

ITU GUIDELINES AND RECOMENDATIONS AGAINST THE USE OF ILEGAL DEVICES

The 37 Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (PCC.I),

CONSIDERING:

- a) That the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), recognizing the seriousness and social repercussions of the theft of mobile terminals, issued in the framework of the XIX Meeting of PCC.I, in September 2011, resolution PCC.I/RES.189, “REGIONAL MEASURES TO COMBAT THE THEFT OF MOBILE TERMINAL DEVICES,” in which the Member States are urged, inter alia, to consider including in their regulatory frameworks the prohibition of the activation and use of the IMEIs or manufacturer’s electronic serial number of devices reported stolen, lost, or of unlawful origin in regional or international databases,
- b) That despite the efforts and progress member states have made internally in combating this scourge, illegal cross-border trafficking in counterfeit, tampered and stolen devices and their parts has increased,
- c) The noticeably growing sales and circulation of counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices in the markets, which have an adverse impact on governments, manufacturers, vendors, operators and consumers through: loss of revenues, erosion of brand value/intellectual property rights and reputation, network disruptions, poor quality of service (QoS) and potential hazard to public health and safety as well as the environmental e-waste;
- d) That counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices may negatively impact on security and privacy for users,
- e) That the workplan and related activities of CITEL, through CCP.I, Rapporteurship 1.5 on conformance, fraud and illegal or irregular mobile terminal devices control, includes objectives to provide the Member States with the frameworks, best practices and recommendations related to the different issues that have to be addressed to better combat this problems,
- f) That the ITU-T, based on the Resolution 96 – ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector studies for combating counterfeit telecommunication/information and communication technology devices, and the Resolution 97 – Combating mobile telecommunication device theft, had produced recommendations on these matters through the Study Group 11, Question 15,
- g) That the Organization of American States AG/RES. 2935 (XLIX-O/19) *HEMISPHERIC EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE USE OF STOLEN, LOST OR ADULTERED MOBILE TERMINAL EQUIPMENT*, invites the Member states to take measures against the use of stolen devices in collaboration with the industry and strengthening their regulatory frameworks.

RECOGNIZING:

¹ CCP.I-TIC/doc. 5008/20 rev. 3

- a) The efforts and progress made by Member States, the industry (mobile manufacturers and operators), law enforcement, public security authorities, judicial and other relevant authorities in combating device counterfeiting, mobile device theft and tampering or duplication of mobile ICT device identifiers.
- b) The continuity and growth in the use of counterfeit, stolen, and tampered devices.
- c) The need for the Member States to strength the combat of these critical public safety issues.

RECOMMENDS THE MEMBER STATES:

1. To initiate an in-country telecom policy review and establish/update a regulatory framework incorporating necessary measures that authorize governments to identify and act against illegal, counterfeit and stolen mobile devices following the ITU guidelines and recommendations.
2. To initiate a device registration program by deploying technical solutions available for this purpose as referenced in the Recommendation ITU-T Q.5050 "*Framework for solutions to combat counterfeit ICT devices*".
3. Develop measures to block devices reported as lost/stolen in the international database and reinforce national and international countermeasures against illegal terminals based on the Recommendation ITU-T Q.5051 "*Framework for Combating the use of Stolen Mobile Devices*".
4. To study and divulgate the Technical Report ITU-T *QTR-RLB-IMEI* - "*Reliability of IMEI*" to understand key vulnerabilities of IMEIs including IMEI reprogramming on mobile devices, challenges to make the IMEI non-reprogrammable, effects of IMEI tampering on mobile users, brand owners, manufacturers, service providers, regulators, governments, law enforcement agencies and on national security.
5. To implement strategies and / or adopt processes for detection and blocking of mobile devices with altered or duplicate identifiers or even invalid based on the Recommendation ITU-T Q.5052 "*Addressing mobile devices with duplicate unique identifiers*".
6. To deploy and promote technical solutions for consumers to verify legality and conformity of their devices prior to device purchase as referenced in the Recommendation ITU-T Q.5050 "*Framework for solutions to combat counterfeit ICT devices*" and Recommendation ITU-T Q.5051 "*Framework for Combating the use of Stolen Mobile Devices*".
7. To study approaches available for device authentication based on ITU-T Q.5052 "*Addressing mobile devices with duplicate unique identifier*" that proposes mechanisms to eliminate use of fraudulent devices on the mobile networks.
8. To study and explore possibility of implementing a centralized cloud-based technical platform to address counterfeit, stolen and illegal devices servicing multiple countries taking into account multiple potential challenges such as technical, privacy, control, data transfer, jurisdiction, etc.