

Report of the 42nd Meeting of the JCRB

Held on 8 – 10 September 2020

Online

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Participants

BIPM / CIPM

Dr Martin Milton
Dr Sten Bergstrand
Dr James Olthoff
Dr Susanne Picard (KCDB matters)
Mr Chingis Kuanbayev (observer)

AFRIMETS

Dr Wynand Louw
Prof. Mohamed Amer
Dr Noha Khaled
Dr Zakithi Msimang
Mr Abdellah Ziti
Mrs Lerato Ntamatamala (observer)

APMP

Mr Xiang Fang
Mrs Juan Cai
Dr Victoria Coleman
Prof. Dr Chu-Shik Kang
Dr Ping Yang
Dr Jinyuan Li (observer)

COOMET

Prof. Pavel Neyezhnikov (Dr Valery Hurevich excused)
Dr Anna Chunovkina
Dr Sergei Golubev
Ms Nino Mikanadze

EURAMET

Mr Hans Arne Frøystein
Dr Miruna Dobre
Dr Kai Stoll-Malke
Dr Julien Vuillemin-Toledo

GULFMET

Mr Saleh Al Rumaihi
Dr Majed Al Harthy
Mrs Asma Al Hosani
Prof. Amina Albastaki Zainal
Mr Omar Kanakrieh

SIM

Dr José Salvador Echeverría-Villagómez
Ms Sally Bruce
Ms Georgette Macdonald
Mrs Claudia Santo
Dr Claire M. Saundry
Dr Lisa Karam (observer)

The meeting was conducted in a series of daily 2-hour online sessions, held between 11.00 and 13.00 (UTC) to minimize difficulty for participants and to provide the best possible conditions for a meeting with global attendance. To promote meeting efficiency reports were taken “as read” by delegates before the meeting, and presentations were consequently brief in the form of comments to the reports.

Session 1, Tuesday 8 September

1. Welcome by the Chairman and approval of the agenda

The JCRB Chairperson, Dr Milton opened the meeting and the JCRB representatives introduced their delegations. The COOMET representative to the JCRB, Dr Hurevich was excused on short notice (the right to vote for COOMET was delegated to Dr Neyezhnikov and confirmed by correspondence).

2. Approval of the minutes of the 41st meeting of the JCRB

Dr Milton recalled the exchange of different versions of the 41st meeting minutes and the final agreement to accept the original version. Dr Louw noticed a misspelling of the acronym for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The minutes, amending the correction, were unanimously approved.

[The report of the 41st JCRB meeting is available on the unrestricted BIPM website <https://www.bipm.org/en/committees/jc/jcrb/publications-cc.html>]

3. Recall of decisions taken by correspondence

Dr Milton recalled decisions 42/1, 42/2 and 42/3 which had been agreed by correspondence since the 41st meeting and would be included as part of the record of the 42nd Meeting.

[Related [Resolution 42/1](#), [Resolution 42/2](#), [Resolution 42/3](#)]

4. Review of pending actions

In the meeting call, **Action 41/1** concerning an *Ad hoc* Task Group to review CIPM MRA-G-02 was recorded as still being open. Ms Macdonald requested to address the item further under **Item 10**, which was accepted.

Action 41/2 concerning APMP guidelines for the use of Hybrid Comparison as “Other available knowledge and experience” to support CMCs was closed prior to the planned March 2020 meeting and accepted without comments.

[The outcomes of the 41st JCRB meeting are available on the unrestricted BIPM website <https://www.bipm.org/jsp/en/JCRBOutcomes.jsp> and the APMP Guideline for using Hybrid Comparison as CMC Evidence on <http://apmpweb.org/documents/hybrid.php>]

5. Comments on the report from the CIPM

Dr Olthoff presented the report from the CIPM. He highlighted an MoU signed by the CIPM President with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and that another

MoU with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) is under approval at the CIPM.

The five topics of high priority to the international measurement world identified in the CIPM Strategic Plan are:

1. Responding to Evolving needs for Metrology
2. Addressing Key Scientific Challenges
3. Strategy for deepening engagement with other IOs
4. Reviewing the strategy for future membership of the Organization
5. Modernizing the Operations of the Organization

A modification of CIPM D-01 (ver 3.1) to accept on-line CCs, CC-WGs and CC-WSs was approved on 7 August. The next CIPM meeting will take place on line, in October.

