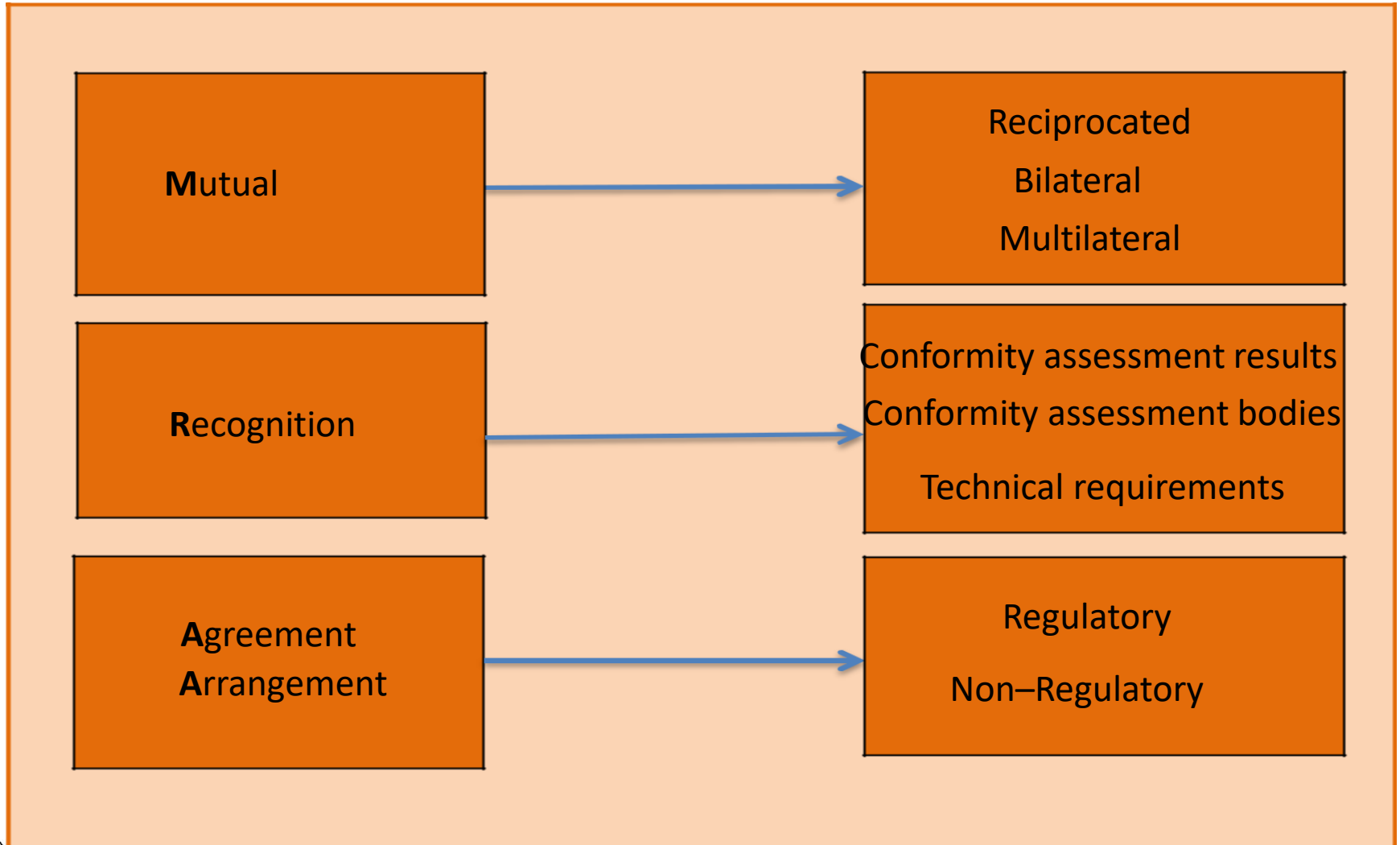
TYPES OF MRAs

- Mutual Recognition Agreement

requires a legally binding instrument

- Mutual Recognition Arrangement

Non-binding

TYPES OF MRAs

Mutual	Reciprocated
	Bilateral
	Multilateral
Recognition	Conformity assessment results
	Conformity assessment bodies
	Technical requirements
Agreement **A**rrangement	Regulatory
	Non–Regulatory

