

**REPORT OF COOMET PRESIDENT  
about activities of the organization after the 29<sup>th</sup> COOMET Committee meeting  
(April 2019 – September 2020) and tasks for the upcoming period**

Dear colleagues!

30<sup>th</sup> COOMET Committee meeting is being held in an unconventional format of an online meeting. We all are fully aware that this is a measure of necessity in the current situation. In March 2020 the World Health Organization stated that the mass spread of the new coronavirus COVID-19 had turned into a global pandemic. The pandemic made it necessary to reorganize our activities – first of all to make a transition to remote work in various fields. Hence, introduction of videoconferencing technology in its activities has become the primary task for COOMET.

Owing to the global pandemic a number of scheduled events were cancelled and postponed to later dates. In particular, the 30<sup>th</sup> COOMET Committee meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Committee for Measurement Standards and COOMET seminar for discussion of the draft COOMET Strategy for 2020-2025 and possible fields of joint scientific research were postponed (as you know, these events should have taken place during the period from 31 March to 02 April 2020 in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan).

In May 2020 COOMET Secretariat initiated project 811/BY/20 "Development of the policy and procedures for holding official COOMET meetings and events under the auspices of COOMET in the form of videoconferences/webinars based on the organization and holding of test (pilot) videoconferences involving experts from COOMET member countries". Under this project a number of test videoconferences/webinars were held involving the members of the established working group and other interested participants from different countries, and possibilities of different platforms for online communication were studied.

On the basis of the test results the WG recommended to use Zoom service for holding online COOMET events, since this is currently the only platform providing for the possibility to organize simultaneous interpretation into two languages during online meetings (which is provided for in the COOMET Rules of Procedure). The operation of Zoom service was tested in June-July 2020 in holding four online COOMET events, two of which included simultaneous interpretation

Owing to the uncertainty about the situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, COOMET Presidential Council recommended Zoom platform as a service for holding official COOMET meetings and events under the auspices of COOMET in the form of videoconferences/webinars in 2020.

In September of this year five online events have already been held (meetings of the Joint Committee for Measurement Standards, TC 1.12 "Reference Materials", TC 1.7 "Photometry and Radiometry" and webinar on KCDB 2.0 for TC 1.7, COOMET webinar on joints scientific research). We will speak more about further plans under item 17 of the agenda.

Countries of various regions cooperate in COOMET, some of them are associate COOMET members and members of other RMOs. Unfortunately, this imposes certain restrictions to simultaneous participation of representatives of all COOMET members in online meetings due to different time zones. Moreover, there are restrictions for representatives of Cuba (as well as DPR of Korea) on joining Zoom online meetings.

Much to our regret, representatives of some countries (Bulgaria, Romania, DPR of Korea) have not taken part in COOMET Committee meetings over the past few years and in the already held

online meetings. However, the possibility of recording during online meetings allows to partially compensate for the absence of our colleagues from these countries at COOMET events.

I would like now to turn specifically to COOMET activities.

COOMET's main activities in 2019-2020, as in the past years, were conducted in the major fields and subject areas of cooperation, stipulated by the Memorandum of Understanding and COOMET Development Program for 2017-2019.

**IN MY OPINION, THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS OF COOPERATION, ACHIEVED AFTER THE 29<sup>TH</sup> COOMET COMMITTEE MEETING, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

**1) Activities of the Working Group for Preparation of the COOMET Development Strategy in terms of the preparation of the Mission, Vision and Strategy of COOMET, as well as determination of the institutional status of COOMET.**

Since the establishment of the WG for Strategy five meetings have been held (three of them during the reporting period). I would like to remind that according to the Regulation on this Working Group its objective is to make proposals on determining the institutional status of COOMET, as well as to implement the tasks on:

- making proposals on the Mission and Vision of COOMET;
- making proposals on the list of COOMET strategic tasks;
- making proposals on the organizational and legal form of COOMET, including financing mechanisms.