[The corresponding CIPM report is available on the restricted-access JCRB working documents webpage as [JCRB-42/e05](#)]

6. Comments on the report on BIPM progress since the 41st JCRB meeting

Dr Milton briefly commented on the BIPM progress report, which was received without further questions.

[The corresponding BIPM presentation is available on the restricted-access JCRB working documents webpage as [JCRB-42/e06](#)]

7. Comments on the KCDB report

Dr Picard commented on the KCDB report.

Mrs Santo noticed that several comparisons were older than five years. Dr Picard informed that the new KCDB has a push-note utility that notifies pilots every six months to update the status of their comparisons. All RMOs agreed to work towards an updated list at the next meeting of the JCRB, and an action to monitor the status of old comparisons was to be drafted by the BIPM for the following day.

[Related [Action 42/1](#)]

8. Comments on the status of CMC submissions and review

Dr Bergstrand showed the status of the old JCRB CMC review website. In it, twelve sets were in the review stage out of which eleven from 2019. In June, the publication backlog due to the transition from the JCRB to the KCDB platform was removed. The CMC sets now waiting to be published are large EM and QM sets that normally are the most time consuming for the KCDB Office.

Dr Bergstrand also gave an overview of the transition in reporting on CMC sets to individual CMCs, as they will be reported from the KCDB from now on. Ms Mikanadze asked if the counts of “Loss of rights to review CMCs” included those where the reply to “Accept to review” was negative. It was clarified that a negative reply delivered in time to this question is not part of the record.

[Related [Resolution 42/5](#) was formulated later, but is mentioned here for the consistency of the minutes.]

9. Status of the KCDB 2.0

Dr Picard made a short recollection of the new KCDB website that went live 29th October 2019. The platform has been well received by the community and the JCRB was informed that EURAMET TC-L has made a full transition and converted all CMCs from numerical to quantity equations. Dr Vuillemin-Toledo asked for access to the KCDB presentation (which was provided following the session).

[The corresponding presentation is available on the restricted-access JCRB working documents webpage as [JCRB-42/e09](#)]

Before closing the first day's session, Dr Milton told the participants of the actions being developed by the CIPM Task Group on the "Digital SI". He said that the BIPM was looking at ways to provide machine readable access to the CMC search function of KCDB 2.0. He emphasised that this would only provide access to data that is already openly available from the KCDB.

He asked the RMOs if they could propose any volunteers to form an informal "user group" for these activities concerning machine readable access to the KCDB.

Session 2, Wednesday 9 September

10. Report from the CIPM MRA G-02 *Ad hoc* Task Group

After some discussion between present members of the Ad Hoc Task Group initiated in **Action 41/1**, the RMOs agreed to expand the scope of the Group and to allow its membership to include up to two members per RMO. Dr Louw recalled that to be incorporated in an update of the CIPM MRA-G-12 document which is foreseen to be in place prior to the next JCRB meeting, the proposal needs to be available more than the ordinary four weeks before the next meeting. The TG convenor Ms Macdonald agreed to draft a resolution for the next day's meeting.

[Related [Action 42/2](#)]

11. Comments on the RMO reports to the JCRB including status of RMO Quality Management Systems

11.1. AFRIMETS

In connection to the AFRIMETS report, Dr Louw expressed appreciation for the KCDB 2.0 platform, and the online courses given in connection to the introduction. Dr Noha informed that the annual QS meeting was cancelled in a response to Covid-19 measures. All AFRIMETS members have approved transition to ISO/IEC 17025:2017. Dr Stoll-Malke noticed that the latest date November 2019 data in the report being prior to Covid-19 measures being taken, Dr Louw explained that the November visit had been delayed and

that reviewers were in the process of leaving for the review when travel restrictions were inflicted.

11.2. APMP

Dr Yang informed that the NMIA transition to ISO 17034:2016 was delayed and that the affected CMCs were consequently greyed out.

Several RMOs expressed interest in the APMP Focus group initiative and Mrs Cai agreed to share a URL to be included in the minutes.

[APMP Focus Group is available at the top level of the <http://apmpweb.org> website]

11.3. COOMET

Prof. Neyezhnikov introduced the COOMET report. He mentioned the KCDB online course in May as a successful and effective knowledge transfer to an extraordinary number of users that provided detailed insight to the operation of the CMC review process to more than 130 participants.

