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|  | **International telecommunication union****Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** |  |
|  | Geneva, 12 July 2019 |
| Ref: | **TSB Circular 183**TSB Events/DA | **To:**- Administrations of Member States of the Union;- ITU-T Sector Members;- ITU-T Associates;- ITU Academia |
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| E-mail: | tsbevents@itu.int | **Copy to:**- The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-T Study Groups;- The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;- The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau |
| Subject:  | **ITU Brainstorming session on SS7 vulnerabilities and the impact on different industries including digital financial servicesGeneva, Switzerland, 22 October 2019** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 It is my pleasure to invite you to the **ITU Brainstorming session on Signalling System No.7 (SS7) vulnerabilities and the impact on different industries including digital financial services** (hereafter “workshop”)taking place on the 22 October 2019 at ITU Headquarters, Rue de Varembé 2, Geneva, Switzerland.

The workshop will be held during the ITU-T Study Group 11 meeting which will take place at the same venue from 16-25 October 2019.

2 Participation in the workshop is open to ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academic Institutions and to any individual from a country that is a member of ITU, who wishes to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations, interested stakeholders, including telecom operators, regulators, SDOs and financial institutes. Participation in the workshop is free of charge, however seats are limited and no fellowships will be granted. The workshop will be held in English only.

3 Presently, there have been multiple cases where SS7 vulnerabilities have been used for different hackers’ attacks. Well-known attacks on SS7 networks include telephone spam, spoofing numbers, location tracking, subscriber fraud, intercept calls and messages, DoS, infiltration attacks, routing attacks, etc. As of now, more and more stakeholders are using SS7-based ICT networks for over the top services including digital finance services (DFS). However, the vulnerabilities of SS7 have increased the risk of illegal usage of customers’ applications, resulting in the unlawful take-over of their assets.

4 The workshop will be dedicated to brainstorming on the potential way forward to enhance the security mechanisms of SS7 and its adoption rate among telcos in order to defend all stakeholders from related attacks. The key aim of the brainstorming session is to identify the roadmap for fixing these issues.

5 The detailed description of the workshop and all related information, including practical information and the programme of the event, will be available on the event website at:

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/102019/Pages/default.aspx>

This website will be regularly updated as new or modified information become available. Participants are requested to check periodically for new updates.

6 Wireless LAN facilities will be available at the venue of the event.

7 To enable TSB to make the necessary arrangements concerning the organization of the workshop, I should be grateful if you would register via the online form: <https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/xreg/web/registration.aspx?Event=C-00006338>

 as soon as possible, but **no later than 14 October 2019**. **Please note that pre-registration of participants for workshops is mandatory and carried out exclusively online**.

8 A number of Geneva hotels offer preferential rates for delegates attending ITU meetings, and provide a card giving free access to Geneva’s public transport system. A list of participating hotels, and guidance on how to claim discounts, can be found at: <http://itu.int/travel/>.

9 I would remind you that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter and spend any time in Switzerland. **The visa must be requested at least four (4) weeks before the date of beginning of the workshop** and obtained from the office (embassy or consulate) representing Switzerland in your country or, if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to the country of departure.

If problems are encountered by **ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates or Academic Institutions**, and at the official request made by them to TSB, the Union can approach the competent Swiss authorities in order to facilitate delivery of the visa, but only within the period mentioned of **four** weeks. Any such request should be made by checking the corresponding box on the registration form no later than four weeks before the event. Enquiries should be sent to the ITU Travel Section (travel@itu.int), bearing the words “**visa support**”.

Yours faithfully,

*(signed)*

Chaesub Lee
Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau