RESOLUTION 84 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Combating mobile telecommunication device theft

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

a)   Resolution 196 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on protecting telecommunication service users/consumers;

b)   Resolution 189 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft;

c)   Resolution 97 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on combating mobile telecommunication device theft;

d)   Resolution 188 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on combating counterfeit telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) devices;

e)   Resolution 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues relating to the risk of illicit use of ICTs;

f)   Resolution 79 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in combating and dealing with counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices;

g)   Resolution 64 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on protecting and supporting users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services;

h)   Resolution 96 (Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) studies for combating counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices,

recognizing

a)   that governments and industry have been implementing actions to prevent and combat mobile device theft;

b)   that the theft of user-owned mobile devices may lead to the criminal use of telecommunication/ICT services and applications, resulting in financial losses for the lawful owner and user;

c)   that measures to combat mobile device theft adopted by some countries rely on unique device identifiers, and therefore tampering with (changing without authorization) unique identifiers can diminish the effectiveness of these solutions;

d)   that some solutions to combat counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices can also be used to combat the use of stolen telecommunication/ICT devices, in particular those devices whose unique identifier has been tampered for the purpose of re-introducing them to the market;

e)   that studies on combating counterfeiting, including of telecommunication/ICT devices, and systems adopted on the basis of those studies, in some circumstances, can facilitate the detection and blocking of devices and prevention of their further use;

f)   that it is important to find innovative solutions and adopt national, regional and global strategies to fight mobile device theft,

considering

a)   that technological innovation driven by telecommunications/ICTs has significantly modified the ways in which people access telecommunications;

b)   that the positive impact of mobile telecommunications, technological progress and the development generated by all related services have increased the penetration of mobile telecommunication/ICT devices;

c)   that the widespread use of mobile telecommunications in the world has also been accompanied by a rise in the problem of mobile device theft;

d)   that the act of mobile device theft can sometimes have a negative impact on the health and safety of citizens and on their sense of security;

e)   that problems that occur around the crimes related to mobile device theft have become a worldwide issue, since these stolen devices may be of high monetary value and are often very easily resold on the international markets;

f)   that the illicit trading of stolen mobile devices constitutes a risk to consumers and causes loss of revenue for the industry;

g)   that some governments have implemented regulations, law-enforcement actions, policies and technological mechanisms to prevent and combat mobile device theft;

h)   that some manufacturers of mobile devices, as well as operators and industry, offer solutions for consumers, such as free anti-theft applications, with the aim of reducing the rate of mobile device theft,

aware

a)   of the related ongoing work in ITU-T Study Group 11 on combating counterfeit and mobile device theft;

b)   of the related ongoing work in ITU-T Study Group 17 on security;

c)   that manufacturers, operators and industry associations have been developing a range of technological solutions and governments have been developing policies and, in some cases, regulations to address the global problem of mobile device theft,

resolves

1   that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) should explore all applicable solutions and develop reports or implementation guidelines, taking into account the needs of countries, especially developing countries[1], in consultation with relevant ITU-T and ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) study groups, to combat and deter mobile device theft, offering all interested parties a forum for encouraging discussion, member cooperation, exchange of best practices and guidelines and dissemination of information on combating mobile device theft;

2   that ITU-D study groups should include activities relating to combating mobile telecommunication device theft,

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[1] These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1   to provide assistance, within ITU-D's expertise and within available resources, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant organizations, to Member States, if so requested, in order to reduce mobile device theft and the use of stolen mobile devices in their countries;

2   to compile and share information on best practices developed by governments and other stakeholders and on promising trends in combating mobile device theft, especially from regions where rate of mobile device theft has fallen,

instructs Study Groups 1 and 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, within their mandates and in collaboration with study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

1   to develop guidelines, recommendations and reports to address the problem of mobile telecommunication device theft and its negative effects;

2   to gather information about any technologies and best practices that can be used as tools for combating mobile telecommunication device theft, and to build capacities in developing countries in this regard,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1   to take all necessary measures, including raising awareness, to combat mobile telecommunication device theft and its negative effects;

2   to cooperate and share expertise in this area;

3   to participate actively in ITU studies relating to the implementation of this resolution by submitting contributions;

4   to take the necessary actions to prevent or discover and control tampering (unauthorized changing) of unique mobile telecommunication/ICT device identifiers and prevent tampered devices from accessing mobile networks, and to share information and experiences on controlling the tampering of unique mobile telecommunication/ICT device identifiers.