



Establishing a coherent national accreditation body

Challenge

A national accreditation body (NAB) is an institution which attests to the competence and impartiality of conformity assessment bodies (testing and calibration laboratories, certification and inspection bodies), according to international standards such as ISO/IEC.

In Nigeria, there is not yet an established accreditation body. Although once established, the NAB could become effective and sustainable given it is aware of market demand for its business services.

The beneficiaries of national accreditation bodies are:

- Government
- Regulators
- Business
- Manufacturers
- Consumers

Response

Through this technical assistance, UNIDO assists the Government of Nigeria to lay the foundations for a national accreditation body, and establish it according to the West African accreditation system just agreed upon by the Member States of ECOWAS in 2013. This will focus specifically on building the body's capacity to an internationally recognized level of competence.

This includes the following outputs:

Creation of a NAB as a legal entity with its statutes, premises, business plan, leadership, internal organization, personnel and resources
Preparation and implementation of the supporting management documents according to the reference standard ISO/IEC 17011. Training of NAB's personnel on NAB's operational methodologies
Selection, training and assessment of accreditation auditors according to ILAC applicable guides. Creation of a pool of registered accreditation auditors
Pilot accreditation audits by a team of NAB's auditors and recognized lead auditors hired by the project, to assess the conformity with ISO/IEC 17025 in laboratories willing to cooperate with the NAB
Internal audit on the compliance of the NAB with ISO/IEC 17011 carried out by a team of lead auditors satisfying the requirements of applicable ILAC and IAF guides
Pilot "proficiency testing" for a selected group of testing laboratories and for a selected type of testing, according to applicable international standards and ILAC Guide G22
Application to ILAC's membership and mutual recognition arrangement for laboratories. Marketing NAB's services in Nigeria and West African Region
Assessment of reference laboratories and preparation of road maps for their accreditation readiness. Purchasing and installation of new equipment



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