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GAS.G-05:2025

Sustainable development policy

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0. FOREWORD

The GAS Accreditation Agency recognizes its responsibility for supporting sustainable development, promoting climate neutrality, and implementing environmentally and socially responsible principles in the activities of the organization and accredited bodies.

This Policy serves as a framework document establishing the commitments of GAS and the principles to be followed in the process of accreditation and international cooperation.

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into GAS activities;
- Demonstrate leadership in the field of climate responsibility;
- Consider environmental, social, and governance (ESG) aspects in decision-making;
- Support international initiatives on emission reduction and sustainable development.

1.2 This Policy applies to:

- The management of the GAS Accreditation Agency;
- All GAS employees;
- Assessors, experts, and committee members involved in accreditation processes;
- Partner organizations and contractors, insofar as their interaction with GAS is concerned.

1.3 The requirements are taken into account when forming the criteria for accredited bodies within the framework of GAS procedures.

2. NORMATIVE AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

This Policy is based on the requirements and principles of the following normative documents:

2.1 International Standards and Resources:

- **ISO 14001:2015** — Environmental management systems — Requirements;
- **ISO 26000:2010** — Guidance on social responsibility;
- **ISO 14064-1/2/3** — Greenhouse gas emissions;
- UN SDGs — United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (https://sdgs.un.org/);
- **SIC.SDGs** — Requirements for organizations to achieve sustainable development goals.

2.2 Internal GAS Documents:

- **GAS.G-01:2025** — Code of Ethics for Experts, Assessors, and GAS Personnel;
- **GAS.G-03:2025** — Policy on Conflict of Interest and Impartiality.

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3. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following key terms apply:

Sustainable development — a comprehensive approach to conducting activities that ensures a balance between economic, environmental, and social interests, aimed at meeting the needs of society today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Climate responsibility — an organization's formal commitment to preventing and reducing negative impacts on the climate, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, responsible resource use, and support for environmental initiatives.

ESG principles (Environmental, Social, Governance) — a framework for evaluating the environmental, social, and governance aspects of an organization's activities, used to guide strategic, operational, and investment decisions.

Carbon footprint — the total amount of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with an organization's activities, including energy consumption, travel, resource use, and digital infrastructure.

Environmental efficiency — an approach that ensures the most rational use of natural resources while minimizing environmental impact, waste generation, and energy consumption.

Sustainable supply chain — partnerships and procurement activities that take into account environmental impact, respect for human rights, ethical conduct, and supplier responsibility.

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

4.1 Environmental Principles

The GAS Accreditation Agency is committed to:

- implementing energy efficiency practices and responsible use of resources;
- minimizing organizational, logistical, and digital carbon footprints;
- introducing electronic document management, video conferencing, and remote assessments (when allowed by the risk profile);
- promoting responsible travel arrangements: combining missions and using environmentally friendly transport solutions where possible;
- applying an "eco-first" approach in the procurement of office resources, equipment, software, and services;
- ensuring proper waste management, including electronic waste.

GAS sets an example but does not create unjustified barriers for accredited bodies.

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4.2 Social Responsibility

GAS:

- ensures equal opportunities, inclusiveness, and respect for human rights;
- provides safe, healthy, and psychologically comfortable working conditions;
- promotes professional development and capacity building of employees, assessors, and experts;
- supports partnerships that foster sustainable development and education in the field of conformity assessment;
- opposes discrimination, labor exploitation, and corruption;
- raises awareness of sustainability issues among stakeholders.

4.3 Governance, Economic Sustainability, and Transparency

GAS ensures:

- transparency of decisions and accountability to stakeholders;
- the existence of control, audit, and personnel conduct regulation procedures;
- compliance with the highest standards of integrity in decision-making;
- prevention of the influence of commercial, political, or lobbying interests on the accreditation process.

5. SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

GAS implements the principles of sustainable development through:

- internal environmental management (rational energy consumption, waste minimization, eco-office principles);
- introduction of digital solutions and travel optimization to minimize climate impact;
- a risk-based approach to determining the format of assessments (on-site vs. remote);
- evaluation of suppliers and partners based on ESG criteria;
- integration of sustainability aspects into expert and educational activities;
- consideration of sustainable development in strategic decision-making and planning.

GAS progressively:

- establishes a system for measuring its environmental impact;
- considers defining indicative performance indicators (KPIs), such as:
- the proportion of remote assessments,
- responsible resource consumption.

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These measures are not mandatory for accredited bodies unless required by international rules or the applicable standard.

6. CONTROL, MONITORING, AND REPORTING

GAS ensures:

- regular internal review of compliance with the Policy;
- analysis of environmental impact dynamics (qualitative first → gradually quantitative);
- performance evaluation at the management level;
- updating of the Policy in accordance with international trends;
- public disclosure of the Policy and its key principles to stakeholders;
- training and awareness-raising on climate responsibility issues.

7. FINAL PROVISIONS

- The Policy enters into force upon approval.
- It is subject to review at least once every three years.
- In matters of sustainable development, this Policy takes precedence over other GAS documents in the event of discrepancies.
- It is published on the official website of the Accreditation Agency GAS – **gas.international**.

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