

**ITU Workshop on "Combating Counterfeit Using  
Conformance and Interoperability Solutions"  
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**ITU SURVEY ON COUNTERFEIT ICT DEVICES IN AFRICA REGION:  
FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Kofi Ntim Yeboah-Kordieh  
Deputy Manager, Regulatory Administration  
National Communications Authority  
[kofi.yeboah-kordieh@nca.org.gh](mailto:kofi.yeboah-kordieh@nca.org.gh)**



# BACKGROUND

- ITU-T SG11 meeting (22-29 April, 2015) recognized that counterfeit ICT devices pose a lot of challenges in developing countries, particularly the Africa region.
- Due to the absence or less availability of factual findings,SG11 endorsed a proposal to conduct a study/survey in African region with the aim of gathering empirical information
  - on the nature of the challenges,
  - use cases and
  - efforts in place to address such challenges posed by counterfeit ICT products.

# SURVEY OBJECTIVES

- To gather information on challenges, use cases and efforts in place to address the problem of counterfeit ICT in Africa.
- To consider a possible creation of a regional group of ITU-T SG11 in Africa to provide regional views on combating counterfeit ICT devices and C&I issues towards Bridging the ICT Standardization Gap between developed and developing countries.
- To enhance awareness on the impacts of counterfeit ICT devices in the region,
- To recommend for best practices including regulatory frameworks (in countries where there are none) as well as technical methodologies to combat counterfeit ICT devices
- To identify and recommend possible initiatives ITU could take towards the fight against counterfeit ICT devices.

# METHODOLOGY

- Both quantitative and qualitative techniques employed with the reason that respondents could express their views to aid the researcher with detailed information for analysis.
- Sample size of 20 countries randomly selected, out of which 14 Member States namely Benin, Guinea, Uganda, Zambia, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Gambia, Ethiopia, Burundi and Tunisia responded.
- Respondents were mainly Regulators and Ministries, in charge of ICT.
- Primary data was collected for the study with the administration of questionnaires to the respondents.

# ANALYSIS OF DATA

- Data Analysis divided into 5 thematic blocks:
  - Common perceptions of counterfeit ICT devices
  - Available Laws, Regulations and Enforcement
  - Impact Assessment on counterfeit ICT devices
  - Existing measures and techniques to combat counterfeit ICT devices
  - ITU involvement and possible Creation of a Regional Group of ITU-T SG11

# Common perceptions of counterfeit ICT devices

# FINDINGS

**UNDERSTANDING OF COUNTERFEIT ICT DEVICE**

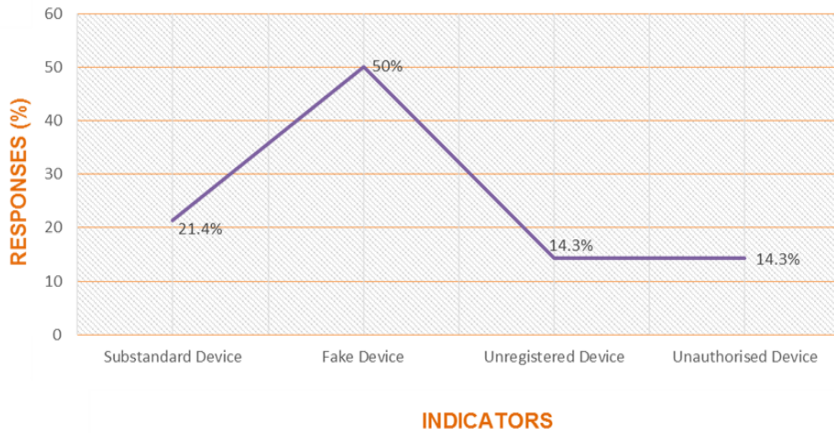


Figure 1: (Source: Survey Responses)

**COUNTRY SPECIFIC DEFINITION OF COUNTERFEIT ICT DEVICE**

RESPONSES	NO OF RESPONSES	(%) RESPONSES	CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	3	21.4	21.4
No	11	78.6	100
Total	14	100	0

