Status on the By-Laws of the BIPM and the Rules of Procedure of the CGPM

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By-Laws of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures

The international organization established, 20 May 1875.

Adopted [Date], by the General Conference on Weights and Measures

Preamble

- These By-Laws are adopted under the authority of, and are intended to be complementary to, the Metre Convention and Annexed Regulations, signed on 20 May 1875 and amended on 6 October 1921 (authoritatively, Convention pour assurer l'unification internationale et le perfectionnement du système métrique, signie à Parit); hereafter, the Metre Convention.
- 2. The Metre Convention constitutes the international and impactial basis to secure the global comparability of measurements in furtherance of scientific discovery and innovation, peaceable economic development and commerce, and global environmental sustainability.

Chapter 1, Characterisation and Location

Article 1, Characterisation

 The Metre Convention is the constituent instrument of an international organization of universal and scientific character, called the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (hereafter, the Organization); with the acronym, BIPM.

Article 2, Location

 The headquarters of the Organization shall be the Pavillon de Breteuil in Sevres, France; referred to as, BIPM Headquarters.

Chapter 2, Purpose

Article 3, Purpose

The Mandate

 The 27th CGPM gave the CIPM the mandate to prepare By-Laws for the organization and during this process to consult widely with the Member States.

◆ The CIPM created the CIPM Sub-Committee on Governance (CIPM SC-G) and gave him the mandate to prepare the relevant draft documents

(By-Laws, Rules of Procedure of the CGPM and explanatory documents)

The Objectives

- Modernize the Organization and put established practice on paper (without amending the Metre Convention)
- Clarify imprecisions in the description of certain organizational elements and roles
- Clarify the conduct of the CGPM and the voting process
- Reach consensus at the 28th CGPM in 2026 (and conclude the recurring discussions on these subjects)

The Principles for a Modern Governance

Transparency and Accountability







Efficiency



Clarity and Fairness



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The Urgency



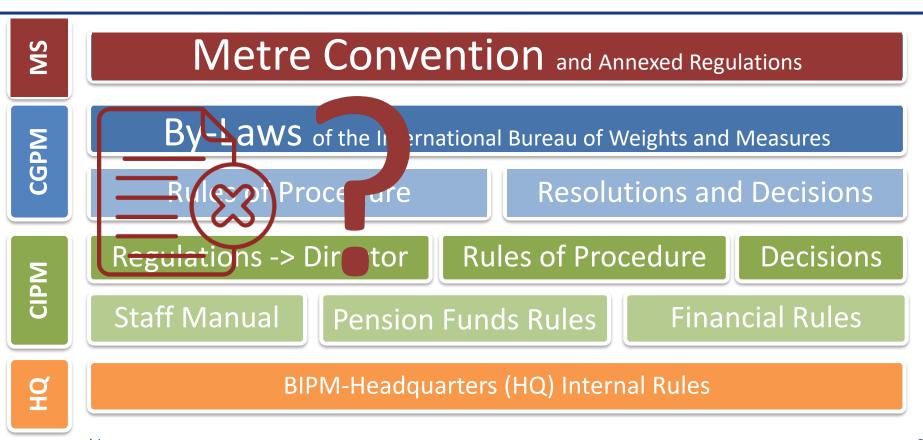
- ◆ The ILO Tribunal found the election process of the CIPM Members irregular...
 - Redefine the election process of the CIPM Members
- Conclude recurring discussions and concentrate our efforts on strategy and future needs...
 - Clarify the name of the organs of the organization and the name of the organization itself
- The recruitment of the next Director has started...
 - Define the roles and responsibilities of the different organs and key functions

Urgency/Challenges



- Formal communication via embassies has shown its weaknesses...
- Member State delegations are only formally set up during CGPM meetings...
 - Establish a **communication channel** with the Member States Representatives between CGPMs (planned in the RoP of the CGPM)

The Appropriate Instruments (under development)



The Appropriate Instruments (under development)

