

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between



The International Bureau of Weights and Measures

Pavillon de Breteuil
F-92312 Sèvres Cedex
France
hereinafter referred to as the “BIPM”

represented by

Martin Milton
Director of the BIPM

and



The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

7, place Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France
hereinafter referred to as “UNESCO”

represented by

Lidia Brito
Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences

UNESCO and the BIPM together hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”.

The present Memorandum of Understanding, hereafter referred to as the “Memorandum”, is entered between the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (“UNESCO”) and the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (“BIPM”), hereinafter referred to individually as the “Party” and jointly as the “Parties”.

- Whereas** UNESCO is seeking to mobilize partners from the scientific community for the achievement of its strategic goals and programme priorities;
- Whereas** UNESCO grants a high priority to capacity building in basic sciences and engineering and aims to increase the participation of women in basic sciences and engineering;
- Whereas** the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) is an intergovernmental organization, established by the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875, through which Member States act together on matters related to measurement science and measurement standards (i.e. metrology);
- Whereas** the BIPM is actively engaged in promoting the global comparability of measurements for scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, improving the quality of life and sustaining the global environment;
- Whereas** the BIPM actively works to support the capacity building of developing countries and aims to increase their participation in the global measurement system;
- Whereas** UNESCO and the International Committee for Weights and Measures (“CIPM”), the BIPM’s non-plenary and executive body, signed an Agreement on 27 June 1949, regarding scientific cooperation and exchange of information;
- Whereas** the General Conference of UNESCO, at its 42nd Session in November 2023 ([42 C/Resolution 21](#)), proclaimed “20 May of every year World Metrology Day”, emphasizing metrology’s value for quality of life and environmental preservation;
- Whereas** UNESCO and the BIPM believe that greater global awareness and understanding of the role of accurate measurements in modern life are vital to addressing challenges in areas such as sustainable development, technology, research, innovation, engineering, energy and community health;
- Whereas** UNESCO and the BIPM have expressed interest in increasing cooperation to ensure effective dissemination of information on the importance of the quality infrastructure and metrology, a mission in harmony with UNESCO’s goal of building a better world through science and education;
- Whereas** the BIPM supports the objectives of UNESCO as stipulated in its Constitution and intends to contribute to UNESCO’s priorities, provided they are not contrary to the BIPM’s own mandate or interests;
- Whereas** the Parties wish to update the aforementioned agreement of 27 June 1949 to reflect the current strategic interests of the Parties and their shared priorities, as well as foster the development of more effective cooperation between the Parties for the benefit of their Member States.

Now therefore, the Parties hereby agree to enter into this Memorandum as follows:

Article 1 – Purpose

The objective of the Memorandum is to provide a framework for cooperation between the Parties. Subject to the availability of resources, the Parties agree to carry out common projects or activities, to contribute to, inter alia, advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the field of education, the sciences, and communication and information to achieve their common strategic objectives. To that end, the Parties shall give priority to UNESCO's global priorities on Africa and Gender Equality, and priority groups Youth and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Article 2 – Areas of Cooperation

- 2.1 Without prejudice to the objectives as set by the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM), the BIPM's plenary body and the CIPM, the BIPM's non-plenary and executive body, respectively, the Parties seek to collaborate with each other for the purposes of promoting and supporting mutually beneficial activities with a particular focus on promoting gender equality and increasing youth engagement.
- 2.2 The Parties commit to explore areas of cooperation in line with their respective mandates that could also fall within the rationale and scope of the present Memorandum of Understanding.
- 2.3 The Parties shall agree to develop and implement an operational roadmap aligned with shared strategic priorities. This roadmap will cover a four-year period and may be renewed as necessary.

Article 3 – Implementation

The implementation of any specific activity, programme, or project under this Memorandum of Understanding, including their financing, shall be subject to a written agreement between the Parties, in accordance with their respective rules, regulations, policies and procedures, which will define the responsibilities, rights and obligations of the Parties.

Article 4 – Modalities of cooperation

- 4.1 UNESCO and the BIPM shall regularly consult each other on matters of common interest.
- 4.2 Subject to any arrangements that may be necessary to safeguard the confidential nature of certain documents, UNESCO and the BIPM will exchange information and documents on all matters of common interest.
- 4.3 Each Party can invite the other Party to participate as observer in sessions of governing bodies, in conferences and meetings it organizes on matters of common interests, in accordance with their respective rules and regulations.
- 4.4 Where appropriate, the Parties will jointly elaborate written arrangements for reciprocal representation at any other meetings convened under their respective auspices which consider matters in which one of the Parties has an interest.

Article 5 – Consultation/coordination Mechanism

UNESCO and the BIPM will hold consultations on an annual basis, in various forms, in order to continue the dialogue on strategic orientations, to take stock of their collaboration and to determine the framework of cooperation for the coming year.

Article 6 – Communication and Media activities

- 6.1. Unless authorized in writing by UNESCO, the BIPM shall not use the name, acronym or official logo of UNESCO, or any abbreviation of the name of UNESCO, for advertising or any other purposes.
- 6.2. Unless authorized in writing by the BIPM, UNESCO shall not use the name, acronym or official logo of the BIPM, or any abbreviation of the name of the BIPM, for advertising or any other purposes.

Article 7 – Settlement of Disputes

All disputes arising out of or in connection with the present Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled by mutual understanding. However, if no amicable settlement can be attained, any dispute shall be arbitrated according to the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) Arbitration Rules.

Article 8 – Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in or relating to the present Memorandum shall be deemed a waiver of any of the privileges and immunities of either Party.

Article 9 – Date of Effect, Duration, Amendment and Termination

- 9.1 This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into effect upon its signature by both Parties.
- 9.2 This Memorandum of Understanding comprises the complete understanding of the Parties in respect to the subject matter mentioned above and shall supersede and replace all prior agreements and understandings, oral or written, between the BIPM and UNESCO regarding scientific cooperation and exchange of information, including the Agreement signed in 1949, between UNESCO and the CIPM, the BIPM's non-plenary and executive body.
- 9.3 This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual written agreement between the Parties in accordance with their respective rules, regulations and procedures.
- 9.4 Any Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by sending notice in writing to the other Party, at least two (2) months prior to the proposed termination date.

Article 10 – Notification

10.1 The addresses for service of notices under the present Memorandum of Understanding shall be:

For UNESCO:

Name: Lidia Brito
Title: Assistant Director-General
for Natural Sciences

Address: 7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

Tel : +2638677008355
Fax: +33145671690

For the BIPM:

Name: Martin Milton
Title: Director of the BIPM

Address: Pavillon de Breteuil
F-92312 Sèvres Cedex
France

Tel: +33145077070
Fax: +33145077099

10.2 Each Party shall inform the other Party immediately of any modification of the above information.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by the respective Parties, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding in two (2) original copies in English on 15 December 2025.

**ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU
OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

**ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

Martin Milton
Director of the BIPM

Lidia Brito
Assistant Director-General for Natural
Sciences