

## International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM)

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### Key features

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**Type of organisation:** Inter-governmental organization

**Charter/Constitution:** Metre Convention:

[www.bipm.org/en/worldwide-metrology/metre-convention/](http://www.bipm.org/en/worldwide-metrology/metre-convention/)

#### Membership

- Nature: The members are States, whose governments designate at technical level their National Metrology Institute (NMI)
- Number: 58 Member States of the BIPM and 41 Associate States and Economies of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) (October 2017)

**Year of establishment:** 1875

**Headquarters:** Sèvres, France

**Secretariat staff:** 72 (2017)

**Total budget:** EUR 13 million (2017)

**Type of activity:** Policy dialogue, scientific and technical research, promoting and monitoring implementation, information and experience exchange, capacity building and knowledge transfer, liaison with other IOs, mutual acceptance schemes

**Sectors of activity:** scientific metrology (e.g. physical metrology, chemical metrology (and some biological measurement), ionizing radiation metrology, generating international reference time scales)

**Website:** [www.bipm.org](http://www.bipm.org)

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### Members

58 Member States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

38 Associate States of the CGPM: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Jamaica, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic of), Malta, Mauritius, Moldova (Republic of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

3 Associate Economies of the CGPM: CARICOM (Caribbean Community representing 11 members:

Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago), Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong (China).

### Relationship with non-members

A number of States are in the process of becoming an Associate State of the CGPM. Non-members may also benefit from access to capacity-building initiatives supported by the BIPM, in particular those promoted by Regional Metrology Organizations (RMOs). Much of the information (including that related to the CIPM MRA) is available to non-members.

### Mandate

The **vision** of the BIPM is to be universally recognized as the world focus for the international system of measurement. Its **mission** is to work with the National Metrology Institutes of its Member States, the Regional Metrology Organizations and strategic partners world-wide and to use its international and impartial status to promote and advance the global comparability of measurements for scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, sustaining the quality of life and the global environment.

## IRC processes taking place within the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM)



### Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)		
Legally binding decisions	√	175 Resolutions; 242 Decisions (between 2012 and 2016)
Recommendations	√	71 (between 1961 and 2017)
Political declarations		
Model treaties or law		
Production of technical standards	√	3
Non-binding guidance/best practices documents	√	15

### Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction		Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments	√	3	OIML, ILAC, ISO
MoU or other agreements	√	8	OIML-UNIDO, ILAC, IAEA, WHO, WMO, VAMAS (Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standards), CIE (International Commission on Illumination)
Participate in co-ordinating institution	√	3	Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM); Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM); Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS Network)
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination	√	Many	OIML, ILAC, ISO, ITU, UNIDO, IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine), IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry), IUPAP (International Union of Pure and Applied Physics), WADA, 6 RMOs, etc.
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√	3	BIPM has <i>ad hoc</i> observer status at the WTO/OMC Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, observer status at the Codex Alimentarius Commission and ICG (International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems).
Exchange information	√	Many	<a href="http://www.bipm.org/en/worldwide-metrology/liaisons/">www.bipm.org/en/worldwide-metrology/liaisons/</a>

#### BIPM history

The Metre Convention (Convention du Mètre) is a treaty that created the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), an intergovernmental organisation under the authority of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) and the supervision of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM). The Convention was signed in Paris on 20 May 1875 by representatives of 17 nations. As well as founding the BIPM and laying down the way in which the activities of the BIPM should be financed and managed, the Metre Convention established a permanent organisational structure for member States to act in common accord on all matters relating to units of measurement. The Convention, modified slightly in 1921, remains the basis of international agreement on units of measurement.

Source: Data provided by BIPM to the OECD as part of a data collection exercise, October 2017.