

COOMET PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear colleagues!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 34th COOMET Committee meeting, which we are holding after a four-year break on the hospitable land of Kazakhstan in the anniversary year for metrologists of the Republic and during the celebrations of the World Metrology Day. I am sorry that representatives from not all countries have been able to arrive to Astana, but the hybrid format has allowed for a quorum at our meeting.

Unfortunately, the geopolitical events happening in the COOMET region directly affect the activities of all structural bodies and COOMET in general. Therefore, I will reiterate the main thesis of my statement in October last year: our top priority today is **to keep functioning of COOMET as a regional metrology organization and regional legal metrology organization** despite all today's challenges.

I have to state that the number of full COOMET members of our organization will decrease in 2023, since we have received notifications from the Ministry of the Economy and Innovations of the Republic of Lithuania and from the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine about the termination of participation in COOMET activities. The total number of COOMET members will be 17.

The notification received from the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine in October 2022 of the suspension of participation of Ukraine in COOMET structural bodies is still valid. That decision partially blocked the operation of a number of COOMET structural bodies (TC 1.2, TC 1.5, TC 1.6, TC 2, TC 4) and subcommittees that function within these CSBs (SC 1.6.2, SC 1.6.3, SC 4.1), since they were headed by the representatives of Ukraine. Actually, the activities of the Ukrainian specialists who are field coordinators in TC 1.2, TC 1.3 and who perform the functions of COOMET technical experts on CMC review and peer review of NMI/DI QMS in different types of measurements also stopped. The corrective actions, timely undertaken by the Presidential Council on the appointment of the Acting Chairs of the above TCs, and elections of new Chairs have adjusted the work of those structural bodies and made it possible to avoid the suspension of the scientific and technical activities of our organization (first of all, on performing the COOMET duties in terms of participation in the implementation of the CIPM MRA).

On behalf of COOMET, I would like once again to express gratitude to the former Chairs of TC 1.2 (Aleksandr Kosterov), TC 1.5 (Aleksandr Kostrikov), TC 1.6 (Irina Koloinskaia), TC 2 (Yuriy Kuzmenko), TC 4 (Pavel Neyezhmakov) for the great work performed during their offices. I also extend my appreciation to all former and current representatives of Ukraine and Lithuania in structural bodies for their contribution to COOMET activities for 30 years of our organization's existence.

After the 33rd COOMET Committee meeting two online meetings of the Presidential Council were held, where we continued discussing the current situation and seeking the ways out and ways to stabilize COOMET activities.

Unfortunately, there are no transparent solutions; however, I believe that we should all strive to maintain technical cooperation to a maximum possible extent. This is exactly why it is important that all structural bodies continue implementing projects of the Program of Comparisons and other COOMET projects (as far as possible).

Almost all structural bodies organized their meetings either in autumn last year or during the first six months of 2023. The TC 1.5 and TC 1.12 meetings were held in a hybrid format, other meetings were held online using the Zoom platform, provided by the COOMET Secretariat.

Countries of various regions cooperate within COOMET, which unfortunately imposes some restrictions on simultaneous participation of representatives of all COOMET members in online meetings owing to the difference in time zones. For this reason, I warmly welcome the members of the delegations of China and Cuba, COOMET countries located farthest away from each other, at today's meeting. I would also like to thank all specialists of these countries who take part in the meetings of TCs and Task Groups.

I would also like to note, that at our meeting this year a great number of NMI Directors are present, which stresses the importance of activities of our RMO for COOMET member countries.

More detailed information about COOMET activities in all main areas and subject fields of cooperation in 2022-2023 is given in the Annual Report on the COOMET activities and will be presented by the Secretariat under item 4 of the meeting agenda.

I am going to sum up the outcomes of COOMET activities since the 33rd COOMET Committee meeting and highlight the main challenges and decisions that we submit to the COOMET Committee for adoption.

1) Preparation of the COOMET Development Program for 2023-2025 and implementation of the COOMET Strategy

A draft COOMET Development Program for 2023-2025 was generally endorsed by the Presidential Council, reviewed by CSBs and agreed with COOMET Committee members. The Program clarifies and specifies the provisions of the Roadmap for the implementation of the COOMET Strategy, approved in 2020.

However, time does not stand still, and new challenges require responses from our organization. For this reason, the Presidential Council suggested adding a new strategic task H "Digitalization in Metrology" to the Strategy. We have discussed this issue in detail under item 5 of the agenda of the Working Session.

