



# Joint Statement

by Xiao Jianhua, Chair IAF, and Etty Feller, Chair ILAC



**World  
Accreditation  
Day 2021  
(#WAD2021)**

## Accreditation:

Supporting the implementation of SDGs.

World Accreditation Day 2021 highlights the role of accreditation in Supporting the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals.



ILAC and IAF have maintained a close strategic partnership and technical cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as it recognises the important role that accreditation plays in the achievement of the sustainable development agenda and its impact on industrial development and economic growth.

The United Nations' (UN) ambitious strategy to end poverty by 2030 and make significant global social and environmental progress could create almost 380m jobs and opportunities worth \$12trn (£9trn) in sectors ranging from affordable housing and energy efficiency to circular economy models and advances in healthcare. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future. They address global challenges including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and justice.

There are 17 SDGs with 169 associated targets which seek to guide all global, regional and national development endeavours. Accreditation and, with it, other quality infrastructure (QI) institutions including metrology, standardization, conformity assessment and market surveillance, is a critical cornerstone in supporting the SDGs and the three interrelated

thematic priorities: creating shared prosperity, advancing economic competitiveness and safeguarding the environment.

The technical and operational foundations that are critical to the functioning of developed and developing societies are delivered through accreditation. It supports policy objectives in areas including cross-border trade, food safety, health and environmental protection, and industrial and infrastructural development.

It provides a trusted platform for defining, developing and verifying requirements for products and services, helping to ensure and demonstrate that products and services meet specified requirements.

It provides policymakers, businesses and other stakeholders with the technical knowledge and capacity to strengthen the implementation, measurement and monitoring of many of the objectives and targets contained in the SDGs, and support to achieve them.

Affirming the partnership between ILAC, IAF and UNIDO, the recent publication 'Quality and Standards and Their Role in Responding to COVID-19', which examines the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade, highlights the important role that accreditation can play in mitigating negative impacts and supporting the SDGs.

While there have been a number of successes around the world, the theme of this year's World Accreditation Day 2021 has been chosen to ensure that policymakers continue to use accreditation and QI services to support their SGD Agenda. It provides the opportunity for ILAC and IAF members to share examples of how it may be applied to meet objectives such as increasing trade, addressing health and safety concerns, and improving the general overall quality of output in an economy. The theme can also act as a trigger for evolution, and to ensure that accreditation continues to be relevant in the face of ever more rapid technological

innovations, the impact of the 4th Industrial Revolution and the threats posed by climate change, pollution, and the diminution of resources.

Resources such as [business-benefits.org](http://business-benefits.org) and [publicsectorassurance.org](http://publicsectorassurance.org) will support events, press and television coverage, and workshops and seminars taking place in conjunction with the celebration of World Accreditation Day in over 100 economies to raise awareness of the value that accreditation plays in supporting the implementation of the SDGs.



Xiao Jianhua, IAF Chair



Etty Feller, ILAC Chair

For further details, contact your local accreditation body.  
[http://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF\\_MEMBERS\\_SIGNATORIES/4](http://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF_MEMBERS_SIGNATORIES/4) and <https://ilac.org/ilac-membership/>  
Further case studies, research and support material is available at <http://www.publicsectorassurance.org/>

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**