



Arab
Accreditation
Cooperation

ARAC STRATEGY 2025



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Foreword



We are living in fascinating but also in challenging times. The scale of challenges to face are enormous: climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution, pandemics, political conflicts as well as globalization and modern communication techniques and huge social differences are affecting our daily life.

A sustainable development of our economies forms an important basis for alleviating today's problems and is also a prerequisite for benefiting from the opportunities of our time.

ARAC, with its mission and vision, contributes significantly to even more resilient and sustainable economies in all of our member states. Its strategic plan and guiding vision for 2023–2025 sets out the roadmap to support trade, local societies, health of citizens and environmental protection.

This strategic plan will transform not just what we do but also how we do it externally and internally.

The changing world requires innovation from all organizations playing a role at international level.

This strategic plan will ensure that ARAC and its stakeholders thrive in these complex times and that ARAC continues to deliver confidence in our everyday life. It is the basis for the next step in our successful history which started in June 2011.

I invite all our members and stakeholders to go these coming years with us to face the challenges and opportunities, to build next steps with us, towards even more sustainability and prosperity in our member countries and our region.

The chair of ARAC

We will deepen our engagement for our members, our stakeholders and with our international partners. Internally, we will work to become an even more agile and innovative organization. We will keep strengthening our core business processes and communication skills to be even more efficient and to achieve and maintain an excellent relationship with all of our partners, to be able to maintain our current services and to develop new once in fields needed or indicated by our members and stakeholders.



ACCREDITATION, CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABILITY, GROWTH AND INNOVATION IN THE ARAB REGION

Why

To build a reliable and innovative infrastructure in the field of conformity assessment

Where

In all our member countries which embrace the Arab region

For whom

Governments
Consumers
Industries
Traders



What we are, what we do, what we provide



ARAC, the Arab Accreditation Cooperation, was launched on June 12, 2011 with the aim to coordinate and to support the accreditation infrastructure of 22 countries in the Arab region. By supporting the development of the national accreditation systems, ARAC delivers a substantial contribution to the development and innovation of the national and regional accreditation and conformity assessment infrastructure.

As products and services are becoming more and more complex and at the same time the safety demands of consumers and citizens are increasing, the use of highly competent and specialized conformity assessment services and their knowledge becomes increasingly important. ARAC and its members take up this challenge by continuing to provide professional assessments of the competence of conformity assessment bodies.

International trade and a reduced time to market due to international competition requires an internationally recognized conformity assessment infrastructure. Mutual recognition of results can be agreed in the frame of trade agreements. However, these

trade agreements will only be successful if they are based on a confidence-building process, which is delivered through the concept of Accreditation. Accreditation is the tool to demonstrate the technical competence and reliability of conformity assessment bodies, such as laboratories, inspection, and certification bodies.

Through close cooperation with regulators, public and private stakeholders, with other regional and worldwide accreditation organizations, through its workshops and trainings and through its reliable peer evaluation system, ARAC provides the precondition to establish a competent and sustainable conformity assessment infrastructure.

The following strategy has been established to ensure that ARAC will remain a well reputed, stable and innovative pillar of the QI able to cope with future challenges and providing sustainable services to all the economies in the region.



