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| Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Member Administrations | | | |
| PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO RESOLUTION 20 | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This document contains the APT proposal for modifications to WTSA Resolution 20: “Procedures for allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources”. The proposed modification recognizes the need for relevant study groups to ensure transparency and interoperability of telecommunications related OTT platforms utilizing NNAI resources, keeping in view the need for flexibility and adaptability by the regulators in managing NNAI, for voice services using Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms. | |
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Introduction

The allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing, and identification (NNAI) resources involve complex processes governed by international regulations and standards. Efficient NNAI resource management is vital for global connectivity, interoperability, and security. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) plays a pivotal role through its Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), issuing recommendations that define various NNAI plans, including the E.164 numbering plan for telephone numbers.

Each country has a designated entity responsible for managing national NNAI resources, typically operating under a national telecommunications regulator. WTSA Resolution 20, first established in 1993, outlines principles and procedures for NNAI resource allocation, emphasizing Member States' sovereignty while promoting global harmonization. This resolution has undergone continuous updates at each WTSA meeting, reflecting ongoing discussions in the NNAI sphere.

Study Group 2 collaborates with other groups to advise the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) on technical and operational matters concerning international NNAI resource management. The rise of Over-the-Top (OTT) services has introduced new challenges in this domain, necessitating rapid adaptation from regulators to manage NNAI resources effectively. As the demand for flexible and adaptive responses increases due to emerging ICT services, regulators must ensure transparency and interoperability in allocating and managing NNAI resources to support evolving telecommunications applications.

It is critical that Resolution 20 recognizes the need for prioritization of allocation of NNAI resources for Machine-to-machine (M2M) and Internet of Things (IoT) which are the fastest growing areas of the digital age. Further provisioning of IMSI for wearable, portable, M2M/IoT devices has become more dynamic with technological advancements, e.g., evolving spread of ESIMs also needs to be recognized in the Resolution.

Proposal

APT Member Administrations propose to modify Resolution 20 to ensure transparency and interoperability of telecommunications related OTT platforms utilizing NNAI resources, keeping in view the need for flexibility and adaptability by the regulators in managing NNAI, for voice services using Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms that have become ubiquitous and essential globally to meet the evolving needs of crucial services such as financial inclusion.

MOD APT/37A4/1

RESOLUTION 20 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

Procedures for allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources

(Helsinki, 1993; Geneva, 1996; Montreal, 2000; Florianópolis, 2004;   
Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016; Geneva, 2022; New Delhi, 2024)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (New Delhi, 2024),

recognizing

*a)* the relevant rules of the International Telecommunication Regulations (Dubai, 2012) regarding the integrity and use of numbering resources and calling line identification;

*b)* the instructions in the resolutions adopted by plenipotentiary conferences relevant for the stability of numbering and identification plans, especially the ITU‑T E.164 and ITU‑T E.212 plans, and in particular in Resolution 133 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, where it resolves to instruct the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux: "to take any necessary action to ensure the sovereignty of ITU Member States with regard to Recommendation ITU‑T E.164 numbering plans whatever the application in which they are used";

*c)* Resolution 49 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on ENUM;

*d)* that international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification (NNAI) resources and related codes are crucial to maintain global interoperability;

*e)* the impact of new and emerging telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) on the allocation and management of international telecommunication NNAI resources;

*f)* that there is a need for both flexibility and adaptability in a timely fashion by regulators in managing international telecommunication NNAI for different resources related to voice services using Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms;

*g)* the need of having transparency and interoperability across telecommunication applications using OTT platforms that have become ubiquitous and essential globally to meet the evolving needs of users such as for increased financial inclusion,

noting

*a)* that the procedures governing the allocation and management of international telecommunication NNAI resources and related codes (e.g. new telephone country codes, telex destination codes, signalling area/network codes, data country codes, mobile country codes, identification), including ENUM, are laid down in the relevant Recommendations in the ITU‑T E-, ITU‑T F-, ITU‑T Q-, ITU‑T X- and ITU-T Y-series;

*b)* that the principles concerning future NNAI plans to deal with emerging services or applications and relevant NNAI resource allocation procedures to meet international telecommunication needs will be studied in accordance with this resolution and the work programme approved by this assembly for study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T);

*c)* the deployment of current and future telecommunications/ICTs, including Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks to support new and innovative services that may require NNAI resources;