The first two tasks have actually been implemented – the Mission, Vision and Strategy of COOMET for 2020-2025 and Roadmap for its implementation are submitted for approval of COOMET Committee at this meeting. These documents underwent preliminary review among COOMET Committee members and Chairs of COOMET structural bodies, and were discussed at the dedicated COOMET webinar (on 13 July 2020).

It should be noted that in the preparation of these documents the results of the External assessment "Status and Perspectives of COOMET", which had been performed in years 2018-2019 by independent experts and included personal interviews and online surveys of the participants of cooperation, were taken into account. Once again, I would like to thank COOMET Vice-President, Mr. Peter Ulbig (PTB, Germany) for the organization of this work, which is so helpful for COOMET.

The second part of the webinar on strategy was devoted to discussing the issues of the appropriateness of changing the institutional status of COOMET and its possible forms in the future.

To date EURAMET, WELMEC and SIM have actually been already registered as legal entities. AFRIMETS and APMP continue their consultations on this issue.

The issue of the appropriateness of changing the organizational and legal form of COOMET (e.g. by reorganizing COOMET into an Association or by registering a legal entity on behalf of COOMET) is a very complicated task, given that COOMET comprises countries of different regions and economic entities. It may take years to prepare and sign the corresponding documents by authorized representatives of all COOMET countries. However, the discussion on this issue has already started – in September 2020 a survey among COOMET Committee members was initiated to

choose a country, where a legal entity for the needs of COOMET of a type “nongovernmental non-profit organization” can be registered. We will speak more about it under item 4 of the agenda.

At the webinar I noted the need to update the fundamental COOMET documents, defining the membership in COOMET and the status of the organization, as well as financing issues.

The existing financing model, envisaged in the current Memorandum of Understanding, does not fully meet today's realities. Hence the WG for Strategy was tasked with studying various options and finding the financing model which will fully or partly cover the expenses of COOMET NMIs and DIs (including the COOMET country, holding the presidency) for participation in the activities of our RMO.

During the exchange of views at the webinar representatives of almost all countries agreed that update of the fundamental documents is necessary to engage all COOMET NMIs and DIs in active cooperation within COOMET. It was agreed to continue the discussion of the whole cluster of issues on COOMET reforming within the WG for Strategy (taking into account the views expressed at the webinar) and to bring it up for the discussion of COOMET Committee.

I think that taking into account our today's decisions on choosing possible countries to host a legal entity for the needs of COOMET and detailed work on the legislation and tax base of these countries by lawyers, the Working Group will be able to submit the Final report on its activities with the corresponding recommendations at the COOMET Committee meeting in year 2021.

COOMET Development Program for 2017-2019 provided for the **update of the Conception of cooperation and related activities of COOMET**. This work started in late 2019, but members of the WG for Strategy considered it inappropriate to develop an updated Conception along with the COOMET Strategy for 2020-2025.

So it is suggested to make a decision at this meeting on voiding the Conception of cooperation and related activities of COOMET (in view of its partial inappropriateness) together with the adoption of the COOMET Strategy for 2020-2025.

**2) A draft COOMET Development Program for 2020-2022 was prepared** in parallel with the COOMET Strategy for 2020-2025.

Events under the Program are interrelated with the Roadmap for implementation of the COOMET Strategy for 2020-2025 and the draft underwent preliminary consideration by COOMET Committee members and Chairs of its structural bodies. The Program specifies timeframes for implementation and persons, responsible for the indicators of the Roadmap, as well as provides for a number of conventionally performed activities and events, aimed at COOMET internal development and external representation.

COOMET Development Program for 2020-2022 is submitted for approval at this meeting (item 4 of the agenda).

