

QUALITY FOR AFRICA



PAN-AFRICAN QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE (PAQI)

Structure – Function – Impact

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18 June 2014, Addis-Ethiopia

*The attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remains a challenge for most African countries as this is closely linked to economic and social development. A well **coordinated and integrated Pan-African Quality Infrastructure will boost both intra-African and Global trade, which could foster the attainment of the MDGs.***

Quality Infrastructure

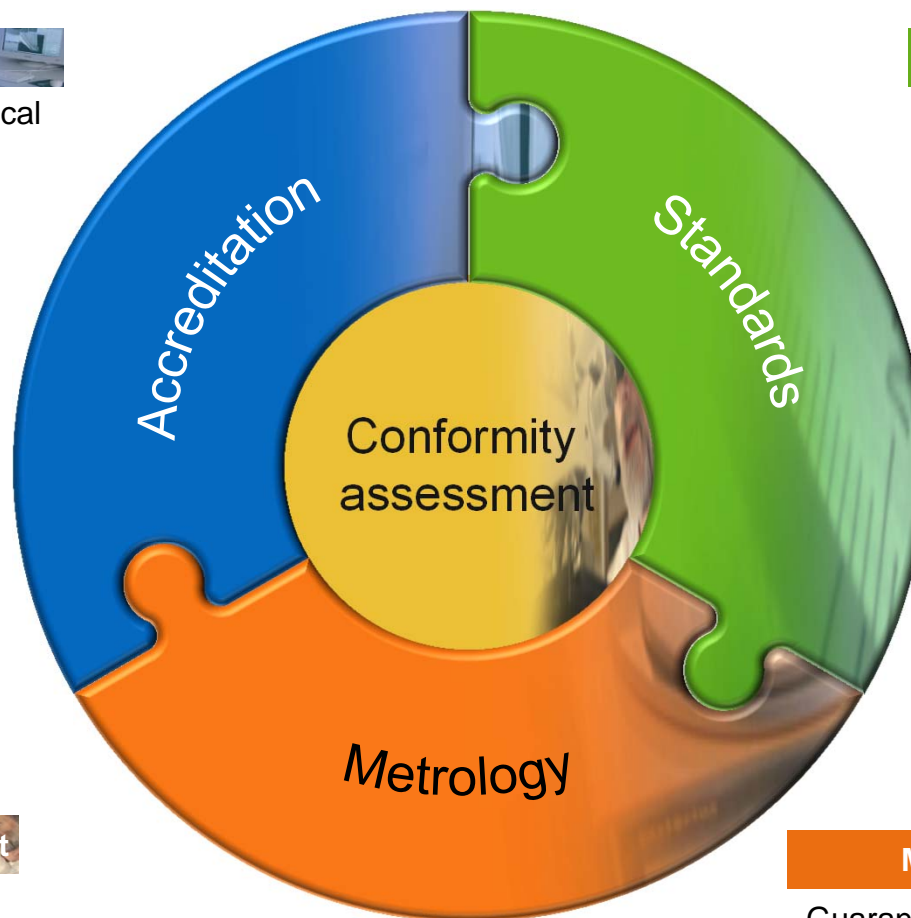
- Quality infrastructure has three key elements namely: **metrology, standardization and accreditation of conformity assessment** services such as certification, testing, calibration and inspection
- These elements are not only closely linked with one another, but rather form **a network based on a technical hierarchy.**

Accreditation

Recognition of technical competence

Standards

Definition of properties, dimensions, tolerances, etc.



Conformity assessment

Conformity with requirements defined by standards

Metrology

Guarantee of exact and reliable measurements

Abuja Treaty

The Abuja Treaty (Chapter XI, Article 67) lays out a common **Policy on Standardization and Measurement Systems**. This forms the basis for the PAQI.

- Adopt a **common policy on standardisation and quality assurance** of goods and services among member states
- Undertake such other related **activities** in standardisation and measurement systems that are **likely to promote trade, economic development and integration** within the Community; and **strengthen African national and continental organisations** operating in this field.



Vision

To be an **efficient, effective,**
sustainable and **internationally recognized**

PAQI contributing towards achievement

of African socio-economic goals.

Mission

To strengthen the
regional and global competitiveness
of Africa's goods and services and contribute towards
an **improved quality of life**
for the African people through prudent use of standards,
measurements, conformity assessment and accreditation.

