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APT Preparatory Group for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022

**PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL**

**PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO RESOLUTION 189**

**Assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft**

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| **Summary:**  This contribution proposes modification to Plenipotentiary (PP) Resolution 189 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) “Assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft” by addressing the various issues and likely solutions in combating and deterring the mobile device theft. |

**INTRODUCTION**

The global problem of the mobile theft has taken a serious turn despite a lot of efforts being made by all the stakeholders. ITU has overarching role to devise ways and means through technical solutions, standardisation, encouraging use of innovation and sharing of best practices & information to deter this problem which is reflected in ITU PP Resolution 189 (Rev. Dubai, 2018). However, in view of the changing technological trends and standardization, there is a need to include the latest development in the abovementioned Resolution.

**PROPOSAL**

APT Member Administration propose in the present contribution modification to all the relevant references along with addition of some of the new relevant references. In the recognizing section, it has been added that some solutions and studies for combating counterfeiting of telecommunication/ICT devices which can facilitate the detection and blocking of such devices to deter the theft of mobile telecommunications/ICT devices. Role and responsibilities are to be taken care by the relevant stakeholders which has been added at the appropriate places. Detailed modifications are provided in the Annex to this document, for the further consideration.

**PACP-17**

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 189 (REV. Bucharest, 2022)

Assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union ( Bucharest, 2022)

recalling

*a)* Resolution 196 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on protecting telecommunication service users/consumers;

*b)* Resolution 189 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on assisting member States to combat and deter mobile devices theft;

*c)* Resolution 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference, on ITUs role with regard to international public policy issues related to the risk of illicit use of ICTs;

*d)* Resolution 97 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World telecommunications Standardizations Assembly (WTSA), on combating mobile telecommunication device theft;

*e)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC), on protecting and supporting users/consumers of telecommunications/ICT services;

considering

*a)* that the positive impact of mobile telecommunications, technological progress and the great coverage and development generated by all related services have increased the penetration of mobile telecommunications/ICT devices;

*b)* that thieves steal expensive personal commodities, including mobile devices;

*c)* that the widespread use of mobile telecommunications in the world has also been accompanied by a rise in the problem of mobile device theft;

*d)* that the act of mobile device theft can sometimes have a negative impact on the health and safety of citizens, on users' data and on their sense of security and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);

*e)* that some governments have implemented laws to make it illegal to modify unique identifiers in mobile devices.

*f)* that problems that occur around the crimes related to mobile device theft have become a worldwide issue, since these stolen devices are of high monetary value and often very easily resold on the international markets;

*g)* that the illicit trading of stolen mobile devices constitutes a risk to consumers and causes loss of revenue for the industry;

*h)* that some governments as well as industry have implemented regulations, law-enforcement actions, policies and technological mechanisms to prevent and combat mobile device theft;

*i)* that ITU can assist all members in the use of relevant ITU recommendations and play a positive role by offering all interested parties a platform for encouraging discussions, the exchange of best practices, industry cooperation to define technical guidelines and the dissemination of information on combating mobile device theft;

*j)* that most manufacturers of mobile devices and operating system vendors, as well as operators, offer solutions for consumers, such as free anti-theft applications and re-activation prevention tools, with the aim of reducing the rate of mobile device theft,

recognizing

*a)* that, in several regions, tampering with (making unauthorized changes to) or replication of mobile ICT device unique identifiers have become a means of unlawful use of stolen mobile devices, resulting into economic losses for the lawful owner and user;

*b)* that tampering with (making unauthorized changes/replication to) unique identifiers adversely affects holders of genuine devices and, as a result, the use of these genuine devices in the mobile networks is being blocked;

*c)* that it is important to adopt national, regional and worldwide strategies to fight mobile device theft;

*d)* that several Member States have adopted policies, regulations with the aim of ensuring that mobile service providers generate and share information on stolen mobile device databases at national and international level, and that the implementation of these policies, regulations may serve as a tool to stop the reuse of those devices;

*e)* that it is becoming important to continue searching and adopting the innovative solutions in order to deter mobile device theft,

concerned

that the rate of mobile device theft in some regions of the world remains high, despite efforts made in recent years,

aware

*a)* that manufacturers, operators and industry associations have been developing different technological solutions and governments have been developing policies and/or regulations to address this global problem,

*b)* of the related ongoing work in ITU-T Study Group 11 on mobile device theft;

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

resolves

to explore and encourage the development of ways and means to continue to combat and deter mobile device theft, ,

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

1 to compile and share information on best practices developed by governments and other stakeholders and on technology 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 consult with the relevant ITU Radiocommunication Sector and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector study groups, manufacturers of mobile devices, manufacturers of telecommunication network components, operators and other telecommunication standards-development organizations related to these matters, such as GSMA and 3GPP, in order to identify existing and future technological measures, both software and hardware, to mitigate the consequences of use of stolen mobile devices;

3 to provide assistance, within the Union’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, and also spread best practices in combating mobile device theft;

4 to share information and experiences about measures related to tampering with (making unauthorized changes to) unique mobile telecommunications/ICT device identifiers and prevent tampered devices from accessing mobile networks,

instructs the Secretary-General

to report to the ITU Council, as appropriate, on progress of the work,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to contribute to the studies and experiences in this area;

2 to facilitate education initiatives to raise awareness, as needed, in order to reduce the use of stolen mobile devices by users;

3 to adopt measures to exchange information on the unique identifiers of mobile telecommunications/ICT devices reported as stolen or lost in other countries and regions, taking necessary actions to protect users' data, taking into account national and regional legal frameworks, and measures to block the use of these devices in their mobile networks;

4 to adopt, the necessary actions to prevent, discover and control tampering (unauthorized changing) of unique mobile telecommunications/ICT device identifiers, and prevent tampered devices from accessing mobile networks, and to find solutions where users of genuine devices are adversely affected by the use of replicated identifiers;

5 to urge the industry and manufacturers of mobile devices to adopt measures to prevent the tampering (unauthorized changing) of unique mobile telecommunications /ICT identifiers.