



Agenda item 2

General report by the CIML President

October 2015

We have a lot to celebrate this year as we commemorate the sixty years since the establishment of our Organisation and this, the fiftieth meeting of our Committee. We have a number of important issues to discuss during this meeting, and all of them illustrate, I believe, the continued vigour which CIML Members, staff from their administrations and the Director and his colleagues in the BIML bring to the world of legal metrology. It is also appropriate that we are meeting once again in France to celebrate these anniversaries, since it is there that, in many respects, it all began.

First, however, it is again my great pleasure to welcome a number of new CIML Members. Over the course of the year, we have welcomed eight new CIML Members:

- for Bulgaria: Mr. Paun Ilchev,
- for Hungary: Mr. Kristof Torok,
- for Iran: Mr. Khosro Madanipour,
- for the Netherlands: Ms. Anneke van Spronssen,
- for the Russian Federation: Dr. Sergey Golubev,
- for South Africa: Mr. (Nnditsheni) Thomas Madzivhe,
- for Switzerland: Mr. Gregor Dudle,
- for Zambia: Ms. Himba Cheelo.

The Director will be providing detailed information on the current financial position of the Organisation at the meeting in Arcachon. Our financial position remains healthy and will hopefully form a strong platform for our future plans.

There have not been any personnel changes in the Bureau in the past year, but there have been some health issues for a number of staff. None of these were related to their official duties, but it has meant that for significant periods staff have been covering for one or more of their colleagues, which places a strain on the resources of such a small team. I would like to pay tribute to the way in which all concerned have continued to deliver in difficult circumstances. It reflects well on the team morale within the Bureau that they have worked so well to keep the impact of absences to a minimum.

With the effective completion of the repair and renovation on the Rue Turgot building, attention has naturally turned to the updating of the Organisation's IT and communication systems. With the introduction of the "PG Workspace" functionality earlier this year, we now have a set of sophisticated tools which are able to support new and much more efficient ways of working.

As with the introduction of any new technology, we face a number of challenges in making the most of the new website's potential for improving the way we conduct our work, most specifically our technical work.

The first and most obvious is the challenge each of us faces, as individuals, in understanding what the new systems can do and what we need to do in order for those systems to work properly. A start was made on this last year with the sessions in Auckland, which allowed those attending to understand how the new site ought to be used and this has now been followed up with the first of our proposed series of training sessions aimed specifically at those who act as secretariats and conveners (in Germany). I am encouraged by the use which



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many colleagues are making of features such as updating contact details and registering of electronic votes but it is clear that there is a lot of scope to make better use of the PG Workspace.

A second and more fundamental challenge, however, is to keep our rules and procedures in step with the new systems and new technology. There is both a long term and a short term aspect to this. The long term aspect requires us, in my view, to look again at B 6 *Directives for OIML technical work*. A proposal will be made at the 50th CIML Meeting to begin a project to carry out a limited revision of B 6 and I am sure that will generate a lot of debate, as this subject always does.

The short term aspect concerns how we operate the existing provisions of B 6 in the light of the potential which already exists in a world where we can now do electronically what would previously have had to be done at a formal face-to-face meeting. We are developing some experience of this as more conveners become familiar with the ways of working that “PG Workspace” offers. However, it remains very important, as I mentioned last year, that convenors and secretariats are prepared to work more closely with Bureau staff so that experiences can be shared and ideas exchanged on how we can make the best and most imaginative use of the resources available.

In all of this it is essential that we keep in mind the fundamental objective of the changes we are making. This is to ensure that our Recommendations and Documents remain relevant in a rapidly changing world. Those publications are the foundation of everything else we do – from providing certificate schemes to giving support to members of the worldwide legal metrology community. Keeping them up to date requires both that our technical work is carried out more quickly than in the past and that we are more inclusive about who is involved in that work. As I also said last year, the best way to achieve this is for CIML Members to take a close personal interest in the work being carried out in important project groups.

A second major area of work has been the development of thinking on the OIML’s certificate schemes, which has its origins in the Seminar held alongside the 48th CIML Meeting two years ago. Although the issue was originally considered to be how to make the MAA more successful, as work has progressed it has been increasingly clear that it would be better to rethink our approach to both the Basic and the MAA schemes. As a consequence of the overlap between the conclusions coming out of the various task groups set up in 2013, the Presidential Council agreed earlier this year that a comprehensive package of recommendations covering the whole operation of both schemes should be submitted to the CIML, including some major structural changes. I am sure these will also be a subject of lively debate at our meeting. I would like once again to express my appreciation of the contribution made by CIML First Vice-President, Dr. Roman Schwartz in leading this work.

