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|  | **International telecommunication union****Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** |  |
|  | Geneva, 11 October 2021 |
| Ref: | **TSB Circular 349**TSB Events/DA | **To:**- Administrations of Member States of the Union;- ITU-T Sector Members;- ITU-T Associates;- ITU Academia |
| Contact: | **Denis ANDREEV** |
| Tel: | +41 22 730 5780 |
| Fax: | +41 22 730 5853 |
| E-mail: | tsbevents@itu.int | **Copy to:**- The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-T Study Groups;- The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;- The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau |
| **Subject**:  | **ITU Workshop on “Improving the Security of Signalling Protocols” (Fully Virtual Meeting, 29 November 2021)** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 It is my pleasure to invite you to the **ITU Workshop on “Improving the Security of Signalling Protocols”** taking placevirtually on **29 November 2021** from 13h00-17h00 CET, Geneva time. This event will be followed by the [ITU-T Study Group 11](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/about/groups/Pages/sg11.aspx) meeting, taking place virtually from 1-10 December 2021.

2 Over the last decade, the rampant dissemination of the Internet across various sectors of the global economy, has resulted in a strengthened bond between the traditional telecommunication networks and its infrastructure, with different industries.

3 The existing ICT infrastructure, which was designed without taking into account the potential influence of the Internet, faces unexpected attacks.

4 These attacks have become a major priority for different stakeholders, in particular the financial institutions and operators.

5 To cope with such vulnerabilities, some security measures on the existing and future protocols need to be put in place. The ITU-T SG11 has been developing a set of standards on this matter, including the signalling architecture and requirements for interconnection between trustable network entities in support of existing and emerging networks. In addition, ITU-T SG11 focuses on defining algorithms for checking digital certificates to be inserted into different protocols using Signalling Security Gateway (SSGW), which validates the signatures of other operator's certificates and allowing or blocking the signalling packets. This approach may help financial institutions to build trustable connection with their customers.

6 The aim of this workshop is therefore to exchange views on different measures to cope with the vulnerabilities of existing networks, services and protocols. The brainstorming session will be focused on the potential way forward to enhance the security mechanisms for different protocols. It will also discuss the need to standardize the identity verification process of a party requesting a certificate, its issuance process by the Trusted Signalling Certification Authority (TSCA) and the distribution of the issued certificate to the operators. Last but not the least, the brainstorming session will also discuss the possibility to use the existing Global Title (GT) issuance process for this purpose.

7 Participation in the workshop is open to ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academic Institutions and to any individual from a country that is a member of ITU, who wishes to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations, interested stakeholders, including telecom operators, regulators, SDOs and financial institutes. Participation in the Workshop is free of charge and no fellowships will be granted. The Workshop will be held fully virtually and in English only.

8 All pertinent information relating to the workshop including the draft programme, speakers, remote connection link, registration details will be made available on the event website: <https://itu.int/go/WS-SSP>. This website will be updated regularly as new or modified information becomes available. Participants are requested to check periodically for new updates.

Yours faithfully,

Chaesub Lee
Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau