International Telecommunication Union

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION
ASSEMBLY
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Resolution 97 – Combating mobile telecommunication device theft

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, 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.

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RESOLUTION 97 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)

Combating mobile telecommunication device theft

(Hammamet, 2016; Geneva, 2022)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Geneva, 2022),

recalling

a)   Resolution 196 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on protecting telecommunication service users/consumers;

b)   Resolution 189 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft;

c)   Resolution 188 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on combating counterfeit telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) devices;

d)   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;

e)   Resolution 79 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in combating and dealing with counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices;

f)   WTDC Resolution 64 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on protecting and supporting users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services,

recognizing

a)   that governments and industry have implemented actions to deter and combat mobile device theft;

b)   that the theft of user-owned mobile devices may lead to the criminal use of telecommunication/ICT services and applications, resulting in economic losses for the lawful owner and user;

c)   that measures to combat mobile device theft adopted by some countries rely on unique device identifiers, such as International Mobile Equipment Identity, 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 identifiers have 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 the systems adopted on the basis on those studies, can facilitate the detection and blocking of devices and prevention of their further use,

considering

that technological innovation driven by ICTs has significantly modified the ways in which people access telecommunications,

aware

a) of the related ongoing work in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) Study Group 11 on combating counterfeit and mobile device theft;

b) of the related ongoing work in ITU-T Study Group 17 on security;

c) of the related ongoing work in ITU-T study groups on applying emerging technologies for distributed information sharing solutions,

resolves

1 that ITU-T should explore all applicable solutions and develop ITU-T Recommendations to combat and deter mobile device theft and its negative effects, offering all interested parties a forum for encouraging discussion, member cooperation, the exchange of best practices and guidelines and the dissemination of information on combating mobile device theft;

2 that ITU-T should, in collaboration with the relevant standards organizations, develop solutions to address the problem of replication of unique identifiers;

3 that Study Group 11 should be the lead study group in ITU-T on activities relating to combating mobile telecommunication device theft,

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

1 to compile and share information on best practices developed by industry or governments and promising trends in combating mobile device theft, especially from regions where the rate of mobile phone theft has fallen, including statistics on their effectiveness;

2 to facilitate, in collaboration with industry organizations and standards-development organizations (SDOs), the standardization and dissemination of Recommendations, technical reports and guidelines to combat mobile device theft and its negative effects, specifically regarding the exchange of identifiers of mobile devices reported stolen or lost, and to prevent lost or stolen mobile devices from accessing mobile networks;

3 to consult with the Sector's relevant study groups, manufacturers of mobile devices, manufacturers of telecommunication network components, operators, telecommunication SDOs as well as developers of promising technologies related to these matters, in order to identify existing and future technological measures, both software and hardware, to mitigate the consequences of the use of stolen mobile devices;

4 to provide assistance, within ITU-T's expertise and within available resources, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant organizations, to Member States, if so requested, in order to reduce mobile device theft and the use of stolen mobile devices in their countries;

5 to share information and experiences on how to control tampering (unauthorized changing) of unique mobile telecommunication/ICT device identifiers and prevent tampered devices from accessing mobile networks,

instructs Study Groups 11 and 17 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, within their mandates and in collaboration with other interested study groups

1 to develop Recommendations, technical reports and guidelines to address the problem of mobile telecommunication device theft and its negative effects;

2   to study any possible solutions to combat the use of stolen mobile telecommunication devices with tampered (changed without authorization) identities and to prevent them from accessing the mobile network;

3   to study any technologies that can be used as a tool for combating mobile telecommunication device theft;

4   to draw up a list of identifiers used in mobile telecommunication/ICT devices,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1   to take all necessary measures, including raising awareness, in order to combat mobile telecommunication 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.