

**RECOMMENDATION CCTF # (2009):
Concerning definition of time scales**

The Consultative Committee for Time and Frequency,

considering that

- the Bureau International de l'Heure (BIH) located at the Paris Observatory provided, from 1911 to 1985, the internationally accepted reference time scales using astronomical observations and clock comparison from international contributors;
- the BIH was not organized as an intergovernmental organization;
- in order to coordinate dissemination of precise time and frequency by radio transmissions, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (until 1993 the International Radio Consultative Committee, abbreviated "CCIR") an intergovernmental organizational level formally defined Coordinated Universal Time (UTC);
- the activity of the BIH with regard to the realization of UTC passed to the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) from the BIH in 1985;
- that the BIPM, an intergovernmental organization working under the authority of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) currently maintains the international standard for UTC and provides the basis for the worldwide realization of UTC;

recommends that

the CIPM advises the 24th CGPM that henceforth the CGPM should assume responsibility for the definition of international time scales while the ITU continues its intergovernmental regulatory activities regarding the radio dissemination of precise time and frequency signals.