I also have to note some problems with the implementation of some strategic tasks of COOMET, Mission and Vision of COOMET. I am confident that we will overcome the difficulties through joint efforts. We have tried to correct this in a new Development Program.

In 2022 the COOMET Committee suspended the activities of the WG for Strategy, which has frozen the discussion of the issue of changing the institutional status, funding of activities and other important aspects of improving the organization's activities. That is why a survey was organized among COOMET Committee members in autumn last year to define their vision of possible options to enhance cooperation without changing the organizational and legal form of COOMET.

At the 33rd meeting, we continued discussing the proposals from COOMET Committee members on the possible contribution of countries to COOMET activities and proposals on enhancing cooperation in the conditions of maintaining the status quo. The Presidential Council was instructed to develop proposals on specific actions, but given the current situation and the fact the Council operated with fewer staff (without the participation of Germany and Ukraine), the process is difficult and the final recommendations can only be submitted to the COOMET Committee in 2024.

However, part of the proposals and conclusions of the survey are already under implementation. Thus, for example, most respondents of the survey supported the idea below:

2) Development of cooperation with countries with emerging metrology systems (CEEMS)

This is one of the priority fields (CEEMS support is provided for in the COOMET Strategy and Development Program).

In 2021 COOMET criteria were defined, for member countries to be identified as CEEMS. Four countries decided that they met the criteria (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).

In 2022 it was decided to establish a COOMET Task Group for CEEMS support (it is currently chaired by the Deputy General Director of KazStandard Bauyrzhan Mukhamedzhanov). The TG-CEEMS sets the task of drawing up an Action Program of assistance to CEEMS and providing for its annual update, as well as organizing the implementation of actions of the above Program.

In the 3rd quarter of 2022 a survey was conducted to identify the needs of CEEMS in terms of carrying out comparisons and calibrations of measurement standards, holding of training seminars and traineeships. In the 4th quarter of 2022 a survey was initiated among other COOMET member countries to identify their possibilities of providing assistance to CEEMS.

The survey results should form the basis for the COOMET Program of assistance to CEEMS. The TG-CEEMS will seek possible external sources of funding for working programs and projects for CEEMS countries.

I hope that following the discussion of all proposals involving CEEMS representatives, the above program will be submitted to the Committee for approval, and we will see the specific results of its implementation.

3) Participation in the activities of the Metre Convention is without doubt one of the priorities of metrologists of any country.

10 COOMET member countries are members of the Metre Convention, 5 countries are CGPM associates.

Unfortunately, Cuba has not resumed its status of a CGPM associate. I am concerned and at the same time, I hope that Cuban metrologists will be able to resolve this issue and get back to participation in the CGPM and CIPM MRA.

The Joint Committee for Measurement Standards analyzed the participation of COOMET NMIs in the activities of CIPM Consultative Committees, according to which I suggest adopting a resolution by the COOMET Committee with a recommendation for NMIs of the Metre Convention member countries to intensify work on joining the activities of Consultative Committees in accordance with the established rules and procedures (the message is primarily intended for Belarus and Kazakhstan).

There are states among COOMET member countries, which do not yet use the potential opportunities from participation in the Metre Convention. Thus, for instance, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are neither members of the Metre Convention, nor CGPM associates and therefore cannot take part in the implementation of the CIPM MRA. On behalf of COOMET, I appeal to the representatives of those states to trigger the mentioned activities.

4) Traditionally considerable work on the implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangements (CIPM MRA) was performed both in NMIs/DIs of COOMET member countries and directly in COOMET structural bodies.

NMIs/DIs of 15 COOMET member countries are signatories to the CIPM MRA, of them only Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan (totally eight NMIs/DIs instead of 13 before) currently take part in its implementation through COOMET.

The reduced number is the result of the notification received from the JCRB about the transfer of activities of the NMIs/DIs of Georgia and Ukraine on the implementation of the CIPM MRA to EURAMET from 01.02.2023 (those countries have become EURAMET associate members), as well as of loss of the right of Cuba to participate in the CIPM MRA.

I am not going to provide a detailed statistics on the implementation of the Arrangements, this will be done in the Annual report about COOMET activities and JCMS report. I would just like to mention the following significant activities and challenges:

(1) Permanent monitoring of the state of work on comparisons, registered in the KCDB and lasting over 5 years, by JCMS in conjunction with TC 1.2 – TC 1.11 and COOMET Secretariat, and facilitation of their completion.

I am happy that we manage to (though not fast) to carry out tough work on the completion of comparisons, where the NMIs of Ukraine are pilots and/or participants, with the maximum assistance of the Secretariat. Colleagues not only from Ukraine, but from some other COOMET member countries, planning to post their CMCs in the KCDB, are interested in that.