Table 1: Source: Survey responses

# FINDINGS

## KNOWN COUNTERFEIT ICT DEVICES

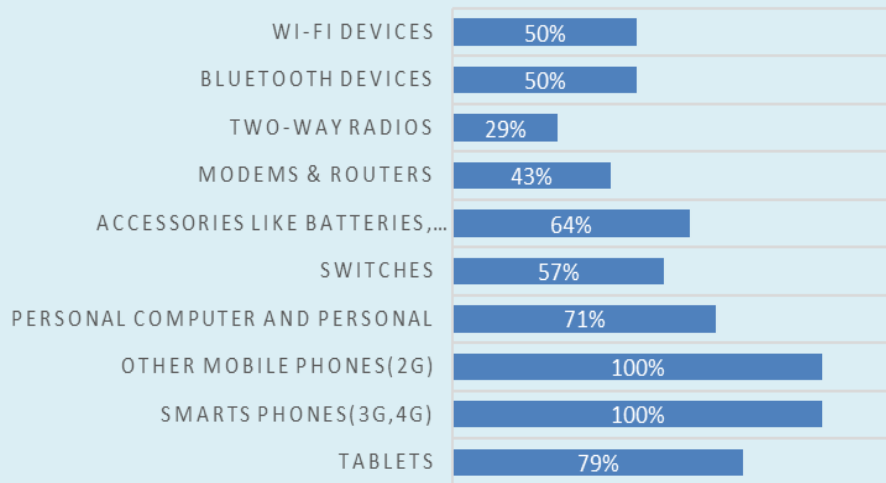


Figure 2: (Source: Survey Responses)

## Reasons for Patronage of Counterfeit ICT Devices in Africa Region

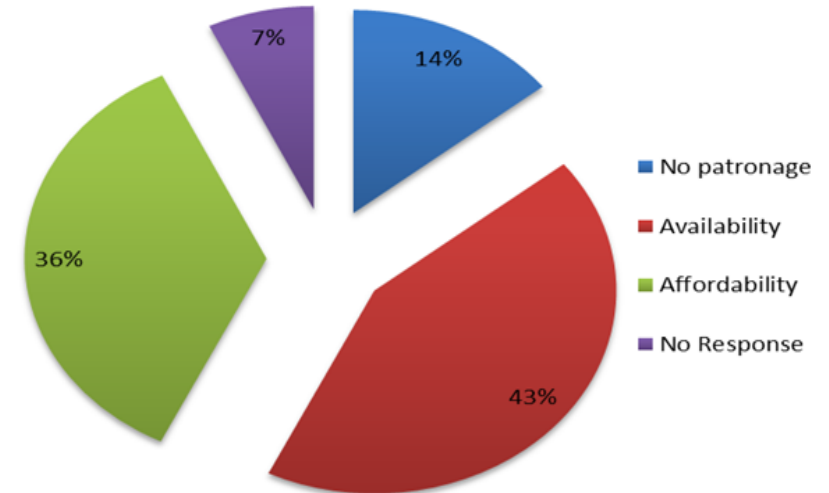


Figure 3: (Source : Survey Responses)



# Available Laws, Regulations and Enforcement

# FINDINGS

**Laws and Regulations for Combating Counterfeit ICT Devices**

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent
Yes	14	100.0	100.0
No	0	0	0
Total	14	100	100

