



[IAFI/India (Republic of)]

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO WTSA RESOLUTION – 58 - ENCOURAGING THE CREATION OF NATIONAL COMPUTER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS, PARTICULARLY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Background

In today's digital world, where cyber threats in information and communication technologies (ICTs) are constantly evolving, the role of Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs) has become more critical than ever. These specialized teams act as the first line of defence against cyberattacks, protecting vital information and ensuring the smooth operation of critical infrastructure.

Introduction

WTSA-22 adopted the Resolution 58 (Rev. Geneva, 2022), addresses the urgent need for establishing the national computer incident response teams (CIRTs) across all nations, with a focus on bridging the cybersecurity gap between developed and developing countries. Recognizing the increasing reliance on ICTs and the vulnerabilities exposed by a lack of preparedness, this Resolution calls for collaborative efforts between the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and its Member States to achieve a stronger, more secure global ICT infrastructure.

Proposal

IAFI through this document suggested the following updations in the Resolution-58.

1. Name of National Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) may be updated as National Cyber Incident Security Response Team (CSIRT), as appears more accurate reflection of scope - "Cyber" encompasses a broader range of threats than just computers, including those targeting mobile devices, networks, and even operational technology.
2. To harmonization with international trends – as many countries and organizations are already using "CSIRT" as the preferred term.
3. As high level of interconnectivity of ICT networks pertaining to critical infrastructure like Telecom, Power and Transport could be affected by the launch of an attack, same modifications is suggested.

This document proposes to modify Resolution 58 of WTSA-22.

Annex:

RESOLUTION 58 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)

Encouraging the creation of computer incident response teams, particularly for developing countries¹¹

(Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Geneva, 2022)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Geneva, 2022),

considering

that Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to work closely with each other in pursuing initiatives that assist in bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries,

recognizing

- a)* the highly satisfactory results obtained by the regional approach within the framework of Resolution 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly;
- b)* the increasing level of computer use and computer dependency in information and communication technologies (ICTs) within developing countries;
- c)* the increasing attacks and threat on ICT networks through computers;
- d)* the work carried out by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) under former Question 22/1 of ITU-D Study Group 1 and current Question 3/2 of ITU-D Study Group 2 on this subject,

noting

- a)* that there is still a low level of computer emergency preparedness within many countries, particularly developing countries;
- b)* that the high level of interconnectivity of ICT networks could be affected by the launch of an attack from networks of the less-prepared nations, which are mostly the developing countries;
- c)* the importance of having an appropriate level of computer emergency preparedness in all countries;
- d)* the need for establishment of computer incident response teams (CIRTs) on a national basis and the importance of coordination within and among the regions;
- e)* the work of Study Group 17 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in the area of national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation between them, as contained in the outputs of the study group,

bearing in mind

that well-functioning CIRTs in developing countries will serve to improve the level of developing countries' participation in world computer emergency response activities and contribute to achieving an effective global ICT infrastructure,

¹¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

resolves

to support the creation of national CIRTs in Member States where CIRTs are needed and are currently absent,

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

- 1 to identify best practices to establish CIRTs in line with the ITU toolkit;
- 2 to identify where national CIRTs are needed, particularly in developing countries, and encourage their establishment;
- 3 to collaborate with international experts and bodies to establish national CIRTs;
- 4 to provide support, as appropriate, within existing budgetary resources;
- 5 to facilitate collaboration between national CIRTs, such as capacity building and exchange of information, within an appropriate framework;
- 6 to take necessary action to progress implementation of this resolution,

invites the Member States

- 1 to consider the creation of a national CIRT as a high priority;
- 2 to collaborate with other Member States and with Sector Members,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to cooperate closely with ITU-T and ITU-D in this regard.