



IMEI Counterfeit Update

Presented by

Mohamed Abbes, MENA Public Policy Director, GSMA

mabbes@gsma.com

23 April 2018, ITU Study Group
11 Regional Workshop for Africa



www.gsma.com/services/gsma-imei/

Secure | https://www.gsma.com/services/gsma-imei/



ABOUT

WHAT WE DO

MEMBERSHIP

SERVICES

EVENTS

NEWS



- Services
- IMEI Services
 - IMEI Blacklisting
 - TAC Databases
 - GSMA Device Check
 - TAC Allocation
 - IMEI Database
 - News
 - Resources
 - Events
 - Contact Us

IMEI Services

WITH **GSMA DEVICE CHECK** YOU CAN FIND OUT INSTANTLY WHETHER A DEVICE HAS BEEN REPORTED LOST OR STOLEN THROUGH THE WORLD'S MOST ACCURATE REGISTRY OF DEVICE STATUS.

Businesses benefiting from the vibrant pre-used mobile devices market need to protect themselves against the risk of handling stolen or fraudulent devices. This can damage reputations and impact operational margins. **GSMA Device Check** provides up to 10 years' of a device's history as well as the device model information and capabilities. It gives you access to a comprehensive registry of device information which can benefit your business in a variety of ways:

- Helps resellers identify and eliminate stolen devices before they can enter supply chains



IMEI Database



Resources



www.gsma.com/services/gsma-imei/#



Device Crime and Fraud



Counterfeit Phones

Manufacturer loss \$
Poor performance
Safety concerns
No warrantee



Illegal Import

Government
taxation loss \$
Un-level playing field
for legitimate device
providers



Phone Theft

Consumer loss \$
Personal injury
Buying stolen goods
Insurance claims
Insurance fraud



