Maghreb Expert Group on Conformity and Interoperability (C&I)

Terms of Reference

1. According to the Outcomes and Recommendations (In Country Labs - Regional Labs - MRAs) coming from the Workshop for Maghreb Countries to Promote the Development and Implementation of Conformity Assessment Programmes, Tunis , Tunisia, 9-11 December 2014 the Committee chaired by UMA Secretariat will discuss the following tasks:To discuss the possibility for the establishment of Maghreb In-Country C&I Testing Laboratories. This plan shall include the criteria to determine the locations and the testing scopes of these in-country C&I testing laboratories. The testing scopes of the In-Country C&I Testing Laboratories should complement each other in order to provide maximum scope coverage within the Maghreb Region.

   Reference: Feasibility Study for a Conformance Testing Center.

2. To discuss the possibility for the establishment of Regional C&I Testing Laboratories. This plan shall include the criteria to determine the numbers, locations and testing scopes of these Regional C&I Testing Laboratories.

   Reference: Guidelines for Developing Countries on establishing conformity assessment test labs in different regions.

3. To discuss the Development of a Plan for the Establishment of a Maghreb MRA Framework based on worldwide best practice (e.g the Maghreb MRA could be based on existing Framework MRAs in other regions, the Inter-American MRA (CITEL MRA) for the Americas and the APEC TEL MRA (APEC MRA) for the Asia Pacific region)
   This plan shall preferably include the creation of a small Maghreb Expert Group which can adapt the above mentioned MRAs already in place to meet specific requirements of the Maghreb Region.
   The Expert Group will adjust the proposed draft MRA to meet specific Maghreb countries administrative requirements. The technical features of the Inter-American MRA could be adopted in order to retain compatibilities with Framework MRAs of other regions.
   ITU BDT will provide expert advice to the committee on the development of the Maghreb MRA and will be available at the first meeting of the committee to provide a detail view of the best practices.
   Once the Expert Group has completed its work, it will submit the draft Maghreb MRA to the appropriate Maghreb countries Ministers Council for endorsement.

The committee will remain active after the endorsement of the Maghreb MRA to support the implementation of the Maghreb MRA.

In implementing the Maghreb MRA, Members States shall become signatories to this multilateral arrangement in the Maghreb Region. Participation in the Maghreb MRA is voluntary.

Reference: Guidelines for the development, implementation and management of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) - English & French version. Establishing Conformity and Interoperability Regimes: Basic Guidelines - English & French version

All three plans are submitted to the attention of Group of Experts and UMA secretariat for the follow-up and technical assistance shall be available from ITU/BDT for the development and execution of the recommended Plans.