



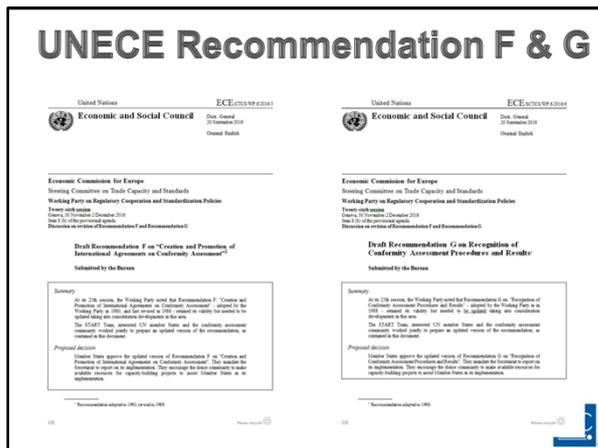
UNECE

Recommendations F & G

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Board

UNECE WP 6
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Geneva





But first a little about the process that allowed these proposals to be brought to you today.

These are not my proposals, although I have contributed to them. I am simply the messenger.

About a year ago the UNECE Secretariat contacted a number of international organization having experience, to varying degrees, with international conformity assessment activities.

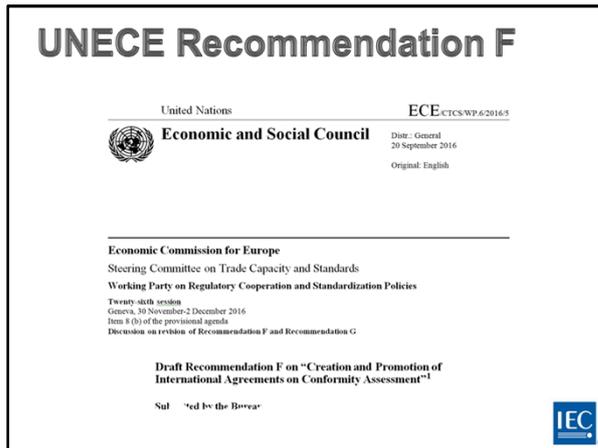
Those organizations included the IEC, ISO, ITU, OIML, ILAC and IAF.

Each were asked to propose comments and updated text on the two Recommendations.

Contributions were received, and then reviewed and discussed at a DCMAS meeting in Paris in March this year.

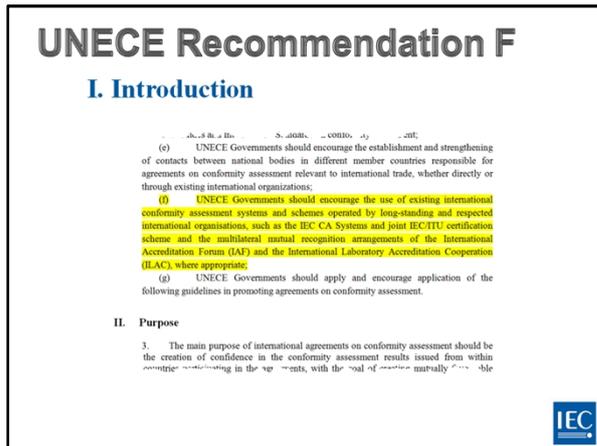
Then a second round of proposals and review by these organizations took place in the middle of the year.

The UNECE WG Secretariat then formulated the versions you have before you today.



So let's have a look at Recommendation F.

Recommendation F concerns
"Creation and Promotion of International Agreements on
Conformity Assessment".

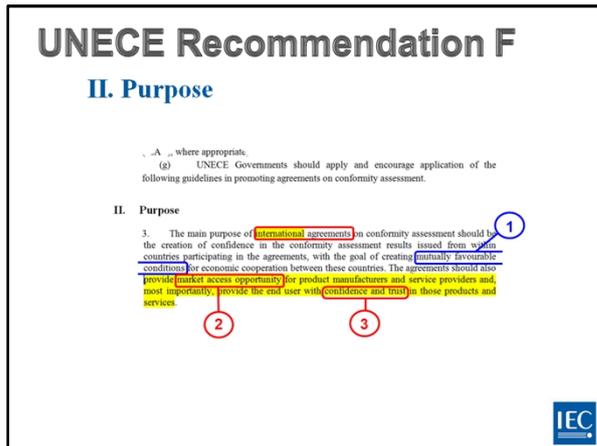


Most changes are fairly minor, but some are entirely new additions such as this clause.

This was added to take into account the global conformity assessment activities that exist today, but that did not exist back in 1980 or 1988, or did not have the importance that they have today.

This clause is all about not reinventing the wheel.

It's about using existing long-standing services operated by respected international organisations.



