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Chairman, WG3

**PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL**

**Proposed modification TO Resolution 52   
(Rev. Hammamet, 2016) Countering and combating spam**

**Abstract**

Based on the consideration of the rapid development of emerging ICT technologies, Resolution 52 is proposed to revise to further enhance the relevant standardization work. The main modifications include expanding the scope of spam brought by new technology development, adding new topics contents about DLT and PII, and other editorial changes.

**Introduction**

According to ITU-T SG 17 Report on Countering Spam Survey, spam is still increasing globally. The scope of spam has greatly expanded to e-mails, phone calls, mobile messaging, instant message, IP-based multimedia applications and other technical means over various kinds of networks. Additionally, spam using new technologies is becoming more threatening. Therefore, Countering spam by technical means is still an important issue for all regions of the world.

Resolution 52 – Countering and combating spam (REV. HAMMAMET, 2016) instruct the relevant study groups, in particular in Study Group 17, to continue to support ongoing work related to countering spam (e.g. e-mail) and to accelerate their work on spam in order to address existing and future threats within the remit and expertise of ITU T, as appropriate. Considering the ongoing changes of the scope and technical features of spam, it is needed to update the Resolution 52 to reflect the current situation.

**Proposal**

APT members propose to revise Resolution 52 in following aspects:

(1) based on the work of ITU-T SG17 in countering Spam by technical means in 2017-2020, and according to PP Resolution 130, the recognizing and considering parts of the Resolution have been updated.

(2) to add some new contents according to new features of spam, such as Distributed Ledger Technologies;

(3) to share findings of the proposed previous survey report on the countering spam, and to publish the progress report of ITU-T Study Group 17 and other related Study Groups on the implementation of this resolution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the current works including reviewing the current progress for the adoption of Resolution 52

(4) some descriptions are supplemented and improved.

**Annex**

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 52 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)

Countering and combating spam

(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016；Hyderabad, 2020)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hyderabad, 2020),

recognizing

*a)* relevant provisions of the basic instruments of ITU;

*b)* that the Declaration of Principles of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) states in § 37 that "Spam is a significant and growing problem for users, networks and the Internet as a whole. Spam and cybersecurity should be dealt with at appropriate national and international levels";

*c)* that the WSIS Plan of Action states in § 12 that "Confidence and security are among the main pillars of the information society", and calls for "appropriate action on spam at national and international levels",

recognizing further

*a)* the relevant parts of Resolutions 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*b)* the report of the chairman of the two ITU WSIS thematic meetings on countering and combating spam, which advocated a comprehensive approach to combating spam, namely:

i) strong legislation

ii) the development of technical measures

iii) the establishment of industry partnerships to accelerate the studies

iv) education

v) international cooperation;

*c)* the relevant parts of Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference,

*d)* the ITU-T SG17 Report on Countering Spam Survey, which indicates spam is still increasing globally, countering spam by technical means is still an important and necessary way for all regions of the world.

considering

*a)* that exchanging e-mails , phone calls, mobile messaging, instant message, IP-based multimedia applications and other digital information communication means over various kinds of networks have become one of the main means of communication between people around the world;

*b)* that there are currently a variety of definitions for the term "spam";it was characterized by ITU-T Study Group 2, at its June 2006 session, as a term commonly used to describe unsolicited electronic bulk communications over e-mail or mobile messaging (SMS, MMS), mentioned noting c) in Resolutions 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*c)* that spam has become a widespread problem causing potential loss of revenue to Internet service providers, telecommunication operators, mobile telecommunication operators and business users;

*d)* that countering spam by technical means burdens affected entities, including network operators and service providers, as well as users who unwillingly receive such spam, with significant investments in networks, facilities, terminal equipment and applications;

*e)* that spam creates problems for information and telecommunication network security, and is increasingly being used as a vehicle for phishing and spreading viruses, worms, targeted attacks, spyware, ransomware and other forms of malware, etc.;

*f)* that spamming is used for criminal, fraudulent or deceptive activities;

*g)* that stealing and tracking Personally Identifiable Information (PII) leads to increase of spam, and therefore means that countering spam is closely related to data protection;

*h)* that spam is a global problem, with different characteristics in different regions, which affects many stakeholders and, therefore, requires collaborative work and international cooperation to address it and find solutions;

*i)* that addressing the issue of spam is a matter of urgency; In particular, network operators are requested to strengthen the capabilities of countering spam and provide users with effective technical means to counter spam;

*j)* that many countries, in particular developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1, need help when it comes to countering spam;

*k)* that relevant Recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) and relevant information from other international bodies are available which could provide guidance for future development in this area, particularly with regard to lessons learned;

*l)* that technical measures to counter spam represent one of the elements of the approach mentioned in *recognizing further* *b)* above,

noting

the important technical work carried out to date in ITU‑T Study Group 17, and in particular Recommendation ITU‑T X.1231 and the ITU‑T X.1240 series Recommendations,

resolves to instruct the relevant study groups

1 to continue to support ongoing work, in particular in Study Group 17, related to countering spam (e.g. e-mail) and to accelerate their work on spam in order to address existing and future threats within the remit and expertise of ITU‑T, as appropriate;

2 to continue studying the evolution of spam and develop a set of solutions or new Recommendations for countering spam by technical means;

3 to study PII protection as a means of countering spam;

4 to study the usage of Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) as a means of countering spam;

5 to continue collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) and with the relevant organizations, including other relevant standards organizations (e.g. the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP); Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), Open Mobile Alliance (OMA), The Messaging, Malware and Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group (M3AAWG)), in order to continue developing, as a matter of urgency, technical Recommendations with a view to exchanging best practices and disseminating information through joint workshops, training sessions, etc.,

further instructs Study Group 17 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

1 to report regularly to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group on progress under this resolution;

2 to support ITU‑D Study Group 2 on countering and combating spam in its work providing technical training sessions and workshop activities in different regions related to spam policy, regulatory and economic issues and their impact;

3 to continue its work on developing Recommendations, Supplements, technical papers and other related publications,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to provide all necessary assistance with a view to expediting such efforts, working collaboratively with relevant parties that combat spam with a view to identifying opportunities, raising awareness for such activities and identifying possible collaboration, as appropriate;

2 to initiate a study – including sending an updated questionnaire to the ITU membership–indicating the volume, types and features of spam traffic, and to publish outcomes of study, in order to help Member States and relevant operating agencies identify such routes, sources and volumes and estimate the amount of investment in facilities and other technical means to counter and combat such spam;

3 to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General's initiative on cybersecurity and with the Telecommunication Development Bureau in relation to any item concerning cybersecurity under Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC and Resolutions 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of PP, and to ensure coordination among these different activities;

4 to contribute to the report of the Secretary General to the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution,

5 To publish the progress report of ITU-T Study Group 17 and other related Study Groups on the implementation of this resolution, and review the current works including progress for the implementation of Resolution 52;

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and academia

to contribute to this work,

further invites Member States

1 to take appropriate steps to ensure that appropriate and effective measures are taken within their national and legal frameworks to combat spam and its propagation;

2 to work collaboratively with all relevant stakeholders to counter and combat spam.

1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)