

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

**Resolution 61 – Countering and combating
misappropriation and misuse of international
telecommunication numbering, naming,
addressing and identification resources**

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.

RESOLUTION 61 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

Countering and combating misappropriation and misuse of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources

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

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

recalling

- a)* Resolution 190 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on countering misappropriation and misuse of international telecommunication numbering resources, which urged the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) to continue to study ways and means to improve the understanding, identification and resolution of misappropriation and misuse of ITU-T E.164 telephone numbers;
- b)* Resolution 29 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly, on alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks, which (citing Resolution 1099 of the ITU Council, adopted at its 1996 session) urges ITU-T to develop, as soon as possible, the appropriate Recommendations concerning alternative calling procedures;
- c)* Recommendation ITU-T E.156, which sets out guidelines for ITU-T action on reported misuse of ITU-T E.164 numbering resources, Recommendation ITU-T E.156 Supplement 1, which provides a best-practice guide on countering misuse of ITU-T E.164 numbering resources, and Recommendation ITU-T E.156 Supplement 2, which provides a set of possible actions to counter misuse;
- d)* that one of the purposes of the Union is to foster collaboration among the membership for the harmonious development of telecommunications and to enable the offering of services at lowest cost,

noting

the number of cases reported, so far, to the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) regarding misappropriation and misuse of ITU-T E.164 numbers,

recognizing

- a)* that the fraudulent misappropriation and misuse of national telephone numbers and country codes are harmful and impact revenue, quality of service, credibility, customer confidence and access to emergency services;
- b)* that the blocking of calls by barring the country code to a country in order to avoid fraud is harmful;
- c)* that inappropriate activities causing loss of revenue are an important issue to continue to be studied;
- d)* relevant provisions of the Preamble to the ITU Constitution, which recognizes the sovereign right of each State to regulate its telecommunications;

e) that disputes regarding misuse and misappropriation of international numbering resources for geographic areas administered by Member States are for the Member States involved to resolve, with the assistance of the Director of TSB on request,

resolves to invite Member States

1 to ensure that ITU-T numbering, naming, addressing and identification (NNAI) resources are used only by the assignees and only for the purposes for which they were assigned, and that unassigned resources are not used;

2 to endeavour to ensure that operating agencies authorized by Member States release routing information to duly authorized agencies in cases of fraud or NNAI misuse/misappropriation, in accordance with national law;

3 to encourage administrations, operating agencies and national regulators to collaborate and share information on fraudulent activities related to misappropriation and misuse of international NNAI resources, and to collaborate to counter and combat such activities;

4 to encourage all international telecommunication operators to enhance the effectiveness of ITU's role and to give effect to its Recommendations, in particular those of ITU-T Study Group 2, in order to promote a new and more effective basis to counter, combat and address fraudulent activities due to misappropriation and misuse of NNAI resources, which would help to mitigate them and limit the negative effects of these fraudulent activities and the blocking of international calls;

5 to encourage administrations and international telecommunication operators to implement ITU-T Recommendations in order to mitigate the adverse effects of fraudulent number misappropriation and misuse, including blocking of calls to certain countries;

6 to encourage administrations to periodically review and update national regulations, and to share best practices in their national approaches towards countering and combating misappropriation and misuse of international telecommunication NNAI resources,

further resolves

1 that administrations and operating agencies authorized by Member States take, to the furthest extent practicable, all reasonable measures to provide information necessary to address issues related to NNAI misappropriation and misuse;

2 that administrations and operating agencies authorized by Member States should take note of and consider, to the furthest extent practicable, the suggested guidelines for regulators, administrations and operating agencies authorized by Member States for dealing with NNAI misappropriation, in accordance with the process defined in Recommendation ITU-T E.156;

3 that Member States and national regulators should proactively take note of instances of activities related to misappropriation and misuse of NNAI resources that are notified through relevant ITU-T resources (e.g. the ITU-T Operational Bulletin) or directly to them;

4 to request ITU-T Study Group 2 to continue to study all aspects and forms of misappropriation and misuse of NNAI resources within its mandate, in particular of international country codes, with a view to amending Recommendation ITU-T E.156 and its supplements and guidelines to identify means to support countering and combating these activities;

5 to request ITU-T Study Group 3, in collaboration with ITU-T Study Group 2, to develop definitions for inappropriate activities, including inappropriate activities causing loss of revenue, related to misappropriation and misuse of international NNAI resources specified in the relevant ITU-T Recommendations, and to continue to study such matters;

6 to request ITU-T Study Group 3 to continue to study the economic effects resulting from misappropriation and misuse of numbering resources, including call blocking,

invites Member States

to develop public awareness-raising campaigns on NNAI misuse and misappropriation, and share best practices on public reporting mechanisms for NNAI misuse and misappropriation.