



Forum: Metrology – Trade Facilitator

25 October 2004, Berlin, Germany

**RESULTS, RECOMMENDATIONS,
ACTIONS AND CLOSURE**



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Recommendations

The following is a summary of the Recommendation presented by those Organisations who had made presentations at the Forum:

OECD:

The analysis of conformity assessment procedures from a market access perspective clearly shows that the non-existence of the necessary technical MAS infrastructure constitutes a technical barrier to trade. However, that does not mean that every country should build up such an infrastructure to the full extent because this cannot be justified from an economic point of view. Taking into account the many regional trade associations, it would be better to setup corresponding regional structures for MAS. The "Initial Analysis of Conformity Assessment Procedures from a Market Access Prospective" contains more information concerning costs, benefits, reviews of discussions in the WTO and conclusions. This analysis is expected to be published on the OECD web site in November/December 2004.

BIPM:

The BIPM, together with the OIML and ILAC, works on procedures to reduce technical barriers to trade. In general, there are no technical reasons why certificates issued under international agreed upon standards and procedures should be refused. The "Mutual Recognition Arrangement of national measurement standards and of calibration and measurement certificates issued by national metrology institutes" (MRA) establishes the degree of equivalence of national measurement standards, provides for the mutual recognition of measurement and calibration certificates and provides governments with a secure technical basis for wider agreements related to international trade. Members are therefore recommended to become signatories to the MRA.

To facilitate the financial participation in MRA activities, the new membership class of Associate Member to the CIPM has been created. The fee for small states, economies or economic regions is 4000 €.

ISO:

Technical infrastructure should be developed in a coherent way so that the elements of metrology, standardization and accreditation correspond to the needs of the national economy (the integrated approach). Regional cooperations should be realized as far as possible to benefit from synergies.

UNIDO:

Since governments are very often not aware of the importance of a technical MAS infrastructure, Ministers and members of permanent missions are exposed to the relevant facts at UNIDO headquarters as well as in their countries. Work on MAS issues should be coordinated at the national and regional levels. Developing countries should actively participate in WTO TBT activities to ensure that their problems and concerns are taken into account.

OIML:

The OIML will continue to work for developing countries and to contribute to the work of the Joint Committee on the Coordination of Assistance to Developing Countries in Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization (JCDCMAS). Having observer status at the WTO TBT Committee opens the possibility of expressing the concerns of the OIML and its Members concerning technical barriers to trade. The outcome of the Forum will be used as input for further work of OIML's Permanent Working Group on Developing Countries.

ILAC:

The main problems for developing countries with regard to a national accreditation system concern:

- the costs of such a system and participation in international organizations;
- difficulties in guaranteeing independence and in finding impartial experts;
- the lack of international recognition.

It is therefore recommended:

- to establish accreditation bodies serving several countries;
- to share assessors and technical experts between accreditation bodies;
- to use external accreditation services.

Initial outcomes of the Poster Sessions

Mr Francis Karani, SADC MEL

Discussions with the DAM and with the PTB have produced a general agreement to provide a train-the-trainer course in the area of volumetric measurements. The details had yet to be agreed.

Hans Dieter Velfe, PTB, Germany

Several times during the day, the importance of regional work has been highlighted. In response to the request from Mr Zhagora, the PTB has agreed to provide training in Russian on hardness measurement at the PTB during the coming year and a seminar on medical measuring instruments, which will probably take place in Belarus, with the support of the DAM. There will also be a seminar in an Eastern European country on the practical control of prepackages; this will also be in association with the DAM.

Closure

Mrs Annabi thanked those who had given presentations during the Forum, as well as all delegates for attending and participating. The Forum had been an excellent opportunity for developing countries, industrialised countries and international organisations to get together and to discuss the problems of the promotion of metrology in developing countries. She reminded delegates that all the information from the Forum would be made available on the OIML's web site.