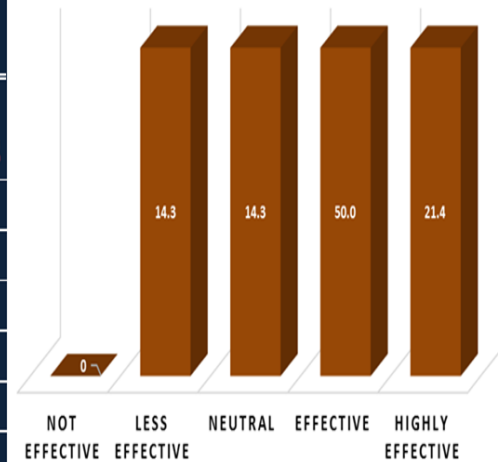
*Table 2: (Source: Survey Responses)*

**Assessment of Effectiveness of Laws and Regulations on Counterfeit ICT Devices**

EXTENT OF INTENSITY		NO. OF RESPONSE	% OF RESPONSES
MEASURE	SCALE		
Not Effective	1	0	0
Less Effective	2	2	14.3
Neutral	3	2	14.3
Effective	4	7	50.0
Highly Effective	5	3	21.4
TOTAL		14	100

*Table 3: (Source: Survey Responses)*

**EFFECTIVENESS OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON COUNTERFEIT ICT DEVICES(CHART)**



*(Source: Survey Responses)*

# FINDINGS

## EXISTENCE OF LAWS & REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR ICT DEVICES' IMPORTATION

% SCORE OF RESPONSES

78.6

21.4

YES

NO

RESPONSES SOUGHT

Figure 5: (Source : Survey Responses)

COUNTRY	LAW/REGULATIONS/GUIDELINES
Uganda	Minimum Specifications For STBs And IDTVs Minimum Standards For Telecom Devices Type Approval Guidelines
Gambia	Type approval regulation approved
Nigeria	NCC Act, 2003; Type Approval Regulations; Type Approval Guidelines
Mozambique	Type approval regulation approved in 2009
Ethiopia	Standards for short Range devices, Technical Specifications for 2G and 3G Terminals Technical Specifications for corded and cordless Telephones and PABX systems
Ghana	Electronic Communications Act, 2008 (Act 775), Electronic Communication Regulations, (LI 1991 of 2011), Type Approval Guidelines, Technical Specifications for 2G and 3G terminals including other short range devices, Minimum Specification for STBs and IDTVs
Kenya	Kenya Information and Communications (Import, Type Approval and Distribution of Communications Equipment) Regulations, 2010.
Sudan	MRA with Accredited test labs

(Source: Survey Responses)

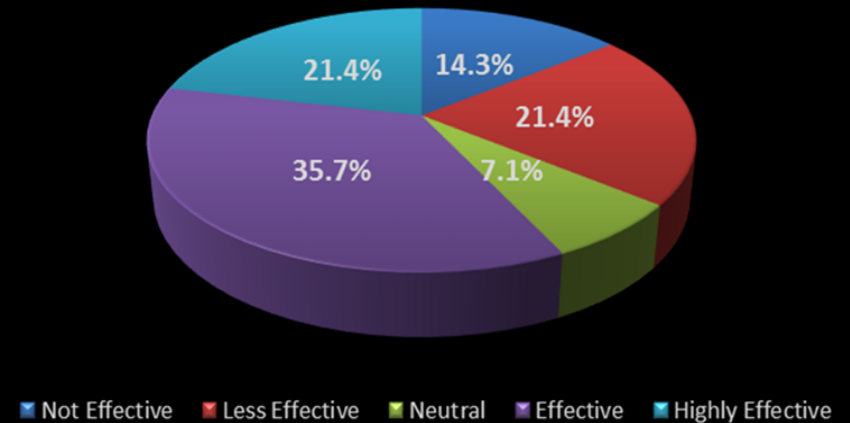
# FINDINGS

## *National Bodies to Fight Against Counterfeit ICT Devices*

Responses	No Of Responses	Percentage of Responses	Cumulative Percent
Yes	14	100.0	100.0
No	0	0	0