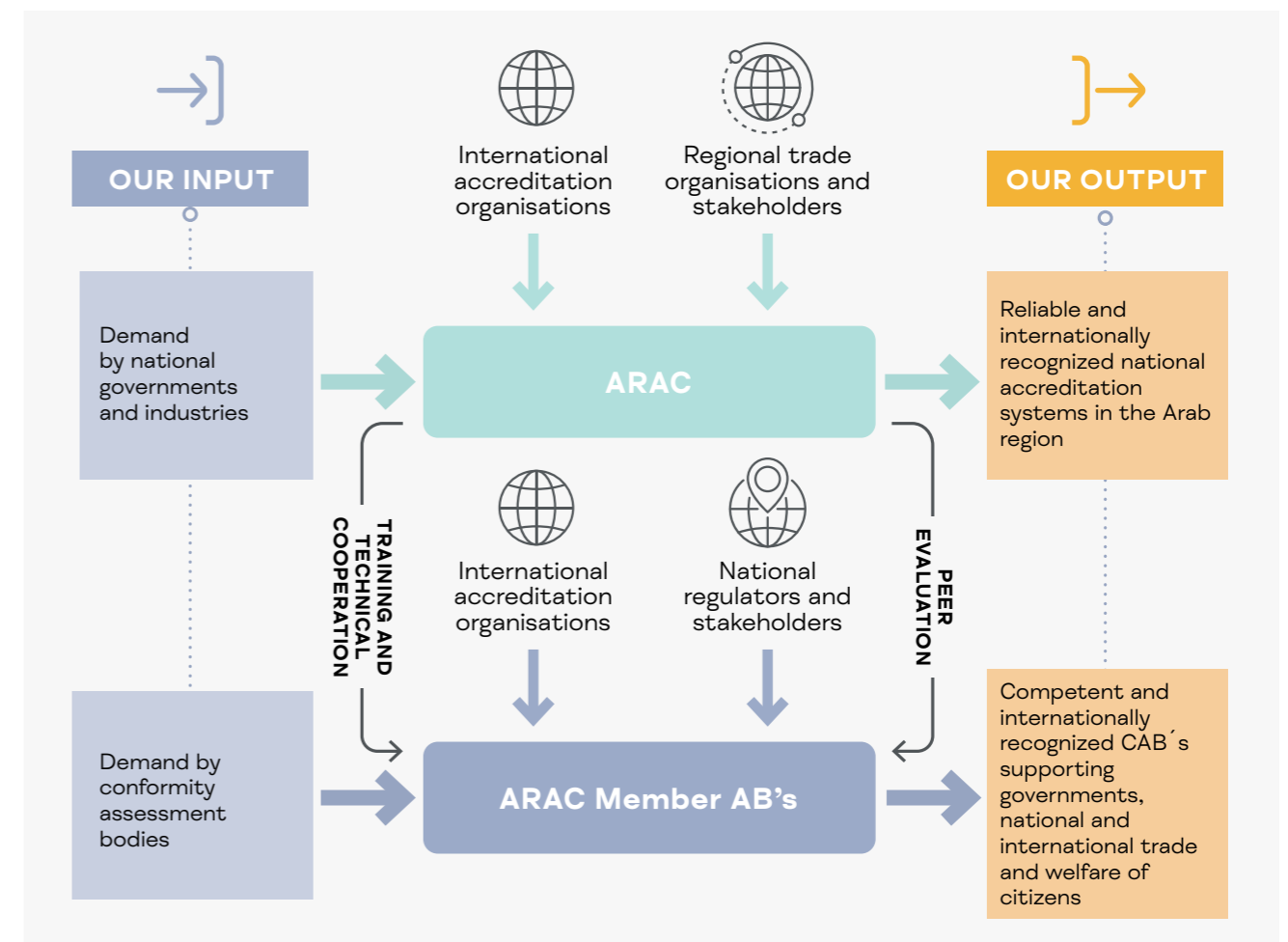
Our Mission

ARAC is an essential pillar of the QI in the Arab region ensuring the development of harmonized, reliable, sustainable and efficient Accreditation systems resulting in competent and internationally recognized conformity assessment services.

Through a proactive cooperation with all stakeholders (government, private sector, regulators and others), regional and international organizations, we support national, regional and global trade and facilitate the use of accredited conformity assessment services by the public and private sectors.

With effective and innovative capacity building programs and activities, we support the ongoing development of competencies of our members and stakeholders.

We proactively cooperate with all our stakeholders and with the international and other regional accreditation organizations to continuously improve and innovate our knowledge and services.



