



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION BUREAU

Geneva, 26 March 2026

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To:
- Administrations of Member States of the Union;
- The State of Palestine (Res. 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018))

Copy to:
- ITU-T Sector Members;
- Associates of ITU-T Study Group 2;
- ITU Academia;
- The Chair and Vice-chairs of ITU-T Study Group 2;
- The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;
- The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau;
- the Internet Architecture Board c/o IETF;
- RIPE NCC

Subject: Member State consultation on closure of delegation of E.164 country codes in the Domain Name System in e164.arpa

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 In 2002, The Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) of the International Telecommunication Union and the Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC) established a joint procedure to deploy ENUM – a system enabling E.164 country codes to be delegated within the Domain Name System (DNS) under the authority of ITU Member States. The procedure was jointly developed by RIPE NCC and ITU-T Study Group 2, with RIPE NCC being responsible for the operation of the apex zone of the system, e.164.arpa.

Background documentation and the full delegation procedure are available at <https://itu.int/en/ITU-T/inr/enum>, including a list of Member States that have used the procedure at <https://itu.int/en/ITU-T/inr/enum/Pages/delegations.aspx>.

2 Although the system has been maintained since 2002, evidence accumulated over recent years points to effective disuse: DNS traffic to RIPE NCC-operated servers has been negligible for a number of years, some of the delegations of E.164 country codes are not fully functional, and no current or anticipated service has expressed interest in using this system. Prior correspondence from ITU-TSB to Member States regarding the dysfunctional delegations further suggests that there is no appetite to maintain the current framework.

3 At its most recent meeting (Geneva, 4-13 February 2026), Study Group 2 and RIPE NCC reviewed this situation and considered the cost of maintaining and updating an unused system. This circular is intended to solicit Member States' views on the possible closure of the ENUM system under e164.arpa. Member States are requested to complete and return the form in **Annex 1** to the TSB Director **no later than 15 August 2026**.

4 Study Group 2 has also revised the ENUM interim procedures (available at <https://www.itu.int/md/T25-SG02-260204-TD-PLN-0423/en>) and agreed that they may come into force at the next Study Group 2 meeting (9-18 September 2026), subject to the conclusions drawn from responses to this circular.

Your views on this matter are welcome.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Seizo Onoe
Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau

Annex: 1