*Table 4: (Source: Survey Responses)*

## EFFECTIVENESS OF NATIONAL BODIES TO FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEIT ICT DEVICES



*Figure 4: (Source: Survey Responses)*

# Impact Assessment on counterfeit ICT devices

# FINDINGS

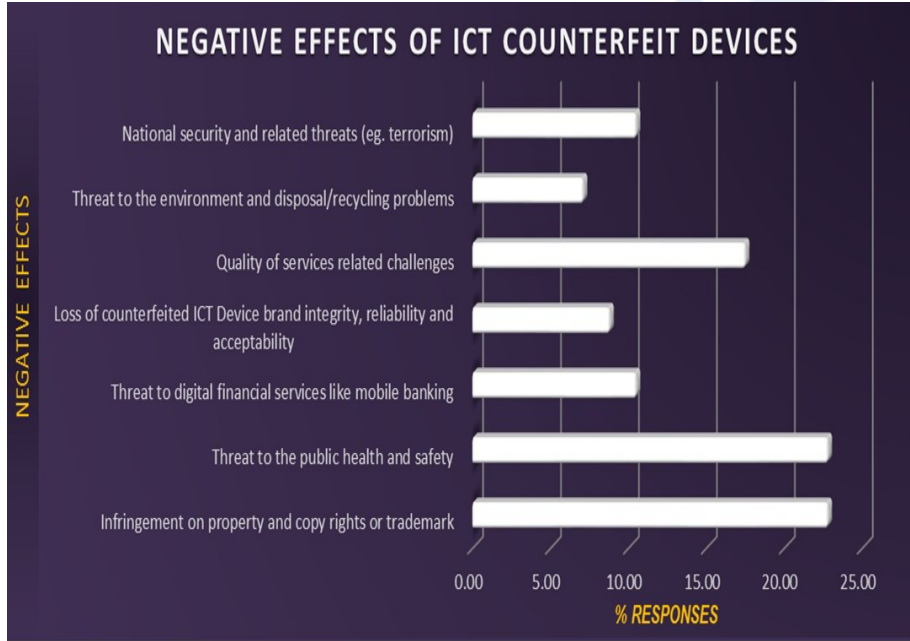


Figure 6: (Source: Survey Responses)

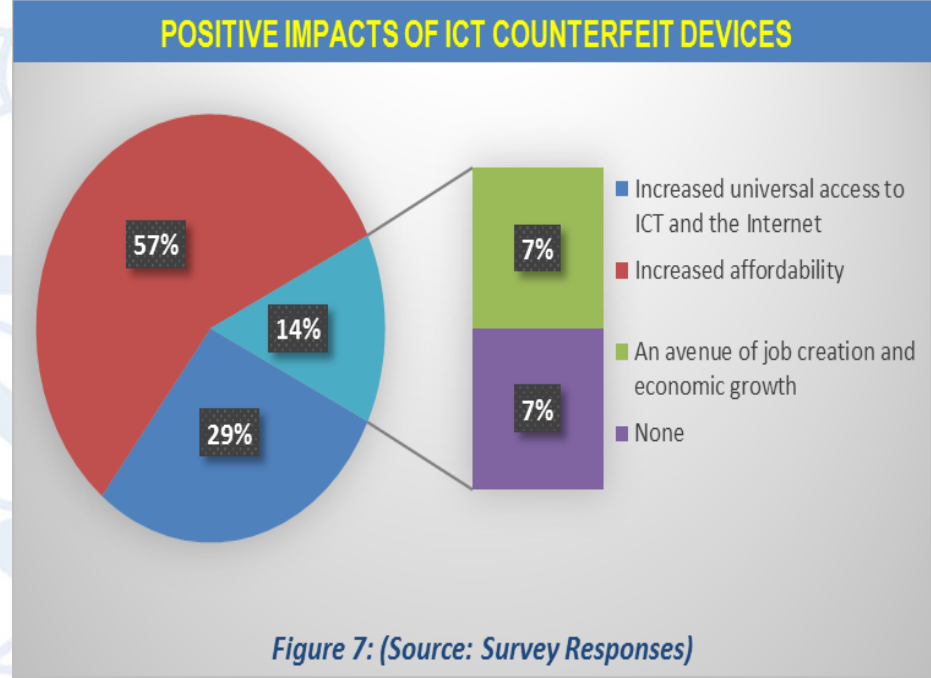


Figure 7: (Source: Survey Responses)

