

**SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ASSOCIATE STATES AND ECONOMIES OF  
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND  
THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE CIPM MRA**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At its meeting in October 2004, the CIPM discussed the services available to Associate States and Economies of the General Conference on Weights and Measures ("Associates"). This document summarises the decisions and should be read in conjunction with Resolution 3 of the 21<sup>st</sup> CGPM.
- 1.2 The CIPM recognised the merits of an existing informal practice in several Consultative Committees (notably the CCQM), and their working groups in which discretion had been exercised so that a limited number of competent laboratories from Associates could be involved in working groups and pilot studies. The CIPM agreed that this provided a pragmatic solution to the recognition of the technical competence of these laboratories and that they could contribute significantly and efficiently to the scientific outcome of the activity. Their participation makes particular sense when CRM samples are only produced once, so avoiding unnecessary duplication and contributing to the efficient co-ordination, and organisation, of key comparisons and studies.
- 1.3 The CIPM also reviewed its policy on the use of BIPM's calibration services for mass.

**2 DISCUSSION AND CIPM DECISIONS**

- 2.1 The CIPM noted that it was important to achieve a balance between the services supplied to Associates and those supplied to Member States. Its original expectation was that Associates would primarily wish to become involved in the CIPM MRA and that their subscription fee would cover a reasonable proportion of the associated administrative costs. Paragraph 1.5 of the CIPM MRA had, however, limited Associates to participation through their regional metrology organisation. CIPM accepted that there is now a strong argument, based on added scientific value, for bringing a number of highly competent NMIs and laboratories in Associates closer to other formal activities of the Convention. In addition, representatives from Associates now chair several RMO Technical Committees and, during their tenure, it makes sense to involve them in the work of relevant CC working groups concerned with CMC review at the inter-regional level.
- 2.2 One step which had already been taken was to invite Directors from NMIs of Associates to attend the October 2004 Directors' meeting, since

the main items on the agenda concerned the CIPM MRA. The CIPM recognised the value of such meetings to NMI Directors from Associates. These meetings are not a formal activity of the Metre Convention and so CIPM noted that:

**Directors of NMIs in Associate States or Economies may now be invited to participate in future meetings of Directors of NMIs from Member States of the Metre Convention although parts of the agenda may be reserved for a closed session with Directors of NMIs of Member States.**

2.3 The CIPM noted that a number of Associates had expressed interest in becoming a Member State of the Metre Convention. CIPM urges Associates to consider such a step, recognising that in many cases, Associate status is, and should be, the first step towards Membership.

2.4 The CIPM also decided to accept the following recommendations for the possible involvement of Associates in the activities of Consultative Committees:

- paragraph 1.5 of the CIPM MRA should be interpreted with greater flexibility than before. Any participation of NMIs and designated institutes from Associates in CC comparisons or other activities should be carefully considered by the relevant Committee or Working group on a case by case basis. Specifically and **in exceptional cases** Associates may be invited to take part in CC comparisons, studies, pilots and other formal activities where:
  - this adds scientific or other value to the work or to the results obtained by other participants;
  - reference samples are only produced for the purposes of the CC comparison and no linked RMO comparisons are possible; and
  - their participation increases the efficiency or adds effectiveness to the relevant activity.
- that reports of CC comparisons in which NMIs and other designated institutes from Associates take part may be included in the KCDB although these reports should make clear those results which come from Associates. Their results should not normally contribute to a Key Comparison Reference Value in comparisons which are arranged by the Consultative Committee unless it may be shown to be of significant scientific value to other participants;
- Associates who are invited to take part in a KC organised by a Consultative Committee may be invited to attend working group meetings at which the results from that comparison are discussed;
- that representatives of NMIs or DIs from Associates may be invited, on a one-off, case by case basis, to attend CCs or working groups as guests; and;
- Associates may be asked to pay, as provided for under Article 15 (1921) of the Convention of the Metre, for any extra costs incurred by the BIPM of

their participation in comparisons, particularly those which are piloted by the BIPM.

2.5 The general policy that Associates cannot benefit from BIPM's calibration services remains as before and preserves this benefit as a clear distinction between the services supplied to Associates and Members. The CIPM, however, agreed that:

**where Associates have Pt-Ir prototypes they may have them calibrated by the BIPM for an appropriate charge.**

2.6 In the special case of an Associate such as CARICOM which is a formally recognised economic entity and which comprises several individual states, the CIPM agreed that:

- **the CIPM MRA should be signed by the relevant Economy (in this case, CARICOM) as the recognised co-ordinating body for the CIPM MRA;**
- **each state of the Economy may have their own CMCs; and**
- **each state of the Economy would designate their own NMIs or other designated institutes. The Economy would, however, be the channel through which such national designations are notified to the Director of the BIPM.**

Sèvres, 27 July 2005