Our Vision

The leading **accreditation group** facilitating **regional and global trade** and supporting sustainable development



Our Core Values

Our core values are the result of a committed and intensive cooperation among its members as well as an intensive organizational development in the past years. We are committed to use the core values to achieve the strategic goals, as defined in Chapter 6.

COMPETENT

- Big number of competent assessors.
- Members cooperating in all the important technical committees of the international accreditation organisation.
- Close cooperation with other regional cooperations.
- Close cooperation with the other pillars of the national QI's.
- Achievement of international recognition in a short time.

RESPONSIBLE

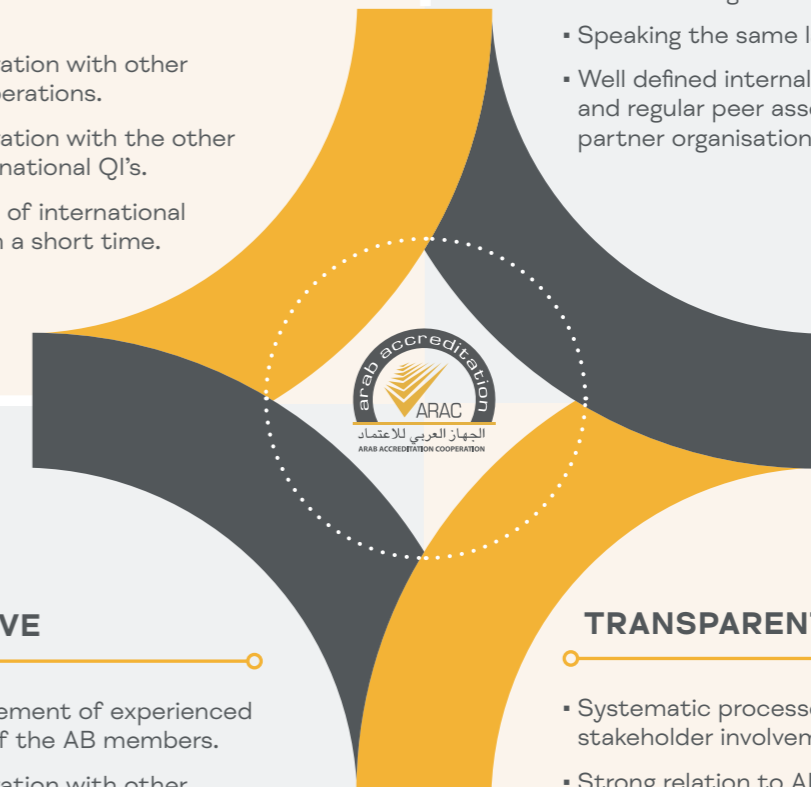
- Good relationship and cooperation with other regional organisations.
- ARAC members active as leading personnel in other regional and worldwide organisations.
- Speaking the same language.
- Well defined internal processes and regular peer assessments with partner organisations.

INNOVATIVE





- Active engagement of experienced senior staff of the AB members.
- Close cooperation with other pillars of the national/regional QI.
- Broad management and technical knowledge of our members.
- Close cooperation with branch organisations and the industry.

TRANSPARENT

- Systematic processes for stakeholder involvement in place.
- Strong relation to AIDSMO and the management of the Arab league.
- Same language over the whole membership.
- Effective Quality Management system in place.



Our Strategic Goals and Activities



Pillars	Strategic Goals
 <p>INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Recognised MLA scopes by IAF&ILAC maintained, based on the market need extended. B The number of ARAC MLA signatories and scopes is increased. C ARAC MLA structure is extended to serve best its client and the market. D Regulators rely on the ARAC MLA.
 <p>OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A ARAC is a financially and organizationally stable organization. B ARAC's processes and services are digitalized where reasonable and possible. C ARAC's processes are proved to be efficient and effective and innovative. D ARAC governance and committees are enhanced where indicated and needed.
 <p>COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A The participation of the AB members in the ARAC activities is reinforced. B The involvement of the stakeholders in the ARAC activities is enhanced. C ARAC has an excellent reputation and respective influence on regional and international levels. D Research and studies in the fields of accreditation and conformity assessment are promoted and supported were indicated. E ARAC is recognized as a reliable, essential and innovative partner of the QI.
 <p>CAPABILITIES DEVELOPMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A ARAC members' capabilities and range of activities are enhanced due to their cooperation in ARAC activities. B ARAC members are effectively supported through bilateral and mutual exchange of experience. C Relevant and easily accessible capacity building programs are provided. D ARAC capabilities in peer evaluations are enhanced and fulfils the needs of its members.