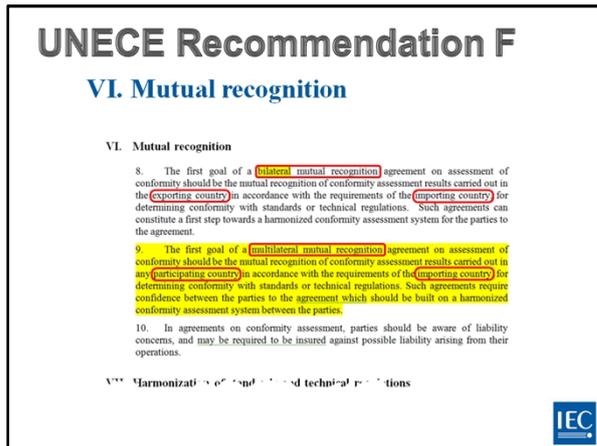
This clause describes the purpose of International Agreements on Conformity Assessment.

The original purpose was expressed as creating mutually favourable conditions for economic cooperation between countries.

Today the goal is not only one dimensional, but multifaceted.

Therefore additional purposes have been added as

- the need to provide market access opportunities for product manufacturers and service providers
- and to create end user confidence and trust.



Clause 8 deals with bilateral mutual recognition.

In bilateral agreements there are always just two parties.

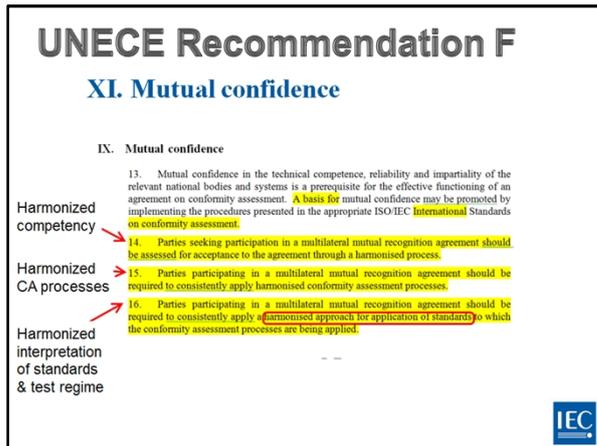
So there can be an exporting country and an importing country.

Clause 9 is new and deals with multilateral mutual recognition.

In multilateral agreements there are usually more than just two parties.

The situation can get rather more complex, because in addition to having an exporting country and an importing country, there could be a third country from which, for example, test results are coming.

So the language used here refers to participating countries and importing countries.



Under part 11 of the Recommendation is the section on Mutual Confidence.

It is a natural fact that no mutual recognition agreement will work if there is no confidence between the parties.

This is even more so true for multilateral agreements.

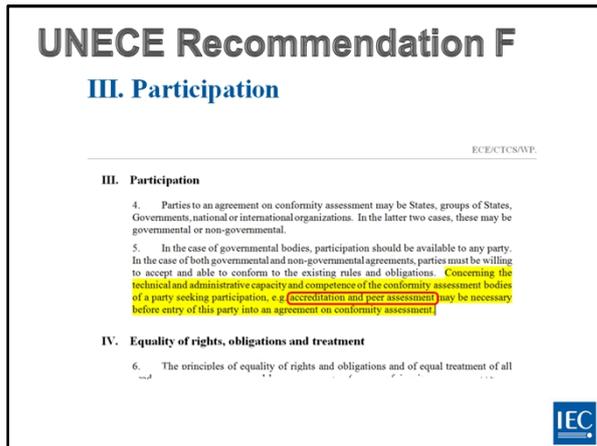
Clauses 14, 15 and 16 were entirely added to try to cover the requirements for achieving confidence.

Highest confidence in, for example, testing results comes when you know that others would get the exact same result as you'd get yourself.

The way to achieve this is to ensure that everyone does the testing in exactly the same way.

This means that everyone must be qualified to the same competencies, they must use the same harmonized conformity assessment procedures, and they must interpret the standards in the same way, and use the same testing regimes.

This is world's best practice, and it's what the IEC global CA systems use today.



Coming back to part 3, which talks about Participation in international conformity assessment schemes, again, for there to be confidence, the participants must be qualified.

The proposed text specifically indicates both accreditation and peer assessment.

It's important to include both, and I'll explain why.

Accreditation & Peer Assessment

<p>Musicians Qualified to play an instrument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an instrument ? • Can read music ? • Can play the music ? 	<p>Qualified to play in an orchestra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an instrument ? • Can read & play music ? • Can play the agreed music ? • Can play with other musicians ? • Can play the orchestra's style ? • Can follow the conductor ?
	

Accreditation is an essential element in the world of conformity assessment. It is the basis for recognizing national competency and therefore recognising a result.

We liken accreditation to qualification for individual activities.

A good example is a musician.

Accreditation would check if a musician is qualified to play music.

Does the musician have an instrument ?

Can they read music and can they play the music correctly ?

Accreditation would not check the choice of music to play, nor the tempo or style in which it's played.

On the other hand, peer assessment is all about qualifying for team activities.