Ms Mikanadze, Vice-president of COOMET has recently been appointed Quality Forum chair, and Ms Mikanadze informed that the 17025 transition will be presented on-line by all COOMET participants in a response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mrs Santos asked about a calibration interval item seminar in the report. Dr Golubev clarified that this was related to verification in legal metrology, which remains a COOMET responsibility since the days of the Soviet Union.

Dr Kang asked for details of the COOMET QF/QTC differences. As an overview, the QF is about sharing experiences and without restrictions on participation whereas the QTC handles the technical evaluation and is restricted to one representative per country.

Dr Vuillemin-Toledo asked about the COOMET KCDB online-course and Mr Kuanbayev explained how the concept had emerged as a response to Covid-19, and that the course can be given also to other RMOs.

Dr Stoll-Malke wondered how COOMET will handle postponed on-site reviews and Ms Mikanadze responded that this is a lesser challenge for COOMET as the number of DIs is small compared to EURAMET.

11.4. EURAMET

Mr Frøystein informed that a reduced General Assembly had been organized on line, and that the next is scheduled to take place in Vienna in June.

He also informed that the European Joint Research Centre (JRC) has rejoined EURAMET and looked forward to reinstate their greyed-out CMCs.

The European Commission has approved the European Metrology Networks (EMN) and Mr Frøystein will keep the JCRB informed of the development of their Research programs.

Dr Stoll-Malke informed of one withdrawal for reference materials and that online Quality Management System (QMS) presentations are being planned. Ms Mikanadze expressed interest to share experiences.

[EMNs available at <https://www.euramet.org/european-metrology-networks/>]

11.5. GULFMET

Mr Kanakrieh thanked APMP for their support in the CMC review process and informed that GULFMET has established TCs in RI and legal metrology. Mrs Al Hosani encouraged the meeting participants to visit the JAWDAH website and provide feedback to GULFMET.

[The JAWDAH system is available at <https://jawdah.qcc.abudhabi.ae/en/Registration/Pages/HomePage.aspx>, a user manual is available as [JCRB-42/e11.53](#)]

11.6. SIM

Dr Echeverria mentioned challenges posted in meeting Covid-19, and that SIM council had been held online. Ms Bruce from the QFTF continued the presentation and informed that drafted documents on remote peer-review will soon appear on the SIM website. Dr Stoll-Malke asked about the ISO 17034 transition and Ms Bruce clarified that while the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 is on the way, the ISO 17034:2016 is already in place.

Mrs Cai asked how the SIM Secretariat is financed, and Dr Saundry informed that this is done through the membership fees.

Ms Mikanadze wondered how the peer remote was performed and Ms Bruce explained the process and informed that the review was performed one institute on each occasion.

[The corresponding RMO Reports and presentations are available on the restricted-access JCRB working documents webpage as [JCRB-42/e11.11](#), [JCRB-42/e11.12](#), [JCRB-42/e11.2](#), [JCRB-42/e11.3](#), [JCRB-42/e11.32](#), [JCRB-42/e11.41](#), [JCRB-42/e11.42](#), [JCRB-42/e11.51](#), [JCRB-42/e11.52](#), [JCRB-42/e11.6](#), [JCRB-42/e11.61](#).]

12. SIM proposal to JCRB on extension for RMO approved QMS

Dr Milton asked SIM to present their proposal and recalled that COOMET had submitted a comment.

Dr Echeverria presented the SIM proposal to extend the lifetime of QMS in a response to Covid-19, as for some SIM NMIs the IT availability is poor and personnel has not been allowed at the workplace for six months. Ms Mikanadze recalled that COOMET was, in general, in favour of a common approach but suggested that the procedure was amended to extend the prolongation stepwise to the next JCRB meeting. EURAMET supported the extension and favoured the stepwise approach. APMP recalled that they had been the first RMO to be affected by the pandemic and their guidelines were

circulated in May. AFRIMETS suggested a deepened discussion to take place among the RMO quality representatives in the existing Ad Hoc Task Group. Ms Bruce acknowledged the usefulness of the APMP guidelines and was appointed to draft a Resolution for the next day's session. Mr Frøystein suggested that improvements of the proposed Resolution should include guidelines for remote peer reviewing, which was agreed.

