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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **MRA Introduction and Overview**
    - **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
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.** Notification of Conformity Assessment Bodies
    - **k.** Recognition of Conformity Assessment Bodies
    - **l.** Formation of Joint Committee
    - **m.** 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

6. **Consultation and Training**
7. **Regulatory Authorities and Standards Bodies**
8. **Designation Authorities**
9. **Recognition Authorities**
10. **Accreditation Bodies**
11. **Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)**
12. **Procedures for contesting CAB competence**
13. **Possible recommendations based on the results of proposed workshops and forums on conformity assessment and MRAs to be held in 2013.**
14. **APPENDIX**