



## **INTER-AFRICA METROLOGY SYSTEM (AFRIMETS)**

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

#### ***Preamble***

The member Organisations (as defined in Article 4), on whose behalf this MOU is signed:

- a) Mindful of the challenges that face our continent and the vision and direction created by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Africa Union;
- b) Committed to the positive contribution of Metrology to building Africa's Productive Capacity, through the NEPAD Sustainable Industrial Development Strategy and its Market Access Initiative;
- c) Determined to promote measurement activities in Africa and to strengthen the African voice, contribution and participation at international level in the field of metrology;
- d) Recognising the synergies and the potential of joint efforts and collaboration with the other pillars of the Quality Infrastructure in Africa;
- e) Aware of the increasing need to raise the profile of Metrology in Africa and to raise the profile of Africa's metrology Internationally; and
- f) Recognizing the need to optimize limited resources in the Metrology systems;

are convinced that these can be achieved by the establishment of an Inter-Africa Metrology System, as the umbrella body for Metrology Cooperation in Africa, encompassing legal, scientific and industrial metrology;

HEREBY agree as follows:

### **ESTABLISHMENT**

#### ***Article 1***

There is hereby established the Inter-Africa Metrology System (hereinafter referred to as AFRIMETS) which shall operate in accordance with this MOU and which shall be an independent and autonomous entity with a logo for identification. The Signatories to the MOU declare their common intention to take part in AFRIMETS, and to participate in its activities in pursuit of its objectives.



## OBJECT OF AFRIMETS

### *Article 2*

The overall aim of AFRIMETS shall be to promote metrology and related activities in Africa with the view of facilitating intra–African and international trade (especially to overcome technical, sanitary and phyto-sanitary barriers to trade) and to ensure safety, health, consumer and environmental protection.

In this regard, the Members intend to collaborate to promote the coordination of metrological activities and services in order to achieve greater harmony of measurement and testing within Africa and build mutual confidence in measurement between members and trading partners.

#### *2.1 The specific objectives of AFRIMETS are to:*

- a) Create awareness in Metrology in Africa at all levels of society and government;
- b) Assist in the development and/or strengthening of the metrology infrastructure in each country/sub-region on the continent;
- c) Contribute to the development of a conformity assessment and regulatory infrastructure as required and to promote equity in trade;
- d) Foster competitiveness and quality in the manufacturing sector in order to promote trade and commerce;
- e) Contribute to the development of the metrological infrastructure required to protect the environment and to promote the general well-being of the population, including its health, safety and the protection of consumers from fraudulent dealings where measurements are used as the basis for the transaction;
- f) Develop a closer collaboration between Members;
- g) Improve the level of metrology, and to assist members in gaining international recognition;
- h) Improve the traceability of measurement standards within Africa to international standards as defined in the international system of units (SI), and to generally promote the International Committee of Weights and Measure’s Mutual recognition Arrangement (CIPM MRA) and the objectives of the Metre Convention;
- i) Encourage measurement traceability in Africa through recognized calibration services;
- j) Promote the adoption of International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) technical recommendations or other relevant international standards as technical regulations wherever possible and harmonize technical regulations in Africa in order to minimise technical barriers to trade.

## ACTIVITIES

### *Article 3*

It is envisaged that AFRIMETS will undertake the following activities:

#### **3.1 Capacity Building**

- a) Facilitate projects and infrastructure development on measurement standards and legal metrology and foster cooperation in research between Members;
- b) Link sub-regional databases of services and capabilities not yet accepted in the CIPM MRA database;
- c) Transfer expertise in the field of measurement standards and legal metrology between Members through seminars, conferences, workshops, training programs, consultancies and technical publications.

#### **3.2 Coordination and Networking**

- a) Coordinate inter-laboratory comparisons of measurement standards in sub-regions in order to gain international recognition of measurement capabilities of National Metrology Institutes (NMIs);
- b) Collaborate with other bodies within Africa that are active in standards, testing and conformance;
- c) Encourage and support harmonization of approaches to achieve measurement traceability through the adoption of CIPM recommendations where available or through the development of African recommendations;
- d) Encourage and support harmonization of technical regulations through the adoption of OIML recommendations where available or through the development of African recommendations.

