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|  | **Document CWG-FHR-20/13** |
| **20 January 2025** |
| **English only** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| CHALLENGES FACED IN IMPLEMENTING COUNCIL DECISION 601 ON IIN REGISTRATION | |
| **Purpose**  Following the approval of Decisions 600 and 601 at the 2017 session of the Council, ITU has been in the process of implementing these Decisions. This report summarizes the challenges faced in implementation of Council Decision 601 for consideration by the CWG-FHR.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on Financial and Human resources is invited **to review** and **consider** the challenges raised in this document.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*CWG-FHR website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-fhr/Pages/default.aspx)*; Documents* [*C17/43*](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0043/en)*;* [*C17/67;*](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0067/en)[*C17/133*](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0133/en)*;* [*C17/134*](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0134/en)*;* [*C19/120*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0120/en)*;* [*C24/38*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0038/en)*.* | |

**1 Background**

1.1 Following the approval of Decisions 600 ([C17/133](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0133/en)) and 601 ([C17/134](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0134/en)) at the 2017 session of the Council, the ITU secretariat has been in the process of implementing these decisions.

1.2 The Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) presented a report on the status of implementation to Council 2024 (Document [C24/38](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0038/en)). In line with the instructions outlined in the decisions, the TSB will submit the next report to the 2025 session of the Council.

**2 Status updates on IIN (Council Decision 601)**

Since 1 January 2018, all newly registered Issuer Identifier Numbers (IINs) have been subject to both a one-time registration fee and the annual maintenance fee for the year of registration. This means that for each newly registered IIN, the annual maintenance fee for the corresponding year has been collected together with the one-time registration fee, amounting to a total of CHF 250 per IIN.

However, due to the following challenges, invoices for annual maintenance fees have not been generated—neither for IINs registered before 2018 nor for IINs registered after 2018 for the years following their registration:

**2.1 Challenges in Collecting Maintenance Fees**

**2.1.1 Limited confirmed contact information for IIN records**

**Scale of Records.** As of 15 December 2024, the ITU database contains 917 IIN records, as illustrated in the figure below. Of these, only 58% have confirmed contact information.

**Assistance to Update Records.** National Administrations, regulators, and authorized agencies have been encouraged to assist in updating the status and contact information of these records. Despite these efforts, few updates have been received over the years.

**Status Marking.** In accordance with recommendations approved by Council 2019 (document [C19/120](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0120/en)), IIN records without confirmed contact information have been marked as "contact\_not\_reachable" in the ITU database.

Note: the number of IIN records for the countries listed in the above figure include geographic areas under their Administrations.

**2.1.2 Contact information for registration purposes does not meet requirements for annual billing**

All the IIN records kept in the ITU database were provided by Member States using the registration form specified in [Recommendation ITU-T E.118](https://www.itu.int/itu-t/recommendations/rec.aspx?rec=8728). Consequently, contact names are submitted as full names without separation into first and last names, and titles such as Mr, Ms, or Mrs are not provided. Email addresses are also not mandatory on the registration form. This lack of standardized and complete contact information creates significant challenges in issuing invoices and increases the risk of unpaid bills due to the unreachability of the generated invoices, even for confirmed IINs.

**2.1.3 Efforts to chase unpaid bills exceed revenue gained**

Pursuing unpaid bills often requires multiple rounds of reminders and communication. If 20% of confirmed IIN holders fail to pay their invoices, more than 100 entities would need to be traced, generating only CHF 10 000 in revenue. If these entities ultimately do not pay, this will create additional administrative burdens and outstanding debts for ITU with little financial return.

**2.1.4 ITU lacks authority to reclaim IINs in cases of non-payment**

**ITU’s Role.** According to Recommendation ITU-T E.118, the Director of TSB is responsible for the registration and/or cancellation of Issuer Identifier Numbers (IINs) with the approval of their Administrations.

**Responsibility for reclamation.** The assignment of specific issuer identifier numbers should be the responsibility of a country or group of countries as appropriate. As a result, the responsibility for reclaiming IINs lies with the National Administrations. In case of non-payment, ITU’s role is limited to notifying Member States that the corresponding IINs should be considered for reclamation. The corresponding IINs can be marked in ITU database as “under reclamation consideration by the National Administration”. However, without explicit approval of the Member States, ITU cannot reclaim IINs.

**Perception of ITU Authority.** This limitation may create the perception among IIN assignees that ITU lack enforcement mechanisms to compel payment of the outstanding bills, potentially undermining the effectiveness of billing efforts.

**2.2 Revenue from IIN maintenance fees remains minimal**

If annual maintenance fees for IINs were successfully collected, the estimated revenue would be approximately CHF 30 000 per year, assuming a 60% payment success rate.

Currently, IINs registered after 2018 are charged a one-time fee combined with the annual maintenance fee for the year of registration. This results in revenue of approximately CHF 5 000 annually, given that around 20 new IINs are registered each year.

No additional fees are charged for requests to update IIN records, further limiting revenue generation from IIN-related services.

**3 Conclusion**

The secretariat invites the Council Working Group on financial and human resources to **consider** the above challenges in implementing Council Decision 601.

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