

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

Resolution 88 – International mobile roaming



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 88 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

International mobile roaming

(Hammamet, 2016; New Delhi, 2024)

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

considering

- a)* the results of the ITU High-Level Workshop on international mobile roaming (IMR), held in Geneva on 23-24 September 2013;
- b)* the results of the ITU Global Dialogue on IMR, held in Geneva on 18 September 2015;
- c)* that the tasks undertaken in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) cover Recommendations, conformity assessment and matters having policy or regulatory implications;
- d)* that the economy is increasingly dependent on reliable, cost-effective, competitive and affordable mobile communication technology on a global scale;
- e)* that wholesale IMR tariffs are decoupled from underlying costs, which may have an effect on retail rates, including inconsistent and arbitrary charges;
- f)* that a competitive international telecommunication market may not exist if significant differences persist between national prices and IMR prices;
- g)* that there are differences in costs between countries and regions;
- h)* that the adoption and usage of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) has grown manifold,

considering further

- a)* the strong growth of IMT systems and other technologies, and the role of Internet of Things (IoT) and machine-to-machine (M2M) roaming arrangements in helping to facilitate this development;
- b)* the ITU-T technical report on roaming aspects of IoT and M2M, which emphasized the fundamental differences between traditional telecommunication services and IoT/M2M services, such as their connected elements and connections, core services, average revenue per user, and business models;
- c)* the ITU High-Level Workshop on IMR noted that, "in relation to M2M roaming, it is important to distinguish M2M roaming from traditional consumer voice and data roaming, as the issues and implications arising are quite different and the problems associated with consumer roaming prices did not materialize",

noting

- a) that Recommendation ITU-T D.98 is an agreement concluded between Member States and Sector Members in 2012;
- b) that Recommendation ITU-T D.97 contains possible approaches to the reduction of excessive roaming rates, highlighting the need to encourage competition in the roaming market, educate consumers and consider appropriate regulatory actions such as the introduction of caps on roaming rates,

noting further

- a) the ongoing work in ITU-T Study Group 3 on the roaming aspects of IoT and M2M;
- b) the range of commercial agreements and other mechanisms that have supported the successful global deployment of IoT/M2M services,

resolves

- 1 that ITU-T Study Group 3 continue to study the economic effects of IMR rates, including principles and methodologies for facilitating fair and reasonable IMR arrangements;
- 2 that ITU-T Study Group 3 continue to study the roaming aspects of IoT/M2M services,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

- 1 to organize initiatives, in collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, to raise awareness of the benefits to the consumer of lowering IMR rates;
- 2 to propose cooperative approaches to foster the implementation of Recommendations ITU-T D.98 and ITU-T D.97, and to lower IMR rates among the Member States, by promoting capacity-building programmes, workshops and guidelines for international cooperation agreements,

invites Member States

- 1 to take measures towards the implementation of Recommendations ITU-T D.98 and ITU-T D.97;
- 2 to collaborate in the efforts to lower IMR rates by taking regulatory measures when applicable.