



# Ad hoc Working Group of State Representatives

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November 2022

A decorative graphic on the right side of the slide, consisting of multiple overlapping, concentric arcs in a rainbow color palette (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple). The arcs are arranged in a circular pattern, creating a sense of depth and movement.

27<sup>e</sup> réunion de la  
Conférence générale  
des poids et mesures

# Terms of Reference

1. Examine the roles, responsibilities and relations of the organs set forth under the Metre Convention;
2. In light of the above, clarify how best to distinguish the work done by the organization, in particular the "Technical/Laboratory" and "Secretariat/Administrative" aspects;
3. Consider principles of clarity and transparency;
4. Present appropriate documented input to assist Member States in their preparation for the 27th meeting of the CGPM. Click to add text

(Note – changes to the organisations legal status or amendments to the Convention requiring re-ratification were ruled out of scope)

# Process

Gathering of views from Member State Representatives by e-mail

Sharing documents on web-site

Four On-line discussions

Discussion Paper identifying areas of agreement and divergence

Options to address issues proposed and fundamental difficulties, e.g. national legislation identified.

Outline Resolution and draft Resolution text shared with Representatives

Report submitted to CGPM which summarises the issues, potential solutions and makes recommendations for the way forward

# Main issues

There are two conflicting interpretations of the Metre Convention, relating to naming.

The Convention created an intergovernmental body called the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) with a scientific and permanent headquarters in Sevres.

The Convention gave the BIPM name to the scientific and permanent body whilst the intergovernmental body itself was not named.

Each of these conflicting views is written into domestic legislation of some Member States

Member States and those outside the metrology community commonly use BIPM to refer to both the international organization and the Sevres headquarters

Lack of clarity about what BIPM refers to leads to concern in some Member States that the roles and responsibilities of the 3 organs created by the Convention are unclear.

# Recommendations (amended from our report following correspondence with the CIPM President)

The 27th CGPM should provide the CIPM with a mandate to complete work on the By-laws and Rules of Procedure (RoP), and to continue efforts to agree a nomenclature for the organization and its constituent parts which is acceptable to all Member States, and bring them for approval to the 28<sup>th</sup> CGPM

Pending approval of the By-laws and RoP the following nomenclature should be used (unless legal requirements need an alternative):

“States party to the Metre Convention”, can be abbreviated to “Member States” or “States Parties”

“Associates of the General Conference”, abbreviated as “Associates”

“BIPM-Headquarters (BIPM-H)”, in French “BIPM le siege”, to refer to the scientific and technical staff and facilities at Sevres

“BIPM -Metre Convention Organization”, “BIPM – Convention du Metre”, in French, to refer to the intergovernmental organization created by the Metre Convention

“BIPM” can be used alone in documents, publications, informational materials and internal support documents where no confusion could arise.