**3) In view of cancellation of the COOMET Committee meeting in April 2020 I initiated holding of e-voting among COOMET Committee members on some issues of COOMET activities.**

Thank you for the support of this initiative (this was also new experience for COOMET, since it is not envisaged in the Rules of Procedure). This allowed us to avoid suspending of the activity of our organization owing to the pandemic and to make some important decisions on:

- refining the COOMET Memorandum of Understanding in terms of changing the principles of forming the organizational structure of COOMET; classifying SCs as COOMET working bodies (which simplified the establishment of their memberships) refining the approaches to setting the terms of office of Chairs of COOMET structural and working bodies;
- changing the organizational structure of COOMET;
- appointing/ extending the terms of office of Chairs of some TCs and SCs;
- approving TCs memberships;
- adopting the updated COOMET Document D5:2020 "Model Regulations for COOMET Structural Body" etc.

Further information will be provided under items 2 and 5 of the agenda.

I think, the algorithm of making decisions on behalf of COOMET based on the results of e-voting should be reflected in the fundamental documents of COOMET when they are revised.

I would like to congratulate COOMET Vice-President, Ms. Nino Mikanadze, on her appointment as the Quality Forum Chair and wish her every success in this position, given the importance of Forum activities for the implementation of the CIPM MRA in COOMET member countries and this tough period, which we all are facing now.

Moreover, on behalf of COOMET I would like to express gratitude to Mr. Andreas Odin (PTB, Germany) for his personal contribution to the operation of COOMET Quality Forum during the performance of his duties as the Forum Chair and for the organization of effective cooperation within COOMET in this field of cooperation.

4) Despite the fact that at the 29<sup>th</sup> COOMET Committee meeting it was decided to suspend the activity of TC5 "Joint Scientific Research in the Field of Metrology", in interviews under the External assessment "Status and Perspectives of COOMET" some Committee members expressed regret that this activity was not properly carried out within COOMET.

For this reason we suggest defining one of the COOMET strategic tasks as **Organization of innovative scientific research in the field of metrology**.

The first step to implement this task was organization and holding of a COOMET webinar on the discussion of possible fields of joint scientific research (held on 23 September 2020).

Assessment of the interest of COOMET NMIs/DIs in innovative scientific projects is planned (in the form of a questionnaire), as well as determination and implementation of the promising fields of innovative research in the field of metrology within COOMET.

5) **A traditional aspect of COOMET activities is strengthening of the relations with international and regional metrology organizations.**

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic it was not easy to maintain close contact with BIPM, JCRB, BIPM Consultative Committees, OIML, regional metrology organizations during the reporting period. However, official representatives of COOMET were able to take part in conventional meetings in year 2019, namely of:

- JCRB (September 2019);
- Roundtable of regional legal metrology organizations within the framework of the 54<sup>th</sup> CIML meeting;

- EASC and EASC STCMetr;
- General Assembly and a number of Technical Committees of EURAMET;
- WELMEC Committee;
- General Assembly of APMP etc.

On 8-10 September 2020 COOMET delegation took part in the 42<sup>nd</sup> online JCRB meeting (this will be mentioned under item 8 of the agenda).

6) The main event of year 2018 for the whole metrological community was undoubtedly the 26th CGPM meeting and adoption of Resolution 1 "On the revision of the International System of Units (SI)".

Discussion of the issue of COOMET activities related to the adoption of this resolution took place at the meetings of some COOMET TCs in 2019. A seminar "Redefinition of the International System of Units (SI)" with the participation of COOMET TC Chairs and representatives of COOMET NMIs" was held on 3 October 2019 (organizer – VNIIM named after D.I. Mendeleev, Saint Petersburg, Russia).

The seminar was one of the first COOMET events, held to develop a COOMET Roadmap for the practical transition to the new definitions of units. This issue is specifically emphasized in the COOMET Development Program for 2020-2022. The seminar was broadcasted online on the youtube channel of VNIIM. The draft Roadmap was reviewed at online meetings of COOMET Joint Committee for Measurement Standards in July and September 2020.

The issue of adoption of the **COOMET Roadmap for the implementation of resolutions, related to the redefinition of the SI base units** is put before COOMET Committee under item 7 of the agenda.

I consider it appropriate to update the contents of the adopted Roadmap as required, but at least once every six month.

