



# AFRAC

AFRICAN ACCREDITATION COOPERATION

# ACCREDITATION IN AFRICA

**Standards Day 2013**

**Cameroon**

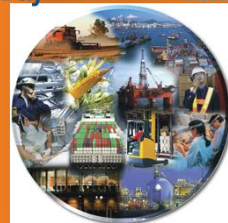
**June 2013**

**By  
Ron Josias  
AFRAC Chair**

**World  
Accreditation  
Day**



1 June 2013



# Africa's Economic Challenges

- The main challenge is to overcome the underdeveloped structures of the continent's economy; improve macroeconomic performance.
- Over the years, demand from importing countries has increased for confidence in the competence of conformity assessment bodies. The requirement for **“tested, inspected or certified once, accepted everywhere”** is rapidly increasing. A requirement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is to remove unnecessary Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs) through the appropriate acceptance of conformity assessment results amongst the WTO Member States.

# Content

- **The need for Accreditation**
- **International response**
- **Africa's Initiatives**
- **Status**
- **Way forward**

# The need for Accreditation

- Standards remains a set of rules, guidelines or characteristics If it's implementation is not underpinned by the competency of the equipment, the environment, the methods, the measurements and the implementer;
- Metrology remains the art of measurement if not competently transferred to the industry and users.
- Therefore, if competency does not underpin standards, metrology, what trust could customers and consumers have in our products and services.

# The need for Accreditation

- Internationally, such trust is build on a system that operates independently is impartial and act with integrity;
- This system known as accreditation together with, standards development and metrology, provides the necessary trust and confidence of goods and services produced.

# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STANDARDS METROLOGY & ACREDITATION

## METROLOGY

Establishment of accurate, reliable, traceable measurement (Basis for performance) requirements in standards

## ACCREDITATION

Formal recognition of competence of testing and calibration laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies

## STANDARDISATION

Standards facilitate trade, provide basis for technical regulations  
Developed by international, regional and national standards bodies

## CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

Sampling, inspection, testing, certification

## EFFICIENT TRADING SYSTEM

Reduction of unnecessary variety, inter-operability, economies of scale, quality assured; consumers empowered to demand '*fitness for purpose*' products and services that conform to standards and technical regulations

# BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

## For Consumers:

- Intl. Accreditation MRAs ensure that the available goods & services on the market meet relevant standards of quality & safety, regardless of the exporting country.

## For Business:

- Opens up doors to international markets as well as local markets, and is increasingly becoming a precondition internationally for tendering for contracts.
- Promotes confidence in imports from other countries.

## For National Authorities & Regulators:

- MRAs between national ABs demonstrate compliance to agreed standards & technical regulations;
- Underpins designation/approvals (*designated based on demonstration competence not by law*)

## Conformity Assessment Bodies

- Impartial feedback from independent examinations by experts against a defined scope of activity;
- Comparisons of technical ability against similar facilities;
- Customer has access to independent complaint mechanism;
- National and International recognition of competence;
- International benchmarking.



# Accreditation: Don't vs Do

## Don't

## Do

Do not develop or draft standards

Support standards bodies  
Verify compliance to relevant national and international standards