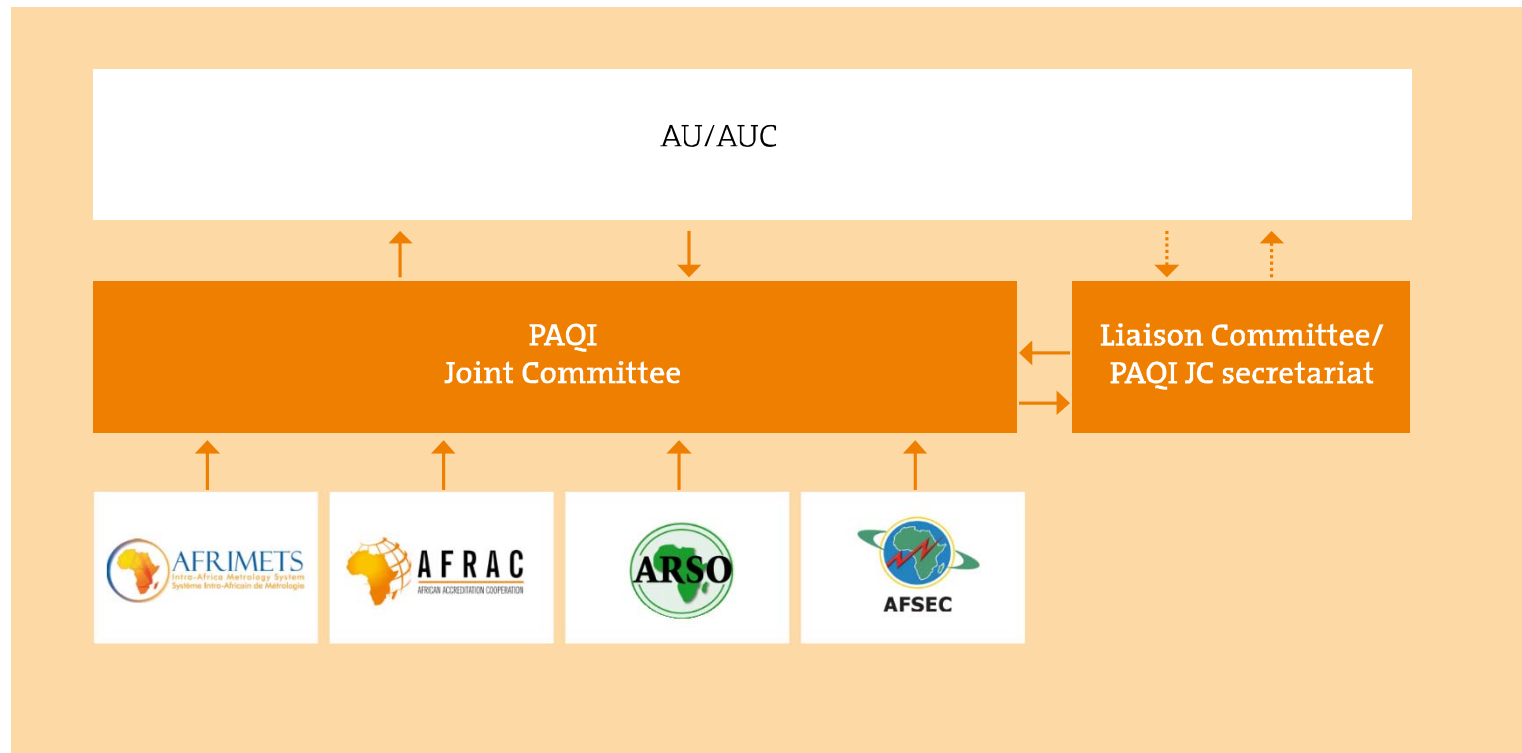
Objectives

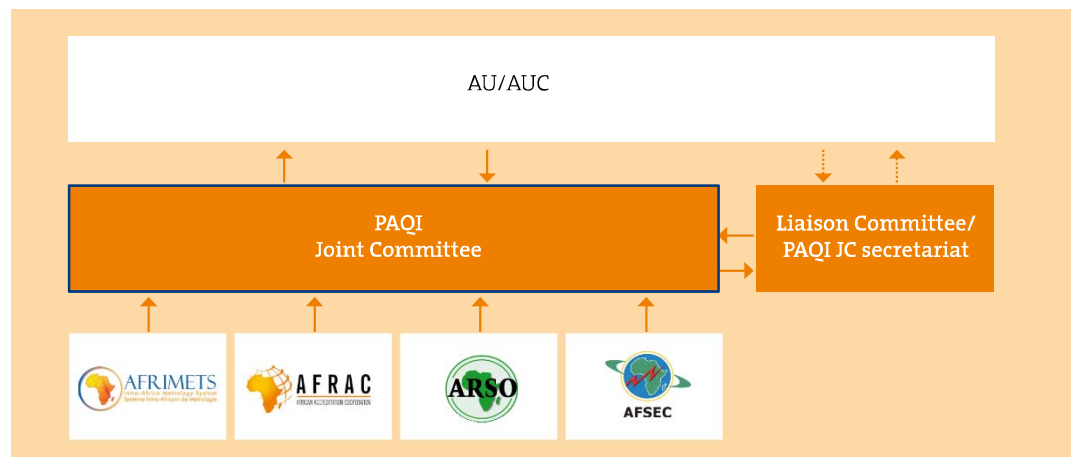
- Supporting of **African integration, industrial development and trade** and to improve quality of life;
- Development of **African policies** on Standards, Measurement and Accreditation of conformity assessment services;
- Provision of **timely solutions to the region** whilst upholding the values of openness, transparency and consensus;
- Establishing **effective relations with the AU and RECs** in order to promote and reinforce the role of PAQI;
- **Represent Africa** on all matters pertaining to standards, metrology, conformity assessment and accreditation; and
- Secure adequate **funding for the PAQI to support capacity development** in close collaboration with international partner organizations.