On behalf of COOMET Committee I would like to congratulate all **Belarusian metrologists on gaining in January 2020 the status of a full member of the Metre Convention.**

7) Despite some organizational difficulties with data transfer to a new KCDB 2.0 database **traditionally considerable work on implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (CIPM MRA) was performed both in NMIs/DIs of COOMET member-countries and directly in COOMET structural bodies** in years 2019-2020.

The importance of participation of COOMET NMIs in the implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (CIPM MRA) is highlighted at all meetings of COOMET steering and working bodies.

All aspects of the CIPM MRA implementation (CMC data preparation, carrying out of comparisons of national measurement standards, as well as creation and evaluation of NMIs quality systems) are currently high-priority tasks and an important integral part of COOMET activities.

During the reporting period **331 CMC-entries** of COOMET member countries, providing their CMCs through COOMET, were published.

It should be noted that the total number of CMC entries of NMIs of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Cuba and Azerbaijan (data are provided through COOMET) is constantly



increasing and corresponds currently to **2654 entries**. The total number of CMCs (including countries that provide CMCs through EURAMET (Germany, Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Turkey, Moldova and Romania) or APMP (China) equals to 4798 entries at present.

I would like once again to express a wish that representatives of COOMET member countries, who are not currently signatories of the CIPM MRA (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan), address the issue more intensively at the level of their Governments.

An important event, aimed at the effective implementation of the CIPM MRA, was a **training BIPM-COOMET online course on the use of the new platform KCDB 2.0 for the Chairs of Technical Committees and COOMET technical experts on CMC** (25-27 May 2020) within the CBKT Programme.

It was planned to hold this event in the form of a seminar in April 2020, in Minsk, Belarus. However, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic the event was held online late in May 2020. A. Henson - BIPM ILC Department Director, S. Picard - KCDB Coordinator, S. Bergstrand - JCRB Executive Secretary, S. Maniguet - KCDB Assistant and C. Kuanbayev – BIPM CBKT Manager spoke at the webinar.

The number of registered participants, representing NMIs/DIs of Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Ukraine, exceeded 100 persons. Experts from some NMIs took part in the webinar both in the form of in-person online participation and in the form of group presentation watching.

During the webinar the issues, related to the capabilities of KCDB 2.0, creation of users' accounts, generation and review of CMCs, registration of measurement standards comparisons were considered, and possibilities of statistics of this database were presented. Online surveys and discussion of the received replies with the speakers were used as a feedback from the participants. The participants appreciated the organization and relevance of the webinar's subject and endorsed the work of COOMET within the framework of the BIPM CBKT Programme.

COOMET became the first regional metrology organization, with which the BIPM organized the event of such a kind.

COOMET expressed gratitude to the BIPM for the provided possibility of participation of a wide range of experts of COOMET NMIs/DIs in the online course held and to all the speakers for their informative reports.

In September-October 2020 **local webinars on KCDB 2.0 within a number of COOMET Technical Committees** will be held. The first webinar of this kind was held on 18 September.

**Important tasks of the Joint Committee for Measurement Standards together with TC 1.2 – TC 1.12 for 2020-2021** (alongside with CMC review and coordination of activities on comparisons) include:

(1) implementation and update of the COOMET Roadmap for the implementation of resolutions, related to the redefinition of the SI base units.

(2) organization of the translation into Russian of CIPM MRA documents P-XX and CIPM MRA G-XX, adopted by the JCRB, after their official publication.

(3) update of COOMET recommendations in view of CIPM MRA G-XX documents, namely:

- COOMET Recommendation R/GM/7:2014 "Procedure of performing an internal review of COOMET NMIs calibration and measurement capabilities (CMCs), and an interregional review of NMIs of other regional metrology organizations";

- COOMET Recommendation R/GM/11:2017 "Regulations for Comparison of Measurement Standards from the National Metrology Institutes of COOMET";

- COOMET Recommendation R/GM/12:2015 " Rules of Maintaining of Foregoing COOMET Programme of Comparisons".

(4) drawing up and implementation of the Plan of preparation of COOMET Recommendations, containing requirements on calibration of various groups of measuring instruments (Guidance on calibration).

(5) analysis of the status of works on comparisons, lasting more than 5 years, for further submission of the report to the JCRB, and summing up of problematic issues and experience gained in COOMET comparisons, and preparation of proposals on the required training events within COOMET.

I would like to request COOMET Committee members and Heads of COOMET NMIs/DIs to assist to the maximum possible extent in carrying out international comparisons and completing COOMET piloted comparisons, especially those, which started more than 5 years ago.

As you know, preparation of CMCs for their publication in the BIPM database is just the beginning of a long road, since in accordance with JCRB requirements each CMC entry shall be provided with comparisons and supported by the quality management system of an NMI/DI claiming its calibration and measurement capabilities.

(1) Program of comparisons of COOMET NMIs measurement standards for 2020 (approved at the COOMET Presidential Council meeting in November 2019), most projects of the COOMET Work Program, as well as (2) activities of the Quality Forum for peer reviews of QMS of NMIs and DIs are traditionally aimed at meeting the JCRB requirements for the support of CMC with comparisons.

In years 2019-2020 COOMET Secretariat in conjunction with TCs Chairs continued the update of the COOMET Work Programme: a great number of actually completed comparisons were excluded from it, for which the forms of completed COOMET projects had not been filled in due time, as well as previously planned comparisons, which are currently not relevant for COOMET NMIs. In fact, works are now being performed on **105 COOMET comparisons**.

Mention should be made of the activities of the COOMET Quality Forum in terms of implementation of the CIPM MRA. RECOGNITION of quality management systems of NMIs/DIs of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Moldova, Georgia and Azerbaijan has been documented. Owing to the pandemic COOMET Presidential Council made a decision on extending the period of validity of COOMET confirmations of recognition of QMS of NMIs/DIs for compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 (for VNIIM, VNIIMS, VNIIOFI, VNIIFTRI, KazInMetr) and for compliance with the requirements of ISO 17034 (for VNIIM, VNIIOFI, KazInMetr) until 1 March 2021. The corresponding notification was sent to the JCRB. COOMET TC 3.1 aims to organize peer reviews of the above NMIs within the specified period (if the situation with the Covid-19 pandemic will be favourable).

Given that in accordance with JCRB resolution 42/01 the end of the transition period to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 is extended to 1 June 2021, an updated document **“Policy and Plan of the Technical Committee of the COOMET Quality Forum related to the transition to ISO 17034:2016 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for peer reviews of QMS of COOMET NMIs and DIs”** is submitted for approval of COOMET Committee. The information will be provided under item 9 of the agenda.

Under item 14 of the agenda updated COOMET publications, required to organize peer reviews of QMS of COOMET NMIs, are also submitted to the Committee for approval:

- COOMET Recommendation R/GM/15:2020 "Rules of Completion of the Form of Calibration Certificates issued by National Metrology Institutes and Designated Institutes within the scope of the CIPM MRA" (replacing COOMET R/GM/15:2007);

- COOMET Recommendation R/RM/22:2020 "Form and content of COOMET certificate for reference materials for composition and properties of substances and materials" (replacing COOMET R/RM/22:2013).

All interested COOMET Committee members are requested to organize the most rapid introduction of these recommendations in the working practices of NMIs and DIs of their countries.

**8) COOMET activities in the field of legal metrology** in years 2019-2020 were focused, as usual, on the implementation of projects of the Work Program of TC 2 “Legal metrology”.

Together with the scheduled meeting of TC2 a COOMET seminar "Determination of reverification intervals in legal metrology" was held under the auspices of COOMET in September 2019 in Kiev, Ukraine, which in addition to the participants of the TC2 meeting was also attended by specialists from metrological centers of Ukraine. In total more than 40 specialists took part in the seminar. At the seminar presentations of representatives of countries, participating in TC2 activities, were delivered about their national practice of setting up reverification intervals, and overview of the requirements of ILAC-G24/OIML D 10 "Guidelines for the determination of recalibration intervals of measuring equipment used in testing laboratories" was provided alongside with an approach to setting up of reverification intervals, being developed in Belarus under project COOMET 716/BY/17. TC2 Chair, Peter Ulbig (Germany), presented to the participants a comparative analysis of reverification intervals for 20 categories of measuring instruments in different COOMET member countries, which arouse a spirited discussion among the participants of the seminar.

