

On a Proposal for a Revised Structure of Working Groups within the CCT

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Introduction

The request from a number of NMIs to reduce the number of working groups and participants for reasons of costs and effectiveness was highlighted in the CCT September 2013 news.

Over the years, the number of working groups of consultative committees has increased. In the case of the CCT, 25 delegates and 18 experts were nominated to attend the CCT meeting in 2012. An additional 50 persons, not participating in the CCT meetings, are members in one or several of the 12 existing working groups (WGs) and task groups (TGs). In total, the CCT WGs and TGs involve almost 200 memberships.

The positive side with the present working groups is of course the possibility for the members to internationally interact with colleagues within the same specialty in order to reach a common goal by shared efforts. The group of thermometrists is a sparse and geographically-dispersed community, so the networking that comes with membership in WGs is of great benefit to the individuals involved and to thermal metrology at large. There is also an important part of technical transfer taking place within the groups: a discipline-based structure supports this sharing of information amongst experts and newcomers alike.

A working group is associated with a clear objective, regular meetings, and an effort by all members to reach that goal within a certain time limit. Being a member of a working group, or being a delegate or expert within the CCT, is a commitment which represents time and effort. Working groups with many members does not necessarily produce a better result than a more restricted group. Still, as mentioned above, the networking is an excellent mean to share knowledge.

A revision of the CCT structure is a natural follow up of the strategic planning and the CCT may demonstrate that it has reflected on its way to function. Several members of the CCT have been consulted and several scenarii have been considered. With the aim to maintain the essential benefits achieved by having working groups, but adding a frame to emphasize more objective oriented activities, a proposal for a new structure is presented below.

The scenario of 1 June 2014 reduces the number of WGs from 10 to 6. The number of TGs will be 6 at a start, expected decrease by 2017.

This scenario will allow a smooth transition. It is planned that the present working groups and task groups meet on 19 and 20 May 2014 in their old form to prepare for the a configuration without any major disruption. A meeting within the frame of the WGS is also planned on 19 May 2014, to which all WG Chairpersons are invited, as well as the TC-T Chairpersons, to discuss the future configuration.

Proposal for a Revised Structure of Working Groups within the CCT

The rules and definitions in this document are complementary to the “Rules of procedure for ... CC Working Groups ...”, as stated in CIPM D-01 v1.4.

I. Definitions

a) Working Group

- is established for continuous tasks required by the CCT, or
- covers a mature field with a demonstrated long-term basis but with an objective-oriented activity.

Meet on a regular basis.

Established terms of reference and membership criteria.

Coordinated by a designated Chairperson.

Working Groups are approved by the CIPM.

b) Task Group

- Is established for an interest group with one or several objectives limited in time and/or by achievement. It is dissolved when the time limit or achievement has been reached.

Meet on a regular basis.

Established terms of reference and membership criteria.

Coordinated by a designated Chairperson.

Task Groups are to be approved by the CCT.

c) Forum

- Is established when there is an interest for a broader exchange, or when a specified objective limited in time and/or by achievement is not applicable. It allows for a coordinated discussion via the BIPM forum or a future document sharing system with a moderator of the group, where documents may be posted. It may e.g. work on a common project towards a new TG, or create a common space for a KC. When a WG or TG wishes to reach a broader audience, a Forum may be created to avoid an expansion of the WG or TG for such reason.

Fora may meet but are not engaged nor encouraged to do so on a regular basis.

Terms of reference but less restricted membership criteria.

Coordinated by a moderator who also approves membership according to set rules.

II. Rules for CCT, WG and TG membership

Recrutement of WG or TG members

- Before recruiting a new WG or TG member, the proposal and motivation should be communicated to the CCT President.
- When recruiting new members of WGs and TGs representing a NMI/DI, a specific invitation addressed to the Director of the NMI/DI should be made by the WG/TG Chairperson via the CCT Executive Secretary, specifying the motivation and terms of reference.
- The WG or TG Chairperson is responsible to maintain a concentrated core competence and resource.

Membership engagements

- Members of the CCT, WGs and TGs should contribute actively to the work.
- Members of the CCT, WGs and TGs should respect time limits. If a time limit seems too short, the CCT president and the CCT Executive Secretary should be informed.
- Members of the CCT, WGs and TGs should contribute to maintain a high quality of communication.
- Within regular intervals the CCT President will communicate with each WG and TG chairperson to consider the present WG and TG memberships.
- The CCT President and the WG and TG chairpersons may encourage a member to contribute more actively to the work if needed.
- If a member institute no longer fulfils the CCT member engagements, a request from the CCT may be addressed to the CIPM to withdraw that membership of the CCT, or to transform it to observer status.
- If a member institute no longer fulfils the WG or TG member engagements, a request from the WG or TG may be addressed to the CCT to withdraw that membership.
- In WGs and TGs, membership by all RMOs is encouraged.
- The WG and TG chairpersons will re-affirm the members on the CCT meeting.

III. Revised structure of CCT Working Groups and Task Group

Present group	1 June 2014	Comments
WG1	TG-SupplInfo	Becomes “Task Group on Supplementary Information for the ITS-90”. To complete the first revision.
TG-MeP		Dissolved. The provisional MeP has been completed. May be regenerated before the CGPM expected 2018
WG2	TG-TechAppr	Becomes “Task Group on Techniques for Approximating the ITS-90”. To complete the first revision.
WG3	TG-Un	Becomes “Task Group on Uncertainties”. To revise the 2008 document and to publish it. Membership to be reviewed.
WG4	WG-CTh	Becomes “Working Group on Contact Thermometry”. Covering all temperature activity except for radiation thermometry. Membership to be reviewed.
WG5	WG-NCTh	Becomes “Working Group on Non-Contact Thermometry”. Membership to be reviewed and decreased number if possible.
TG-FR-Uncert		Dissolved. (This working group on radiation uncertainties have accomplished its mission end of May 2014.)
WG6	WG-Hu	Becomes “Working Group on Humidity”. Membership to be reviewed and decreased number if possible.
WG7	WG-KC	Becomes “Working Group on Key Comparisons”. Membership to be reviewed and increased number of active members if possible. TC Chairs to be invited to WG meetings. ¹
WG8	WG-RMO	Becomes “Working Group on RMOs”. Members: RMO TC Chairs.
WG9	TG-ThP	Becomes “Task Group on Thermodynamic Properties”. To edit a document on uncertainty.
WGS	WG-SP	Becomes “Working Group on Strategic Planning”. Membership to be reviewed. TC Chairs to be invited to WG meetings. ¹
TG-SI	TG-SI	Maintained. To coordinate the contributions to fix the Boltzmann constant.
	TG-TCI	“Task Group on Thermometry linked to Climate Issues”. Proposal for new group to be formed to focus on climate issues and to strengthen the CCT interaction with other international bodies.

¹ CIPM *ad hoc* WG recommendation.