International Quality Infrastructure



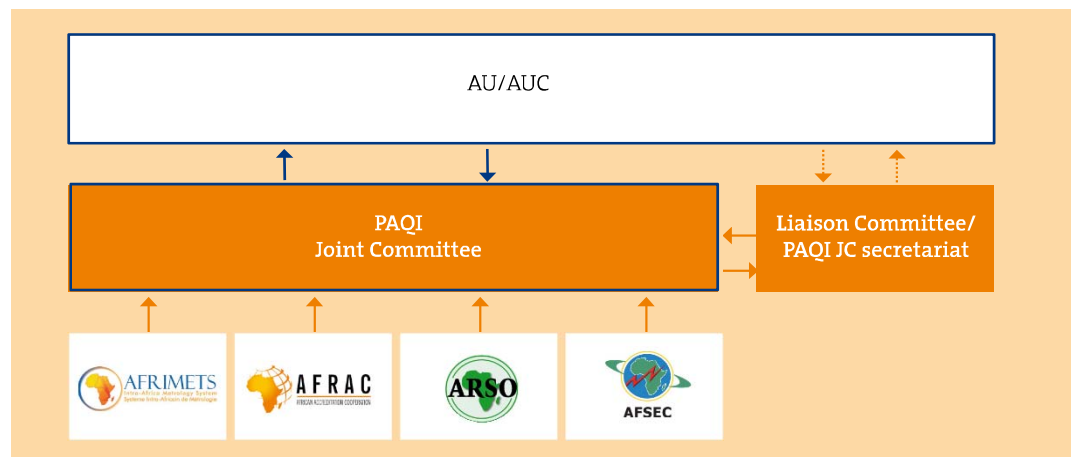
Integrated PAQI Structure





PAQI Joint Committee

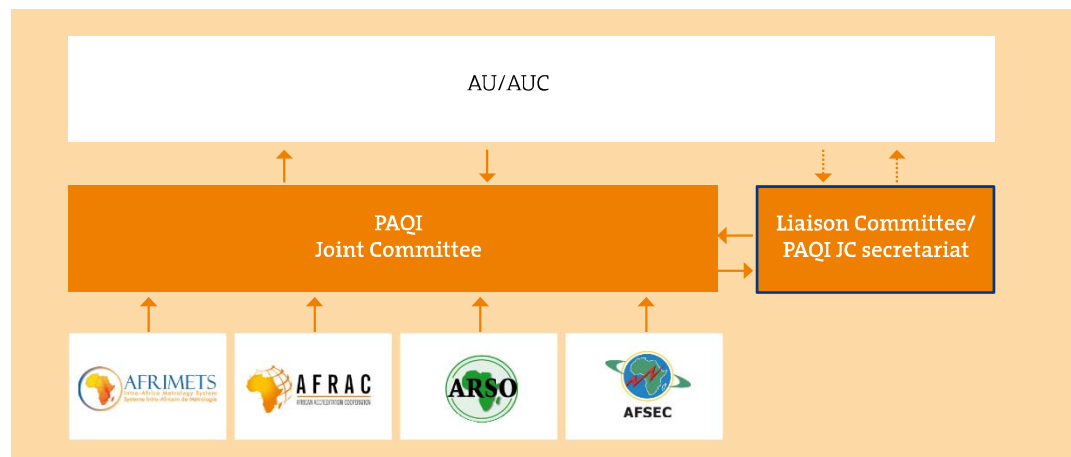
- The **PAQI Joint Committee** members are **representatives of the four PAQI organisations**. Stakeholders, AU/AUC and others may attend the meetings.
- The **Secretariat will be provided by the Chairperson** of the PAQI Joint Committee
- The **Secretariat works with the four pillars** (AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC, and ARSO) through the PAQI Joint Committee in formulating policies that use standards, measurements, conformity assessment and accreditation to drive infrastructure development and sustainable exploitation of African resources.