To achieve the strategic goals as defined above under the four pillars, the following activities will be taken on board. The KPIs define the specific steps to be achieved.



Pillars	Strategic Goals	Activity
 <p>INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION</p>	<p>A Recognised MLA scopes by IAF&ILAC maintained and based on the market needs, extended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For new scopes a priority list of additional IAF and/or ILAC scopes will be established with input and approval from national members. Establish working groups under the MLA committee to exchange experience and to maintain/develop evaluation procedures. Train evaluators for the priorities defined and continue to exchange experience with other regional Accreditation organisations and ILAC/IAF.
	<p>B The number of ARAC MLA signatories and scopes is increased.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish training for those not being a signatory and provide targeted support for at least one scope. Establish for each developing AB a partnership with a developed AB (an MLA partner) eventually with support from a donor (UNIDO, PTB, IFC etc.). Organize technical working groups as part of the technical committee to support members to introduce new scopes according to the priority list. Provide trainings for the members to prepare for new scopes and organize exchange or experience. Develop an evaluation concept for the schemes needed according to the priority list in cooperation with ILAC/IAF.
	<p>C Regulators rely on the ARAC MLA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a structured way of cooperation with national and regional regulators (for cooperation with stakeholders see also cooperation and partnership). Involve regulators in the MLA in the evaluation process as observers. Establish a concept to get market feedback from members and regulators. Organize market feedback from members and stakeholders (especially regulators) interested in the MLA.
 <p>OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE</p>	<p>A ARAC is a financially and organizationally stable organisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaborate a business plan for the upcoming 3 years based on this strategy Consider financial support from stakeholders Recalculate the membership fee to insure major contributions from well-developed AB's Establish a financial officer as one of the two proposed persons in the secretariat Establish a financial audit committee to ensure that those which have major financial contributions can have trust in the financial management of ARAC Ensure stability as far as human resources are concerned by introducing a deputy for each function and including a second person to share the secretariat activities.
	<p>B ARAC's processes and services are digitalized where reasonable and possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a concept with priorities for a digital transformation including the expectations from members and stakeholders. Consider especially communication and marketing aspects Get in contact with the Arab Federation for Digital Economy and check for eventual support Establish a digital transformation framework program.
	<p>C ARAC's processes are efficient, effective and innovative.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse the main processes and establish key indicators to check the efficiency of the processes Nominate committee and WG chairs with clear authority and responsibility. Establish a reporting structure to the executive committee and the ARAC Chair Introduce a reflection process after each major meeting of committees and working groups (to ensure continuous group and personnel learning and incremental innovation) Establish a seminar on how to carry out a reflection process.
	<p>D ARAC governance and committees are enhanced where indicated needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss participation of members regularly in the general assembly Provide each committee with objectives to be achieved, agree on their working programs, and monitor progress in the frame of the reporting structure discuss above. Invite stakeholders to the committees to ensure their needs are met (co-creation of rules and guidance!).