Do not regulate

Support regulators

Do not legislate

Provides input to legislation when required

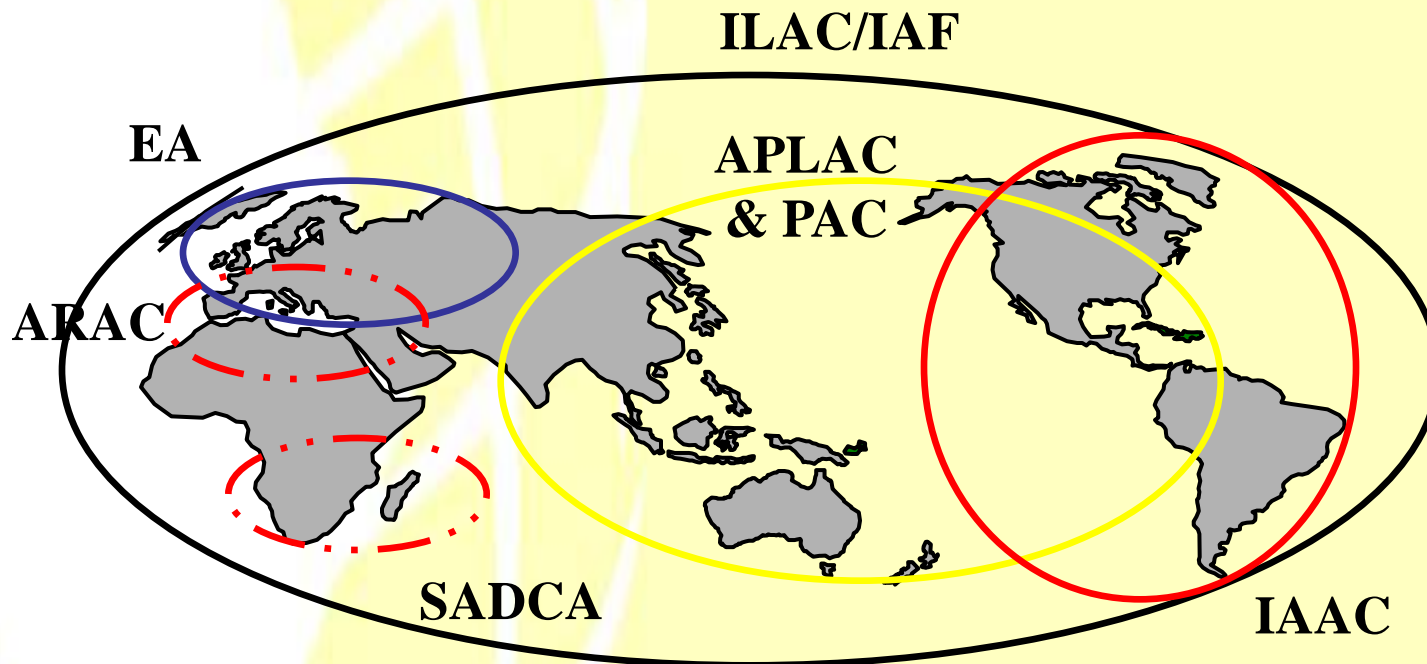
Do not prosecute

Provides support to prosecutors

Do not provide conformity assessment services e.g. testing, inspection, certification

