WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION ASSEMBLY New Delhi, 15-24 October 2024

Resolution 102 – Provision of handset-derived caller location information for emergency communications



FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, and information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

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RESOLUTION 102 (New Delhi, 2024)

Provision of handset-derived caller location information for emergency communications

(New Delhi, 2024)

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

considering

a) that information and communication technologies are an essential enabler for public safety by providing a primary means of access to emergency services;

b) that modern smartphones can use measurements from global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), Assisted-GNSS, Wi-Fi and location information from mobile networks to calculate location estimates, which are usually more accurate than network-provided locations, and which can then be transmitted to emergency services to help ensure swift and effective emergency interventions;

c) that effective emergency interventions require the provision of emergency assistance to citizens who need help in the shortest possible amount of time in order to reduce instances of serious injury or fatality;

d) that the provision of accurate and reliable caller location information to the emergency services has a direct and significant positive impact on the timeliness of an emergency intervention;

e) that, since 2016, significant developments in technical solutions for the provision of handset-derived caller location information have taken place and successful deployments have been made around the world;

f) that handset-derived caller location information could save numerous lives and positively impact many more, while also generating substantial economic benefits;

g) that the global smartphone penetration is expected to reach billions of end-users in the near future, with the vast majority of these smartphones capable of providing handset-derived caller location information to emergency services;

h) the work of Study Groups 2 and 11 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) on emergency communication services,

noting

a) that standards have been developed by several standards-development organizations (SDOs), including the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) (technical specification 103 625), the 3^{rd} Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) (technical specification 32.271) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) (hypertext markup language (HTML) 5 living standard), to facilitate the transmission of handset-derived caller location information through public telecommunication networks to emergency services;

b) that the provision of handset-derived caller location information is already a regulatory requirement in many countries, such as through Directive 2018/1972 of the European Parliament and of the European Council;

c) the importance of safeguarding data privacy in the transmission of handset-derived caller location information, with appropriate measures to ensure user protection,

resolves to instruct

1 ITU-T Study Group 2, as the lead study group on this issue, to study, in collaboration with other ITU-T study groups, in particular Study Groups 11 and 17, and in cooperation with organizations with specific expertise in this area, the necessary requirements for establishing and transmitting handset-derived caller location information to emergency services; and to consider a gap analysis of standardization activities at other SDOs;

2 ITU-T Study Group 2 and other relevant ITU-T study groups to develop operational recommendations for the deployment of technical solutions for establishing and transmitting handset-derived caller location information in ITU Member States in coordination with associated regional groups, so that a common basis for deployment can be established;

3 ITU-T Study Group 2 and other relevant ITU-T study groups, in collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), to promote the concept and benefits of handset-derived caller location information in improving public safety,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to promote collaboration with ITU-D and the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and to take appropriate action in order to facilitate the aforementioned work on the deployment of technical solutions for establishing and transmitting handset-derived caller location information for emergency communications;

2 to cooperate, collaborate and raise awareness with other entities within the United Nations system in formulating future international efforts to promote the deployment of technical solutions for establishing and transmitting handset-derived caller location information for emergency communications,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

to actively engage within the relevant ITU-T study group(s) to develop operational recommendations for the deployment of technical solutions, and to raise awareness and promote the deployment of technical solutions for establishing and transmitting handset-derived caller location information for emergency communications.