Pillars	Strategic Goals	Activity
 <p data-bbox="163 787 356 882">COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP</p>	<p data-bbox="430 315 1335 388">A The participation of the AB members in the ARAC activities is reinforced.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1617 315 2804 451" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a fixed membership at committee level ▪ Discuss with those AB's, not willing to participate their reasons and try to improve the attractiveness of the committees ▪ Provide regular input e.g. by external speakers to improve attractiveness of participation.
	<p data-bbox="430 476 1261 550">B The involvement of stakeholders in the ARAC activities is enhanced.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1617 476 2804 569" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organise regular awareness meetings with stakeholder, preferably from the regulated sector at least twice a year ▪ Establish a stakeholder committee and invite stakeholders at regional and national level.
	<p data-bbox="430 598 1320 672">C ARAC has an excellent reputation and respective influence on regional and international levels.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1617 598 2804 732" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a marketing concept and regular promotional activities such as e.g. an electronic news letter ▪ Organise regular awareness meetings e.g. in the frame of the accreditation day at regional level ▪ Establish systematic connection with other regional organisations, especially with AFRAC, APAC and EA and try to learn from them (e.g. through benchmarking).
	<p data-bbox="430 760 1335 871">D Research and studies in the fields of accreditation and conformity assessment are promoted and supported were indicated.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1617 760 2745 938" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launch a study about the effect of accreditation in the Arab region or eventually in an Arab country, preferably with a local university ▪ Check what other studies are available ▪ Look for similar studies in other regions ▪ If available: elaborate conclusions comparing these studies.
	<p data-bbox="430 966 1261 1039">E ARAC is recognized as a reliable, essential, and innovative partner of the QI.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1617 966 2804 1308" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen relationship with the Arab League, the Council of Arab Economic Union and others such as the Industrial Development and Mining Organisation. ▪ Invite them to participate regularly in the stakeholder committee. ▪ Connect with the standards and metrology organisations in the countries and the region and invite them to the stakeholder committee ▪ Try to plan common events and publications as e.g. in the newsletter as discussed above ▪ Establish a close cooperation with regulators at national level through the national members and invite them to the stakeholder committee ▪ Evaluate regularly the needs of local and regional governmental organisations as far as conformity assessment is concerned with the help of the stakeholder committee and the national AB members.
 <p data-bbox="163 1564 356 1669">CAPABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p data-bbox="430 1352 1231 1425">A ARAC members capabilities and range of activities are enhanced due to their cooperation in ARAC activities</p>	<ul data-bbox="1617 1352 2804 1558" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a training concept with each member AB ▪ Establish technical working groups to discuss questions of mutual interest and helpful to develop national accreditation bodies (see proposed organisational chart) ▪ Establish a platform of PT's which are available in the region. ▪ Use the anonymised results of the PT providers listed to elaborate some input about the effect of their accreditation.
	<p data-bbox="430 1589 1335 1663">B ARAC members are effectively supported through bilateral and mutual exchange of experience.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1617 1589 2745 1682" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a questionnaire about the training needs of the members and look for financial support of a donor to provide respective trainings ▪ Provide Training courses in fields discussed using the support of the technical working groups.
	<p data-bbox="430 1711 1320 1785">C Relevant and easily accessible capacity building programs are provided.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1617 1711 2804 1803" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a training program for AB members with input from membership and stakeholders ▪ Provide training programmes for conformity assessment bodies and stakeholders in the region according to their needs and feedback and with focus to new accreditation schemes discussed.



Abbreviations

AB	————	Accreditation Body
AFRAC	————	African Accreditation Cooperation
APAC	————	Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation
ARAC	————	Arab Accreditation Cooperation
CAB	————	Conformity Assessment Body
EA	————	European Cooperation for Accreditation
EC	————	Executive Committee of ARAC
IAF	————	International Accreditation Forum
ILAC	————	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
IT	————	Information Technology
MLA	————	Multilateral Recognition Agreement
PT	————	Proficiency Test
QI	————	Quality Infrastructure
SMSE	————	Small and Medium Sized Enterprise
WG	————	Working Group
UNIDO	————	United Nations Industrial Development Organization



We are an important pillar of the PAN Arab Quality Infrastructure and contribute substantially to prosperity of the societies, economies and protection of health of citizens and the environment.



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