

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

**Resolution 58 – Encouraging the creation and
enhancement of national computer incident
response teams, particularly for developing
countries**

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 58 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

Encouraging the creation and enhancement of national computer incident response teams, particularly for developing countries

(Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Geneva, 2022; New Delhi, 2024)

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

recalling

- a)* Resolution 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- b)* that Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to work closely with each other in pursuing initiatives that assist in bridging the standardization gap between developing¹ and developed countries,

recognizing

- a)* the highly satisfactory results obtained by the regional approach within the framework of Resolution 54 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly;
- b)* the high-priority work within the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) on Resolution 50 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly, on cybersecurity, carried out in accordance with its competencies and expertise, including promoting common understanding among governments and other stakeholders of how to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs at the national, regional and international levels;
- c)* the increasing level of digital transformation and dependency on ICTs within developing countries;
- d)* the increasing complexity of managing cyberdefence infrastructure, tools, personnel and security services, due to the growing severity and sophistication of cyberthreats and cyberattacks on telecommunication/ICT networks in all countries;
- e)* that, as telecommunication/ICT infrastructure services and technologies continue to evolve, cyberthreats and cyberattacks are also evolving and spreading through a variety of means, such as mobile devices, servers, networks and even operational technology;
- f)* the work carried out by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) under former Question 22/1 of ITU-D Study Group 1 and current Question 3/2 of ITU-D Study Group 2 on this subject,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

noting

- a) that there is still a low level of cybersecurity emergency preparedness within many countries, in particular developing countries;
- b) that the high level of interconnectivity of ICT networks could be affected by the launch of an attack from networks of the less-prepared countries and regions;
- c) the importance of having an appropriate level of cybersecurity emergency preparedness in all countries;
- d) the need for and benefits of the establishment of computer incident response teams/cybersecurity incident response teams/cyber incident response teams (CIRTs) on a national basis, for instance, by providing a single point of contact for collaboration and communication between countries, and for helping to coordinate different entities (e.g. sectoral CIRTs) within a country;
- e) that, as cybersecurity issues become more complex, it may become necessary for CIRT capabilities to evolve;
- f) that CIRT is a term that refers to a broad set of institutions that perform cybersecurity incident response functions, such as a cyber security centre (CSC), security operation centre (SOC), computer emergency response team (CERT) and computer security incident response team (CSIRT),

considering

the work of ITU-T Study Group 17 in the area of national CIRTs and in other security teams or entities such as those covered in Recommendation ITU-T X.1060, in particular for developing countries, and cooperation between them, as contained in the outputs of the study group,

bearing in mind

that well-functioning CIRTs in developing countries will serve to improve the level of developing countries' participation in global cybersecurity emergency response activities, thereby contributing to achieving an effective and secure global telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and cybersecurity expertise,

resolves

- 1 to support the creation and enhancement of national CIRTs in Member States where support is requested, and to promote the related operating framework of CIRTs in Member States where CIRTs are established, if applicable;
- 2 to encourage ITU-T to develop tools to support CIRTs in improving information sharing for cybersecurity incident response with a view to raising the level of cybersecurity emergency preparedness, in particular in developing countries;
- 3 to engage ITU regional offices in the implementation of this resolution and raise awareness of the importance of CIRTs to Member States through related ITU-T activities,

instructs Study Group 17 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

- 1 to continue to develop ITU-T Recommendations, supplements and potentially tools that guide the creation of CIRTs and promote a CIRT operating framework that national CIRTs worldwide can use to develop their capacity;
- 2 to proactively explore partnerships and promote collaboration with other standards-development organizations and forums to develop these tools;
- 3 to collaborate with ITU-D in its work on the creation and enhancement of national CIRTs, as appropriate;
- 4 to promote the studies on national CIRT frameworks;
- 5 to support the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau in initiatives that assist in bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries for national CIRTs, which should include studies on CIRT frameworks, and share results with relevant groups of ITU-D as the mission of the lead group for security,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to inform the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group annually on the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to identify where national CIRTs are needed, in particular in developing countries, and encourage their establishment;
- 2 to collaborate with international experts and bodies to help countries establish and enhance national CIRTs, through improving and accelerating the development of ITU-T Recommendations, supplements and technical reports in this domain;
- 3 to support the promotion of national, regional and international best practices for establishing CIRTs by providing ITU-T Recommendations, supplements and technical reports;
- 4 to raise awareness of ITU-T Study Group 17's outputs, such as ITU-T Recommendations, supplements and technical reports, for the establishment and enhancement of CIRTs, including the related operating framework;
- 5 to provide support, as appropriate, within existing budgetary resources;
- 6 to facilitate collaboration between national CIRTs, such as capacity building and exchange of information, within an appropriate framework;
- 7 to take necessary action to progress implementation of this resolution,

invites the Member States

- 1 to consider the creation and enhancement of a national CIRT as a high priority;
- 2 to collaborate with other Member States and with Sector Members;
- 3 to consider how ITU-T Study Group 17 can inform ITU members' understanding of the roles and responsibilities of CIRTs, and take action as appropriate;
- 4 to encourage collaboration networks and participate in international organizations in order to enhance global cybersecurity capabilities and incident response collaboration,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia, as appropriate

- 1 to consider engaging in the improvement and development of ITU-T Recommendations, supplements and technical reports in order to support the effective creation and operation of national CIRTs;
- 2 to cooperate closely with ITU-T, ITU-D and ITU regional offices in this regard.