I would like to take advantage of the presence of the Directors of NMIs of COOMET member countries and to kindly request them to provide maximum assistance in conducting comparisons of measurement standards and contribute to the completion of COOMET comparisons, piloted by their institutes (especially those, which started over 5 years ago), since the issue related to the completion of comparisons cannot be oftentimes resolved at the level of the Heads of COOMET structural bodies. In 2022 some questions were resolved, still there are comparisons that are not formally completed in the KCDB owing to the lack of the final versions of comparison reports. Please pay attention to the list of such comparisons prepared in view of the JCRB instructions, which is provided in the meeting documents – this issue will be addressed in more detail in the JCMS report under item 5 of the agenda of the Plenary Session.

(2) The Presidential Council endorsed a special algorithm of possible actions to complete long-lasting COOMET comparisons based on the JCMS proposals; the information will also be provided in the JCMS report.

(3) COOMET faced the refusal of EURAMET to review the CMCs submitted by COOMET for interregional reviews. Finally, the CMCs were reviewed by other RMOs, but such force majeure circumstances hinder the implementation of the CIPM MRA. COOMET has not taken any reciprocal measures and tried to take part in all interregional reviews (our RMO has one of the best results among all RMOs regarding the number of missed reviews; I would like to express my gratitude to the TC Chairs and technical experts who took part in the work).

(4) In 2022-2023 TC 3.1 and Quality Forum organized peer reviews of the quality management systems of those COOMET NMIs/DIs, for the QMS of which the validity periods of the COOMET Confirmations of Recognition expired.

COOMET still had the commitments regarding repeat peer reviews of the QMS to GEOSTM (Georgia) and two Ukrainian institutes, but owing to the transfer of their activities on the CIPM MRA to EURAMET, the issue was removed from the agenda.

In October 2023, the COOMET Confirmations of Recognition for the QMS of the Cuban DIs will expire. COOMET waits for the decision from the colleagues on resuming the status of a CGPM associate and is ready to conduct peer reviews of the QMS of those institutes as fast as possible.

UzNIM, Uzbekistan, presented its QMS on the COOMET platform for the first time, which will allow them to put all their efforts into the publication of CMCs. We congratulate all specialists of the institute on another accomplishment!

I would like to express gratitude to the COOMET Vice-President Nino Mikanadze (Georgia) for the efficient and effective organization of peer reviews of the QMS of NMIs/DIs in the current tough conditions, and to all COOMET auditors and technical experts on peer review of NMI/DI QMS for the conduct of the peer reviews.

5) A very complicated situation has developed in COOMET with the implementation of **Strategic Task F "Organization of innovative scientific research in the field of metrology"**.

At the decision of the COOMET Committee in 2022, TC 5 "Innovative Research in Metrology" was reactivated and chaired by the COOMET Vice-President Evgeny Lazarenko (Russia); the TC 5 membership was formed. The COOMET Development Program for 2020-2022 provided for the preparation of a Concept of innovative research in metrology within COOMET (see item 60 (Ind-f.1.5)) and assessment of potential funding sources and requirements of internal/external donors for innovative scientific projects of COOMET (see item 61 (Ind-f.1.6)) for the implementation of Task F. However, the works were not performed.

At the 34th COOMET Presidential Council meeting in March 2023 Evgeny Lazarenko stated the suspension of work on the implementation of task F due to the lack of COOMET own financial resources and proposed changing the name of the task to "Conduct of research in the field of metrology" and the name of TC 5 to "Prospective Research Areas". The Presidential Council supported the proposal, and it was submitted to the COOMET Committee for approval in 2023 within the Working Session.

I hope that COOMET will be able to resume work on the implementation of task F in preparing a draft COOMET Strategy for 2026-2031 – we should at least set this task.

Actually, Task F currently boils down to the implementation of the following indicators:

- Ind-f.1.3 Determination and implementation of prospective research areas in metrology within COOMET;
- Ind-f.1.4 Identification and implementation of scientific projects related to redefined SI units involving NMIs of COOMET member countries,

which is reflected in the new approved COOMET Development Program.

An updated COOMET Roadmap for the Implementation of Decisions Related to the Redefinition of the Basic Units of the International System of Units (SI) for 2021-2025 (program COOMET P6) will be submitted to the Committee for approval under item 5 of the agenda, and proposals on the implementation of indicator Ind-f.1.3 – under item 11 of the agenda of the Plenary Session.

