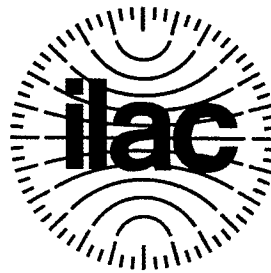




**BUREAU INTERNATIONAL  
DES POIDS ET MESURES**



**INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY  
ACCREDITATION COOPERATION**

Dear Colleagues,

Measurements have always been essential in supporting international trade and regulation. They are required for the underpinning of conformity with written standards, and measurements have also stimulated innovation and advances in technology as well as in human well-being.

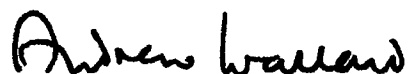
Many millions of measurements are made each day. Ideally, all should be traceable to national reference standards so as to ensure international consistency and long term stability. This was originally the task of National Metrology Institutes (NMIs), or their historical equivalents. In 1875, the need for international consistency in measurements was recognised and formalised by the Metre Convention.

During the 1960s, the NMIs recognised the importance of creating a system through which they might assess and validate the technical competence of other organisations which need to make, and demonstrate traceable measurements. This led to the emergence of the accredited laboratory sector, and to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

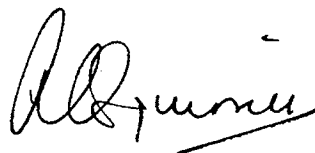
On behalf of, Professor Ernst O. Göbel, the President of the International Committee of Weights and Measures and M Daniel Pierre, the Chair of ILAC we have pleasure in drawing your attention to the enclosed joint statement on the respective roles and responsibilities of the two communities, metrology laboratories and accreditation bodies.

The enclosed document is relevant to national and international bodies which involve, or which rely on the traceability and world-wide acceptance of measurements for their implementation. It is also relevant to the organisational structures of measurement-related bodies at the national, regional and international level.

We invite you to note the joint statement and distribute and promote it to your constituencies.



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