FRAMEWORK AND STAGES OF MRA ESTABLISHMENT

■ Development of MRA

■ Implementation of MRA

■ Management of MRA

FRAMEWORK AND STAGES OF MRA ESTABLISHMENT

- **DEVELOPMENT OF MRA**
- ➤ Framework
- ➤ Coverage and scope
- ➤ Identification of parties to the MRA
- ➤ Obligations under the MRA
- ➤ Duration and disestablishment of MRA
- ➤ Examples of MRA on Conformity Assessment

FRAMEWORK AND STAGES OF MRA ESTABLISHMENT

- **IMPLEMENTATION OF MRA**

  - Conformity Assessment
  - Pre-implementation preparation
  - Confidence building and start-up
  - Identification of scope (technical requirement and phases)
  - Identification of contacts

FRAMEWORK AND STAGES OF MRA ESTABLISHMENT

■ **IMPLEMENTATION OF MRA CONT.**

➢ Information exchange
➢ Identification of MRA host and repository of signatories
➢ Nomination of designating authorities
➢ Nomination of regulatory authorities
➢ identification of accreditation bodies

FRAMEWORK AND STAGES OF MRA ESTABLISHMENT

- **IMPLEMENTATION OF MRA CONT.**

  - Notification of conformity assessment bodies
  - Recognition of conformity assessment bodies
  - Formation of a joint committee
  - Monitor and surveillance programs
  - Experience & implementation of existing MRAs

FRAMEWORK AND STAGES OF MRA ESTABLISHMENT

- **MANAGEMENT OF MRA**

  - ➢ Joint committee
  - ➢ Update and surveillance of accreditation bodies and conformance assessment bodies
  - ➢ Management of data
  - ➢ Record of notification and changes
  - ➢ Termination and withdrawal from an MRA

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AFRICA)

■ **GHANA**

➢ Radio Frequency & Signaling **(RF)** Lab

➢ Electromagnetic Field **(EMF)** Lab

➢ Specific Absorption Rate **(SAR)** Lab

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AFRICA)

- **TUNISIA**

  - Radio Frequency & Signaling **(RF)** Lab
  - Electromagnetic Compatibility **(EMC)** Lab

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AFRICA)

- **COUNTRY**
  - ➤ IF ANY
  - ➤ IF ANY

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AFRICA)

- **PROPOSED LABS**

  - Internet of Things (IoT) Lab
  - Low Voltage Device (LVD) Testing Lab
  - Acoustic Noise Testing Lab
  - Thermal Temperature & Humidity Lab
  - Power & Energy Testing Lab

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AFRICA)

- **PROPOSED LABS**

  ➢ If any
  ➢ If any
  ➢ If any

PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

- **EU and Australia**
- **EU and Canada**
- **EU and Israel**
- **EU and Japan**
- **EU and New Zealand**
- **EU and US**
- **USA and EEA EFTA**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MRA DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

- Identify telecommunication labs in the region and their scope of accreditation

- Survey the regulatory regimes in the region and identify their coverage. ie terminal attachment equipment, radio equipment, broadcast equipment, SAR, EMC, electrical safety, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MRA DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION Cont.

- Identify whether any of the members are already party to existing MRAs that should be taken into account or used as a basis in developing any new MRA

- Survey the region(s) to identify whether or not, their legislation permits the necessary kinds of delegation of powers and authorities required for operation of an MRA.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MRA DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION Cont.

- Establish an appropriate forum(s) to discuss and develop or adopt a framework MRA for conformity assessment of telecommunication equipment for the region.

- Establish a pilot project in a selected region to put in place an MRA Management System and Database.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Parties to an MRA must have common telecom standards and conformity assessment procedures

a)   True √

b)   False

2. MRA is mandatory for all parties in a particular region.

a)   True

b)   False √

3. Mutual Recognition Arrangement requires a legally binding instrument

a)   True

b)   False √

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MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

4. Mutual Recognition Agreement is not legally binding

a) True

b) False √

5. MRA is a unilateral agreement /arrangement

a) True

b) False √

6. The following are benefits of an MRA except

a) Reduction in regulatory resources

b) Faster access to equipment at a lower cost

c) Interferes with the regulatory requirement of parties √

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

7. What are three stages of MRA establishment

a) Implementation, development and management
b) Introduction, Implementation and management
c) Development, Implementation and management √

Any Questions?