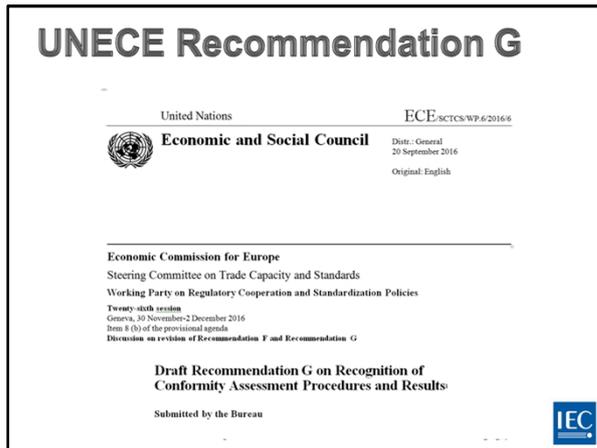
Again, for a musician, the basic ability to play an instrument, must of course be present. But to play in an orchestra and make beautiful music, together, requires much more.

It requires the ability to play with the other musicians in the orchestra.

It requires agreement on playing the same music, in a harmonised way, in accordance with the rhythm and instructions of the conductor.

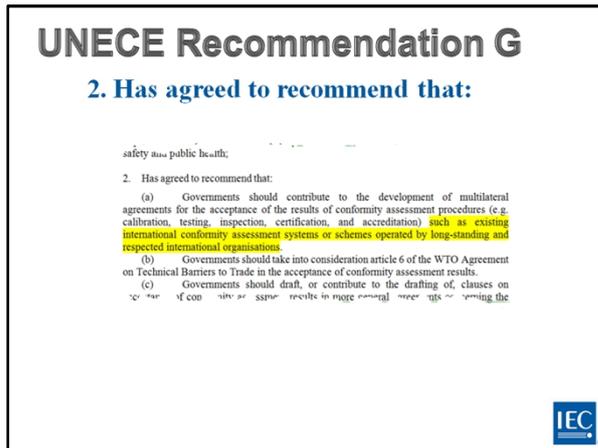
Each musician needs to be confident in the abilities of the other musicians. To achieve this, musicians go through auditions where musicians check musicians, or, in other words, they do peer assessment.

That's what creates the confidence and allows them to play as a team.



So now let's have a look at Recommendation G.

Recommendation G concerns
“Recognition of Conformity Assessment Procedures and Results”.

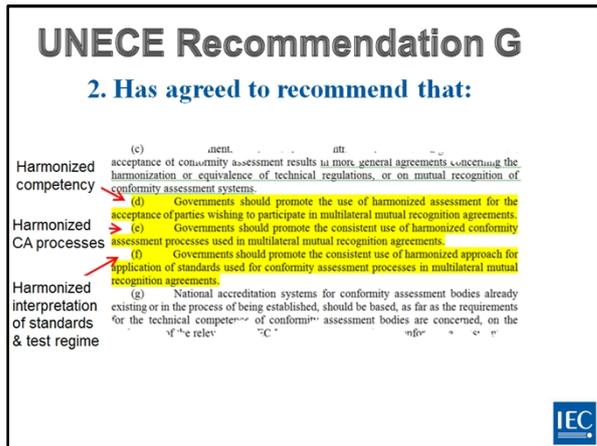


There are not so many changes to the original Recommendation, but there have been some additions.

In clause (a), the intention of the added text here is again to not reinvent the wheel.

It is intended to raise the awareness within governments and to get them to look towards the existing global CA services.

These services create value today, and for Governments they cost nothing to use.



Clauses (d), (e) and (f) are identical to the clauses 14, 15 and 16 in the previous Recommendation.

The object here is the same

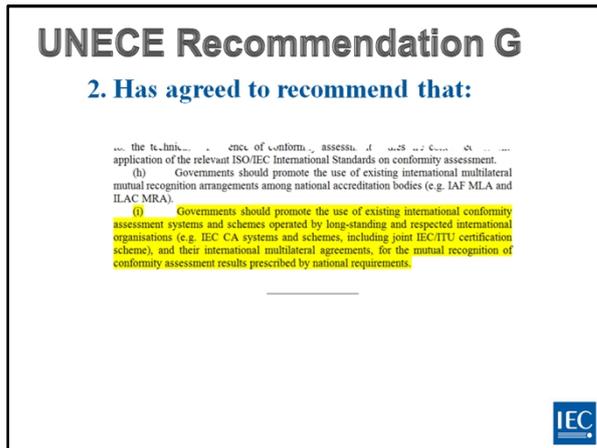
They all were entirely added to try to cover the requirements for achieving confidence.

Highest confidence in, for example, testing results comes when you know that others would get the exact same result as you get yourself.

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This is world's best practice, and it's what the IEC global CA systems use today.



Now moving to clause (i).

Once again, this clause was added with the intention to not reinvent the wheel.

It is intended to raise the awareness within governments and to get them to look towards the existing global CA services.

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Thank you

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