



19-27 SEPT 2019
Abidjan - Côte d'Ivoire

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

10th GENERAL ASSEMBLY & MEETINGS

Hôte:
Système Ouest-Africain d'Accréditation (SOAC)
www.soacwaas.org

Hosted by:
West African Accreditation System (WAAS)
www.soacwaas.org

19-27 septembre 2019, Abidjan - Côte d'Ivoire

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From **19 to 27 September 2019**, the West African Accreditation System (**SOAC**) **hosted**, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the **10th General Assembly (GA)** of the African Accreditation Cooperation (**AFRAC**). This was a **first** in francophone West Africa.



OPENING CEREMONY & KEY MESSAGES

The **opening ceremony**, organized on September 23, 2019, was **chaired** by **Hon. Minister of Trade and Industry** of Côte d'Ivoire, **Mr Souleymane DIARASSOUBA**, along with the **AFRAC & SOAC Presidents**, **Mr Ron Josias**, and **Mr Aboubacry BARO**, as well as the **Representatives of ECOWAS, UEMOA, ECOWAS Quality Agency (ECOWAQ) and ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System (ECORAS)**.



The **high table**, headed by **Hon. Minister**, congratulated the accreditation bodies of the region including the **GhaNAS of Ghana**, the **NiNAS of Nigeria**, and **SOAC** for the **eight UEMOA member States**, for the **remarkable progress** registered in **two**



years: the three structures are indeed members of AFRAC but also of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). NiNAS and SOAC have accredited thirty laboratories to date (NiNAS 19, SOAC, 11). All three organizations were encouraged to accelerate their efforts to become signatories of AFRAC's Mutual Recognition Arrangements. Thus, the certificates of conformity issued by the accredited bodies that are currently accepted in West Africa, will also be everywhere in the world. **The Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the two Commissions and ECOWAQ** have assured their **willingness to continue their assistance to these three organizations**, particularly in the context of the **African Free Trade Area (ACFTA)** for which accreditation is one of the pillars to ensure quality of the products and services that will be exchanged.

“The international recognition places AFRAC and Africa as an equal amongst the regional accreditation cooperations such as the inter-American Accreditation Cooperation, the European Accreditation Cooperation and the Asian Pacific Accreditation Cooperation. Not only are we equal, but through this recognition, we have remove our reliance on other bodies to come and declare us competent. We now have a competent body in African that can to do it for Africa”. Mr Ron Josias AFRAC Chair.

MERIT & RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES & SOAC ACCREDITATION DIPLOMA TO LANEMA



A certificate of recognition was handed over by Hon. Minister, on behalf of the **Government of Côte d'Ivoire**, to **AFRAC**, an organization that has **made it possible, since 2018**, for African accreditation bodies to obtain, on **the continent and at a lower cost**, their **international recognition**.

SOAC has also awarded a **certificate of thanks** to the **Government of Côte d'Ivoire**, which offers it all the facilities needed to carry out its mission.

Finally, during the ceremony, **SOAC accreditation diploma** was **officially awarded** to the National Laboratory of Testing, Quality, Metrology and Analysis (**LANEMA**) of **Côte d'Ivoire** accredited in the field of the temperature. LANEMA thus becomes the **2nd national**

calibration laboratory accredited in the UEMOA area by SOAC after that of Benin (field of mass).

“Through this accreditation, LANEMA, a public body, placed under the supervision of our ministerial department is positioned as a pioneer in the field of metrology in the sub-region. It is therefore a reference for other laboratories”. **Hon. Minister S. DIARASSOUBA.**

WORKSHOPS AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

A series of **strategic and technical workshops** led by the heads of the various AFRAC committees made it possible to propose **resolutions validated by the GA on September 27, 2019** (adoption of the **strategic plan**, identification of the **next peer evaluations**,



preparation of the **opening of new areas for AFRAC**, notably the **accreditation of certification bodies** for **people** and **products** or the **proficiency testing providers**, etc.). Regarding the status of the signatories of the AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangements, it should be noted that **ENAO** (Ethiopia) and **SADCAS** (Southern Africa), have **respectively extended their scope to inspection (ISO IEC 17020)** and to **ISO 9001:15 certification (ISO IEC 17021-1/ ISO IEC 17021 -3)**. The **transition to ISO IEC 17011:17** was **successful for EGAC** (Egypt), **ENAO**, **KENAS** (Kenya), **SANAS** (South Africa) and **SADCAS**. Also, **NiNAS** (Nigeria), **SDAC** (Sudan), **SOAC** (Francophone West Africa) are **preparing for Arrangement Membership**.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The **General Meeting** was **closed by Mrs Berthe DELI AZODA**, Côte d’Ivoire Director of Promotion of Quality and Standardization & also SOAC Accreditation Focal Point, **on behalf of Hon. Minister S. DIARASSOUBA.**

These 08 days of intensive work ended around a dinner in the evening of September 27, 2019.



A GLANCE ON PARTICIPANTS

The 10th AFRAC General Assembly hosted by SOAC in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, was honored to welcome the chairpersons of 3 Accreditation bodies (AB): KENAS (the Kenya AB), SANAS (the South Africa AB) and SOAC (the multi economy AB in West Africa).



Mrs ADEYA
KENAS Chair



Mr
MAYEDWA
SANAS Chair



Mr BARO
SOAC Chair

Also, 9 Chiefs Executive Officers (CEO) were present, including EGAC- Egypt, ENAO-Ethiopia, KENAS-Kenya, MAURITAS - Mauritius, NiNAS - Nigeria, SADCAS -Southern Africa multi economy Accreditation AB, SANAS – South Africa, SDAC – Sudan and SOAC. One CEO was represented: Mr Yassine WALI (TUNAC Tunisia), represented by Mr Moez BOUGHALMI.



Mr EL DESOUKI
EGAC



Mr FESSEHA
ENAO



Mr CHISERE
KENAS



Mr GOPEE
MAURITAS



Mr OKANYA
NINAS



Mrs MUTASA
SADCAS



Mr JOSIAS
SANAS



Mr EL HADI
SDAC



Mr GBAGUIDI
SOAC



Mr BOUGHALMI
on behalf of
Mr WALI
TUNAC

All the **Chairpersons of AFRAC Council & Committees** were also able to join Abidjan (**EXCO - Executive Committee, MRA - Mutual Recognition Arrangements Council & Committee, Technical Committee, Marketing & Communication Committee**).

Many **stakeholders** were **represented** too: **ASLM** - the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, **ECORAS** - the Regional Cooperation in Accreditation of ECOWAS, **ECOWAS** - the Economic Community of West Africa States, **FSFI** - the Federal Centre of Quality and Safety Assurance for Grain and Grain Products, **SADC** - the Southern Africa Development Community, **SADCA** - the Cooperation in Accreditation in Southern Africa, **SON** - the Standards Organisation of Nigeria. In total, **foreign delegates amounted around 40 people**.



AFRAC Committees & Council

Mr Martin KAISER, the Representative of **PTB (the German Metrology Institute)** attended the **GA**. PTB is a long-term partner of AFRAC which supports its development since the beginning.



Many staff of the various African accreditation bodies attended the GA too. It was an opportunity to **thank Mrs Jeanne Ranorovelo, Technical Manager of SADCAS**, for her **commitment to the development of accreditation**, both in **Southern Africa and at AFRAC level**. To this end, a **certificate of merit** was solemnly given to **Mrs Ranorovelo by AFRAC Chair, Mr JOSIAS, on September 27, 2019** on the sidelines of the closing dinner.