Another area where I feel there has been a lot of good progress is on matters related to what I think most of us now refer to as “countries and economies with emerging metrology systems” (CEEMS). Following the first formal meeting of the Advisory Group chaired by the CIML Member for China in Auckland, and building on the survey which the Group carried out to identify what the priorities of the Group should be, a very successful workshop was held in May in Chengdu. The Seminar to be held immediately prior to the 50th CIML Meeting, and the discussions at the 50th CIML Meeting itself, offer us a unique opportunity to put together a comprehensive package of measures which set a clear way forward on meeting the needs of members with emerging metrology systems and address concrete proposals for things both the OIML and others can do.

In my report last year I mentioned that the OIML has taken up the opportunity to participate in an OECD study on the role of international organisations in regulatory cooperation. As this work has progressed it has confirmed my view that we have a valuable role in sharing with colleagues in other organisations our experience of introducing reform and modernisation into our processes and procedures. I hope that by next year this study will have produced a published report which will recognise the wider relevance of what we have learned by going through this process and raise the profile of legal metrology with other important international organisations.



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Of the international organisations with which we already have bilateral relationships, by far the most important is the BIPM. It is very pleasing to see how well we are working together in areas of mutual interest, the most important of which, in my view, is the support we offer to countries and economies with emerging metrology systems. During a conference in St Petersburg on *Metrological Provision in Economies for Current Conditions* organised in September, I was able to discuss in some depth with the President of the International Committee of Weights and Measures (CIPM) how our two organisations might work even more closely together in promoting the role which a modern metrology infrastructure, designed to support scientific metrology, industrial metrology and legal metrology, can play in economic development.

I was also delighted to be able to participate in a conference organised at the end of June by the BIPM on the role of measurement in addressing issues related to climate change. My own view is that it is still too early to be thinking of a legal metrology response to the challenges of climate change, but it is encouraging that we are now moving to a position where the focus is no longer exclusively on the role of measurement in identifying the problems and we can start considering the role of measurement in formulating solutions.

More generally, given the links which legal metrology has with standardisation, accreditation and conformity assessment, it is encouraging to see the interest the BIPM, ISO and ILAC are showing in how these different elements of what is now widely regarded as an economy's "quality infrastructure" work together.

In addition to the CEEMS workshop in Chengdu, the conference in St Petersburg, and the OECD and BIPM meetings in Paris already mentioned, the only other meeting I have attended as CIML President since the last CIML meeting is the APLMF meeting in Wellington. I also took advantage, however, of visits to Azerbaijan and Egypt in my capacity as a UK representative to draw attention to the role that the OIML could play in their work on improving their metrology systems. Before the end of the year I also plan to attend the annual SIM meeting in Punta Cana in November and the UNECE WP6 meeting in Geneva in December. Such meetings in my view play a vital role in maintaining our links with other international organisations which can help us achieve the OIML mission and help ensure our activities remain relevant to the needs of our Members.

Looking forward it seems clear to me that the three main challenges for our Organization over the next few years are ones which we can expect to debate in some detail at our meeting in Arcachon:

- First, we have to speed up and make more efficient the process of producing and revising our Recommendations and other publications. We have introduced new web-based technology to make this easier, but we need to make sure that our rules and procedures are updated to reflect the new ways of working and we have to encourage everyone involved in technical work to use the new systems.
- Second, we need to make substantial changes to both our certificate schemes, if they are to be more widely used and cover more types of instrument. That will probably involve changes in how the OIML supervises this work.
- Finally, we need a clear way forward on meeting the needs of our Members – including our Corresponding Members – with emerging metrology systems. I am now hopeful that we can produce a comprehensive package of proposals for things both the OIML and others can do.

The past year has seen the departure from the CIML of three valued colleagues who have served on the Presidential Council: Stuart Carstens, the CIML Member for South Africa and a former Vice-President, Cees van Mullem, the CIML Member for the Netherlands, and Philippe Richard, the CIML Member for Switzerland. I would like to express my thanks to all of them for the support and wise advice they have offered both myself and my predecessors. I am pleased to say that Magdalena Chuwa, the CIML Member for Tanzania, and Anneke van Spronsen, the new CIML Member for the Netherlands, have both accepted my invitation to join the Presidential Council. Both are already well known for their contributions to our debates and I look forward to being able to draw on their talents even more in the future.



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There are many others, however, beyond those on the Presidential Council and other members of the CIML, who make important contributions to our work. In addition to the staff in the Bureau, whom I have already mentioned, we should also acknowledge the many hundreds of experts who participate in our technical work, in particular those who act as secretaries and conveners. And we should also not forget the colleagues in their administrations whose support makes that participation possible. As we celebrate our 60th Anniversary, this is a good time to reflect that none of what this Organisation has achieved over those years would have been possible without a huge range of contributions from colleagues all over the world and we have every reason to be grateful to them for their efforts.

Peter Mason
CIML President