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| A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated | **World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23)Dubai, 20 November - 15 December 2023** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Document 156-E** |
|  | **30 October 2023** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| United Arab Emirates |
| PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE |
|  |
| Agenda item 4 |

4 in accordance with Resolution **95 (Rev.WRC‑19)**, to review the Resolutions and Recommendations of previous conferences with a view to their possible revision, replacement or abrogation;

MOD UAE/156/1

RESOLUTION 655 (REV.WRC-23)

Definition of time scale and dissemination of time signals via radiocommunication systems

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023),

considering

*a)* that the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R) is responsible for defining the standard frequency and time signal service and the standard frequency and time signal-satellite service for the dissemination of time signals via radiocommunication;

*b)* that the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) is responsible for establishing and maintaining the second of the International System of Units (SI) and the reference time scale UTC with the SI second as its scale unit;

*c)* that the definition of reference time scale and dissemination of time signals via radiocommunication systems are important for applications and equipment that require a time traceable to the reference time,

considering further

*a)* that ITU‑R is an organization member of the Consultative Committee for Time and Frequency (CCTF) and participates in the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) as an observer;

*b)* that BIPM is a Sector Member of ITU‑R and participates in the relevant activities of ITU‑R,

noting

*a)* that the international reference time scale is the legal basis for time-keeping for many countries, and is the time scale used in the majority of countries;

*b)* that disseminated time signals are used not only in telecommunications but also in many industries and practically all areas of human activities;

*c)* that time signals are disseminated by both wired communications covered by Recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and by systems of different radiocommunication services (space and terrestrial), including the standard frequency and time signal service for which ITU‑R is responsible,

recognizing

*a)* that No. **26.1** states that: “Attention should be given to the extension of this service to those areas of the world not adequately served”;

*b)* that No. **26.6** states that: “In selecting the technical characteristics of standard frequency and time signal transmissions, administrations shall be guided by the relevant ITU‑R Recommendations”;

*c)* that the current definition of the international reference time scale UTC resulted from work completed in 1970 by the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) of ITU, in full cooperation with the CGPM;

*d)* that the ITU World Administrative Radio Conference 1979 (WARC-79) included UTC in the Radio Regulations, and since then UTC, as “strongly endorsed” in Resolution 5 of CGPM (1975), has been used as the main time scale for telecommunication networks (wired and wireless) and for other time-related applications and equipment;

*e)* that in 2020 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the BIPM and the ITU concerning the expertise of each organization;

*f)* that Resolution 2 (2018) of the 26th CGPM confirms that UTC, produced by the BIPM is the only recommended time scale for international reference and the basis of civil time in most countries;

*g)* that Resolution 4 (2022) of the 27th CGPM decided that the maximum value for the allowed difference (UT1-UTC) will be increased in, or before, 2035;

*h)* that the various aspects of current and potential future reference time scales, including their impacts and applications are covered by Report ITU‑R TF.2511,

resolves to invite the ITU Radiocommunication Sector

1 to continue the cooperation with the BIPM, the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM), CGPM, as well as other relevant organizations, concerned industries and user groups and to maintain a dialogue concerning the expertise of each organization;

2 to initiate studies with a view to revising Recommendation ITU‑R TF.460‑6, taking into consideration the definition of UTC and the decision as indicated in *recognizing d)* and *g)* respectively,

resolves

1 that the definition and the properties of the reference time scale is not a task related to spectrum regulation within ITU‑R, as already noted in Resolution 2 (2018) of the 26th CGPM;

2 that ITU‑R continues to be responsible for the definition of the formats of the time signals and their distribution via SFTS and SFTSS, being framed by an update of Recommendation ITU‑R TF.460;

3 that until the decision of the CGPM (see *recognizing g)*), UTC as described in Recommendation ITU‑R TF.460‑6 shall continue to apply,

instructs the Secretary-General

to bring this Resolution to the attention of IMO, ICAO, CGPM, CIPM, BIPM, IERS, IUGG, URSI, ISO, WMO and IAU.

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