

RESOLUTION 84 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Combating mobile telecommunication device theft

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 196 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on protecting telecommunication service users/consumers;
- b)* Resolution 189 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft;
- c)* Resolution 97 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on combating mobile telecommunication device theft;
- d)* Resolution 188 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on combating counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) devices;
- e)* Resolution 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues relating to the risk of illicit use of ICTs;
- f)* Resolution 79 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in combating and dealing with counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices;
- g)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on protecting, supporting and empowering users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services;
- h)* Resolution 96 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) studies for combating counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices,

recognizing

- a) that governments and industry have been implementing actions to prevent and combat mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;
- b) that the theft of user-owned mobile telecommunication/ICT devices may lead to the criminal use of telecommunication/ICT services and applications, resulting in financial losses for the lawful owner and user;
- c) that measures to combat mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft adopted by some countries rely on unique device identifiers, and therefore tampering with (changing without authorization) unique identifiers can diminish the effectiveness of these solutions;
- d) that some solutions to combat counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices can also be used to combat the use of stolen telecommunication/ICT devices, in particular those devices whose unique identifier has been tampered with for the purpose of re-introducing them to the market;
- e) that studies on combating counterfeiting, including of telecommunication/ICT devices, and systems adopted on the basis of those studies, in some circumstances, can facilitate the detection and blocking of devices and prevention of their further use;
- f) that it is important to find innovative solutions and adopt national, regional and global strategies to fight mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft,

considering

- a) that technological innovation driven by telecommunications/ICTs has significantly modified the ways in which people access telecommunications;
- b) that the positive impact of mobile telecommunications, technological progress and the development generated by all related services have increased the penetration of mobile telecommunication/ICT devices;
- c) that the widespread use of mobile telecommunications in the world has also been accompanied by a rise in the problem of mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;

- d) that the theft of a mobile telecommunication/ICT device has implications for the device and its user;
- e) that mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft may be significantly reduced when national legislation prohibits tampering with unique device identifiers;
- f) that the act of mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft can sometimes have a negative impact on the health and safety of citizens and on their sense of security;
- g) that problems arising from crimes related to mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft have become a worldwide issue, since these stolen devices may be of high monetary value and are often very easily resold on international markets;
- h) that the illicit trading of stolen mobile telecommunication/ICT devices constitutes a risk to consumers and causes loss of revenue for the industry;
- i) that some governments have implemented regulations, law-enforcement actions, policies and technological mechanisms to prevent and combat mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;
- j) that some manufacturers of mobile telecommunication/ICT devices, as well as operators and industry, offer solutions for consumers, such as free anti-theft applications, with the aim of reducing the rate of mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft,

aware

- a) of the related ongoing work in ITU-T Study Group 11 on combating counterfeit and mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;
- b) of the related ongoing work in ITU-T Study Group 17 on security;
- c) that manufacturers, operators and industry associations have been developing a range of technological solutions and governments have been developing policies and, in some cases, regulations to address the global problem of mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft,

resolves

1 that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) should explore all applicable solutions and develop reports or implementation guidelines, taking into account the needs of countries, especially developing countries¹, in consultation with relevant ITU-T and ITU Radiocommunication Sector study groups, to combat and deter mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft, offering all interested parties a forum for encouraging discussion, member cooperation, exchange of best practices and guidelines and dissemination of information on combating mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;

2 that ITU-D study groups should include activities relating to combating mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;

3 to encourage relevant ITU-T study groups, within their mandate, to study topics on combating mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft,

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

1 to provide assistance, within ITU-D's expertise and within available resources, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant organizations, to Member States, if so requested, in order to reduce mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft and the use of stolen mobile telecommunication/ICT devices in their countries;

2 to compile and share information, including statistics, on best practices developed by governments and other stakeholders and on promising trends and solutions in combating mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft, especially from regions where the rate of device theft has fallen,

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

instructs Study Groups 1 and 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, each within its mandate and in collaboration with study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

- 1 to develop guidelines, recommendations and reports to address the problem of mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft and its negative effects;
- 2 to gather information about any technologies and best practices that can be used as tools for combating mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft, and to build capacities in developing countries in this regard,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to take all necessary measures, including raising awareness, to combat mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft and its negative effects;
- 2 to cooperate and share expertise in this area;
- 3 to participate actively in ITU studies relating to the implementation of this resolution by submitting contributions;
- 4 to take the necessary actions to prevent or discover and control tampering (unauthorized changing) of unique mobile telecommunication/ICT device identifiers and prevent tampered devices from accessing mobile networks, and to share information and experiences on controlling the tampering of unique mobile telecommunication/ICT device identifiers.