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|  | World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) New Delhi, 15–24 October 2024 | |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | | Addendum 6 to Document 38-E | |
|  | | 16 September 2024 | |
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| Member States of European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) | | | |
| PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF RESOLUTION 52 | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | CEPT proposes modifications WTSA Resolution 52 to highlight the role that non-government stakeholders play in addressing spam, to encourage ITU-T to work more with ITU-D and other key actors to provide more support to developing countries, to recognise other SDOs working in this area, and to further cement SG17’s role as the lead ITU-T study group for spam issues. | |
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MOD ECP/38A6/1

RESOLUTION 52 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

Countering and combating spam

(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016; New Delhi, 2024)

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

recognizing

*a)* relevant provisions of the basic instruments of ITU;

*b)* that the Declaration of Principles of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) states in § 37 that "Spam is a significant and growing problem for users, networks and the Internet as a whole. Spam and cybersecurity should be dealt with at appropriate national and international levels";

*c)* that the WSIS Plan of Action states in § 12 that "Confidence and security are among the main pillars of the information society", and calls for "appropriate action on spam at national and international levels",

recognizing further

*a)* the relevant parts of Resolutions 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and 174 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*b)* the report of the chairman of the two ITU WSIS thematic meetings on countering and combating spam, which advocated a comprehensive approach to combating spam, namely:

i) strong legislation

ii) the development of technical measures

iii) the establishment of industry partnerships to accelerate the studies

iv) education

v) international cooperation;

*c)* the relevant parts of Resolution 45 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference,

considering

*a)* that exchanging e-mails and other telecommunications over the Internet has become one of the main means of communication between people around the world;

*b)* that there are currently a variety of definitions for the term "spam";

*c)* that spam has become a widespread problem causing potential loss of revenue to Internet service providers, telecommunication operators, mobile telecommunication operators and business users;

*d)* that countering spam by technical means burdens affected entities, including network operators and service providers, as well as users who unwillingly receive such spam, with significant investments in networks, facilities, terminal equipment, and applications;

*e)* that all stakeholders - including network operators, ISPs and online service providers, the Internet technical community, business and consumer advocacy groups, antispam coalitions and working groups (such as the Global Anti-Scam Alliance (GASA) and the Messaging, Malware and Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group (M3AAWG)), civil society, computer security response teams – have a role to play in the effective reduction of spam;

*f)* that spam creates problems of information and telecommunication network security, and is used as a vehicle for malicious activity;

*g)* that spamming is used for criminal, fraudulent or deceptive activities and is part of an attack category called “social engineering”;

*h)* that spam is a global problem, with different characteristics in different regions, which affects many stakeholders and, therefore, requires collaborative work and international cooperation to address it and find solutions;

*i)* that addressing the issue of spam is a matter of urgency;

*j)* that many countries, in particular developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1, need help when it comes to countering spam;

*k)* that relevant Recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) and relevant information from other international bodies are available which could provide guidance for future development in this area, particularly with regard to lessons learned;

*l)* that technical measures to counter spam represent one of the elements of the approach mentioned in *recognizing further* *b)* above;

m) that a risk-based approach incorporating a combination of technological, process, and people-based approaches can assist in effectively countering spam,

noting

the important technical work carried out to date in ITU‑T Study Group 17,

resolves to instruct Study Group 17 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

1 to continue to support work related to countering spam (e.g. e-mail) in order to address existing and future threats within the remit and expertise of ITU‑T, as appropriate;

2 to report regularly to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group on progress under this resolution;

3 to collaborate with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) and with the relevant organizations, including other relevant standards organizations (e.g. the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)) and development partners (e.g., the World Bank), in order to deliver workshops aimed at awareness raising, sharing good practices, policy dialogue, and providing technical training, in partnership with beneficiary Member States and other stakeholders, such as network operators, ISPs and online service providers, the Internet technical community, business associations, and civil society;

4 to report annually to TSAG on the study group’s work to support the D sector;

5 to consider risk-based approaches in relevant Recommendations aimed at countering spam, incorporating a combination of technological, process, and people-based approaches,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to provide all necessary assistance with a view to expediting such efforts, working collaboratively with relevant parties that combat spam with a view to identifying opportunities, raising awareness for such activities and identifying possible collaboration, as appropriate;

2 to support relevant Study Group 17 activities related to countering and combatting spam;

3 to continue to recognize the role played by other organizations with experience and expertise in this area, such as the IETF, and to coordinate with those organizations as appropriate;

4 to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General's initiative on cybersecurity and with the Telecommunication Development Bureau in relation to any item concerning cybersecurity under Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), and to ensure coordination among these different activities;

5 to contribute to the report of the Secretary General to the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and academia

to contribute to this work,

further invites Member States

1 to take appropriate steps to ensure that appropriate and effective measures are taken within their national and legal frameworks to combat spam and its propagation;

2 to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to counter and combat spam.

1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)