

Session 7: Interactive Discussion Way Forward

Outcomes of the Workshop for EAC Countries to Promote the Development and Implementation of Conformity Assessment Programmes, Nairobi, Kenya, 21-23 October 2015

The workshop recommends that EAC forms a C&I Task Force, to undertake the following tasks:

1. Develops and Implements a Plan for the establishment of 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. Develops and Implements 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. Develops and Implements a Plan for the Establishment of an EAC MRA Framework similar to best practice MRA Frameworks in other Regions ^[1]. This plan may preferably include the creation of a small EAC MRA Task Force which can adapt existing MRAs to meet specific requirements of the EAC Region. In implementing the EAC MRA, Members States shall become signatories to this multilateral arrangement in the EAC Region. Participation in the EAC MRA is voluntary. The EAC MRA Model may be adopted by other Regional Economic Communities (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 EAC Region.

Considering ITU ASO (Analogue Switch-Off) deadline was June 2015, it was recommended that EAC Member States deploy in due time laboratories for testing DTT technologies.

[1] e.g. 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.

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.

4. Identifies institutions (Conformity Assessment Bodies) in the EAC Region that may be in a position to provide qualified training courses on C&I in the framework of a Collaboration Agreement signed with ITU as undertaken in other Regions. The EAC Secretariat may facilitate this by liaising with appropriate institutions that would sign the Collaboration Agreement with the ITU.