



PAN-AFRICAN QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Structure – Function – Impact



African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC)

AFRAC was established in 2010 and is a cooperation of accreditation bodies, sub-regional accreditation cooperations and stakeholders. The main objective of AFRAC is to provide accreditation support to industry and trade and to contribute to the protection of health and safety of the public and the protection of the environment.

www.intra-afrac.com



Intra –Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS)

AFRIMETS was formed in 2006 with membership drawn from the six African Sub-regional Metrology Organizations. The main objective of AFRIMETS is to promote metrology and related activities in Africa with the view of facilitating intra-African and international trade and to ensure the safety and health of the public and environmental protection.

www.afrimets.org



African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC)

AFSEC was established in February 2008 as an organised association and has legal status in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention of the African Energy Commission. The main objective of AFSEC is to support African electricity Infrastructure development with standards and conformity assessment services in order to improve access to electricity in Africa.

www.afsec-africa.org



African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO)

ARSO is Africa's intergovernmental standards body formed in 1977 with membership drawn from national standards bodies. The main objective of ARSO is to develop tools for standards development, standards harmonization and implementation of these systems to enhance Africa's internal trading capacity, increase Africa's product and service competitiveness globally, and uplift the welfare of African consumers creating a continental standardization forum to influence future prospects in international trade referencing for Africa's benefit and advantage.

www.arso-oran.org



Background

Africa's weak trade performance over the past few decades has been the focus of much debate and has also influenced the need for urgent measures to address the issue. Many African countries lack the industrial capacity for diversified manufactured goods and adequate infrastructure to support intra-African as well as international trade. Measures to address these are traced back to the Lagos plan of action of the 1980s.

The Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, both of 1980, requiring a detailed framework and roadmap for the attainment of the African Common Market, as well as the 1991 Abuja Treaty, under Chapter XI, Article 67 which lays out a need for a common policy on standardization and Measurement systems, are the basis for the establishment of Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI). Quality Infrastructure being a term now used for everything that is needed to ensure satisfactory quality and safety of products, services, protection of the environment and health. It comprises standards, measurement, testing, conformity assessment and accreditation. It is a powerful tool for successful penetration of the regional and international market.

PAQI fits well in the strategy for the implementation of the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT) and the strategic framework for the establishment of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The AfCFTA is seen by the African Union Commission as an efficient and value-adding institution driving the African integration and development process.

PAQI will deliver the much needed Standardization, Quality Assurance and Measurement Systems component.



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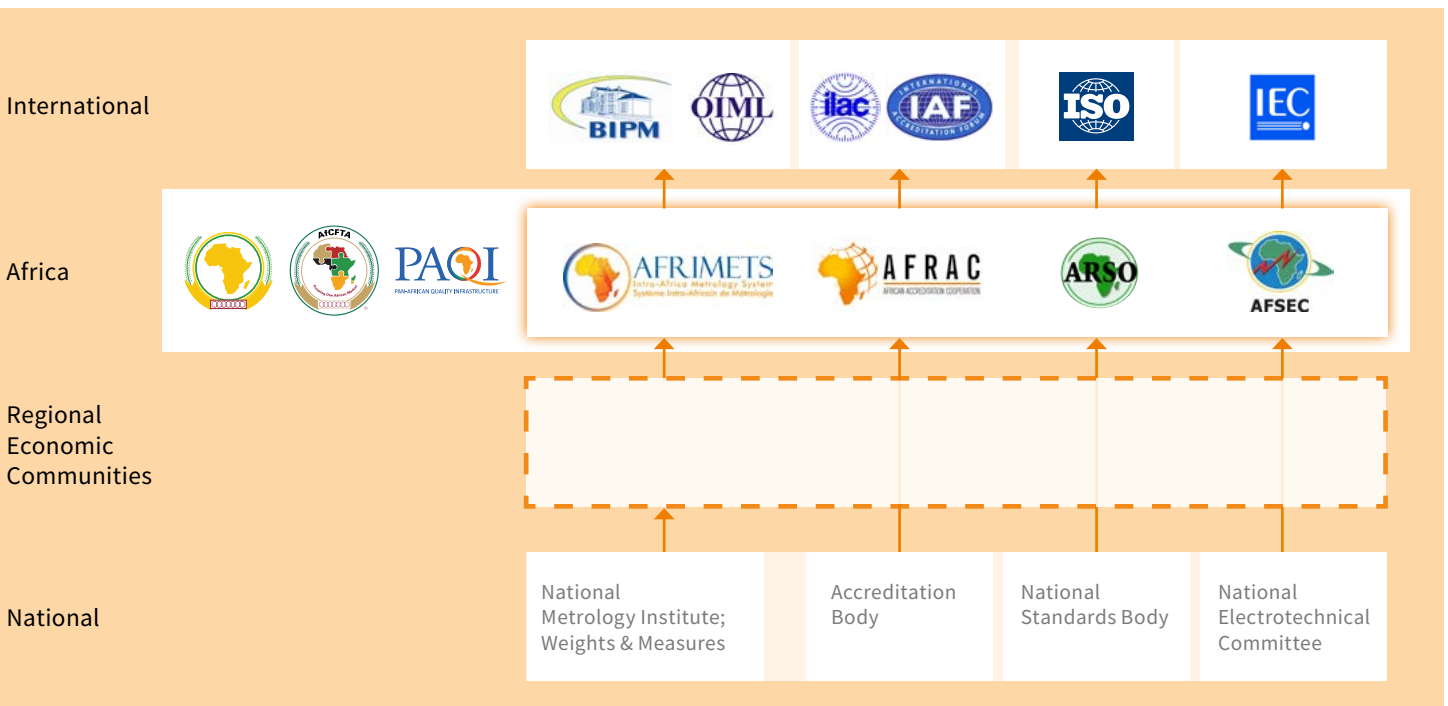


Establishment of PAQI

PAQI was officially inaugurated on 30th August 2013 by the Director for Trade and Industry, African Union Commission, where by members comprising of, the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), the Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS), the African Electro technical Standardisation Commission (AFSEC) and the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) have formalized their cooperation as members of the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding.



Mrs. Treasure Maphanga,
Director Trade & Industry
of the African Union
Commission giving the
opening remarks during the
launching of PAQI



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