Accredit conformity assessment bodies

# The International Response



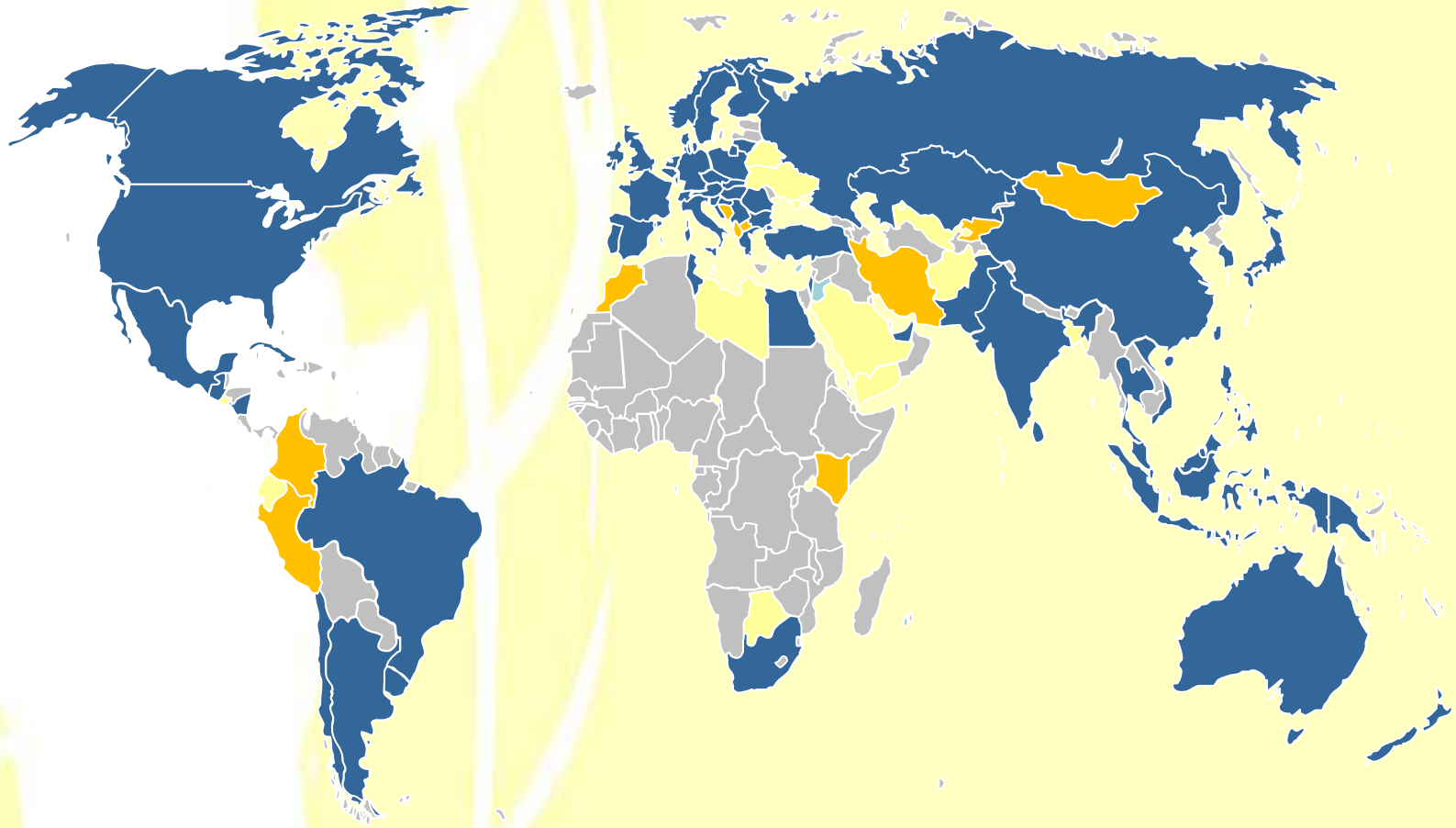
EA European co-operation for Accreditation

