

**RECOMMENDATION CCTF # (2009):  
On the weakness of present definition of UTC**

The Consultative Committee for Time and Frequency,

**considering** that

- The use of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) as defined in 1972 is affected by steps caused by the unpredictable insertion of unpredictable leap seconds,
- That this definition of UTC will not meet the needs of developing systems requiring uniform time,
- That, as a result, alternate time scales, not affected by leap seconds, are expected to proliferate,
- That the need to represent the Earth's rotation angle in celestial reference systems for use in maritime celestial navigation is either no longer required or can be met through published values of UT1-UTC,
- That UT1 can fully satisfy needs related to the determination of Earth rotation angle,
- That software designed for use in future navigational systems is currently being developed ,
- That national and international bodies have expressed concerns about the present definition of UTC and possible proliferation of alternate time scales,

**recommends** that

National and international agencies concerned with the definition of international time scales urgently consider decisions regarding the future definition of UTC so that international agreement can be reached as early as possible.