

**Communiqué**  
January 28, 1993  
Houston, Texas

The undersigned, representing organizations that operate or *intend* to operate a. program/system for accreditation of bodies dealing with conformity assessment, met on January 28, 1993, and agreed:

THAT entities seeking registration to ISO 9000 series or related standards in one region or country desire that such registration should also be accepted in other regions or countries, and

THAT suppliers seeking certification of their products, processes or services to standards in one region or country desire that such certification should also be accepted in other regions or countries, and

THAT one means of moving towards this goal is by working towards the equivalency of the conformity assessment procedures used by the organizations providing such services, and

THAT one means of working towards such equivalency is to develop equivalent accreditation programs/systems for such conformity assessment, and

therefore, the undersigned agree:

TO engage in discussions to achieve equivalence of the:- accreditation programs/systems and of their operation, and

ON the desirability of mutual recognition of each other's accreditation systems in the international context of all relevant accreditation bodies with which mutual recognition may be desirable hi furtherance of international trade.

The consensus of the undersigned was to cooperate with one another and other organizations who operate similar accreditation programs in exchanging information and procedures hi meetings to be known as the International Accreditation Forum. The meetings are intended to contribute to mutual understanding and to build confidence in the operation of such accreditation programs in the interest of international trade.