Subscription Fraud

Operator loss \$



Counterfeiting requires an international strategic response



Prevention at Source
Enforce bona-fide
manufacturing practice

**High value
effort**



Boarder Protection
Enforce legal export
and import

**Multiple
efforts**

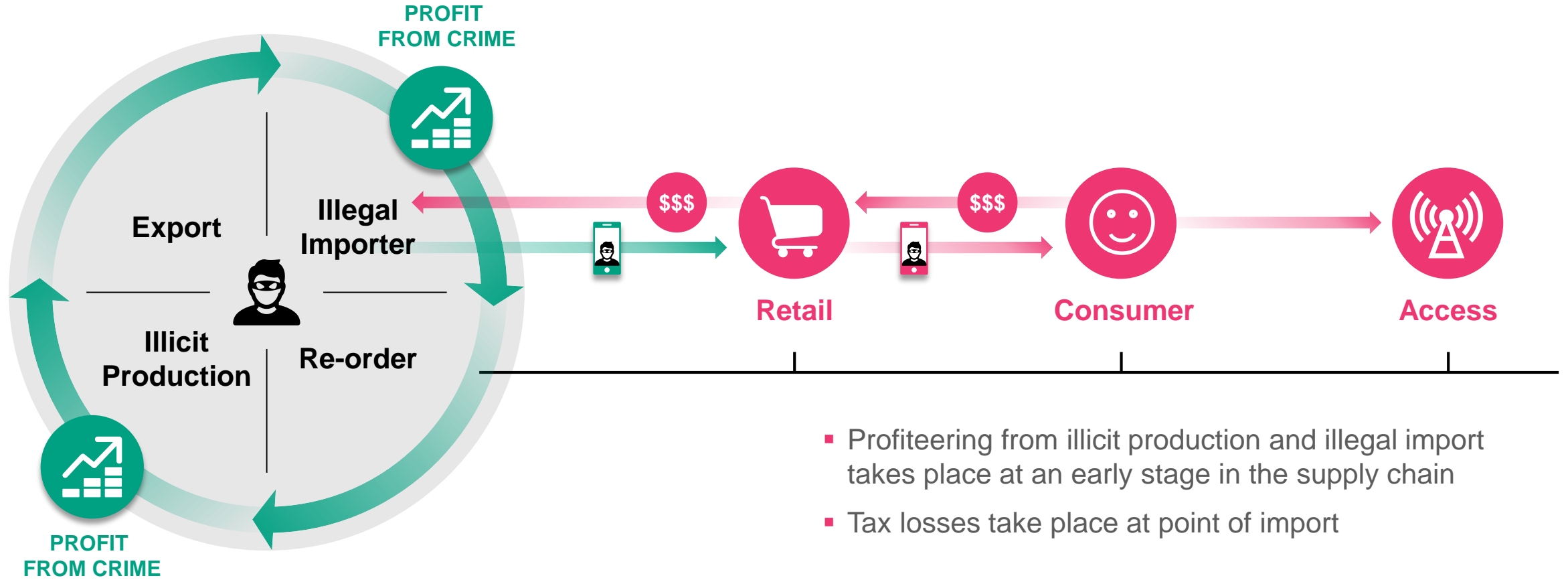


Local protection
Implement local
counter measures

**Multiple high
cost efforts**

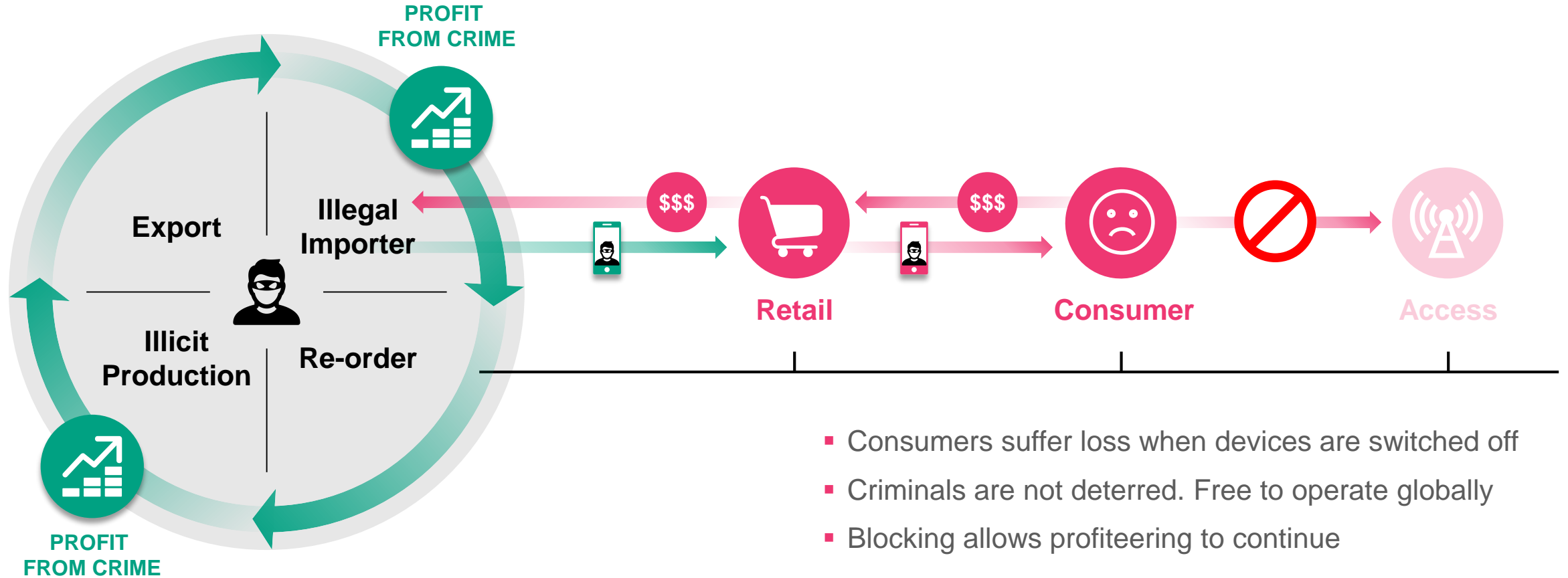


Illegal Import and Counterfeit Ecosystem





Blocking does not deter profiteering from counterfeiting and fraud



- Consumers suffer loss when devices are switched off
- Criminals are not deterred. Free to operate globally
- Blocking allows profiteering to continue

