

## The Consultative Committees

The CIPM has set up a number of Consultative Committees that bring together the world's experts in their specified fields as advisers on scientific and technical matters. Among the tasks of these Committees are

- the detailed consideration of advances in science and technology, or in user needs that directly influence metrology;
- the preparation of Recommendations for discussion at the CIPM;
- the identification, planning and execution of key comparisons of national measurement standards according to the procedures laid down in the CIPM Mutual Recognition Arrangement for national measurement standards;
- the provision of advice to the CIPM on the scientific work in the laboratories of the BIPM;
- where appropriate, the coordination of NMI activities in areas where international collaboration is desirable;
- the organisation of specialized workshops or other means of review or discussion of topics of importance to the NMI community; and
- the consideration of other matters that may be referred to them by the CIPM.

The Committees normally meet on an annual, biennial or triennial basis depending upon the needs of the subject. The President of each Committee is designated by, and is normally a member of, the CIPM. Each Consultative Committee has an Executive Secretary who is a senior member of the staff of the BIPM. At present there are ten Consultative Committees.

The members of the Committees are institutes appointed by the CIPM from among the national metrology institutes and other specialized institutes or organizations having appropriate expertise and wishing to participate in the work of the Committee. Member institutes are entitled to send one delegate plus one or two advisers to meetings of the Committees. In addition, individuals of high standing are occasionally appointed members of Consultative Committees by the CIPM.

Consultative Committees may establish Working Groups to deal with detailed technical and scientific matters that are then reported to the full Committee.

## Criteria for membership of a Consultative Committee

Membership of a Consultative Committee is open to institutions of Member States of the Metre Convention that are recognized internationally as most expert in the field and fulfil the following criteria, that they:

- be national metrology institutes or designated institutes charged with establishing national measurement standards in the field;
- be active in research and have a record of publications in research journals of international repute;
- have demonstrated competence by a record of participation in international comparisons organized either by the Consultative Committee, the BIPM or a Regional Metrology Organization.

In addition to institutional members, Consultative Committees may include as members:

- named individuals whose knowledge and competence in the field are such that they can provide valuable assistance to the Consultative Committee even though they do not come from a laboratory meeting the requirements for membership;
- international unions or other international organizations whose advice or expertise would be helpful to the Consultative Committee.

The CIPM also appoints as Observers to Consultative Committees those institutes that wish to participate in the work of the Committee but do not yet fully meet the above criteria for Membership.

In general, the national metrology institute of each Member State of the Convention du Mètre wishing to participate can expect to be a Member or an Observer of at least one Consultative Committee.

Applications with appropriate documentation concerning criteria for Membership or Observer status should be sent to the Director of the BIPM or to the President of the Consultative Committee. The CIPM examines applications for membership of Consultative Committees each year at its meeting in October. For consideration by the CIPM in a given year, applications should arrive at the BIPM by 1 September of that year.

The President of a Consultative Committee can invite an institute or an individual who is neither a Member nor Observer member to take part in a particular meeting of the Committee if the need arises.

The lists of Members of Consultative Committees are reviewed every four years by the CIPM in the year following a General Conference.