*d)* that several international telecommunication NNAI resources are developed and maintained by ITU‑T study groups and are in widespread use;

*e)* that the national authorities responsible for allocation of NNAI resources, including those covered by Recommendation ITU‑T Q.708, on specifications of Signalling System No. 7 – Message transfer part (MTP), Recommendation ITU‑T E.164, on the international public telecommunication numbering plan, and Recommendation ITU-T E.212, on the international identification plan for public networks and subscriptions, normally participate in ITU‑T Study Group 2;

*f)* that it is in the common interest of ITU Member States and Sector Members that the Recommendations and guidelines for international telecommunication NNAI resources should:

i) be known, recognized and applied by all;

ii) be used to build and maintain confidence of all in the related services;

iii) address deterrence of misuse of such resources;

iv) be governed and administered in a consistent and appropriate manner;

*g)* Articles 14 and 15 of the ITU Convention, relating to the activities of ITU‑T study groups and the responsibilities of the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), respectively;

*h)* No. 196 of the Convention, which stipulates that "In the performance of their studies, the telecommunication standardization study groups shall pay due attention to the study of questions and to the formulation of recommendations directly connected with the establishment, development and improvement of telecommunications in developing countries at both the regional and international levels. They shall conduct their work giving due consideration to the work of national, regional and other international standardization organizations, and cooperate with them, keeping in mind the need for the Union to maintain its pre-eminent position in the field of worldwide standardization for telecommunications.",

considering

*a)* that the assignment of international telecommunication NNAI resources is a responsibility of the Director of TSB and the relevant administrations;

*b)* the evolution of telecommunication services, and the requirements for NNAI resources to support new telecommunications/ICTs and innovative services;

*c)* machine-to-machine (M2M) and Internet of Things (IoT) is now the fastest growing area of the digital age and its impact upon the demand for international telecommunication NNAI resources needs to be prioritized;

*d)* the ongoing cooperation between ITU-T and several consortia and standards entities in the allocation and management of international telecommunication NNAI resources as referred to in Supplement 3 to the ITU-T A-series Recommendations;

*e)* that provisioning of IMSI for wearable, portable, M2M/IoT devices has become more dynamic with technological advancements, e.g., ESIM,

resolves to instruct

1 the Director of TSB, before assigning, reassigning and/or reclaiming international telecommunication NNAI resources, to consult:

i) the chairman of Study Group 2, in liaison with the chairmen of the other relevant study groups, or if needed the chairman's delegated representative, to resolve requirements as specified in relevant ITU‑T Recommendations; and

ii) the relevant administration(s); and/or

iii) the authorized applicant/assignee when direct communication with TSB is required in order to perform its responsibilities;

in the Director's deliberations and consultations, the Director will consider the general principles for the allocation of NNAI resources, and the provisions of the relevant Recommendations in the ITU‑T E-, ITU‑T F-, ITU‑T Q-, ITU‑T X- and ITU-T Y-series, and those to be further adopted;

2 Study Group 2, in liaison with other relevant study groups, to provide to the Director of TSB with advice on technical, functional and operational aspects in the assignment, reassignment and/or reclamation of international telecommunication NNAI resources in accordance with the relevant Recommendations, taking into account the results of any ongoing studies, information and guidance in cases of reported complaints about misuse of international telecommunication NNAI resources;

3 the Director of TSB, in close collaboration with Study Group 2, and any other relevant study groups, to follow up with the administrations involved on the misuse of any international telecommunication NNAI resources, and inform the ITU Council accordingly;

4 the Director of TSB to encourage all relevant study groups to study the impact of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs on the allocation and management of international telecommunication NNAI resources;

5 the Director of TSB to take the appropriate measures and actions where Study Group 2, in liaison with the other relevant study groups, has provided information, advice and guidance in accordance with *resolves to instruct* 2 and 3 above;

6 Study Group 2 to continue to study necessary action to ensure that the sovereignty of ITU Member States with regard to country-code NNAI plans is fully maintained, including ENUM, as enshrined in Recommendation ITU‑T E.164 and other relevant Recommendations and procedures; this shall cover ways and means to address and counter any misuse of any international telecommunication NNAI resources,

invites Member States

to take appropriate actions and share their experiences regarding the implementation of this resolution.