6) The topic of digitalization of metrological activities is one of the major modern trends and object of interest of all international and regional organizations.

At the decision of the COOMET Committee held in October 2022, the Working Group for project 825/RU-a/21 was transformed into a COOMET Task Group for Digital Transformation in Metrology (TG-DigTr); Andrey Pankov (Russia) was appointed its Chair.

A draft COOMET Concept for the Issues of Digital Transformation in Metrology and Roadmap for its implementation were discussed within the TG-DigTr.

The drafts of those policy documents are submitted to the COOMET Committee for approval under item 12 of the Plenary Session.

I believe that the COOMET projects on the preparation of COOMET recommendations on the objects of digitalization should be completed by the TG-DigTr as soon as possible. From the point of view of applied metrology, it is particularly important to prepare promptly COOMET requirements for digital MI calibration/verification certificates that could be implemented in member countries (obviously, in view of the developments and recommendations of the OIML Digitalization Task Group (DTG) and CIPM Task Group on the SI Digital Framework (CIPM-TG-DIG).

In my opinion, it is appropriate to schedule a thematic COOMET seminar on digitalization in 2024, where we will be able to discuss the first results of the implementation of the Roadmap (specific time and place or format should be discussed at the Presidential Council meeting in November this year).

7) The activities of COOMET in the field of legal metrology are traditionally geared toward the implementation of the projects given in the Work Program of TC 2 "Legal Metrology" (for more details see the Annual report of TC2).

During the reporting period, the TC 2 work was mainly focused on the translation of a number of OIML publications (OIML D1, OIML D30, OIML D31, OIML D32, OIML G14).

Translation of OIML publications should remain the focus area of TC 2 (taking into account the provisions of section 4 of COOMET D1 "Memorandum of Understanding"). The materials can be further used for the development of COOMET recommendations and/or introduced into the working practice of COOMET countries by issuing national normative legal acts or national standards.

In previous years TC 2 actively arranged training seminars on the issues of legal metrology. Unfortunately, such events were not held either in 2022 or in 2023 owing to the force majeure situation.

At the initiative of TC 2 two seminars have been scheduled to be held before the end of this year:

- "Issues of the metrological ensuring of measurements using smart meters";
- OIML Certification System.

8) COOMET activities in the field of information and training are normally performed within two branches: through the activities of the COOMET Secretariat and TC4 "Information and Training". More detailed information about what has been done is given in the COOMET Annual Report and Annual Report of TC 4.

Regarding the issues of information and information activities, I would like to note the following:

- structural bodies and Secretariat continue checking the scientific and practical level and updating almost all COOMET publications in accordance with the approved plan, as well as preparing new publications – the results of the works completed in 2023, are submitted to the Committee for approval.

- within the WG-Web headed by Aleksandr Kuzin (VNIIMS, Russia) discussion of draft Terms of Reference for the creation of a new single web resource of COOMET has reached its final stage (the preparation involved the TG-DigTr in order to synchronize the actions and ideas of the WG-Web and TG-DigTr on the creation of a COOMET digital platform). I hope that despite the lack of COOMET's own funds, financing sources will be found to complete the work. It is also important to note that before the single resource is put into operation, both the website www.coomet.org and webportal www.coomet.net will be fully operational.

- the CIPM MRA Brochures, prepared and issued by the BIPM, were translated into Russian; the translation is available on the COOMET information resources and was sent to COOMET countries.

- work has begun on drawing up a list of documents on metrology of international metrology organizations, requiring translations into Russian.

- pages were created on the COOMET web portal, where the existing translations of documents of international and regional metrology organizations were posted (and are planned to be posted in the future). COOMET Secretariat arranged negotiations and received confirmation from the BIPM and BIPM regarding the possibility of posting of translations of OIML publications on the COOMET information resources (taking into account the rules and procedures given in OIML B11:2007), as well as documents of CIPM, BIPM, CIPM CC, published on website www.bipm.org in open access, correspondingly.

Regarding the issues of training and knowledge transfer, it is appropriate to dwell on the following points:

- in the elaboration of the Practical Arrangement signed between the BIPM and COOMET on cooperation in delivering capacity building and knowledge transfer activities using the BIPM e-learning platform, a COOMET page has been launched on the BIPM e-learning platform (<https://e-learning.bipm.org/>) since June 2022, where COOMET courses are made available.

The COOMET Secretariat has prepared three training courses. The Presidential Council endorsed the proposal of TC 4 to issue official COOMET certificates for the participants of courses, who have successfully passed the tests (the provisions are provided for in the recommendation, which is submitted to the Committee for approval). In this regard, I recommend that taking of the CIPM MRA course be organized by the Heads of NMIs for specialists of their NMIs taking part in CMC preparation and/or comparisons of measurement standards.

The COOMET team is working on the creation of other training courses under the auspices of our RMO. I appeal to all CSBs to be actively involved in filling the COOMET page with useful and relevant training content. In my point of view, this will contribute to enhancing COOMET cooperation.

- I would also like to mention a coordinating role of TC 4 in organizing the participation of specialists from COOMET NMIs/DIs in the events initiated under the BIPM Program on capacity building and knowledge transfer (CBKT). In 2022-2023 COOMET representatives participated in 10 technical exchanges on KCDB 2.0; specialists of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan participated in the training projects of TÜBİTAK UME and GULFMET.

- preparations for the X International Competition "Best Young Metrologist of COOMET" are underway, which will take place on 14 June 2023 in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

The task of TC 4 is to complete the preparation of the COOMET recommendation that describes the procedure of assessing the training needs and planning of trainings within COOMET. The procedure will optimize internal processes within COOMET in terms of identifying (1) the needs of cooperation participants in trainings in different subject fields of cooperation and (2) existing resources/possibilities to hold training seminars in COOMET NMIs.

9) COOMET sets the task of strengthening relationships with international and regional metrology organizations.

In 2022-2023 official COOMET representatives took part in the activities of the JCRB, Round Table of Regional Legal Metrology Organizations, meetings of EASC and STCMetr of EASC and a range of regional metrology organizations (more detailed information is provided in the COOMET Annual Report).

I am pleased to welcome the representatives of the BIPM, OIML, APMP, AFRIMETS, EURAMET (in the rank of observers), GULFMET, SIM and Bureau for Standards of EASC at our meeting.

In accordance with the COOMET Development Program, as early as in 2021 negotiations began with the representatives of regional metrology organizations on the possibility of signing Memorandums of Understanding with due account for mutual benefits and discussion of cooperation plans. In 2022 the work was suspended and unfortunately has not been resumed to date. However, communication continues under the auspices of the JCRB and RLMO Round Table.

An Action Plan for Cooperation between COOMET and EASC for 2022-2023 was signed and is under implementation. The technical issues of cooperation, provided for in the Plan, were discussed within the JCMS.

COOMET, as one of the six RMOs, will take part in the BIPM initiative "Young metrologists. 2050+vision". I am confident that it will be a very interesting and exciting project both for those directly involved and for those who will get acquainted with its results.

10) I believe that we should pay more attention to **promoting COOMET activities and showing the significance of COOMET at the national and international levels**. Some work is performed (newsfeed on the information resources, creation of a YouTube channel, maintenance of the Facebook page, preparation of articles to journals, giving of the distinguished title "Honorary Metrologist of COOMET"), but evidently it is not enough. We strongly hoped that dealing with the issues related to the institutional status and funding of COOMET activities would allow us to implement this task more effectively. However, since this work within COOMET has been suspended, we can currently rely only on internal reserves.

The International Scientific and Practical Conference "Measurements as the Basis of Global Confidence", organized by KazStandard, where a considerable part of the Committee meeting participants will participate, also contributes to the above purpose. I sincerely congratulate all metrologists of Kazakhstan on the 100th anniversary of metrology of the country!

I would also like to note the remarkable initiative of the NIM of China on holding a Scientific and Practical Conference of COOMET on the relevant issues of metrology in 2024 offline (in the absence of restrictions on international travel). The Secretariat has forwarded the information to all countries proposing to act as an organizer of the event. Shortly before the Committee meeting, I have received an official letter from the COOMET Vice-President Evgeny Lazarenko with an invitation to hold the conference in Russia.

Yesterday the next COOMET President was elected at the Working Session of the COOMET Committee, who will take office at the COOMET Committee meeting in 2024.

I can state that during the term of office of the Republic of Belarus (and especially in recent years) the current COOMET Secretariat and I personally have made every effort to ensure the operation of COOMET, despite all challenges and difficulties.

I call on the Elected President, the future COOMET Secretariat and all participants of cooperation to do their utmost to maintain functioning of COOMET as a regional metrology organization and regional legal metrology organization!

I sincerely wish success, firmness of spirit, wisdom and well-considered decisions in view of COOMET interests to the Elected President. I wish us all to stay optimistic, maintain scientific and friendly relations and professional attitude to work, despite any external circumstances and political decisions.

My congratulations to all of you on the past World Metrology Day!

Thank you for your attention!

Valery Hurevich,

COOMET President