

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
and
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
(CIPM) RELATED TO TRACEABILITY OF MEASUREMENTS IN
LABORATORY MEDICINE

Article I

1. The World Health Organization (WHO), referred hereinafter as "the Organization", and the International Committee for Weights and Measures, referred hereinafter as "the Committee", agree that with a view to facilitating the implementation of their objectives, set respectively in the Constitution of WHO, and in the Metre Convention, they will act in close cooperation with each other and consult each other regularly on matters of common interest.
2. The Committee recognizes the responsibilities of the Organization to standardize diagnostic procedures for health care as necessary as set forth in the Constitution of the Organization {Article 2,t} and in particular that the Organization has the mandate to establish standards with respect to diagnostic procedures for international use {Article 21,c} and with respect to safety, purity and potency of biological, pharmaceutical and similar products moving in international commerce {Article 21,d}.
3. The Organization recognizes the responsibilities of the Committee as set forth in the Metre Convention and in particular those related to ensuring a clear and open worldwide comparability and traceability of measurements in laboratory medicine.
4. Accordingly, the Organization and the Committee will consult and if necessary act together to promote internationally recognized and accepted equivalence of measurements in laboratory medicine and traceability to appropriate measurement standards based, insofar as it is currently feasible, on units traceable to the Système International (SI) - through the procedures of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement for National Measurement Standards drawn up by the Committee and those of the technical recommendations of the Organization, and in certain cases where traceability to the SI is not feasible, coordinating and giving guidance in the establishment of a Reference Measurement System with respect to medical needs where such an international conventional system is applicable.
5. For the purpose of this Memorandum the Committee will be represented by the international Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM).

Article II

Reciprocal representation

1. Representatives of the BIPM shall be invited to attend meetings of the Executive Board of the Organization and the World Health Assembly and to participate without vote in the deliberation of these bodies and, where appropriate of its committees or commissions with respect to item on the agenda in which the Committee has an interest.
2. Representatives of the Organization shall be invited to attend the General Conference of Weights and Measures and to participate without vote in the deliberations of that body with respect to items on the agenda in which the Organization has an interest.
3. Appropriate arrangements shall be made by agreement from time to time for reciprocal representation of the Organization and the Committee at other meetings convened under their respective auspices which consider matters in which the other organization has an interest, notably the Organization will be invited to send a representative to the CIPM Consultative Committee for Amount of Substance, metrology in chemistry.

Article III

Exchange of information and documents

1. Subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for the safeguarding of confidential material, the Secretariat of the Organization and the BIPM shall keep each other full informed concerning all projected activities and all programmes of work that may be of interest to the other party.
2. The Director-General of the Organization and the Director of the International Bureau acting on behalf of the President of the Committee shall, at the request of either party, arrange for consultations regarding the provision by either party of such special information as may be of interest to the other party.

Article IV

Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Organization and the International Bureau of Weights and Measures

The Secretariat of the Organization and the BIPM shall maintain a close working relationship in accordance with such arrangements as may have been agreed from time to time by the Director-General of the Organization and the Director of the BIPM.

Article V

Financing of common actions

In all common actions stemming from this memorandum it is understood that the costs shall be borne where they arise and that there shall be no exchange of funds between the organizations.

Article VI

Implementation of the Memorandum

The Director-General of the Organization and the Director of the BIPM may enter into such arrangements for the implementation of this Memorandum as may be found desirable in the light of the operating experience of the two organizations.

Article VII

Revision and termination

1. This Memorandum shall be subject to revision by agreement between the Organization and the Committee.
2. This Memorandum may be terminated by either party on 31 December of any year by written notice given not later than 30 June of that year.

Article VIII

Entry into force

This Memorandum shall come into force upon its signature by both parties.

Dr A. Asamoah-Baah
Executive Director
Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals
World Health Organization

2 October 2002
Date

Dr T.J. Quinn
Director
International Bureau of Weights
and Measures
for the Committee

22 October 2002
Date