

## Recommendation for Committee Decision

**Prepared by :** Working Group D

**Date of Submission :** Friday, 24th of October 2025

**Issue Title :** Information on the work related to the proposed redefinition of UTC (revision of Recommendation 16-B (2016))

### **Background/Brief Description of the Issue :**

Considering that :

- the navigation systems have unique timing and geodetic references for operational necessity. Interoperability of the GNSS requires interrelationship of the timing and geodetic references to reduce ambiguities for users with regard to the interpretation of navigation and timing solutions.
- discussion on redefinition of UTC started in 2000 at the ITU-R, SG7 Science Services WP7A Time Signals and Frequency Standard Emissions,
- during 2000-2010 WP7A studied the issue, considered different options, organized an open meeting (Torino, 2003), and worked on a proposal for an amended ITU recommendation,
- in 2010 the Draft Revision of Recommendation ITU-R TF.460-6 (new proposed version) was submitted by ITU-R WP7A to ITU-R SG7; while considering this issue at SG7 no consensus on the Draft Revision of Recommendation ITU-R TF.460-6 was achieved,
- the SG7 sent the Draft Revision of Recommendation ITU-R TF.460-6 to the Radiocommunication Assembly 2012 (RA -12) for « final decision »,
- at RA-12 after several statements of Administrations and Sector members supporting different views the Chairman stated that there are almost even balance between those administrations that are in favour of the draft revision of the Recommendation, those that are opposing it, and a third group of administrations who indicated that as they had not participated actively at SG7 and WP7A meetings, more information is required to enable them to form an opinion,
- as a result RA-12 decided to address this issue in the RA-12 Report for World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC-12) to develop a new WRC-15 Agenda item.
- WRC-12 started a new study question on WRC-15 Agenda item 1.14 in accordance with Resolution 653 (WRC-12) and put back the Draft Revision of Recommendation ITU-R TF.460-6 to SG7-WP7A for a final decision at WRC-15,
- WRC-12 Resolution 653 on the feasibility of a continuous UTC involves the BIPM, CCTF, CGPM, IAU, IUGG, URSI, ICAO, IMO, WMO, ISO, and invites to consider the feasibility of achieving a continuous reference time-scale, whether by the modification of UTC or some other method, and take appropriate action, taking into account ITU-R studies,
- WRC-15 recognized the roles of the BIPM and ITU concerning time scales definition and maintenance and their dissemination, invited the various organizations to cooperate for developing studies on the present and potential future reference time scales and submit contributions to WRC-23 and decided that until WRC-23 Rec. 460-6 will continue to apply.

- CGPM decided in 2022 in its Resolution 4 that the tolerance between UT1 and UTC will be increased in or before 2035
- WRC-23 recognized Resolution 4 of CGPM 2022 on the use and future evolution of UTC, and decided that new and revised ITU-R reports and recommendations (including but not limited to ITU-R TF.460-6) have to be produced
- A decision on the new tolerance and the date of application is expected at CGPM 2026. As current evidence of a possible negative leap second has been reported, the BIPM/ CCTF is proposing to anticipate the continuous UTC implementation date to avoid a negative leap second

**Recommendation of Committee Action :**

The ICG WG-D recommends that :

- the ICG monitors the ongoing development of the proposed redefinition of UTC
- GNSS/RNSS providers anticipate the consequences of the increased tolerance between UT1 and UTC
- GNSS RNSS providers promote research on the impact of a possible negative leap second

**Members Consensus Reached :** <Yes>

**Chairperson Signature :** <Richard Gross>

**Date :** 24 October 2025