



OIML Report to the APLMF

**Report by Mr Anthony Donnellan
BIML Director**



Perseverance and resilience in a year of disruption

Introduction

The OIML's best wishes are with the international legal metrology community in these challenging times.

Throughout the pandemic, the OIML has continued to function efficiently to fulfil our strategy and objectives. We continue to provide a high level of service to our 124 Members and variety of stakeholders.

These disruptions have also encouraged greater levels of adaptability and innovation in the ways that we operate, collaborate and communicate as a member-based International Organisation.

Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

As the OIML's headquarters are in France, we have complied with the guidance of the French Government throughout the pandemic, which has had only a limited impact on the provision of services. Our governing rules and procedures are robust yet flexible, allowing us to continue to function and provide high-quality services.

Resilience of systems and networks

The BIML implements, maintains and supports the critical IT infrastructure needed for the OIML to function for its Members and other stakeholders, and we upgraded our web platform in 2020. The resilience of the infrastructure and network ensured its continuous operation for the Bureau staff and the more than 1 500 users of the network. This meant that the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic had no noticeable effect on our network and the services we provide through it.

The BIML has continued to provide support to TCs/SCs/PGs for e-meetings in order to make progress with OIML technical work, and has also provided support for a number of governance and committee meetings as well the efficient functioning of the secretariat.

Membership

The OIML is growing in size and influence. Our membership increased by two in 2020. We warmly welcome the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Benin as OIML Corresponding Members. We have also been working to assist with the potential transition of a number of Corresponding Members to Member State status, and seek prospective new Members on an ongoing basis. No Member States nor Corresponding Members were delisted from the OIML in 2020.

Debt recovery and budget preparation

We have worked hard in 2020 to recover the outstanding debts of our Members as well as unpaid certificate registration fees, and we are seeking to strengthen the OIML's financial position.

A new budget has been prepared for the Organisation, with a provisional budget through to 2028. Due to the pandemic, the presentation of the 2021–2024 OIML budget will be delayed, and a 2022–2025 budget proposal will be presented in 2021 at the 56th CIML Meeting and 16th International Conference. For 2021, the same budget will be applied as in 2020.



Technical work

Despite the disruption caused by COVID-19, this year has been a positive year for the OIML's technical work. At the time of writing, six new or revised publications have progressed to Committee Draft (CD) status and there are seven publications for consideration by the CIML. An eighth publication (the revision of D 30) was approved by direct CIML online approval in July 2020. The focus is on the high-priority publications through the application of the periodic review procedure approved by the CIML in 2019.

OIML Certification System (OIML-CS)

The OIML-CS continues to grow. In 2020 two Associates (Uganda and Kiribati) were added to the System. At the time of writing this report, the number of OIML-CS certificates (Jan–Sept 2020) is at the same level as 2019, despite the impact of COVID-19. It is important that the international legal metrology community demonstrate genuine commitment to the OIML-CS and promote it to industry and to the community.

In 2020 the OIML-CS Management Committee (MC) met three times via videoconference, including to select a candidate for the position of MC Chairperson, to re-appoint the Deputy MC Chairperson, and to make a recommendation regarding the marking of measuring instruments with the OIML certificate number. These matters will be put to the CIML for consideration.

Countries and Economies with Emerging Metrology Systems (CEEMS)

In 2020 a number of activities of interest and benefit to CEEMS were able to progress. These include the revision of *D 1 Considerations for a Law on Metrology*, which will be submitted for online consideration by the CIML, and also the BIML's continued work on the e-Learning platform.

Liaison activities

The prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of continued liaison activities, collaboration and communication.

Significant work continues with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the 50 other International Organisations (IO) forming the IO Partnership. This period has involved work on developing the draft of the *Compendium of IO practices*.

The BIML participated in the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM) committees in 2020, and also worked with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on the development of a laboratory policy guide, as well as taking part in a series of webinars on COVID-19-related quality infrastructure issues.

World Metrology Day

Each year the BIML and the BIPM work in close cooperation on World Metrology Day. The theme for 2020 was *Measurements for Global Trade* and this year was again highly successful, surpassing expectations especially in the disrupted context (37 posters were submitted by National Institutes and other Organisations, and 23 events were published). The 2020 poster was designed by AFRIMETS.



e-Learning

Following the successful e-Learning workshop in Bratislava in October 2019 in conjunction with the 54th CIML Meeting, the OIML continues to advance the development of e-Learning initiatives, and has upgraded the supporting infrastructure underpinning the e-Learning platform. The BIML is also working closely with the BIPM to explore using this platform as a common resource.

The importance of multilateralism

The health and resulting economic and financial crises that the world is experiencing also draw attention to the fundamental importance of multilateralism and one of its foundational principles, which is that we are stronger together, in an open rules-based system. The ability to maintain and administer a system that aims to harmonise legal metrology internationally to serve the community is critical in difficult and challenging times, but also in better times. Through multilateral collaboration we are able to deliver outcomes aimed at assisting and improving the quality of life.

The future

In 2021 there will be much to consider as the OIML moves towards the 56th CIML Meeting and 16th Conference. The year ahead will present an opportunity to collectively reflect on our Organisation, the value that we deliver in a globally connected multilateral environment, and to consider how and where we wish to position the OIML for the future.

We must continue to explore possibilities to increase our agility, adaptability and responsiveness, in accordance with the governing rules contained in the Convention. We will continue to adapt and respond to the challenges and opportunities in order to continue to provide our high level of service to all Members and stakeholders even in the most difficult of times.

Anthony Donnellan
BIML Director

14 October 2020