



Africa

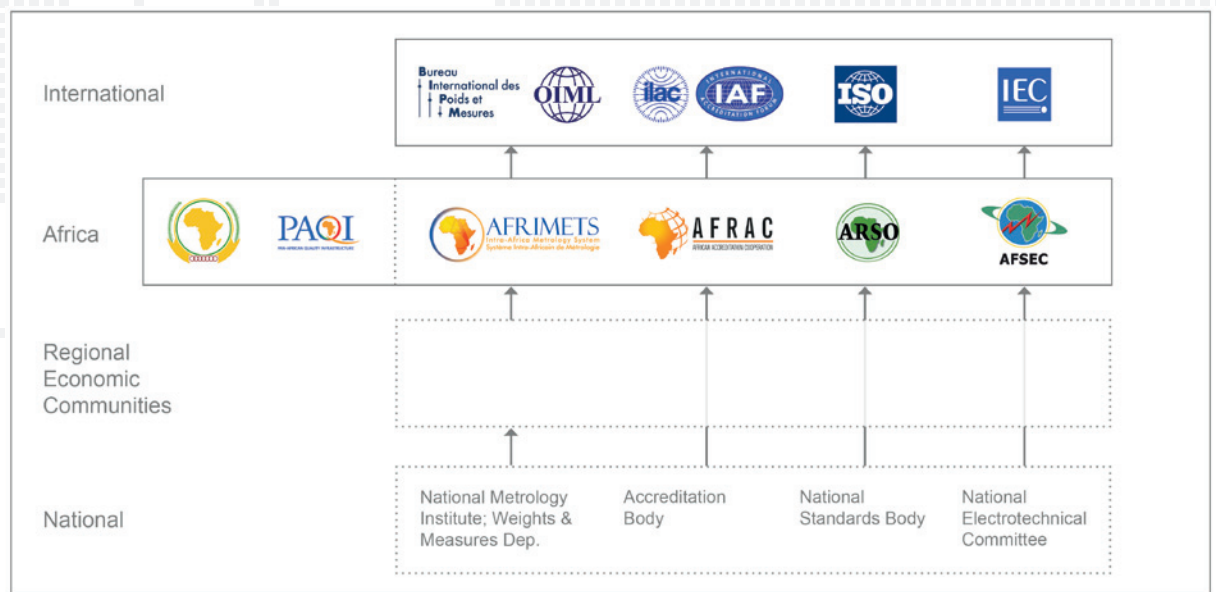
Upgrading of Quality Infrastructure in Africa

Objective Fostering the continental process of economic integration by reducing technical barriers to trade and unjustified sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Approach Strategic advice is provided to the AU Commission not only for the coordination of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations – in the area of TBT and SPS – with the objective of boosting intra African trade, but also for creating awareness of quality infrastructure as a cross-cutting theme within the AU Commission. The experience gained in free trade negotiations at the regional economic community level is analysed to shape an efficient negotiation process for the CFTA. At the level of the organisations of the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI), support with a focus on improving processes, increasing efficiency and expertise, and participating in international developments is continuing. The understanding of the organisational set-up and implications of QI is increasing among states, regional economic communities and the sub-regional networks of quality infrastructure associations. Special technical consultancy is provided on harmonisation, benchmarking (comparisons and proficiency testing) and technology transfer.

The methodical approach is based on different concepts of capacity building, organisational development and policy advice, and is mainly focussed on the AU Commission and the continental pillars of standardisation, industrial/legal metrology and accreditation. A long-term expert renders advice to the AU Commission. Furthermore, systemic interaction of the QI system within Africa is supported.

Impact The project is embedded in PTB's strategy *Quality for Africa*. This strategy establishes the political superstructure of – and establishes the technical link between – the individual sub-regional technical networks; its effectiveness is mainly evident at the macro and at the meso level. The understanding of the abstract term of *quality* and its transformation into specific cross-sectoral actions is promoted. The African institutions which form the infrastructure for quality will establish the framework conditions in accordance with international agreements, thereby achieving a better acceptance of African products. The successful negotiation of the Continental Free Trade Area ensures the harmonisation of procedures and technical requirements; technical barriers to trade will be removed. This will facilitate the exchange of goods and services and, thus, the promotion of trade.



Cooperation GIZ: *Support to the Continental Free Trade Area*
EU: ACP EU TBT Programme *Overcoming Technical Barriers to Trade*
UNIDO: *Institutional strengthening of the Intra-Africa Metrology System, AFRIMETS*

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