



56 CIML Addendum 4.2
16 CONF Addendum 4

2021-07-13

56th CIML Meeting – Agenda Item 4.2
16th Conference – Agenda Item 4

**Confirmation that in-person and online participation
in OIML meetings is equivalent**



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1 Introduction

This paper aims to establish the principle that OIML meetings can be in-person, online or hybrid (combination of in-person and online), and that in-person and online participation is equivalent.

Note: Online participation includes all types of participation by electronic means, i.e. via videoconference, telephone, website, app, etc.

2 Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that it is necessary for the OIML, as well as for other international organisations, to consider alternatives to traditional in-person meetings in order to continue to operate. This has prompted the Organisation to transition to digital and online technology service delivery, and was exemplified by the 55th International Committee of Legal Metrology (hereafter referred to as “CIML” or “Committee”) Meeting, and the RLMO Round Table, CEEMS Advisory Group and OIML Certification System (OIML-CS) Management Committee meetings, being held using videoconferencing technology in 2020.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic our Organisation has continued to embrace online technology. The OIML-CS 6th Management Committee Meeting was held online in March 2021 and a number of Project Group meetings (e.g. TC 5/SC 2/p 4, TC 9/SC 1/p 1, TC 9/SC 2/p 10, TC 9/SC 2/p 11, TC 12/p 1) have also been held online. This year, for the second time, our Organisation will hold the CIML meeting online and, for the first time, the International Conference on Legal Metrology (“the Conference”) will be held online.

3 Resolution 2020/1 and application to the Conference

At the 55th CIML Meeting there was a discussion, under agenda item 2.2, on the application of “in-meeting” conditions for Committee decisions in the case of online voting on subjects which have been discussed at an online CIML meeting. Resolution 2020/1 (reproduced below) was approved:



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The Committee,

Noting the provisions for its decisions set out in Article XVII of OIML B 1 Convention establishing an International Organisation of Legal Metrology,

Considering the need to facilitate the work of the Committee when online CIML meetings are held,

Decides that the “in-meeting” conditions for Committee decisions, given in paragraphs two and three of Article XVII of OIML B 1, shall be used in the case of online voting on subjects which have been discussed at an online CIML meeting.

A survey of CIML Members and Corresponding Member Representatives was conducted after the 55th CIML Meeting, and one of the questions asked whether, in light of Resolution 2020/1, the “in-meeting” conditions defined in Article VIII of OIML B 1 could also be applied to online / hybrid Conferences. The responses to the survey showed that there was overwhelming support for this, with 98 % of responses in favour.

4 Participation in OIML meetings

Even when the situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic improves, and traditional meetings with in-person participation resume, it should be acknowledged that there is a clear appetite and a need to also hold meetings with solely online participation, or to hold hybrid meetings with a combination of in-person and online participation. Consequently, our Organisation should be well prepared for this to ensure that these types of meeting, and the decisions taken at these meetings, are considered to be valid.

Resolution 2020/1 and the survey response outlined above demonstrate that “in-meeting” conditions for decisions can be used in the case of meetings with online participation.

It is therefore proposed that an OIML meeting, e.g. Conference, CIML meeting, OIML-CS Management Committee meeting, Project Group meeting, or other meeting, may be convened as a meeting with solely in-person participation, a meeting with solely online participation, or a meeting with a combination of in-person and online participation. In all cases, in-person and online participation in the meeting is equivalent.

5 Draft CIML Resolution

In view of the above proposal, the following Draft CIML Resolution is proposed:

Draft Resolution no. CIML/2021/xx

The Committee,

Recalling its Resolution 2020/1,

Noting that OIML meetings can be held with in-person participation, or with solely online participation, or with a combination of in-person and online participation,

Decides that in-person and online participation in all OIML meetings is considered to be equivalent.

If this resolution is passed, it is proposed that the 16th Conference endorse the decision that in-person and online participation in OIML meetings is equivalent (see agenda item 4 of the 16th Conference).