Relation between the PAQI joint committee and the AUC

Issues of standards, measurement, conformity assessment and accreditation are cross-cutting and **span all departments of the AUC.**

The **Joint Committee Secretariat** would serve as the **liaison office** between the PAQI Joint Committee and the AUC via the Trade and Industry Commission.



Financing of the Liaison Office

The **organisation hosting** the Chairmanship will **provide the necessary resources** for the operations of the Joint Committee Secretariat/Liaison office.

AFRAC



- The **African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC)** was established in **2010**.
- AFRAC is a **cooperation of accreditation bodies, sub-regional accreditation co-operations** and stakeholders whose objective is to **facilitate trade** and **contribute to the protection of health, safety** and the **environment, in Africa** and improvement of Africa's competitiveness.
- AFRAC will **build confidence in African produced goods and services** thus facilitate their acceptance on the global market through Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA).

AFRIMETS



- The **Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS)** was formed **in the year 2006**
- The Principal members of AFRIMETS are the **6 sub-regional metrology organizations**
- AFRIMETS **promotes harmonisation industrial and legal metrology issues across Africa** and to operate as a fully-fledged Regional Metrology Organization in accordance to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the International Committee for Weights and Measures, the CIPM MRA
- AFRIMETS **facilitates inter and intra Africa trade through use of accurate measurements** and ensuring safety, health of consumers and environmental protection.

AFSEC

- The African **Electrotechnical Standardisation Commission** (AFSEC) was established in **February 2008** .
- AFSEC **identifies existing standards and prioritizes standards needs**, and harmonizes existing standards through either the adoption of international standards; or where necessary their adaptation to African conditions.
- Common standards and conformity regimes in the electrotechnical area have **a multiplier effect especially in electricity generation and transmission** (power pools and common manufacturing facilities) and trading in electrical systems, and in support of universal access to electricity



AFSEC

ARSO



- **The African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO)** in her current state is Africa's intergovernmental standards body **formed in 1977**.
- ARSO **develops 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.
- **Increased trade** and closer economic cooperation between **developing countries** represent a considerable potential for development, but realizing this potential represents a major challenge especially in **creating viable, sustainable and effective continental standardization infrastructure**. This forms the basis for ARSO strategic direction.

Impact of integrated PAQI (1)

- **Common approaches** on Quality Infrastructure at a continental level;
- Development of **Quality Infrastructure** to support the **continents needs**,
- **Better utilization** of Quality Infrastructure **resources available** on the continent;
- **Speed up the adoption of common policies** on standardization and quality assurance of goods and services;
- **Promote industrialisation and trade** in Africa;
- **Support regulatory objectives** in terms of health, safety and the environment; and
- **Facilitate harmonization** of African National and Regional Economic Community standards and conformity assessment procedures where international standards are not available

Impact of integrated PAQI (2)

- **Facilitate Capacity Development** of African Quality Infrastructure institutions;
- **Reduction of risk** for business and its customers by assuring them that accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in Africa are competent,
- **Underpin Multilateral Trade agreements**; Industrialisation and African exports;
- **Enable Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLA)** between African accreditation bodies; and
- To facilitate **protection of consumers** in Africa..

Current build up

- **PAQI launched on 30th August 2013** by Madam Treasure Maphanga, the African Union Commission's Director of Trade and Industry
- PAQI secretariat **hosted in ARSO**;
- **Aligned strategic plan** of PAQI Institution and AUC document;
- PAQI part of the **implementers of AIDA** programme
- **Awareness and mobilisation** on the benefit of Quality Infrastructure common presentation;
- **Stocktaking** on status of Quality Infrastructure in Africa.;
- Discussion **document on the role of Quality Infrastructure** for the realisation of Continental Free Trade Area (**CFTA**);

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The PAQI initiative is supported by



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