APLAC Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

IAAC Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation

SADCA SADC Accreditation Cooperation

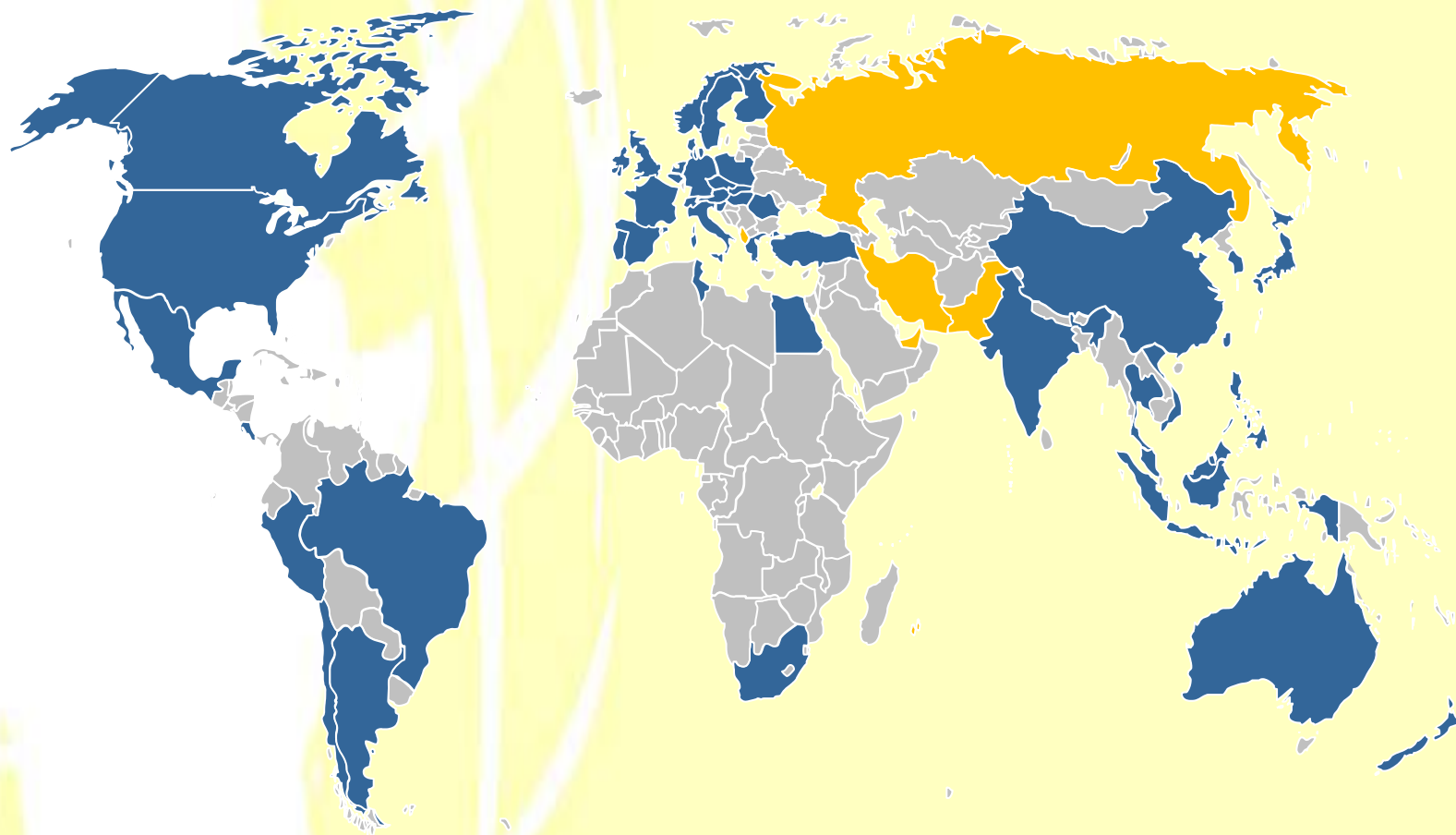
# Coverage of the ILAC MRA (Apr 2011)