#### **3.3 Advocacy**

- a) Facilitate awareness of relevant stakeholders in Metrology;
- b) Encourage participation in comparisons and other proficiency testing activities organised by the CIPM through its Bureau, the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and their equivalents in legal metrology;
- c) Fulfill the RMO duties within the Joint Committee for Regional Metrology Organisations and the BIPM (JCRB);
- d) Establish and maintain effective links with other international and regional metrology bodies, e.g BIPM, OIML, the European Association of National Metrology Institutes (EURAMET), the European Cooperation in Legal Metrology (WELMEC); the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM); the Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions (COOMET); the Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP) and the Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF);
- e) Encourage membership of the Metre Convention or the OIML;

- f) Encourage participation in the global MRA in measurement standards established by the CIPM;
- g) Encourage participation in the OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement(s).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### ***Article 4***

- 4.1 There are four different categories of membership.
- 4.2 Membership to AFRIMETS shall be as follows:
  - a) Sub-regional Metrology Organisations (SRMOs) in Africa (Principal Members);
  - b) Institutes responsible for Metrology in Africa who are not full members of a sub-regional metrology organisation (Ordinary members);
  - c) Institutes responsible for Metrology outside Africa (Associate members);
  - d) Other Organisations (Observer members).
- 4.3 Only one category of membership is allowed.
- 4.4 Admission, withdrawal, suspension and cessation of membership shall be in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

## **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS**

### ***Article 5***

- 5.1 Members of AFRIMETS shall cooperate in every way so as to assist the entity to achieve its objectives through facilitation, collection, exchange and dissemination of information.
- 5.2 In order to achieve the objective and aims of AFRIMETS, members will have the following rights and obligations:
  - 5.2.1 Principal Members
    - a) Attendance of GA meetings, with voting rights equal to twice the number of member states in the SRMO subject to the Rules of Procedure (to cater for the interests of both industrial and legal metrology in each member state);
    - b) Access for their members to national measurement standards of the institutes responsible for metrology of the Principal and Ordinary members, on an equal footing;
    - c) Participation in AFRIMETS processes to establish specific measurement standards and associated measurements services;

- d) Seek assistance, through consultancies, secondments, or other mechanisms, on specific metrology problems;
- e) Elect and be elected as Chairperson;
- f) Elect and be elected as members of the EXCOM;
- g) Represent their respective sub regions in AFRIMETS committees;
- h) Serve in AFRIMETS committees, subcommittees, and working groups;
- i) Represent AFRIMETS, in national, regional or international matters in accordance with the EXCOM instruction;
- j) Receive General Assembly and EXCOM minutes;
- k) Have access to official AFRIMETS documents;
- l) Participate as a beneficiary in AFRIMETS projects.

#### 5.2.2 Ordinary Members

- a) Attendance to GA meetings with a single vote;
- b) Access to national measurement standards of the institutes responsible for metrology of the Principal and Ordinary members, on an equal footing;
- c) Participation in AFRIMETS processes to establish specific measurement standards and associated measurements services;
- d) Seek assistance, through consultancies, secondments or other mechanisms on specific metrology problems;
- e) Elect members of the EXCOM;
- f) Serve in AFRIMETS committees, subcommittees, and working groups;
- g) Receive General Assembly and EXCOM minutes;
- h) Have access to official AFRIMETS documents;
- i) Participate as a beneficiary in AFRIMETS projects.

#### 5.2.3 Associate Members

- a) Attend GA without voting rights;
- b) Participate in AFRIMETS projects;
- c) Participate in AFRIMETS technical committees, subcommittees, and working groups.

#### 5.2.4 Observer Members

- a) Attend GA without voting rights.

5.3 In the case where a member state has membership of more than one SRMO, the member state will declare where the vote is to be cast.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION**

### ***Article 6***

- 6.1 AFRIMETS shall have the following organs:
- 6.1.1 A General Assembly (GA);
  - 6.1.2 An Executive Committee (EXCOM);
  - 6.1.3 A Secretariat;
  - 6.1.4 Such other bodies and committees as may be established by the General Assembly and/or the Executive Committee.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### ***Article 7***

- 7.1 The GA, which is the supreme organ of the AFRIMETS, shall be constituted by a meeting of the members as defined in Article 5.
- 7.2 The GA meets to review and discuss the aims and specific tasks of AFRIMETS.
- 7.3 The GA accepts any budgets and financial statements, approves new projects, elects office bearers and passes resolutions.
- 7.4 The General Assembly decides itself upon its rules of procedure. It elects its Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons from the principal members. In order to assist the General Assembly in the execution of its work, it will elect an EXCOM from the principal members.
- 7.5 As a general rule, the General Assembly shall meet at least once every calendar year.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### ***Article 8***

