

EAC Task Force on Conformity and Interoperability (C&I)

Terms of Reference

According to the [Outcomes](#) and Recommendations ([In Country Lab](#) - [Regional Labs](#) - [MRAs](#)) coming from the Workshop for EAC Countries to promote the Development and Implementation of Conformity Assessment Programmes, 21-23 October 2015, Nairobi (Kenya) the C&I Task Force will discuss the following tasks:

1. The possibility for the establishment of EAC 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 EAC Region.

Reference: [Feasibility Study for a Conformance Testing Center.](#)

2. 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. The Development of a Plan for the Establishment of an EAC MRA Framework based on worldwide best practice (e.g. the EAC 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).

The C&I Task Force will adjust the proposed draft MRA to meet specific EAC 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 Task Force on the development of the EAC MRA and will be available at the first meeting of the Task Force to provide a detailed view of the best practices. Once the C&I Task Force has completed its work, it will submit the draft EAC MRA to the appropriate EAC Ministers Council for endorsement.

The Task Force will remain active after the endorsement of the EAC MRA to support the implementation of the EAC MRA.

In implementing the EAC MRA, Member States shall become signatories to this multilateral arrangement in the EAC Region. Participation in the EAC 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 EAC for establishing the C&I Task Force for the follow-up. Technical assistance shall be available from ITU-BDT for the development and execution of the recommended Plans. The C&I EAC Task Force is expected to be established by the end of March 2016.