[Related [Resolution 42/4](#)]

Session 3, Thursday 9 September

Dr Milton reopened the meeting and after some brief comments by Dr Louw regarding the JCRB jurisdiction on CC activities, [Action 42/1](#) was unanimously approved. Ms Macdonald read [Action 42/2](#), which was accepted on the same terms. Ms Bruce read back [Resolution 42/4](#) and Mr Frøystein recalled the inclusion of remote reviewing guidelines in the resolution. Ms Bruce explained the reasoning for taking them out of the Resolution and moving them in to [Action 42/2](#) which has a deadline prior to the next meeting. This was accepted and [Resolution 42/4](#) was unanimously approved.

[Related [Action 42/1](#), [Action 42/2](#), [Resolution 42/4](#)]

13. CIPM MRA documents update

13.1. CIPM MRA-P-11, CIPM MRA-P-12, CIPM MRA-P-13

These documents had been accepted by correspondence ([Resolution 42/3](#)) and there was no further discussion.

13.2. CIPM MRA-G-11, CIPM MRA-G-12, CIPM MRA-G-13

Dr Bergstrand reminded the participants of the status of the CIPM MRA documents update from recent email circulations and the objective of presenting the information in existing documents in a more compact format and aligned with current practice.

He noticed that several comments on the update included suggestions for improvement of the CIPM MRA processes, but that such improvements by necessity are to be parked for future consideration by the JCRB. He consequently proposed that the G-1X series documents including accepted suggestions from the available feedback were to be circulated to the RMOs for approval as soon as possible after the meeting, and that suggestions for improvements (the "car park") would also be available from the JCRB Members' working area.

Dr Bergstrand notified that as existing documents contain information of how to operate the CMC review process through the JCRB website –which is rapidly being phased out– an agreement to close the JCRB website is needed. Related to this, Dr Bergstrand informed the meeting that following approval of the new document suite, the CIPM MRA documents website <https://www.bipm.org/en/cipm-mra/cipm-mra-documents/> will become obsolete and be closed (while content will be stored internally at the BIPM for the record).

Ms Macdonald offered to provide text for a statement on document history to be included in the updated suite.

Dr Milton proposed that the finalized document update be made available for the 109th meeting of the CIPM meeting 13–14 October 2020. All RMOs agreed to the proposed way forward and the wordings of [Resolution 42/7](#) and [Resolution 42/8](#) were unanimously accepted in anticipation of future approval by correspondence.

13.3. SIM proposal regarding CIPM MRA-G-11

Dr Echeverria introduced the first draft to [Action 42/3](#), noticing that the QM and RI metrology areas' interpretation of how to operate the CIPM MRA differ from the others, and hence required extra attention with respect to the statistical treatment of data. Dr Chunovkina, who had posted a response to the proposal prior to the meeting, considered the points raised to be important and supported the initiative to address them. At the same time, she noted that these points may not have to be included in the G-11 document and that a separate document might be more appropriate. The remaining RMOs supported the initiative, and the Action was adjusted according to the provided input. Dr Chunovkina and Dr Coleman were appointed to participate in a Task Group; further suggestions for participants were agreed to be emailed to the Task Group leader Antonio Possolo at NIST with copy to the JCRB Executive Secretary Dr Bergstrand for inclusion in the minutes.

[Related [Resolution 42/3](#), [Resolution 42/7](#), [Resolution 42/8](#), [Action 42/3](#). Task Group members communicated to Dr Bergstrand are listed in [JCRB-42/e13.31](#)]

14. Any other business

[Resolution 42/5](#) to prepare for closing the JCRB CMC review website was presented and approved by unanimous vote.

Dr Dobre informed that EURAMET has initiated a special working group to harmonize the digitalization of calibration certificates and welcomed participation from other RMOs. Mrs Santo informed that SIM has similar initiatives and would like to know more and share information between the groups. The subject was agreed to be included as an item for the next JCRB meeting agenda. Contact points should be shared with Dr Bergstrand to be included in the minutes of the report from the current meeting.

Mr Frøystein informed the meeting of the European Open Science Cloud Initiative <https://ec.europa.eu/research/openscience/index.cfm> and the opportunity for quality assurance and raising awareness of Metrology. He promised to keep the JCRB informed.

