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**GUIDANCE ON THE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT IN CROSS FRONTIER ACCREDITATION POLICY**

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**1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Scope**

This guidance is based on confidence in equivalence of i-NAF MLA signatories, which has been established through the i-NAF peer evaluation process. This Guidance is not intended for i-NAF MoU member natural accreditation bodies other than MLA Group members.

**1.2 References**

2.1 The IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA)

**2 GUIDANCE**

- 2.1 The preferred method for cooperation in cross frontier natural accreditation is the exchange of documentation (eg. natural accreditation assessment reports) among i-NAF MLA signatories. This would be applicable when the two NABs have common clients and the objective of assessment of the local NAB is same / similar to that of the foreign NAB.
- 2.2 Another method is to make use of the i-NAF MLA signatory network, and the local natural accreditation body to carry out the work on behalf of the foreign natural accreditation body. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between two natural accreditation bodies, as illustrated, could be established as a framework arrangement between the parties. This arrangement is considered to have a minimal legal binding effect for the involved parties.
- 2.3 A sub-contract agreement could also be used between the natural accreditation bodies.
- 2.4 Some NABs have a common MoU to facilitate exchange of reports and avoid multiple assessments of common clients. This arrangement would be useful if all the NABs involved in the arrangement have one or more common clients.
- 2.5 In all cases, it is encouraged that the NABs discuss and explore among themselves the possibilities of harmonizing requirements related to assessor competence, and reporting mechanisms, including report formats and cross-training of assessors