



BIPM update to the regular meeting of the WTO TBT Committee, July 2026

June 2026

Introduction

The objective of this report is to provide key annual updates (relevant to the trade community) from the International Bureau of Weights and Measures/Bureau international des poids et mesures (BIPM) to the regular meeting of the WTO TBT Committee scheduled for 7-10 July 2026.

Liaison with the WTO

The BIPM plays a fundamental role in the global scientific and economic framework by ensuring consistent and accurate measurements across countries. Having recently celebrated its 150th anniversary, the BIPM continues to make a significant impact across diverse fields, including science, industry, trade, and everyday life.

The BIPM maintains and develops the International System of Units (SI), which underpins reliable measurements worldwide — essential for fair trade, regulatory compliance, and product quality. The metrological traceability is the backbone that ensures confidence in measurements results. It links measurements at the workplace to the SI or other international accepted references. There are various ways to demonstrate that internationally recognized paths have been followed and the [CIPM MRA](#) being one of the key mechanisms for ensuring traceability to the SI.

The CIPM MRA - *Mutual Recognition Arrangement* adopted by the [International Committee for Weights and Measures \(CIPM\)](#), the BIPM's executive organ, is a critical technical framework for ensuring the reliability, consistency, and acceptance of measurement standards worldwide. It plays an essential role in facilitating international trade by providing a universally recognized mechanism to ensure that measurement results (such as weight, length, volume, and other physical quantities) are consistent across borders. The CIPM MRA supports WTO TBT Agreement, Article 6 (Recognition of Conformity Assessment Procedures). The CIPM MRA has been signed by the national metrology institutes (NMIs) of Member States and Associates, and international organizations invited by the CIPM. As of today, the NMIs from more than 100 countries, representing approximately 98% of the world's GDP (and 85% of world population), participate.

The BIPM and the WTO have been cooperating since 2013 (the BIPM holds *ad hoc* observer status in the WTO TBT Committee) to ensure effective dissemination of information on the importance of quality infrastructure (QI) and in particular metrology as one of its key elements among trade regulators and international/intergovernmental organizations with *ad hoc* observer status in the WTO TBT Committee.

Activities by the BIPM contribute directly to the WTO TBT Agreement's objectives by promoting internationally recognized measurement standards, supporting regulatory alignment, enabling mutual recognition of conformity assessments, and facilitating inclusive participation in international trade, particularly for developing economies.

In the light of the 150th Anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention and the creation of the BIPM, the [thematic session on Technical Assistance – Role of Metrology in facilitating Trade](#) was organized in November 2025 to explore the role of metrology in facilitating trade and supporting the effective implementation of the TBT Agreement. In this context, WTO Members discussed, among others, barriers that hinder participation of developing and least-developed country Members in the international metrology system, and explored practices to overcome such barriers, including showcasing current and upcoming initiatives.

Further information on the links between BIPM and the WTO is available at <https://www.bipm.org/en/liaison-partners/wto-tbt>.

Below are some BIPM activities of potential interest to the WTO TBT Committee.

Ongoing work within the BIPM

[Dr Annette Koo](#) took up her role as Director of the BIPM in January 2026. With a career spanning national and international metrology, Dr Koo brings deep scientific expertise and long-standing experience within the global metrology community.

The General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) is the BIPM's plenary and policy-making body and supreme authority, composed of representatives of Member States. Every four years it meets to make decisions on scientific, institutional and financial matters related to the BIPM and its work. The [28th meeting of the CGPM](#) will be held in October 2026 in Versailles. Important [draft resolutions](#) relating to universal adherence to the Metre Convention, the future definition of the second, digital transformation of the global metrology system, etc. will be discussed by Member States.

As of June 2026, the BIPM has 67 Member States and 35 Associates. We are pleased to welcome Uzbekistan and Albania (formerly Associate States), as well as the Dominican Republic as new Member States, and Nigeria as a new Associate State.

Necessary steps are underway to expand the categories for participation in BIPM activities – the creation of *Observer State* status ([Draft Resolution A on universal adherence to the Metre Convention](#)).

World Metrology Day 2026

Each year on 20 May, World Metrology Day is celebrated to mark the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875, which established the BIPM.

Since 2024 this day has been celebrated as the UNESCO International Day. Following a landmark year celebrating 150 years of the Metre Convention and the creation of the BIPM, World Metrology Day 2026 invites us to look forward. This year's theme, ***Metrology: building trust in policy making***, speaks directly to the relationship between science, governance and public confidence, and to the quiet work that enables decisions to be made with assurance.

The metrology community celebrated this year's World Metrology Day together with UNESCO as a [webinar](#) on 20 May. More than 400 participants attended the webinar. The webinar had a panel discussion on *metrology and regulation, and how regulation can constrain or accelerate AI processes*.

The World Metrology Day poster was designed in association with the national metrology institute of Singapore, to support communication and outreach activities ahead of 20 May. The poster is available at the BIPM and OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology) website <https://www.worldmetrologyday.org/> which is designed to provide the metrology community with communication resources to help them promote World Metrology Day around the globe.

Digital transformation of metrology

The BIPM is reinforcing its role as the digital anchor of trust for the metrological community, leading the digital transformation of metrology in a symbiotic fashion: Metrology benefits from digitalizing established metrological workflows, while the worldwide digital transformation improves in trustworthiness and transparency by applying metrological principles to the data and processes.

The BIPM is one of the ten signatories of the [Joint Statement of Intent on the digital transformation in international scientific and quality infrastructure](#), reassuring its commitment to developing and promoting a fully digital ecosystem for measurement information at the service of humankind: The SI Digital Framework.

The BIPM has surveyed its stakeholders to assess their status of digital transformation and their level of interaction with the emerging BIPM digital services. A report is being elaborated, and its conclusions will help reshape the BIPM strategy in this area.

The governing body of the BIPM, the CIPM, has established the Forum on Metrology and Digitalization as an organizational structure focused on the broader implications of global digital transformation for QI and metrology. Six keynote presentations from the third [Forum on Metrology and Digitalization \(FORUM-MD\)](#), held at the BIPM in Sèvres, France in March 2026, are now available on [the BIPM's official YouTube channel](#).

Capacity building and knowledge transfer activities

The BIPM Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer ([CBKT](#)) Programme aims to increase the effectiveness with which Member States and Associates engage in the world-wide coordinated metrological system. The programme has a highly appreciated portfolio that continues to expand.

The CBKT initiatives are delivered through various activities such as workshops, laboratory placements and remote-learning activities, including the [BIPM e-learning platform](#), which also hosts knowledge transfer material from the regional metrology organizations.

The CBKT Programme and the Countries and Economies with Emerging Metrology Systems (CEEMS) initiative of the OIML organized a follow-up seminar for the Asia-Pacific region in November 2025 and for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region in April 2026 focused on the joint BIPM–OIML publication: *National Metrology Systems Developing the institutional and legislative framework* (OIML D 1:2020), which outlines the development of national metrology systems. The seminar facilitated the exchange of national experiences and challenges, promoted a shared regional understanding of effective implementation.

The CBKT Programme supported the participation of young metrologists in various technical training activities organized at the BIPM headquarters and at partner national metrology institutes, enabling them to gain in-depth knowledge and experience through research activities.