Mr Kanakrieh asked for a clarification with respect to GULFMET's position in the JCRB to have a voice but no vote, as he felt that the GULFMET opinion had been requested in lesser amount than normal during this meeting. Dr Milton confirmed that there were no changes in this respect and that the specific questions rotating in alphabetical order had been reserved for voting or approval issues. He noted that it is impossible to know when participants wish to speak if they are invisible or represented as still images on-screen. Mr Kanakrieh thanked him for the clarification.

[Related [Resolution 42/5](#).

Contact points for harmonization of digital calibration certificates communicated to Dr Bergstrand are listed in [JCRB-42/e14.1](#)]

15. Next meetings and meeting closure

15.1. 43rd meeting of the JCRB

While noticing the difficulties to foresee the evolution of Covid-19 and related countermeasures, the 43rd meeting was decided to be held at the BIPM the week starting 15 March 2020 with a reservation for a renewed online meeting.

[Related [Resolution 42/6](#)]

15.2. Reading of the Resolutions, Recommendations, and Actions

The outcomes of the meeting were shared on the screens and read to the participants by Dr Milton.

16. Actions, Recommendations, and Resolutions

Action 42/1

RMOs shall work with their TCs to review the status of RMO KC and SCs that have not been completed in 5 years (as listed in the KCDB report) and report to the 43rd meeting of the JCRB.

Action 42/2

The term of the ad hoc Task Group established in Action 41/1, to formulate a proposal regarding the reporting requirements and associated process related to the JCRB actions to establish confidence in each RMOs QS review process, is extended until the 43rd meeting of the JCRB. The latest date for submitting the proposal to the JCRB is 11 February 2021. The task group is charged to launch its first virtual meeting by 10 October 2020.

The task group may also discuss considerations and impacts of any special measures, such as virtual reviews and approvals, taken to address restrictions imposed due to the global pandemic.

The membership is updated to include Georgette Macdonald (convenor), Noha Khaled, Lerato Ntamatamala, Kazuaki Yamazawa, Yang Ping, Nino Mikanadze, Kai Stoll-Malke, Julien Vuillemin-Toledo, Asma Al Hosani and Sally Bruce.

Action 42/3

A Task Group will initiate a technical review of the statistical criteria in guideline CIPM MRA-G-11, and report and propose recommendations at the 43rd meeting of the

JCRB. The Task Group will be led by Antonio Possolo (SIM-NIST) and should have representation from each RMO (1 or 2 members from each).

Resolution 42/1 (Agreed by correspondence)

Considering the restrictions imposed in response to the global coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, the end of the transition period to 17025:2017 as decided in JCRB resolution 39/3 is extended from 30 November 2020 to 1 June 2021.

Resolution 42/2 (Agreed by correspondence)

The 42nd JCRB meeting will be held in a series of daily on-line meetings 8–10 September, 11:00 to 13:00 (UTC).

Resolution 42/3 (Agreed by correspondence)

The CIPM MRA-P-11, CIPM MRA-P-12 and CIPM MRA-P-13 documents are approved.

Resolution 42/4

Due to the effect of the global pandemic on travel and workplace accessibility, the JCRB approves an extension until June 2021, for all RMO-approved quality management systems set to expire in calendar year 2020, if needed. The JCRB will revisit this topic at its 43rd meeting.

Resolution 42/5

The JCRB CMC website shall close no later than 2021-06-30. The final date will be decided at the 43rd JCRB meeting.

Resolution 42/6

The 43rd meeting of the JCRB will take place in Sèvres, France during the week beginning 15th March 2021. In case a physical meeting cannot be held, an online meeting will be organized on the same dates.

Resolution 42/7 (To be confirmed by correspondence)¹

The CIPM MRA-G-11, CIPM MRA-G-12 and CIPM MRA-G-13 documents are approved.

Resolution 42/8 (Date to be agreed by correspondence)²

The suite of documents approved in resolutions 42/3 and 42/7 will come into effect on {*ASAP DATE TO BE DECIDED*}. Concurrently, CIPM MRA-D-02, CIPM MRA-D-04, CIPM MRA-D-05, CIPM MRA-D-06, CIPM MRA-G-01, CIPM MRA-G-02, CIPM MRA-G-03, CIPM MRA-G-04 and CIPM MRA-P-01 will be withdrawn.

No Recommendations were issued.

¹ Confirmed on 13 December 2020

² Decided to come into effect on 11 January 2021