# Existing measures and techniques to combat counterfeit ICT devices

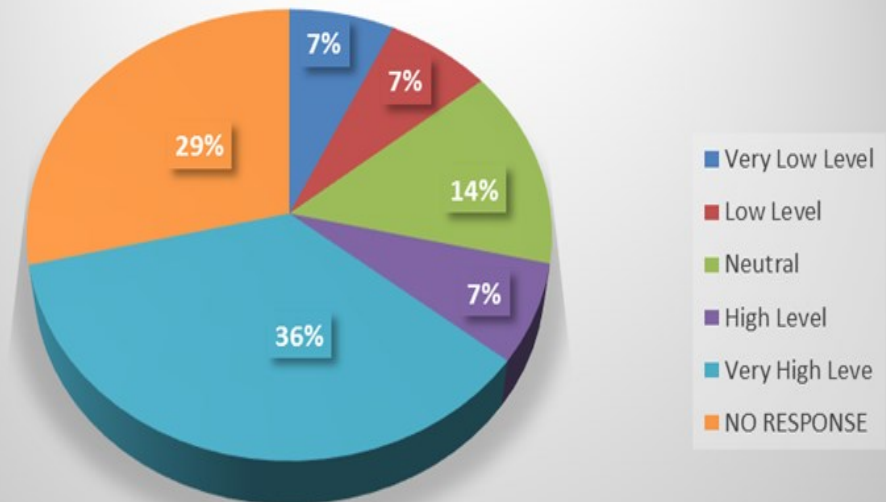
# FINDINGS

## EXISTENCE OF PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMME

RESPONSES	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Yes	10	71.4
No	4	28.6
Total	14	100

**Table 6: (Source: Survey Responses)**

## PERCEIVED LEVEL OF PUBLIC AWARENESS



**Figure 8: (Source: Survey Responses)**



# FINDINGS

## NEED FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION COUNTERFEIT IT DEVICES

Responses	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Yes	14	100
No	0	0
TOTAL	14	100

Table 7: (Source: Survey Responses)

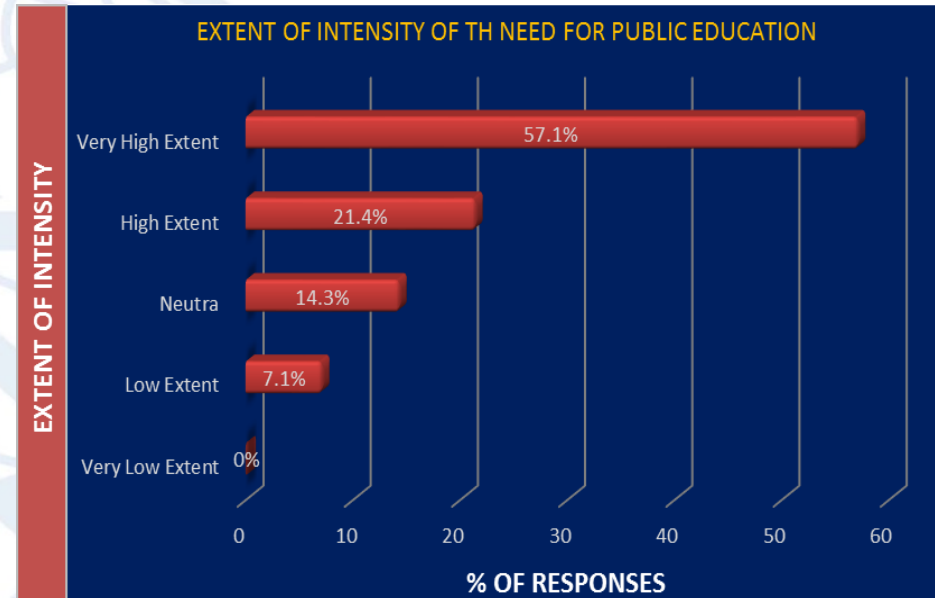


FIGURE 9: (Source: Survey Responses)