Information about the legal metrology systems in COOMET countries is collected in year 2020 (updated information is published on the COOMET portal as received).

Preparation of the COOMET Plan for translation of OIML publications into Russian currently continues.

COOMET Presidential Council appointed Mr. Aleksandr Kuzin, Director of FGUP “VNIIMS”, Moscow, Russia, as an official COOMET representative to the OIML Certification System. I reported to the Executive Secretary of the OIML Certification System about this decision. I call on the interested parties to discuss the form of their participation in the system (and existing problems) at COOMET TC2 meetings.



9) In years 2019-2020 works **in the field of information and training** were also performed.

In particular, update of the information was traditionally carried out, which is provided on the COOMET web-resources (data base on COOMET projects, information about the metrological infrastructure of COOMET member countries, information about COOMET Committee members, Chairpersons and members of structural bodies, COOMET Publications, news feed etc.). The database on comparisons based on Annex B of KCDB 2.0 was updated on the COOMET website.

In 2018 **Working Group for the creation of a new unified information resource of COOMET** (WG-Web) commenced its work. It is aimed at the creation of a new unified information resource of COOMET, integrating the opportunities of the portal and website for full presentation of the relevant information about COOMET activities and exchange of information among the participants of cooperation within the organization. However, works on the creation of a new unified information resource of COOMET were suspended – according to a resolution of the 29th COOMET Committee meeting works will be resumed after the approval of the COOMET Development Strategy for 2020-2025. Given that the Strategy will be approved at this meeting, I request the Chair of the WG-Web, Mr. Pavel Neyezhnikov (Ukraine), and members of the WG to resume discussions of the Terms of Reference for the creation of a new unified information resource of COOMET

A draft Plan of training activities of COOMET for 2020-2021 was prepared in 2020 within TC4 "Information and Training", which was approved by COOMET Presidential Council (this plan is given in the working documents of the meeting).

I would like to thank those NMIs/DIs, which expressed their willingness to act as organizers of training activities. I call on all COOMET Committee members to participate actively in training activities, provided for in the Plan.

As a part of e-voting in April 2020 COOMET Committee adopted COOMET Recommendation R/GM/18:2020 "Procedure of the Competition "The Best Young Metrologist of COOMET".

Please note that at the invitation of COOMET Vice-President, Mr. Peter Ulbig (Germany), the next International competition "The Best Young Metrologist of COOMET" will be held in Germany in April 2021 (if restrictions owing to the Covid-19 pandemic are removed). In accordance with the established practice practitioners from other RMOs can take part in the competition. The possibility of participation in the competition both in the conventional format and via videoconference will be considered.

I would also like to mention a coordinating role of TC 4 in organizing the participation of practitioners from COOMET NMIs/DIs in training seminars and traineeships under CBKT BIPM programs. Thus, COOMET representatives were able to participate in technical exchanges on KCDB 2.0, which were held in September 2020 for different types of measurements.

These are the most significant results of the activities of our organization in years 2019-2020 and future tasks to be addressed by COOMET until the end of year 2020 and in later years. Events to be held by COOMET are given in more detail in the COOMET Development Program for 2020-2022. I call on all participants to participate actively in its implementation.

I would like to conclude my speech by expressing my gratitude to the Vice-Presidents, COOMET Committee members and Chairs of Technical Committees and Subcommittees, CSB members – all of you had to work in difficult circumstances!

I wish successful and fruitful work to everyone here. I am sure that our decisions will contribute to further development of COOMET, as well as to increased cooperation among the member countries of our organization.

Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Valery Hurevich,  
COOMET President