

## Session 7: Interactive Discussion Way Forward

**Outcomes of the Workshop for SADC Countries to Promote the Development and Implementation of Conformity Assessment Programmes, Livingstone, Zambia, 13-15 October, 2014**

**The workshop recommends that SADC forms a C&I Committee to be chaired by the SADC Secretariat to undertake the following tasks:**

1. Develop a Plan for the establishment of SADC 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

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

2. Develop a Plan 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. Develop a Plan for the Establishment of a SADC MRA Framework similar to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment (APEC TEL MRA) covering 21 economies in the Asia Pacific region. This plan shall preferably include the creation of a small SADC MRA Task Force which can adapt the APEC TEL MRA to meet specific requirements of the SADC Region. In implementing the SADC MRA, Members States shall become signatories to this multilateral arrangement in the SADC Region Participation in the SADC MRA is voluntary. The SADC MRA Model may be adopted by other RECs in Africa.

**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](#)

The testing scopes of the In-Country C&I Testing Laboratories should complement each other in order to provide maximum scope coverage within the SADC Region.

Considering the approaching ITU ASO deadline of June 2015, it was recommended that SADC Member States deploy in due time laboratories for testing DTT technologies.

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

In order to establish a Training Programme to build capacity for SADC Member States it was recommended to identify institutions (Conformity Assessment Bodies) in the SADC Region that may be in a position to provide qualified training courses on C&I in the framework of an MOU signed with ITU as undertaken in other Regions. The SADC Secretariat may facilitate this by liaising with appropriate institutions that would sign an MOU with the ITU.