- ILAC MRA Signatories
- ILAC Associate Members
- ILAC Affiliate Members



# Coverage of the IAF MLA (Apr 2011)

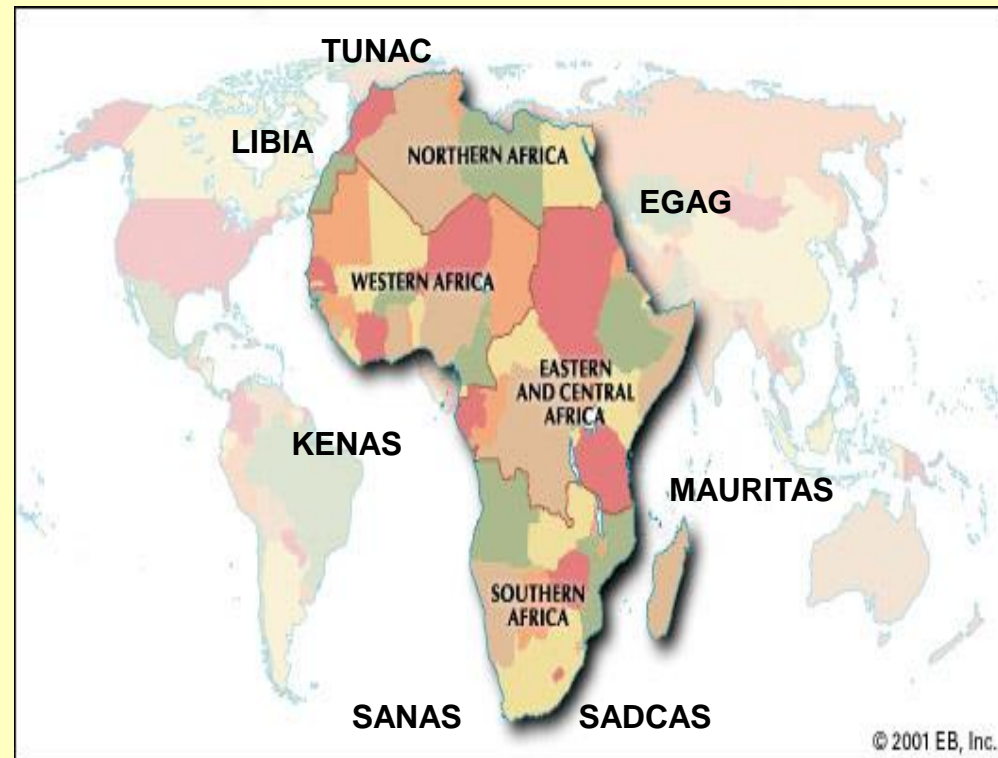


- IAF MLA Signatories
- IAF Members



# ACCREDITATION DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA 2010

- Over the past 5 years, Africa has made major advancement in the area of accreditation through the enacted of various agreements and laws to establish structures that deals with standards, accreditation, and metrology and conformity assessment.
- Especially in the area of accreditation, various accreditation bodies have been established or is in the process of establishing themselves on the continent



ACCREDITATION BODY			ILAC MEMBERSHIP CATAGORY			IAF MEMBERSHIP CATAGORY			European Accreditation		
NAME	SCOPE	COUNTRY/ REC	Affiliate	Associate	Full	Affiliate/ Special	Associate	Full	Bi-lateral	EFTA Country	MLA Signatory
<b>ALGERAC</b>	Testing, Certification, Calibration, Inspection	Algeria		X							
<b>EGAC</b>	Testing, Certification	Egypt			X			X			
<b>KENAS</b>	Testing, Certification, Calibration, Inspection	Kenya		X							
<b>ENAO</b>	Testing, Calibration	Ethiopia	X								
<b>MAURITAS</b>	Testing, Certification, Calibration	Mauritius		X							
<b>MCA</b>		Morocco		X							
<b>LNCSM</b>		Libya	X			X					
<b>SADCAS</b>	Testing, Certification, Calibration, Inspection	SADC (Excl. Mauritius and RSA)		X			X				
<b>SANAS</b>	Testing, Certification, Calibration, Inspection	South Africa			X			X	X		
<b>TUNAC</b>	Testing, Calibration	<b>Tunisia</b>			<b>X</b>				<b>x</b>		<b>X</b>

# ACCREDITATION INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS

## STRENGTHS

- Few internationally recognised AB's & few at 2<sup>nd</sup> level of international recognition.
- Almost all RECs have a Standards, Accreditation Metrology programme or agreement in place;
- Large pool of potential accreditation experts available;