- 8.1 The operations of AFRIMETS shall be administered, by an EXCOM consisting of the Chairperson of the GA, the two Vice Chairpersons, a representative of the NEPAD Secretariat, the head of the AFRIMETS Secretariat, and a number of elected delegates to preferably represent all the SRMOs.
- 8.2 Members of the EXCOM are elected for a period of two years.
- 8.3 The EXCOM shall report on the activities of the Organization to the Member Bodies each year and to the GA at each of its sessions.
- 8.4 For its effective functioning the EXCOM may create sub-Committees, which shall report to it each year on the matters referred to them.



- 8.5 The EXCOM shall determine its own Rules of Procedure, which shall not contradict those of the GA.

## **AUTHORITY**

### *Article 9*

- 9.1 A decision by the General Assembly shall constitute a decision of AFRIMETS.
- 9.2 Decisions of the EXCOM in operational matters shall constitute decisions of AFRIMETS.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

### *Article 10*

- 10.1 The Chairperson of AFRIMETS shall be elected by the GA.
- 10.2 The Chairperson shall preside over the GA and the EXCOM and shall submit to the GA the proposals made and the decisions taken by the EXCOM for ratification or noting.
- 10.3 The Chairperson's term of office shall be two years and maximum two consecutive terms.
- 10.4 In case of death or resignation of the Chairperson, the EXCOM shall elect an interim Chairperson from the Vice Chairpersons to take over the duties of the Chairperson until a new Chairperson has been elected at the next GA.

## **VICE CHAIRPERSON**

### *Article 11*

- 11.1 The Vice Chairpersons of AFRIMETS shall be elected by the GA from the principal members and shall represent respectively the fields of Legal and Industrial Metrology.
- 11.2 The Chairperson shall designate one of the Vice Chairpersons to deputise whenever (s)he is absent or unable to act.
- 11.3 The Vice Chairpersons term of office shall be two years and maximum two consecutive terms.





- 11.4 In event of the resignation or death of a Vice chairperson, a Vice chairperson shall be elected from the EXCOM until a new Vice Chairperson has been elected at the next GA.

## **SECRETARIAT**

### ***Article 12***

- 12.1 The Secretariat for AFRIMETS is provided by a member state of a SRMO volunteering to host it at its own cost. In case of member states from two or more SRMOs volunteering to host, the issue will go for elections in the GA.
- 12.2 The Secretariat will assist the Chairperson and the EXCOM in the administration of AFRIMETS.
- 12.3 The Secretariat will ensure that details of collaborations are circulated to all Representatives.
- 12.4 The Secretariat will maintain a complete set of AFRIMETS publications and AFRIMETS Member details.
- 12.5 Each retiring Secretariat will use its best endeavors to ensure the efficient transfer of AFRIMETS material to the succeeding Secretariat.
- 12.6 The term of Secretariat shall be three years and renewable.
- 12.7 The institute responsible for metrology hosting the Secretariat should preferably not provide the Chairperson of AFRIMETS and vice-versa.

## **WORKING LANGUAGE**

### ***Article 13:***

The working languages of AFRIMETS shall be English and French.





**AFRIMETS**  
Inter-Africa Metrology System  
Système Interafricain de Métrologie

**Signatory**

Signed at .....on this.....day of .....in the year ..... by

(print full name).....

Signature .....

Duly authorized

Representing .....



**Appendix A**  
**List of Abbreviations**

APLMF	Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum
APMP	Asia Pacific Metrology Programme
AFRIMETS	Inter-Africa Metrology System
BIPM	International Bureau of Weights and Measures
CIPM MRA	International Committee of Weights and Measure’s Mutual Recognition Arrangement
COOMET	Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions
EURAMET	European Association of National Metrology Institutes
EXCOM	Executive Committee
GA	General Assembly
JCRB	Joint Committee for Regional Metrology Organisations and the BIPM
LMO	Legal Metrology Organisations
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa’s Development
NMI	Natioual Metrology Institute
OIML	International Organisation of Legal Metrology
RMO	Regional Metrology Organisation
SI	International System of Units
SIM	Inter-American Metrology System
SRMO	Sub-regional Metrology Organisation
WELMEC	European Cooperation in Legal Metrology