



# Note to introduce the Rules of Procedure of the CGPM



January 2026

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# 1. Introduction

At the 27th meeting of the Conférence générale des poids et mesures (CGPM) held in November 2022, the co-chairs of the *ad hoc* Working Group of Member State Representatives recommended the development of “By-laws and Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the Organization (...) to enhance the transparency and the efficiency of the Organization”<sup>1</sup>.

The Comité international des poids et mesures (CIPM), the governing body of the Organization, established a Sub-Committee on Governance (CIPM SC-G) in March 2023. The CIPM SC-G prepared a position paper and commissioned an expert in international public law to draft an overarching governance instrument (By-Laws) in accordance with modern precepts and best practices of international organizations. In May 2024, all the Member States were consulted regarding the project to implement By-Laws. The results of the consultation were presented by the chair of the CIPM SC-G to the Member State Representatives in October 2024. Although the By-Laws received strong support, the CIPM found that the reservations voiced, albeit few, were significant enough to decide to set the project aside for the time being. Nonetheless, the CIPM agreed that regulations on organizational governance were still required. The CIPM therefore proceeded with establishing RoP of the CGPM.

The draft text for the RoP of the CGPM was prepared by the CIPM SC-G. Throughout 2025 and 2026 subsequent drafts were circulated to all Member States and Directors of the National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) to provide their input. The chair of the CIPM SC-G coordinated the process and regularly presented the results of the consultation to the Member State Representatives and NMI Directors.

As will be reported by the chair of the CIPM SC-G to the CGPM at its 28th meeting in October 2026, the CIPM has already made notable progress and achievements to modernize the governance of the Organization including the adoption of:

- Rules of Procedure of the CIPM (adopted in 2021 and revised in 2023, 2024 and 2025)
- Code of Conduct of the CIPM (adopted in 2022)
- Rules of Procedure for the Selection of the Director of the BIPM (adopted in 2025)

The chair of the CIPM SC-G wishes to emphasize the importance of pursuing the modernization of the governance of the organization, as such action serves to enhance transparency, accessibility and efficiency. The chair of the CIPM SC-G therefore encourages Member States to strongly support and adopt the RoP of the CGPM at the 28th General Conference.

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<sup>1</sup> See Proceedings of the 27th meeting of the CGPM, November 2022, in particular pages 260, 266, 345 and 346. Full text available at: <https://www.bipm.org/documents/d/guest/cgpm2022>

## 2. Purpose and main features of the RoP of the CGPM

The Metre Convention and its Annexed Regulations (Metre Convention) are the international treaty under which the High Contracting Parties (or sovereign States) established an international organization named *Bureau international des poids et mesures* (BIPM), operating under the direction and supervision of the *Comité international des poids et mesures* (CIPM) – the Organization’s non plenary executive organ – itself placed under the authority of the *Conférence générale des poids et mesures* (CGPM), the Organization’s plenary organ.

While the Metre Convention provides a number of clear indications on key aspects relating to the competence of each organ and how they interact with one another, as an international treaty-level legal instrument, the Metre Convention is lacking in detail regarding the general processes that are necessary to regulate matters routinely.

The RoP of the CGPM is a written governance instrument that will serve **to clarify and reinforce the internal regulatory framework**. The main purpose of the RoP of the CGPM is to regulate and **provide practical guidance on the process of organizing and holding the General Conference**. The RoP of the CGPM have been drafted in full accordance with the provisions of the Metre Convention, which is not changed or modified in any way. In addition, the RoP of the CGPM were drafted to codify and confirm long-standing practices, that have been instituted and applied uninterruptedly by the CGPM over decades.

The RoP of the CGPM will **equip the Organization** with the tools **to operate efficiently** in the post-pandemic world and today’s era of technological transformation. For example, the RoP of the CGPM will provide the General Conference with the means to handle all contingencies, through hybrid participation, thereby providing delegates with the opportunity of being present either in person or online, via a secure electronic system.

The RoP of the CGPM will serve to redress a governance vulnerability: the absence of a neutral, fully independent body to scrutinize and prepare for the election of the members of the CIPM. The RoP of the CGPM proposes the setting up of an Election Commission, composed of nine Member State representatives that will be elected by the General Conference. This represents a departure from the current procedures under which the President and Secretary of the CIPM have a conflict of interest when it comes to renewing the CIPM, as they are officially involved in the process. The Election Commission will not possess the governance authority of the General Conference (or of the CIPM) but will exist between two General Conferences to accomplish its mandate: to administer the renewal of the CIPM, independently from the CIPM.

## 3. Commentary to the RoP of the CGPM

The RoP of the CGPM have been drafted with a complementary “Commentary”. The Commentary explains the background of and the rationale for each of the provisions foreseen in the RoP of the CGPM. For ease of reading and general comprehension, Member State representatives and NMI Directors are encouraged to refer to the Commentary.

## 4. Adoption of the RoP of the CGPM

The RoP of the CGPM will be presented for adoption by the General Conference at its 28th meeting as Draft Resolution F. It is proposed that the RoP of the CGPM shall come into operation as soon as they have been adopted. Therefore, the proposed timeline of events relating to the RoP of the CGPM at the 28th meeting is as follows.

**Prior** to voting on Draft Resolution F, the CGPM will:

- take all of its other decisions
- elect the CIPM in accordance with currently applicable procedures, i.e. Resolution 2 of the 25th CGPM (2014)
- proceed to voting on Draft Resolution F.

**If** Draft Resolution F is adopted:

- Resolution 2 of the 25th CGPM (2014) will be revoked
- the RoP of the CGPM will be adopted and will enter into operation
- the CGPM may proceed with electing the nine Member State representatives to the Election Commission, in accordance with Rule 5 of the RoP of the CGPM.

The CIPM will only be renewed in accordance with the RoP of the CGPM at the 29th meeting of the CGPM.

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