## WEAKNESSES

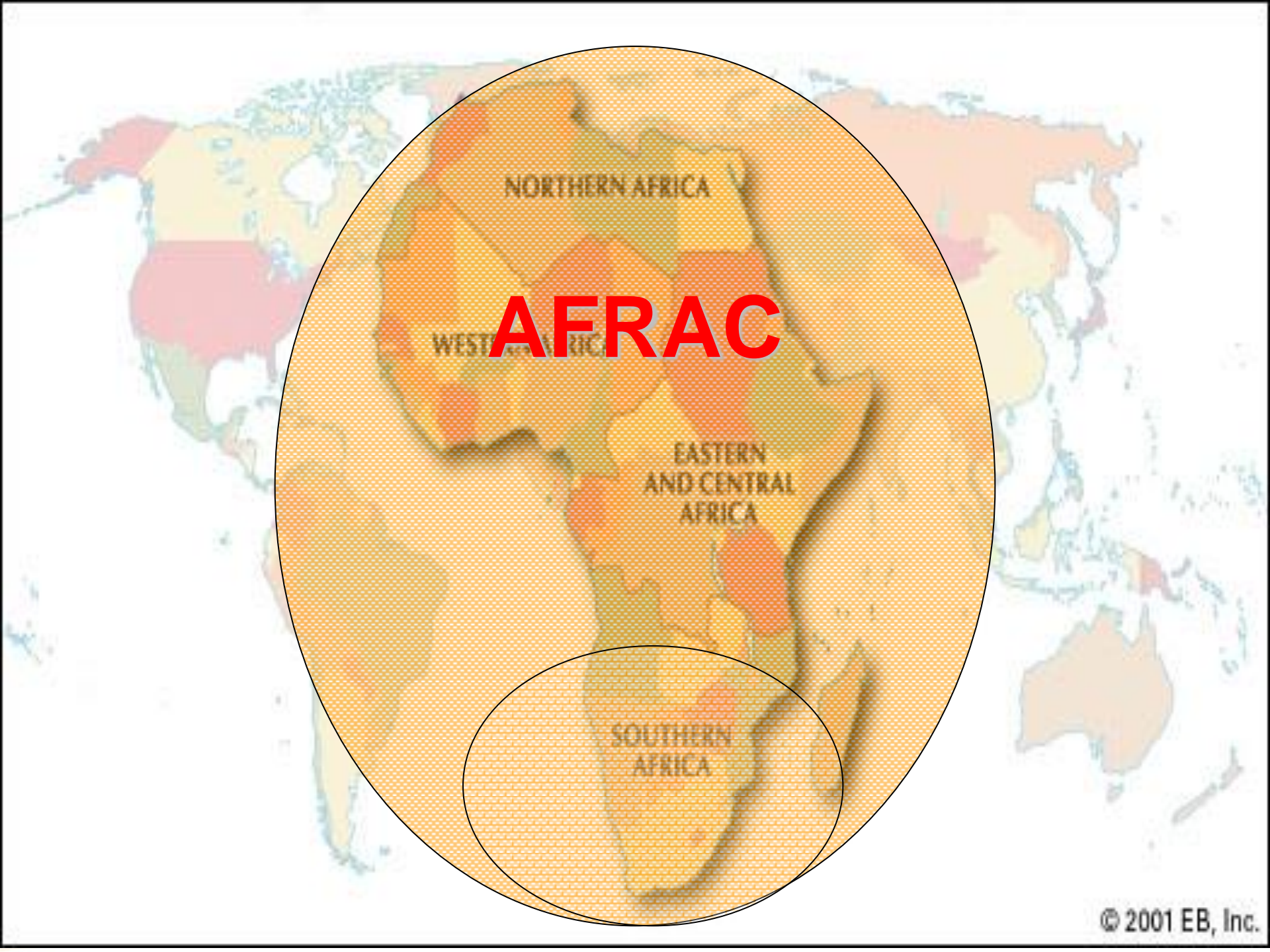
- Limited “experienced” accreditation expertise in Africa;
- Too few internationally recognised AB's;
- Too dependent on international assistance;
- Scattered attempts to achieve the same objectives (Duplication of efforts);
- Lack of an African voice/position in the international fora

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Sufficient examples to start with best practice
- International goodwill;
- Fast track Africa's technical infrastructure and associated international recognition
- Continental Cooperation Body for Accreditation

## THREATS

- Duplication of efforts: High opportunity cost;
- Weakened trading position;
- Slow or no response to TBT – Dumping;
- Weakened FTA: Negotiating from a weak position;