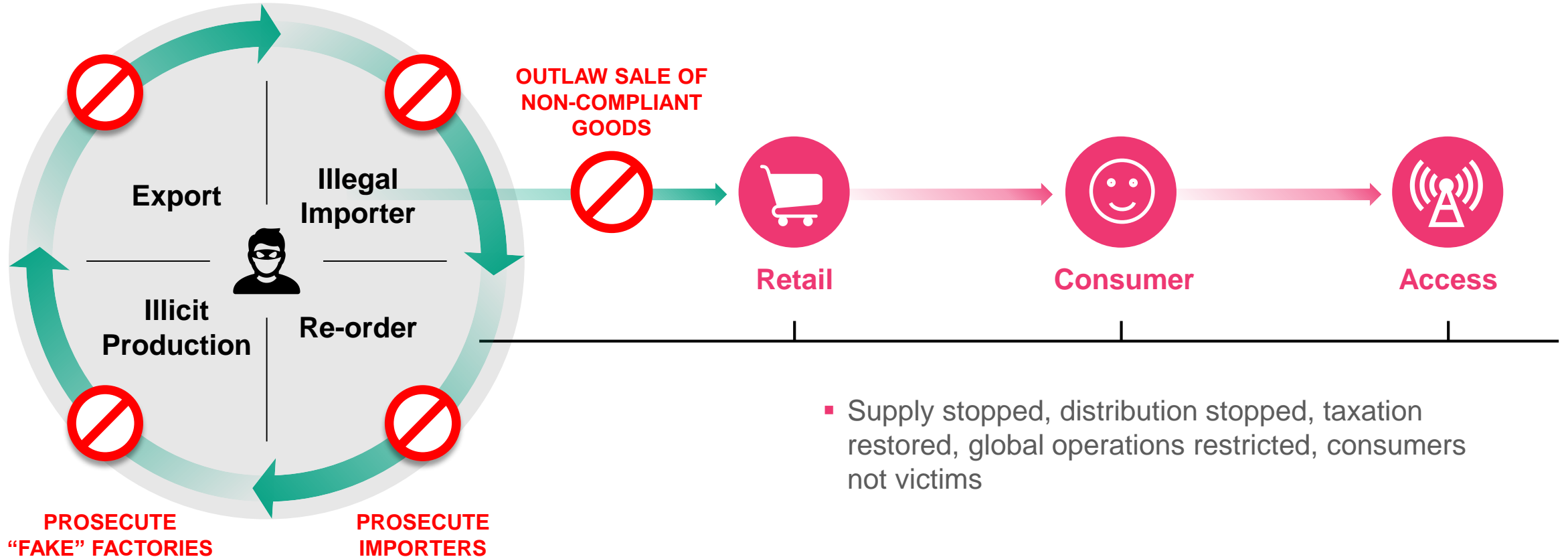


Illegal Import and Counterfeit Ecosystem

CUSTOMS AGENCIES
SCREEN EXPORTS
VS GSMA WHITELIST



CUSTOMS AGENCIES
SCREEN IMPORTS
VS GSMA WHITELIST



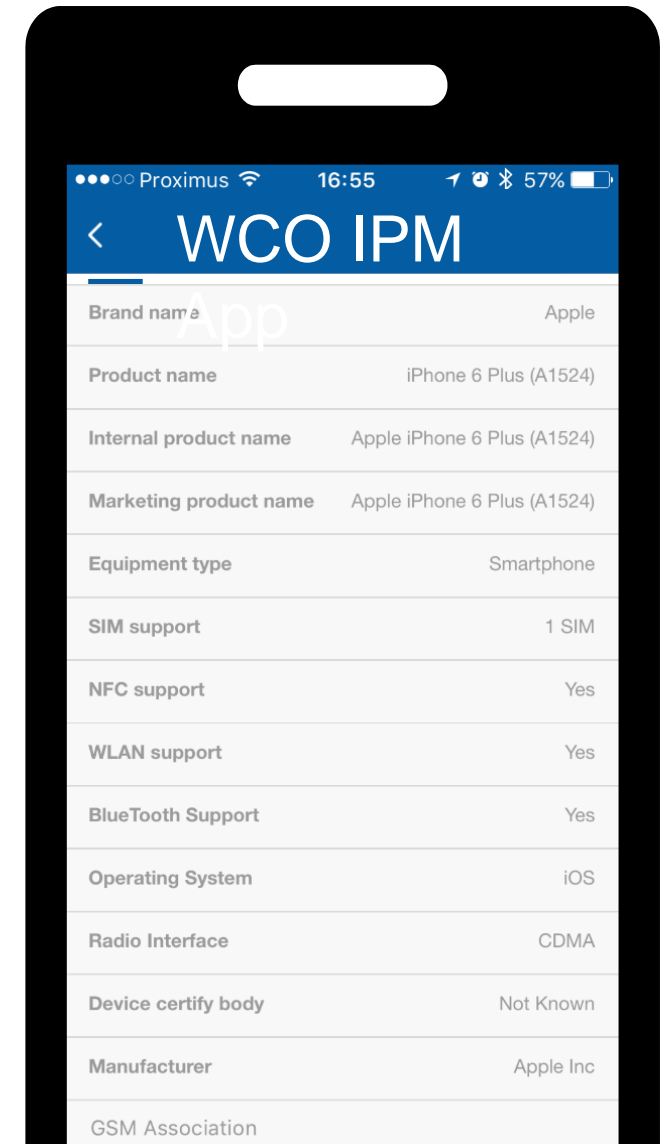


GSMA support of Export/Import Control