# FINDINGS

## EXISTENCE OF ANTI-COUNTERFEIT FORUMS

RESPONSES	NO. OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONSES
Yes	6	42.9
No	8	57.1
Total	14	100

*Table 8: (Source: Survey Responses)*

## VERIFICATION OF ICT DEVICE AUTHENTICITY

RESPONSES	NO. OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONSES
Yes	5	35.7
No	9	64.3
Total	14	100

*Table 9 (Source: Survey Responses)*

# FINDINGS

MEASURES IN PLACE TO VERIFY AUTHENTICITY OF ICT DEVICES

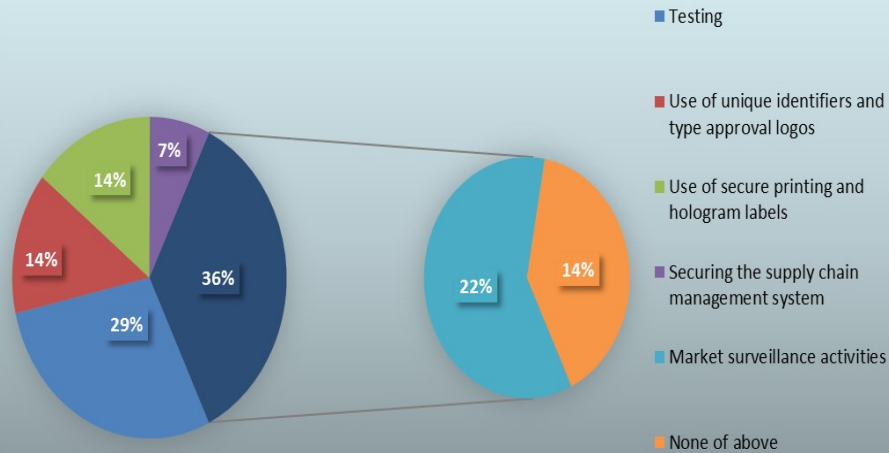


Figure 10: (Source: Survey Responses)

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SCHEMES TO CHECK MARKET ENTRY

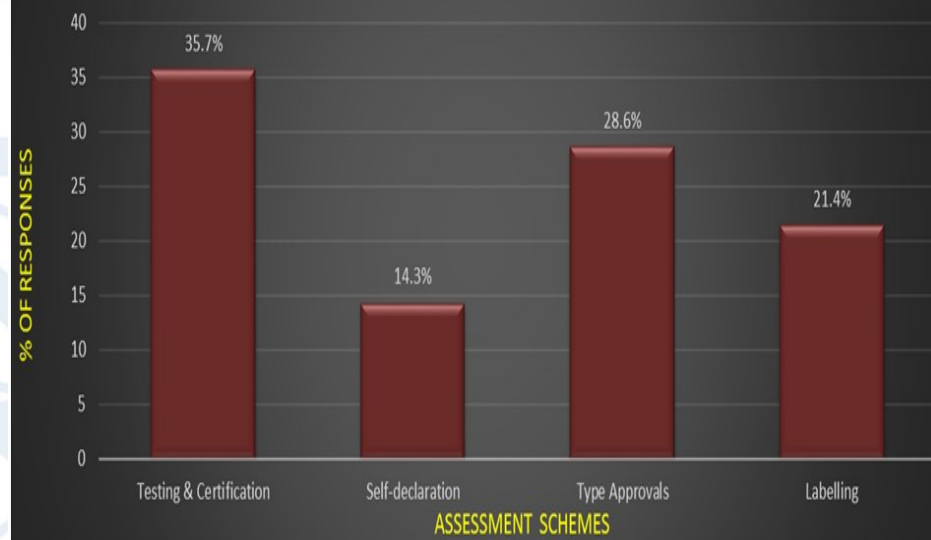


Figure 11: (Source: Survey Responses)

