

5. The Parties shall encourage harmonization of designation and conformity assessment procedures through cooperation between Designating Authorities and Conformity Assessment Bodies by means of coordination meetings, participation in mutual recognition arrangements, and working group meetings. Where accreditation bodies participate in the designation process they should be encouraged to participate in mutual recognition arrangements.

B. SYSTEM TO DETERMINE CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES' CAPABILITIES

6. The Designating Authorities may apply the following processes to determine the technical capabilities of Conformity Assessment Bodies. If necessary, a Party will indicate to the Designating Authority the possible ways to demonstrate capabilities:

- (a) Accreditation

Accreditation shall constitute a presumption of technical capability in relation to the requirements of an other Party when:

- (i) the accreditation process is conducted in conformance with the relevant international documentation (EN 45000 series or ISO/IEC guides); and either,
- (ii) the accreditation body participates in mutual recognition arrangements where it is subject to peer evaluation which involves evaluation by individuals with recognised expertise in the field of the work being evaluated, of the capabilities of accreditation bodies and Conformity Assessment Bodies accredited by them, or
- (iii) the accreditation body, operating under the authority of a Designating Authority, takes part, in accordance with procedures to be agreed, in comparison programmes and exchanges of technical experience in order to ensure the continued confidence in the technical competence of the accreditation bodies and Conformity Assessment Bodies. Such programmes may include joint assessments, special cooperation programmes or peer evaluation.

When a Conformity Assessment Body is only accredited to evaluate a product, process or service for compliance with particular technical specifications, designation shall be limited to those technical specifications.