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| **World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14)** **Dubai, 30 March – 10 April 2014** | |  |
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|  | | **Addendum 2 to Document** **WTDC14/****37-E** |
| **25 February 2014** |
| **Original:** **English** |
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| SOURCE: | Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (See Annex 2 to Document WTDC14/37) | |
| TITLE: | Proposed New Resolution on Telephone Number Misappropriation | |

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# 1 Introduction

The purpose of the draft Resolution is to assist Member States and other stakeholders in the actions that they are able to take with regard to combatting International Telephone Number Misappropriation.

International Telephone Number Misappropriation is the use of any E.164 international numbering resource for a purpose other than what was intended by the Authority with responsibility for a country’s E.164 numbering resources. It often occurs without the knowledge or consent of the country whose number ranges are being abused.

Misappropriation typically exploits high termination rates associated with the telephone number range or country code in the terminating country. It is often characterised by artificially inflating traffic from the callers’ country of origin which is delivered to a destination country that has high termination rates.

In one example, an overseas caller will ring a legitimate phone number in the destination country, and somewhere in the routing of this call, numbers with the destination country code are filtered out and sent to an audio text provider. This is often done by entities claiming to be Premium Rate Service Providers (PRSP), but whose use of national numbers may not sanctioned, and who do not conform to the use of the international numbering resource as defined in ITU-T Recommendation. The (transit) carrier who filters the call collects the termination rate for the destination country, which receives no revenue at all. The overseas caller is also faced with a high and unexpected bill.

The response by various stakeholders to this situation has in the past ranged from blocking of country codes in call originating countries, to originating operators blocking specific numbers to high cost areas. These actions are a reaction to the problem rather than offering a way forward that benefits all affected parties. They can also have negative consequences for those countries whose number ranges are blocked. Action is required to better inform all stakeholders about the range of actions they can take to address the problem of Telephone Number Misappropriation has changed as the technology has evolved. The purpose of this draft Resolution is to further develop and enhance the actions taken by the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) to date to deliver the assistance required by stakeholders to ameliorate Telephone Number Misappropriation.

# 2 Proposal

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| **ACP/37/2** | Objective(s): 4 |

**ADD**

This document proposes a new resolution by APT Members for WTDC-14 as attached below.

RESOLUTION ACP/1 (Dubai, 2014)

Support for development and deployment of E.164 telephone numbering management

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

considering

*a)* the provisions of the ITU Constitution, as contained in Chapter IV thereof on the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), particularly with regard, inter alia, to the functions of the ITU-D for building awareness of the impact of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) on national economic and social development, its catalytic role in promoting the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services and networks, especially in developing countries, and the need to maintain and enhance cooperation with regional and other telecommunication organizations;

*b)* Article 3.5 of the International Telecommunication Regulations (Rev. Dubai, 2012),

considering further

1. Resolution 22 (Rev. Hyderabad 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference on alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks, identification of origin and apportionment of revenues in providing international telecommunication services;

*b)* Resolution 26 (Rev. Doha, 2006) Assistance to countries in special need: Afghanistan;

*c)* the work done to-date in the ITU-D to assist countries to understand and to counter E.164 Telephone Numbering Misappropriation, through ITU-D programmes, activities and projects,

noting

*a)* that many Member States have been significantly and adversely impacted by Telephone Number Misappropriation particularly developing countries;

*b)* that many operators have been significantly and adversely impacted by Telephone Number Misappropriation;

*c)* Resolution 61 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly on countering and combatting misappropriation and misuse of international telecommunication numbering resources;

*d)* ITU Telecommunications Standardisation Sector (ITU-T) Recommendation E.156, which sets out guidelines for ITU-T action on reported misuse of E.164 numbers, and Recommendation ITU-T E.156 Supplement 1, which provides a best practice guide on countering misuse of ITU-T E.164 numbering resources,

taking cognizance of

*a)* Programme 3 of the Hyderabad Action Plan (HAP) on the enabling environment, including the following priority areas:

1. assistance to develop national strategies, policies, plans, regulations and economic and financial mechanisms on topics including telephone numbering;
2. forums for information discussion and exchange;
3. development of tools and increased knowledge and know-how;

*b)* the immediate needs of Small Island Development States (SIDS) and specific regions or sub‑regions, such as the Pacific Islands, to counter telephone number misappropriation,

recognizing

*a)* that there is a need to combat E.164 Telephone Number Misappropriation;

*b)* that the allocation of global telephone numbering resources is managed and allocated by the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB);

*c)* that the management and allocation of national telephone numbering resources is the responsibility of Member States, and that such management is their sovereign right and reflected in national regulatory and legal frameworks;

*d)* that differences exist between Member States in their approach to managing their national telephone numbering resources;

e) that Member States have the right to assign rules to the parties to whom they allocate telephone numbering resources; for example through National Numbering Plan Authorities;

f) that Communication Providers must act in accordance with all applicable national regulatory and legal frameworks of the Member State in which the number is being used;

requests the Director of Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to publish, identify, promote and use the reports produced thus far as a template of future activity in order to allow a consistent identification of the issues and to combat E.164 Telephone Number Misappropriation;

2 to continue to work with regions, sub-regions and countries, in particular developing countries and least developed countries:

1. to develop legal and regulatory frameworks that are sufficient to ensure best practice in E.164 telephone numbering management in order to counter Telephone Number Misappropriation;
2. to ensure that national numbering plans are available, either directly from the Member State or via the ITU Operational Bulletin, to contribute to countering Telephone Number Misappropriation;

3 to be responsive to Member State requests, particularly those from developing countries and SIDS, towards developing, supporting and acting on best practice on Telephone Number Misappropriation, resulting in templates, proposals, Recommendations and Resolutions to counter and combat E.164 Telephone Number Misappropriation;

4 to work cooperatively with the TSB Director and ITU-T to continue to develop measures based on proven best practice to combat E.164 Telephone Number Misappropriation;

5 to encourage Administrations and National Regulators to directly collaborate and share information on activities related to Telephone Number Misappropriation,

*invites Member States*

1 to collaborate to identify, counter and combat activities associated with E.164 telephone number misappropriation;

2 to encourage implementation of ITU-T Recommendations in order to mitigate the adverse impacts of Telephone Number Misappropriation, including blocking of calls to certain countries;

3 to support the development and deployment of E.164 telephone numbering management best practice within their jurisdiction;

4 to work collaboratively with other Member States and with service providers to keep them informed of the rules, guidelines and allocation methods for E.164 telephone numbers within their country.

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