



Report from the CIPM Sub-Committee on Governance

February 2026



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1. Introduction

At the 27th meeting of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (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”¹.

2. CIPM Sub-Committee on Governance

The International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM), the governing body of the Organization, established a Sub-Committee on Governance (CIPM SC-G) in March 2023.

Its mission was defined as follows:

The CIPM Sub-Committee on Governance was set up by the CIPM in its decision CIPM/112-09 (2023).

Following the 26th CGPM (2018), a working group of Member States discussed various issues related to the governance of the organization. This working group delivered its final report at the 27th CGPM (2022).

In order to concretize this preliminary work, the 27th CGPM gave the CIPM the mandate to prepare By-Laws for the organization to address institutional and governance matters and during this process to consult widely with the Member States. The By-Laws are to be presented for approval at the 28th CGPM (2026).

Its terms of reference are as follows:

The CIPM Sub-Committee on Governance advises the CIPM in the execution of the mandate of the 27th CGPM to modernize the organization.

It supports the CIPM in modernizing the operations and the governance of the organization.

It consults the State Representatives on the proposed By-Laws of the BIPM and on the Rules of Procedure of the CGPM.

3. Overarching governance instrument (By-Laws)

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.

The CIPM SC-G worked in a highly structured manner. Each version of the draft By-Laws was submitted for consultation to the SC-G and then to the CIPM. Following each consultation, a consultation report carefully documented the proposed amendments to the text and the detailed responses from the Secretariat of the SC-G. The consultation report systematically served as the basis for the development of the subsequent version of the draft By-Laws.

¹ 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>

In May 2024, all Member States were consulted regarding the project to implement the 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 Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the CGPM. If Member States deem it necessary, the draft By-Laws may be revisited at a later date.

4. Rules of Procedure of the CGPM

The draft text of the RoP of the CGPM was prepared by the CIPM SC-G based on the draft provided by an expert in international public law. The same structured approach was adopted by the CIPM SC-G for the development of the draft RoP of the CGPM. The Chair of the SC-G coordinated the process. The members of the CIPM SC-G and all the members of the CIPM were consulted successively.

In June 2025, the draft text of the RoP of the CGPM was sent to all Member States and directors of National Metrology Institutes (NMI) for comment. The conclusions of the consultation were presented by the Chair of the CIPM SC-G to representatives of Member States in October 2025.

An online meeting was held on 22 October 2025 with all the Member States to reach consensus on a few issues that still needed clarification.

A consultation report carefully documented the proposed amendments to the text and the results of the online discussions. This report also contained the proposed amendments to the text prepared by the BIPM Principal Legal Advisor. Finally, it also includes the detailed responses of the Secretariat of the CIPM SC-G.

The consultation report and the issues discussed online were systematically used as a basis for drafting the final version of the draft text of the RoP of the CGPM.

The purpose and main features of the RoP of the CGPM are described in the following document submitted to the CGPM at its 28th meeting: *Note to introduce the Rules of Procedure of the CGPM (January 2026)*.

The final version of the draft text of the RoP of the CGPM was submitted to Member States at the same time as the convocation of the 28th meeting of the CGPM, on 13 January 2026. The document submitted to the CGPM at its 28th meeting is the following: *Rules of Procedure of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (January 2026)*.

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. The document submitted to the CGPM at its 28th meeting is the following: *Commentary to the Rules of Procedure of the CGPM (January 2026)*.

5. Modernizing the governance

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 Draft Resolution F *“On the adoption of Rules of Procedure of the General Conference on Weights and Measures”* at the 28th meeting of the General Conference.

6. Terminology

In order to fully carry out the mandate entrusted to the CIPM by the CGPM at its 27th meeting concerning the governance of the Organization, the CIPM also recommends the use of the following terminology:

1. Naming

The Metre Convention (and Annexed Regulations) is the constituent instrument of an international organization of universal and scientific character, known as the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, with the acronym BIPM, which may henceforth be referred to as the Organization with its Headquarters in Sèvres.

2. Structure

In accordance with the Metre Convention (and Annexed Regulations), the Organization is constituted by the:

- a. General Conference on Weights and Measures (or, CGPM)
- b. International Committee of Weights and Measures (or, CIPM)
- c. Director (or, Director of the BIPM), and
- d. the staff.

3. Precedence of Governance Instruments

In the governance of the Organization, the following order of precedence will be observed:

- a. the Metre Convention (and Annexed Regulations)
- b. Rules of Procedure of the General Conference
- c. other decisions of the General Conference
- d. Rules of Procedure of the International Committee

- e. regulations and rules adopted by the International Committee
- f. other decisions of the International Committee, and
- g. rules, instructions and directives decided by, or on behalf of, the Director.

7. Conclusion

The Chair of the CIPM SC-G would like to explicitly thank the following people for their efforts and significant contributions to the work on the governance modernization between 2023 and 2026:

- the expert in international public law
- the BIPM Director and her predecessor
- the BIPM Principal Legal Advisor and her predecessor
- the Executive Secretary of the CIPM SC-G
- the members of the CIPM SC-G
- the members of the CIPM
- the Directors of National Metrology Institutes, and
- the representatives of Member States.

The Chair of the CIPM SC-G is convinced that with the adoption of Draft Resolution F “*On the adoption of Rules of Procedure of the General Conference on Weights and Measures*” at the 28th meeting of the General Conference, the Organization will have taken a major step toward modernizing the governance of the Organization in order to improve its transparency, accessibility and efficiency.

The Chair of the CIPM SC-G trusts that the CIPM that will be elected at the 28th meeting of the General Conference in October 2026 will actively pursue the modernization of the Organization’s governance in this spirit.

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