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| **The 3rd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23 (APG23-3)** | **APG23-3/OUT-26** |
| 8 – 13 November 2021, Virtual/Online Meeting | 13 November 2021 |

Working Party 3

**PRELIMINARY VIEWs on Resolution 655 (WRC-15)**

**Resolution 655 (WRC-15):**

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

**1. Background**

Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is the international standard time-scale for all practical timekeeping in the modern world. The UTC time-scale is maintained by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and adjusted by insertion or deletion of seconds (positive or negative leap-seconds) to ensure approximate agreement with mean solar time (UT1). A leap second was added most recently on 31 December 2016 at 23:59:60 UTC.

WRC-15 considered “Future of the Coordinated Universal Time time-scale” under AI 1.14 (WRC-15), including removal of the leap second insertion or deletion from the definition of UTC, and decided that further studies were required on current and potential future reference time-scales, including their impact and applications. The results of the ITU-R studies will be reported to WRC-23. Until then, UTC shall continue to be applied as described in Recommendation ITU-R [TF.460-6](https://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-TF.460/recommendation.asp?lang=en&parent=R-REC-TF.460-6-200202-I) and as maintained by BIPM.

The responsible group in ITU-R is WP 7A. After WRC-15, WP 7A started studies called for by Resolution **655 (WRC-15)** and is currently developing working document towards the preliminary draft new Report ITU-R TF.[UTC], “Content and structure of time signals to be disseminated by radiocommunication systems and various aspects of current and potential future reference time scales, including their impacts and applications in radiocommunication” ([Annex 1](https://www.itu.int/dms_ties/itu-r/md/19/wp7a/c/R19-WP7A-C-0031%21N01%21MSW-E.docx) to the WP 7A Chairman’s Report (Doc. [7A/31](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-WP7A-C-0031/en))).

In the meantime, the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) at its 26th meeting in 2018 confirms the definition of UTC in [Resolution 2](https://www.bipm.org/en/committees/cg/cgpm/26-2018/resolution-2) “On the definition of time scales”: that UTC is a time scale produced by the BIPM with the same rate as TAI (International Atomic Time) but differing from TAI only by an integral number of seconds.

**2. Documents**

* Input Documents APG23-3/INP-30 (J)
* Information Documents APG23-3/INF-14 (DG Chair), 20 (CEPT)

**3. Summary of discussions**

**3.1 Summary of APT Members’ views**

**3.1.1 Japan** - **Document APG23-3/INP-30**

Japan continues to support to introduce the new continuous reference time-scale by stopping the insertion of leap seconds in UTC, as shared in APG15 meetings.

Japan also supports retaining the name of UTC after the introduction of the new continuous reference time-scale.

**3.2 Summary of issues raised during the meeting**

No significant issues were raised.

**4. APT Preliminary View(s)**

To be developed

**5. Other View(s) from APT Members**

None

**6. Issues for Consideration at Next APG Meeting**

APT Members are encouraged to contribute to the next APG meeting for further consideration on Resolution **655 (WRC-15)**, taking into account the progress of ITU-R studies.

**7. Views from Other Organisations**

**7.1 Regional Groups**

**7.1.1 ASMG** - **Document APG23-3/INF-37**

To be developed

**7.1.2 ATU** - **Document APG23-3/INF-39**

To be developed

**7.1.3 CEPT** - **Document APG23-3/INF-20**

CEPT recognises strictly that:

* the UTC is produced by BIPM and is not a task of spectrum regulation;
* the general definition of international reference time scale UTC is provided in Resolution 2 of the 26th General Conference on Weights and Measures.
* UTC is addressed in RR **1.14**, Resolution **655 (WRC-15)** and Recommendation ITU-R TF.460-6

**7.1.4 CITEL** - **Document APG23-2/INF-34**

To be developed

**7.1.5 RCC** - **Document APG23-2/INF-36**

To be developed

**7.2 International Organisations**

None

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