Key takeaways

Fourth ITU Regional Workshop for Africa

Strengthening ICT Integrity: Combating Counterfeits, Testing Challenges, and Fraudulent Communications in the Africa Region

Tunis, Tunisia, 1 October 2025

Conformance and Interoperability

- Testing laboratories within the African region are encouraged to apply for ITU recognition.
- Active engagement from African member states, regulators, telecommunications companies, manufacturers, and academic institutions is essential in ITU-T SG11 activities.

Combating counterfeiting and stolen ICT devices

- Implementing CEIR goes beyond technical aspects; it requires all stakeholders to be prepared to share information.
- Addressing the issue of stolen mobile devices demands a comprehensive, multi-dimensional strategy.
- It is crucial to associate user identification with the mobile device's IMEI number.
- ITU-T Recommendations play a vital role in deploying CEIR solutions aimed at combating counterfeit and stolen ICT devices across the African Region.
- Several ITU-T Recommendations as well as its supplements, such as ITU-T Q.5050, Q.5051, Q.5054, and Q.Suppl.76, have already been adopted within the African Region.
- The approval of the draft ITU-T Q.5055, which outlines the technical requirements, interfaces, and generic functions of a CEIR, holds significant importance for the African Region.

Combating fraudulent communications

- There is a need for issuance of End-Entity and Certification Authority certificates for enabling trustable signalling interconnection between network entities.
- The trustworthiness of the caller/sender is essential to stop telephone fraud including scam calls, spoofing numbers which are among the key attacks in the African Region.
- African Region supports the ITU-T SG11 activities on signalling security issues.
- Member States of the African Region were encouraged to submit their use cases (such as bypass, SIM Box fraud, etc.) and propose potential topics for future standardization aimed at combating these attacks on telephone networks.