

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

AMONG

The Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)

AND

The Inter-American Metrology System (SIM)

AND

The Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT)

THE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT, the three Regional Quality Infrastructure Organizations of the Americas: the **Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation** (hereafter IAAC), a civil non-profit association headquartered in Mexico City, Mexico, represented by its Chair, Ileana Martinez; the **Inter-American Metrology System** (hereafter SIM), a regional metrology organization represented by its President, José Dajes; and the **Pan-American Standards Commission** (hereafter COPANT), a civil non-profit association headquartered in La Paz, Bolivia, represented by its Executive Secretary, Kory Eguino,

CONSIDERING:

The Plan of Action of Panama 2012-2016, adopted at the Third Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology of the Americas (Panama, 2011), which identified National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) as a priority issue for competitiveness, innovation, trade and consumer safety in the Hemisphere and created a Ministerial Working Group to strengthen national quality systems, promote the importance of NQI in the region and design and coordinate regional and hemispheric projects on the aforementioned topics;

The long and successful history of three independent Regional Quality Infrastructure Organizations of the Americas, COPANT, IAAC, and SIM, each of which has active and broad participation from the countries in the Americas in their respective areas of expertise;

The complementary and mutually supporting nature of standards development, accreditation, and scientific, industrial and legal metrology as the key elements of quality infrastructure;

The recognition by all three organizations of the importance of collaborative action to enhance the results and impact of their activities in the broader context of quality infrastructure across the Region;

The shared goal to create a formal structure for joint projects, information sharing, and cross-functional training and development;

AGREE TO ENTER INTO THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:

**ARTICLE I
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MOU is to create the *Quality Infrastructure Council of the Americas*, a partnership of peer regional organizations that provides a single point of contact for action and collaboration to support the expansion of National Quality Infrastructure in the Hemisphere. Cooperative activities will be explored and determined by the Parties within the framework of this MOU.

**ARTICLE II
FORMS OF CO-OPERATION**

Activities carried out under this Agreement may include but are not limited to:

- 2.1 Co-organizing awareness and capacity building events for stakeholders, including public officials;
- 2.2 Offering joint seminars and training courses on priority areas;
- 2.3 Increasing the visibility of each other's services and activities among their respective networks;
- 2.4 Supporting each other's training activities;
- 2.5 Developing and implementing joint programs;
- 2.6 Exchanging documents, specific information and access to databases and general information;
- 2.7 Exchanging professional personnel to strengthen projects and programs;
- 2.8 Carrying out joint meetings to address matters of common interest.
- 2.9 Promoting cooperation and collaboration among each other's members at a national level.

ARTICLE III FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

This Agreement in and of itself does not create obligations of a financial nature for any of the Parties beyond supporting their own costs to participate in the joint activities as described above.

ARTICLE IV COORDINATION AND NOTICE

4.1. The Parties shall each designate one representative and one deputy as contact persons to be responsible for the coordination of the respective organizations' contribution, to channel information to the Council and to participate in Council meetings. The designated representatives of the Parties responsible for implementation of this Agreement and receiving notice hereunder are:

For IAAC

Ileana Martinez
Chair
Inter American Accreditation
Cooperation
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For SIM

Jose Dajes
President
Inter-American Metrology
System
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For COPANT

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President
Pan American Standards
Commission
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Victor Gandy
Executive Secretary
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Cooperation
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Claudia Santo
Technical Committee Chair
Inter-American Metrology
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Kory Eguino
Executive Secretary
Pan American Standards
Commission
Tel/Fax: +591 2 2774517
Cell: +591 79666604
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keguino@copant.org

4.2. Each Party may change the designated representative by notifying the other Parties in writing.

4.3 Working collectively, the Council will seek to establish strategic partnerships and liaisons with appropriate organizations operating in the area of NQI, including, the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Industrial Development

Organization (UNIDO), Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) and other organizations.

**ARTICLE V
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

5.1 Modifications to this Agreement may only be made by mutual agreement in writing by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties.

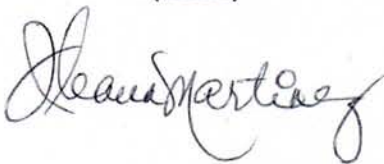
5.2. This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties and shall remain in force indefinitely with periodic review by the Council at least every three years.

5.3 This Agreement may be terminated by mutual consent or by any of the Parties by written notice from one to the others with not less than thirty days notice.

5.4 This Agreement is a statement of intent of the Parties to cooperate and does not establish any legally binding obligations, financial or otherwise on the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement in triplicate on the date and at the place indicated below:

For the
**Inter-American
Accreditation Cooperation
(IAAC)**



**Ileana Martinez
Chair**

Date Aug 29, 2014

Place Guatemala

For the
**Inter-American Metrology
System (SIM)**

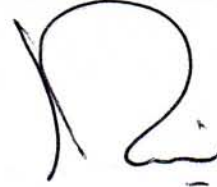


**José Dajes
President**

Date 2014-08-29

Place Guatemala

For the
**Pan-American Standards
Commission (COPANT)**



**Kory Eguino
Executive Secretary**

Date 2014-08-29

Place Guatemala City