GSMA provides the Global Whitelist

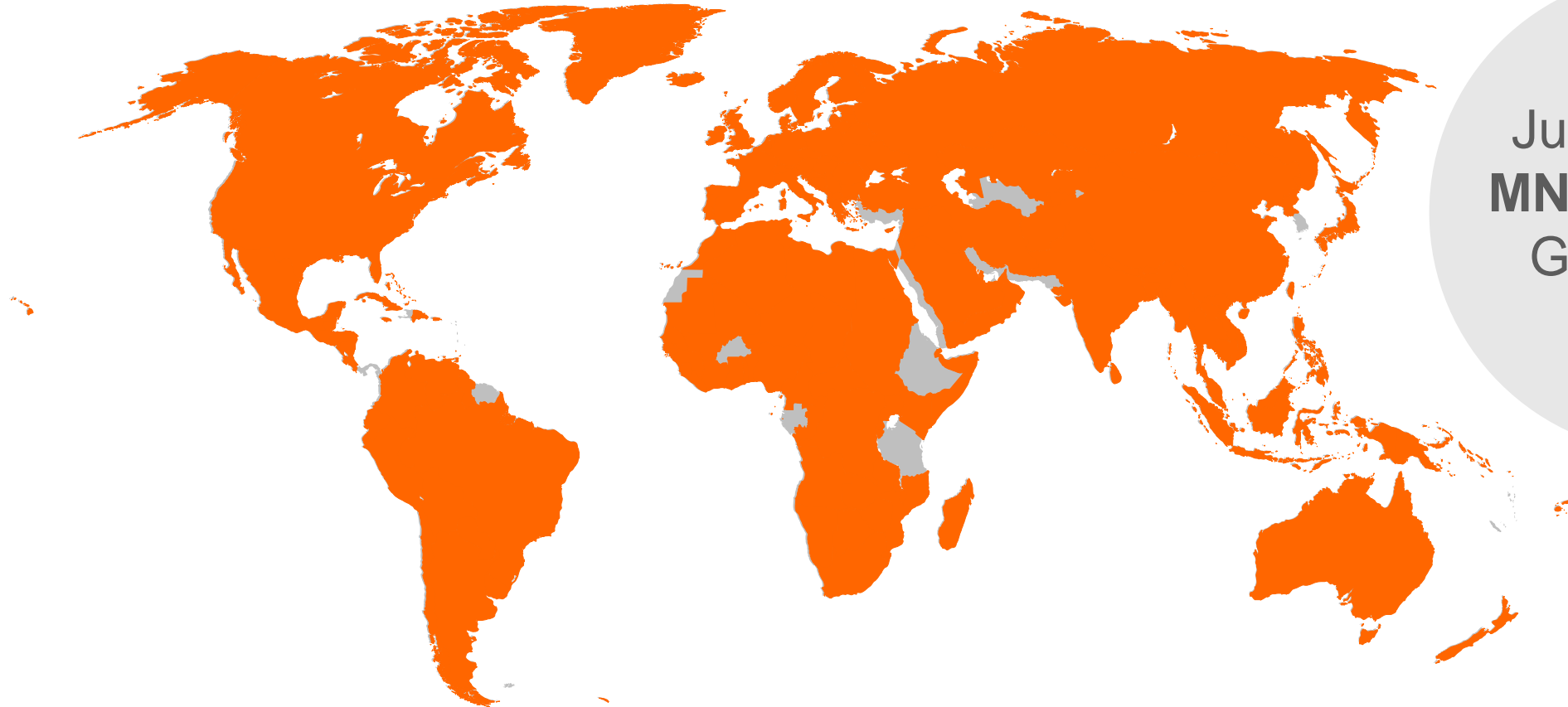
- Direct to any Customs Agency and
- World Customs Organisation (WCO)
- WCO provides Customs Checking tools including the Whitelist
- Solutions exist but usage is poor