# FINDINGS

**ICT DEVICES' TESTING LAB & CAPABILITY**

RESPONSES	EXISTENCE OF TEXTING LABS		CAPABILITY OF TESTING LABS	
RESPONSES	(NO. OF RESPONSES)	% OF RESPONSES	(NO. OF RESPONSES)	% OF RESPONSES
Yes	3	21.4	3	21.4
No	11	78.6	N/A	N/A
Total	14	100	100	100

Table 10: (Source: Survey Responses)

**CAN CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT  
COMBAT COUNTERFEIT ICT DEVICES?**

RESPONSES	NO. OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONSES
Yes	11	78.6
No	3	21.4
Total	14	100

Table 11: (Source: Survey Responses)

# ITU involvement and possible Creation of a Regional Group of ITU-T SG11



# FINDINGS

## NEED TO ESTABLISH AN ITU-T SG11 REGIONAL GROUP

RESPONSES	NO. OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONSES
Yes	14	100
No	0	0
Total	14	100

Table 11: (Source: Survey Responses)

## SUBMISSION OF JOINT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS CREATION OF AFRICA REGIONAL GROUP 11

RESPONSES	NO. OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONSES
Yes	11	78.57
No	2	14.29
N/A	1	7.14
Total	14	100

Table 13: (Source: Survey Responses)

# FINDINGS

## ***PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL GROUP 11***

RESPONSES	NO. OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONSES
Yes	12	85.7
No	2	14.3
Total	14	100