Metre Convention and Annexed Regulations MS By-Laws of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures **Resolutions and Decisions** Rules of Procedure Regulations -> Director Rules of Procedure **Decisions** Staff Manual Financial Rules Pension Funds Rules BIPM-Headquarters (HQ) Internal Rules

By-Laws of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures

- International Organization and Location
- Purpose
- Membership and Finances
- Structure
- General Conference on Weights and Measures
- International Committee of Weights and Measures
- Director and Staff
- Legal Status
- Governance



Rules of Procedure of the General Conference of Weights and Measures

- Meetings
- Agenda and Documents
- Attendance and Credentials
- Chairing and Secretariat
- Languages and Records
- Proceedings, Quorum and Voting
- Renewal of the International Committee
- Amendment and Entry into Force



Attributions of the Director (Regulation)

- General framework
- Tasks and responsibilities
- Signature competence for daily business of the HQ
- Signature competence in the name of the CIPM



Three interdependent documents

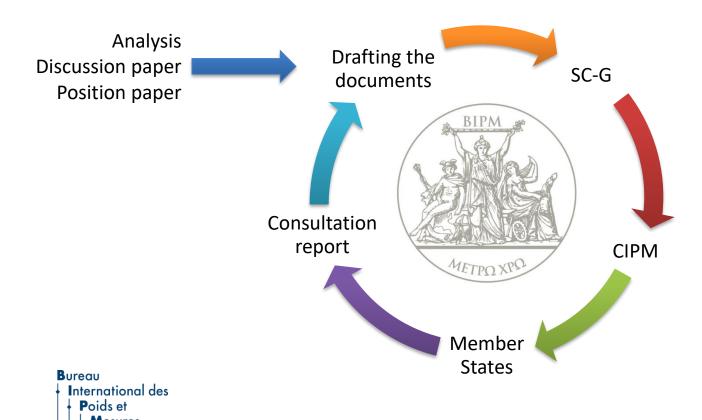






- ◆ By-Laws of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures
- Rules of Procedure of the General Conference of Weights and Measures
- ◆ **Regulation** governing the **attributions** of the Director
- Because of their strong interdependance they have to be read and considered together.
- These three documents must form a coherent whole.

The Process (up to now)



The Consultation, Management Summary 1/3

- ◆ The hard work carried out by the CIPM SC-G and the CIPM as well as the high quality of the draft By-Laws is acknowledged
- Consultation response rate: 25 % (16/64 Member States)

- ◆ 75 % in favour
- **◆ 25 % with significant reservations**



Some difficulties in transmitting information between embassies and ministries

The Consultation, Management Summary 2/3





No objections on the **naming** proposals



No comments on the CIPM election procedure

The Consultation, Management Summary 3/3

Main reservations

- Can the proposed By-Laws be adopted by the CGPM without a formal ratification (amendment of the Metre Convention)?
 - Who is the legal representative of the Organization?
 - What could be set aside in favor of a consensus, without losing too much substance?
- What is the legal effect of the By-Laws?

The Next Steps 1/2

- The external legal expert will address the main reservations in a short note
- The overview of the first consultation and the short note will be discussed at the CIPM SC-G
- The CIPM will review the documents and define the next steps

The Next Steps 2/2 (to be further defined by the CIPM)

- Bilateral exchange with the authors of the significant reservations
- After reaching sufficient agreement: 2nd version of draft By-Laws
- First draft Rules of Procedure of the CGPM (preliminary draft)
- First draft Regulation governing the attributions of the Director
- Next consultation of the Member States (in 2025)
 - Draft documents on the BIPM website, link to the embassies and copy to the Member States representatives and to the NMI directors.
 - A single coordinated reply per Member State.

These three documents must form a coherent whole

Metre Convention and Annexed Regulations MS By-Laws of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures **Resolutions and Decisions** Rules of Procedure Regulations -> Director Rules of Procedure **Decisions** Staff Manual Financial Rules Pension Funds Rules BIPM-Headquarters (HQ) Internal Rules

Thank you

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Please contact me directly for questions or inputs Philippe.Richard@metas.ch

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