The GSMA request ITU and member state support of WCO tools





GSMA Whitelist Availability

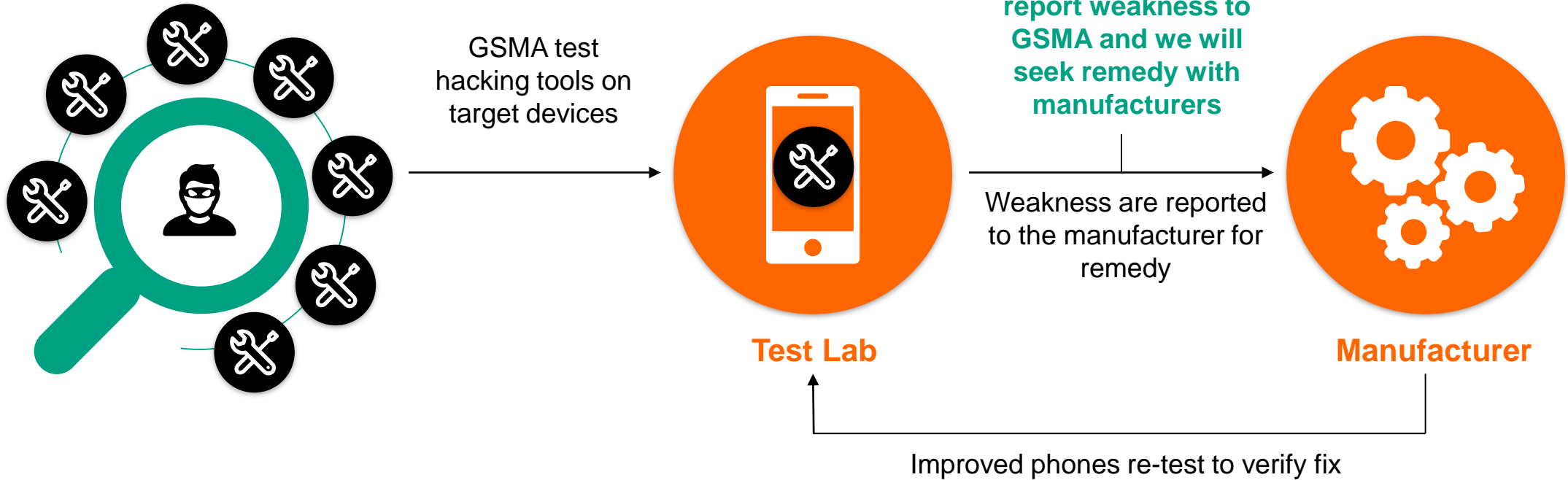


Just over **700**
MNOs and **100**
Govt / Reg /
LEAs



IMEI Re-programming GSMA IMEI Security Testing

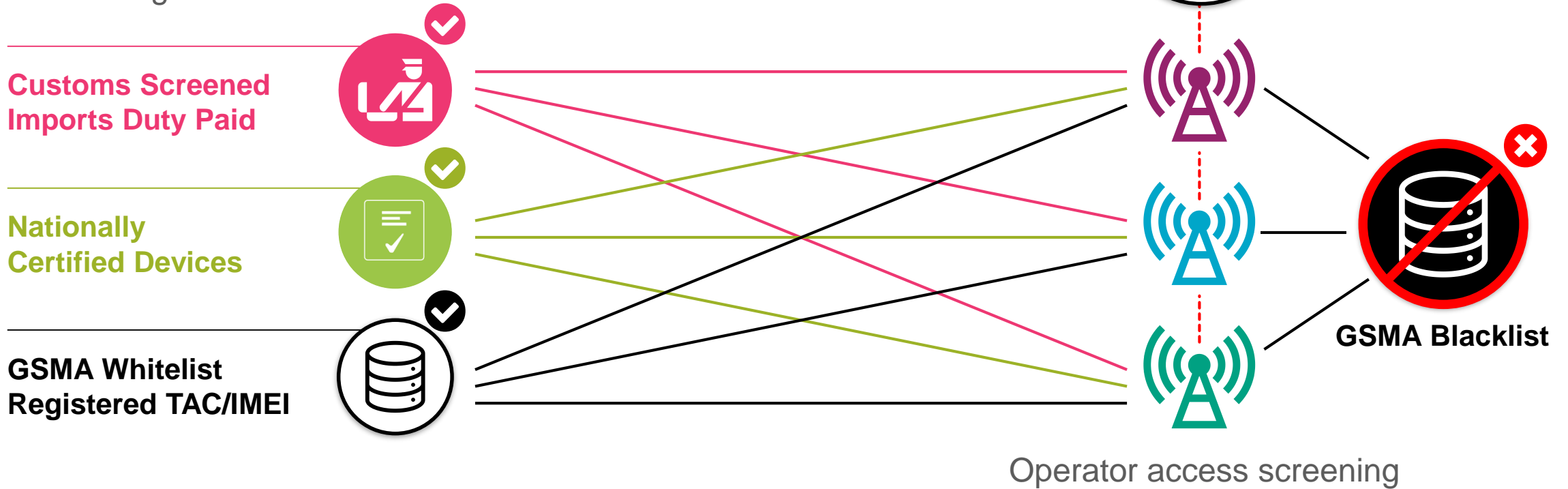
GSMA is monitoring
IMEI hacking tools





Local blocking options

- Each operators runs pre-regulation amnesty whitelist
- Allow IMEIs on selected whitelists. Block all other devices
- Block stolen devices on/via the GSMA international blacklist exchange





GSMA support

Global tools and information

- ✓ Manages the GSMA White List
- ✓ Manages the GSMA Black List
- ✓ Provides GSMA White List to customs agencies
- ✓ Provides retail screening services
- ✓ Provides information to law enforcement
- ✓ Secures remedy over IMEI miss-use with manufacturers
- ✓ Provides secure IMEI implementation design principles
- ✓ IMEI security weakness reporting facility
- ✓ IMEI security testing service

Country support

Countries have powers of enforcement

- ✓ Custom Agencies
- ✓ Law enforcement agencies
- ✓ Intelligence concerning abuse

-
- **Awareness and cooperation is building**
 - **GSMA encourages adoption of its facilities**



Existing global best practise tells us to successfully halt the growth of counterfeit devices

- Prosecution of sources and removal of profit eliminates the problem
- Blocking at consumer end allows fraudsters to operate freely in different territories
- Create appropriate law underpinning enforcement
- Conduct public information campaigns
- Share information internationally between enforcement agencies to eliminate sources and distribution
- Use existing global GSMA White List and Black List information tools
- Send detailed information of IMEI misuse and security issues to the GSMA
- Keep local measures simple, in-expensive, non-punitive to consumers; focus your efforts at the source, the early stage of the supply chain



IMEI
357460063950799

Contact GSMA

Advice

Whitelist

Blacklist



imeihelpdesk@gsma.com