



**42nd CIML Meeting – Item 6.1  
Liaison activities and joint actions**

OIML liaisons with other organizations have been considerably strengthened. Cooperation with the Regional Legal Metrology Organizations is covered under Item 6.3 of the Agenda.

**1 Metre Convention**

The OIML enjoys very close links with the Metre Convention. In its own field, each organization promotes metrology as an essential tool for economic, social, technical and scientific development. The Presidiums of the two organizations meet annually to discuss matters of common interest and common actions. A joint action plan was adopted in March 2006 and presented at the 2006 CIML Meeting.

In addition to the annual meetings of the Presidiums, ad-hoc meetings have been held at Presidential level and at the level of the Bureaux. These meetings have resulted in:

- updating the joint BIPM-BIML action plan (see Item 4.2-4.3, page 7),
- requesting the Bureaux to start a review outlining methods of developing and strengthening cooperation between the two organizations and to prepare a joint report on the different options (report to be discussed in March 2008),
- publishing joint leaflets, setting up a joint web portal, using common presentations, etc.

The updated BIPM-BIML Action Plan is submitted for CIML Members' comments, which will be taken into account in its next update in March 2008. Comments may be expressed during the discussion at the 2007 CIML Meeting, or sent by e-mail to the BIML no later than 31 December 2007.

**2 ILAC and IAF**

ILAC has been an essential liaison for many years. Demonstration of the competence and impartiality of laboratories is obviously crucial for international legal metrology. Annual tripartite meetings have been held between the OIML, the Metre Convention and ILAC for a number of years. With the OIML MAA coming into force, a specific Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ILAC appeared appropriate.

The MoU with ILAC, whose draft was discussed at the CIML Meeting in Cape Town, was signed in November 2006 by the CIML President and the ILAC Chairman, during the ILAC General Assembly in Cancún (Mexico).

This MoU led to the drawing up of a joint ILAC/OIML Working Program for 2007-2008 which is mainly focused on cooperation in assessments by sharing lead assessors from National Accreditation Bodies and technical and metrological experts validated by the OIML. This joint Working Program includes the development of joint OIML/ILAC training sessions so that lead assessors may become familiar with OIML procedures and technical activities, and so that technical and metrological experts may become familiar with the accreditation process and assessments on the basis of ISO/IEC 17025.

This joint Working Program (see item 4.2) was sent to CIML Members and Corresponding Members in a circular dated 12 April 2007. CIML Members are invited to make comments, which will be taken into account in its next update in March 2008. Comments may be expressed during the discussion at the 2007 CIML Meeting, or sent by e-mail to the BIML no later than 31 December 2007.

Discussions started with IAF in order to extend the OIML/ILAC MoU to cooperation between the OIML and IAF. All OIML issues related to conformity assessment in legal metrology, including product certification, quality management system certification and inspection will then be covered. The draft revision of the existing MoU has been circulated for comments among ILAC and IAF Members and it is expected to sign the extension in October 2007 at the ILAC and IAF General Assembly.

This year, ILAC and the OIML also issued a joint Publication, OIML D 10/ILAC-G24 *Guidelines for the determination of calibration intervals of measuring equipment*.

### **3 ISO**

Most OIML Technical Committees and Subcommittees have a liaison with ISO. In addition, two ISO bodies are of special interest for the OIML: ISO CASCO and ISO DEVCO.

A general MoU between the OIML and ISO was signed in 1966 and was followed by several papers setting up priorities and procedures for this liaison. This MoU must obviously be reviewed and contacts have been started with the ISO General Secretariat in order to revise it and to extend its scope so that in particular issues related to conformity assessment will be clearly covered.

The lists of TCs/SCs of both Organizations that should be in a liaison, and the list of matters of interest to the two Organizations are being reviewed, and the procedures for managing mutual information and links are being studied in order to make OIML/ISO liaisons as effective as possible.

The Bureau intends to start similar joint work with the IEC.

Special attention has been paid to ISO CASCO activities, as the OIML has developed (and continues to develop) specific conformity assessment systems: the OIML MAA, the future OIML system for prepackages, etc. Links with the ISO CASCO Chair and Secretariats have been strengthened. The OIML participates in ISO/CASCO Working Groups such as WG 29 which is responsible for the revision of ISO/IEC Guide 65.

### **4 World Trade Organization**

The OIML has the status of Observer at the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee and regularly attends and makes reports on OIML activities at its meetings so as to raise awareness of OIML activities and promote the wider use of OIML publications by WTO Members.

OIML publications are international standards in the sense of Article 2.4 of the TBT Agreement. In addition, the systems for mutual acceptance and recognition that the OIML has developed or is developing, correspond to the provisions of Articles 5.4, 5.5, 6.3 and 9.1 of the TBT Agreement.

Cooperation with the WTO is important in raising the awareness of governments and of their trade authorities about legal metrology and about the work of the OIML, and in encouraging WTO Members to become Members of the OIML.

In 2007, the BIML, along with the representatives of other international standard-setting organizations (ISO, IEC and CODEX), participated in two regional workshops organized by the WTO (in Manama, Bahrain and Gaborone, Botswana). These well-attended workshops enable the OIML to publicize its work to an audience which does not just consist of metrologists, but which includes officials from national standards bodies, national TBT Contact Points, and trade and commerce ministries, as well as some politicians. The WTO TBT secretariat has expressed its gratitude for the participation of the OIML and other standard-setting organizations in its activities.

There is to be a further workshop in November 2007.

## **5 UNIDO**

UNIDO is a very active organization for promoting an integrated approach to Metrology, Accreditation, Standardization and Certification. UNIDO runs some programs on its own funding and in other cases it runs technical assistance programs funded by voluntary contributions of individual donor countries.

In addition, UNIDO presently runs the secretariat of the Joint Committee for the coordination of technical assistance to Developing Countries in Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization (JCDCMAS).

UNIDO is thus an important liaison of the OIML for all issues related to developing countries. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between UNIDO, the Metre Convention and the OIML is under development and should be signed shortly.

## **6 Developments**

The work started with the Metre Convention, ILAC and the IAF will continue to progress. In addition to this, the following new actions are proposed by the Bureau:

### 6.1 Liaisons with international standardization bodies

The goals of the OIML are different from those of ISO/IEC. However the output, in terms of publications, may present some similarities. It is essential that the publications of the OIML and ISO/IEC do not conflict, and that they are complementary.

To this end, the MoUs with ISO and the IEC will be revised in order to clarify the respective domains of these organizations and their interaction, and to revise the procedures to ensure good coordination.

### 6.2 Liaisons with stakeholders

Until now, stakeholders are represented through the CIML Members. However, when stakeholders are represented by international organizations, these organizations should become liaisons of the appropriate OIML TCs/SCs and of the CIML. These Organizations may provide very useful inputs to the OIML's technical work, as well as to discussions on the OIML's priorities.

For example, a liaison is being established with the International Federation of Wines and Spirits, which is interested in many categories of instruments and in prepackages. This Federation is very keen

on participating in OIML work. The BIML attended their General Assembly in June 2007 and they will probably be present at the CIML Meeting and OIML Conference in Sydney, 2008.

The Bureau will try to identify other international stakeholders interested in the work of the OIML and to establish liaisons with them.

### 6.3 Liaisons of interest for developing Countries

The OIML participates in the JCDCMAS, and has a privileged liaison with UNIDO and with the WTO, which is very keen to increase the participation of developing countries in international work.

The OIML will try to establish more active contacts with donor organizations and to raise their awareness of metrology as an essential element in infrastructure development, so that it can be better supported in their development programs.