CGPM attendance policy

Background

- The CGPM is the supreme plenary organ of the BIPM at which the Member States take all decisions necessary to define the mission and operation of the BIPM.
- As such, it is the forum of the Member States and only they have any right of audience.
- Since the creation of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), the number of its Member States has grown from 17 to 49. In 1999, the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) created the status of Associate of the CGPM, with the right to attend CGPM meetings. There are now 42 Associates.
- CGPM meetings are also the appropriate occasion to convene and listen to invited guests who are technical or institutional partners of the BIPM, such as other intergovernmental organizations or international bodies.

Following the 24th CGPM meeting in 2011, informal feedback was given to the BIPM by representatives from several Member States on the policy in place for allowing attendance at the CGPM. In particular, concern was expressed on retirees attending the meeting and whether it was justified for a large number of BIPM staff members to be present. In view of this feedback, and in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of CGPM meetings, the CIPM has agreed a policy for attendance.

Policy

1. CGPM meetings are, *de jure*, attended only by:
   a. The President of the *Académie des sciences* (or his representative),
   b. Duly accredited delegates of Member States,
   c. Members of the CIPM,
   d. The BIPM Director;
   e. Duly accredited delegates of Associate States and economies.
2. Guests (for example those representing other International Organizations) are invited in advance by the President of the CIPM (or the BIPM Director on his behalf);
3. A limited number of BIPM staff members are required to organize and support the meeting. The names of these individuals are defined by the BIPM Director.

For all legal entities and individuals not covered above, invitations to the CGPM meeting as guest can be made by the CIPM (or the BIPM Director on their behalf) only. In such cases, the CIPM decides on the right to take the floor. Representatives of the press (TV, radio, newspapers, etc.) are not permitted at the closed sessions of the CGPM.

Open session at the 26th meeting of the CGPM

Recognizing the exceptional nature of the decision relating to the revision of the SI, an “Open Session” will be held at the 26th meeting of the CGPM. The open session is part of the meeting, therefore all participants in the closed sessions (as listed above) are entitled to attend.

Additionally, tickets will be available (on request from the BIPM) for the following to attend the Open Session:

- Accredited members of the press (TV, radio, newspapers, etc.).
- Individuals nominated by representatives of the Member States or Embassies in Paris.
- Employees of the NMIs duly nominated by their management.
- Guests invited by the CIPM.
- Members of the BIPM staff (duly nominated by the BIPM Director).
- Other interested persons.

*Note: delegates of the CGPM who already have credentials for the Conference do not need to register for the Open Session.*

Document approved by the CIPM at its 107th meeting (June 2018)