NORTHERN AFRICA

**AFRAC**

WESTERN AFRICA

EASTERN  
AND CENTRAL  
AFRICA

SOUTHERN  
AFRICA





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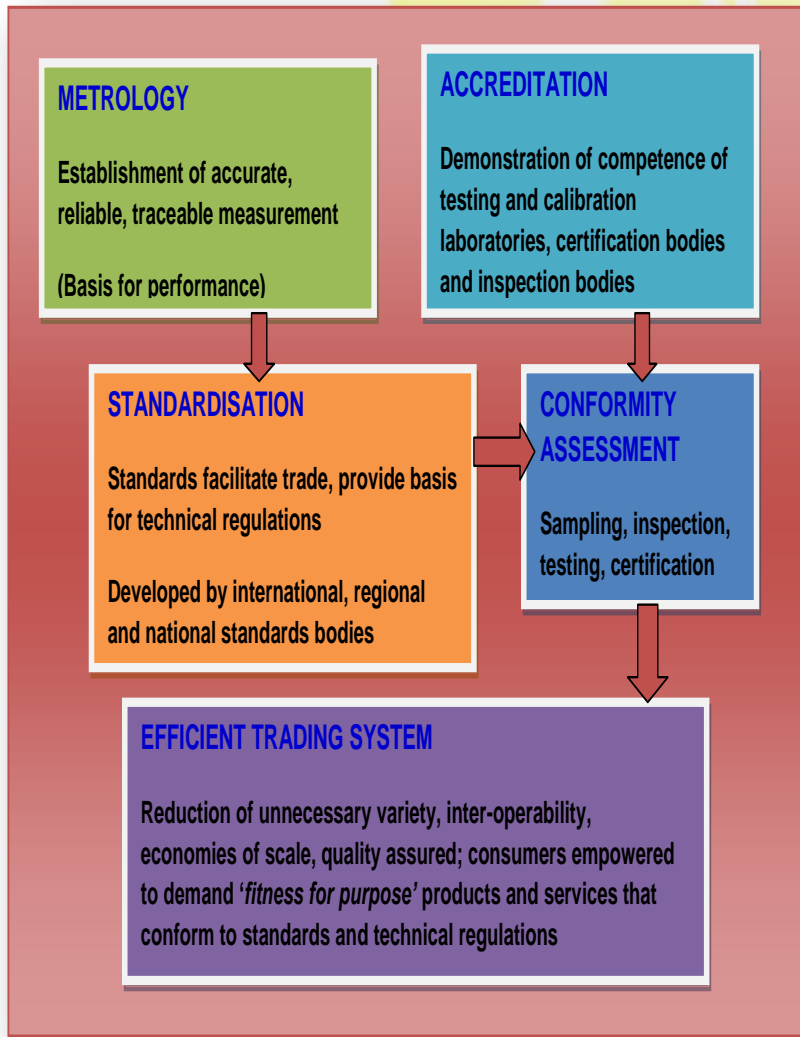


**Unveiling of the AFRAC plaque: From left to right—Mr Hassan Shaarawi (EGAC); Professor Mohammed Elarbi Aouani (NEPAD) and His Excellency Dr Ahmed Darwish**



**Delegates at the First AFRAC General Assembly meeting held from 29 to 30 September 2010 in Cairo, Egypt**

# PAN-AFRICAN QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE (PAQI)



[www.afsec-africa.org](http://www.afsec-africa.org)



[www.intra-frac.com](http://www.intra-frac.com)



[www.arso-oran.org](http://www.arso-oran.org)



[www.afrimets.org](http://www.afrimets.org)

## WAY FORWARD

- We need to support the establishment of accreditation and conformity assessment services in our countries through the provision of suitable standards and metrology;
- We need to align our efforts, clearly understanding our roles and responsibilities in the value chain of our countries and the continent's economic and socio economic objectives;
- We need to take advantage of our continents economic growth and future prospects, to lead in standards, metrology and accreditation.

# Thank you

**[www.intra-afrac.com](http://www.intra-afrac.com) or [.org](http://www.intra-afrac.org)**

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