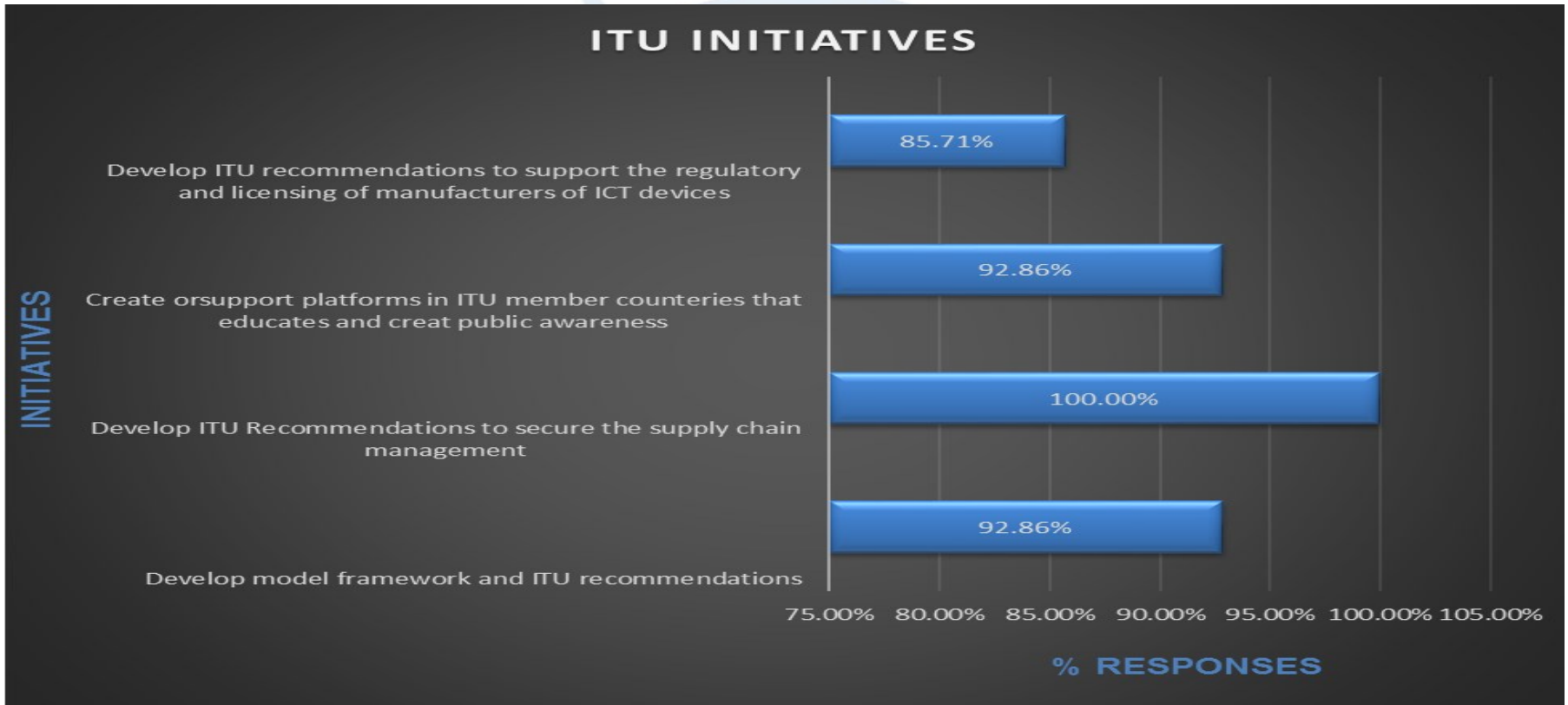
*Table 14 (Source: Survey Response)*

## **ITU-T STANDARDISATION WORK TO ADDRESS COUNTERFEIT ICT DEVICES**

RESPONSES	NO. OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONSES
Yes	13	92.9
No	1	7.1
Total	14	100

***Table 12: (Source: Survey Responses)***

# FINDINGS



**Figure 12: (Source: Survey Response)**



# CONCLUSIONS

- Counterfeit ICT devices are considered “fake and substandard” as per the understanding of the respondents in the African region.
- ITU’s involvement in addressing the problem of counterfeit ICT devices through its standardization work is needed.
- ICT Devices perceived to have been counterfeited are mobile phones & personal computers.
- Counterfeit mobile phones are easily patronized because of their affordability and availability in the markets.

# CONCLUSIONS

- Existence of policies, laws, regulations and national anti-counterfeiting forums shows the preparedness of Member States to fight against the influx of counterfeit ICT devices.
- More public awareness programmes could be explored using national ICT anti-counterfeiting forums.
- Member States have Laws and Regulatory Frameworks for “Testing” and “Market Surveillance activities” before and after ICT devices are imported and supplied.
- Majority of Member States in the region have no “ICT testing laboratory”.

# CONCLUSIONS

- Conformity assessment schemes can be used to combat counterfeit ICT devices.
- Member States have interest in establishment of an ITU-T SG11 Regional Group for Africa and would support and participate in such group activities.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- ITU should adopt the definition in the TRIPS agreement or should develop its own standard definition for counterfeit ICT devices to help the industry and avoid the seaming confusion.
- Manufacturers of genuine products should take into account in their production, the financial constraint in developing countries particularly those in the African region. They could produce authentic devices that are “affordable”, ensuring their “availability” to aid combating ICT devices.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- There should be effective implementation of laws and regulations including effective awareness creation and sensitization to make counterfeit ICT equipment production, distribution and usage not attractive.
- Much more needs to be done on Market Surveillance activities and Type Approvals in the region.
- ICT equipment testing laboratory is required in this region to authenticate devices and give assurance to the general public.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need for establishment of ITU-T SG11 regional group for Africa to provide the regional views to influence ICT standards development particularly on the subject of counterfeit ICT devices, Conformance, Interoperability and other related topics.
- There should be sub-regional or regional harmonized standards.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Four initiatives recommended as relevant to be considered by ITU:
  - Develop model framework and ITU recommendations
  - Develop ITU Recommendations to secure the supply chain management
  - Create or support platforms in ITU member countries that educates and create public awareness
  - Develop ITU recommendations to support the regulatory and licensing of manufacturers of ICT devices.









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