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| **World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) Geneva, 2–27 November 2015** |  |
| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 14 to Document 85-E** |
|  | **16 October 2015** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| Burundi (Republic of)/Kenya (Republic of)/Uganda (Republic of)/ Rwanda (Republic of)/Tanzania (United Republic of) | |
| Proposals for the work of the conference | |
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| Agenda item 1.14 | |

1.14to consider the feasibility of achieving a continuous reference time-scale, whether by the modification of coordinated universal time (UTC) or some other method, and take appropriate action, in accordance with Resolution **653 (WRC‑12)**;

Introduction

Resolution 653 (WRC-12) invites ITU-R to conduct necessary studies on the feasibility of achieving a continuous reference time-scale for dissemination by radiocommunication systems and issues related to possible implementation of a continuous reference time-scale (including technical and operation factors).

Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is the international standard reference 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). UTC and its use are defined in Recommendation ITU‑R [TF.460-6](http://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-TF.460-6-200202-I/en), which is incorporated by reference in the Radio Regulations. According to this Recommendation “The UTC is adjusted by insertion or deletion of seconds (positive or negative leap-seconds) to ensure approximate agreement with UT1”. Adjustment of UTC is made whenever the difference between UTC and UT1 approaches the value of 0.9 second. A positive or negative leap-second should be the last second of a UTC month, but first preference should be given to the end of December and June, and second preference to the end of March and September. As UT1 is based on measurements the adjustments in UTC occur at irregular intervals and require manual intervention in systems using UTC for operation and synchronization.

Various aspects of the current situation and the advantages and disadvantages of introducing a continuous time-scale were analysed in ITU-R studies under WRC-15 agenda item 1.14.

EACO members countries (BDI/KEN/UGA/RRW/TZA) support Method A1 proposed in the CPM Report.

Proposal

BDI/KEN/UGA/RRW/TZA (EACO member countries) propose the following:

ARTICLE 1

Terms and definitions

Section I – General terms

MOD BDI/KEN/UGA/RRW/TZA/85A14/1

1.14 *Coordinated Universal Time (UTC):*Time scale, based on the second (SI) and maintained by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), that forms the basis for the coordinated dissemination of standard frequencies and time signals.     (WRC-15)

**Reasons:** To remove the incorporation by reference of Recommendation ITU-R TF.460-6, which defines the use of leap seconds in UTC, add a reference to the international organization responsible for the maintenance of the UTC time-scale, and remove the equivalence between UTC and the mean solar time at the prime meridian.

ARTICLE 2

Nomenclature

Section II – Dates and times

MOD BDI/KEN/UGA/RRW/TZA/85A14/2

2.5 Whenever a date is used in connection with Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), this date is that at the prime meridian, the prime meridian corresponding to zero degrees geographical longitude.

MOD BDI/KEN/UGA/RRW/TZA/85A14/3

2.6 Whenever a specified time is used in international radiocommunication activities, UTC shall be applied, and it shall be presented as a four-digit group (0000‑2359). The abbreviation UTC shall be used in all languages.

**Reasons:** Consequential changes resulting from the MOD to RR No. 1.14.

ARTICLE 59

Entry into force and provisional application  
of the Radio Regulations    (WRC‑12)

MOD BDI/KEN/UGA/RRW/TZA/85A14/4

59.1 These Regulations, which complement the provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union, and as revised and contained in the Final Acts of WRC‑95, WRC‑97, WRC‑2000, WRC‑03, WRC‑07, WRC‑12 and WRC‑15, shall be applied, pursuant to Article 54 of the Constitution, on the following basis.    (WRC‑15)

ADD BDI/KEN/UGA/RRW/TZA/85A14/5

59.A114 The other provisions of these Regulations, as revised by WRC‑15, shall enter into force on 1 January 2017, with the following exceptions:    (WRC‑15)

ADD BDI/KEN/UGA/RRW/TZA/85A14/6

59.B114 the revised provisions for which other effective dates of application are stipulated in Resolution:

**[85A14-A114-UTC] (WRC‑15)**    (WRC‑15)

ADD BDI/KEN/UGA/RRW/TZA/85A14/7

Draft New Resolution [85a14-A114-UTC] (wrc-15)

Provisional application of certain provisions of the Radio Regulations  
as revised by WRC‑15 and abrogation of certain  
Resolutions and Recommendations

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2015),

considering

*a)* that this Conference has, in accordance with its terms of reference adopted a partial revision to the Radio Regulations, which will enter into force on 1 January 2017;

*b)* that some of the provisions, as amended by this Conference, need to apply provisionally before that date;

*c)* that some of the provisions, as amended by this Conference, need to apply after that date;

*d)* that, as a general rule, new and revised Resolutions and Recommendations enter into force at the time of the signing of the Final Acts of a Conference;

*e)* that, as a general rule, Resolutions and Recommendations which a WRC has decided to suppress are abrogated at the time of the signing of the Final Acts of a Conference,

resolves

that, as of 1 January [TBD by WRC‑15], Nos. **1.14**, **2.5** and **2.6**, as revised or established by WRC‑15, shall apply.

**Reasons:** To ensure sufficient time for legacy systems to update hardware and/or software to accommodate the elimination of leap seconds from UTC.

SUP BDI/KEN/UGA/RRW/TZA/85A14/8

RESOLUTION 653 (WRC‑12)

Future of the Coordinated Universal Time time-scale

**Reasons:** No need for Resolution 653 (WRC-12).

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