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3GPP TSG SA would like to thank the Editors of the Q.1701 Supplement Proposal for their contribution. This paper has been studied and discussed intensively, and 3GPP TSG SA wants to state the following position:

The work on the 3GPP specifications for Release '99 has been progressing during the whole year 1999 and the relevant specifications have been created. The work has taken the GSM Release '98 specifications as a basis and evolved it into the current 3GPP Release '99 specifications.

We would like to make the following observations:

MT ↔ UIM and UIM ↔ CN interfaces
3GPP TSG Terminal WG3 and its 3GPP2 equivalent are already working towards a common MT ↔ UIM interface for IMT-2000. Furthermore, there is even work going on to ensure a common data structure for both 3GPP UIMs and 3GPP2 UIMs. This will lead to a common MT ↔ UIM interface fully meeting ITU-T's expectations on inter-family interfacing.

RAN ↔ MT interface
This important interface has resulted in intensive negotiations and workshops having led to sound harmonization agreements among operators, manufacturers and SDOs. The technical work to turn this into reality is carried out by the cooperation of 3G Partnership Projects. Again, ITU-T's framework vision of a common RAN ↔ MT interface is being achieved.

CN ↔ CN interface
We have intensively discussed the Appendix 2 of the Q.1701 Supplement Proposal.

ITU-T considers two methods to establish interworking between core networks of IMT-2000 family members:
(1) direct CN ↔ CN interworking
(2) the definition of a common and unique protocol between appropriate interworking functions to any IMT-2000 family member CN protocol.

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3GPP prefers the direct CN ↔ CN interface approach based on our assessment of the technical feasibility and the necessary resources and time it takes to specify and implement such kind of CN protocol. We note that there is already considerable work underway to define an evolved ANSI-41 core network and an evolved GSM MAP core network. Furthermore, strong initiatives are currently undertaken to overcome major obstacles for a mutual interworking such as different authentication mechanisms, incompatible ciphering algorithms and inconsistent packet data network architectures. We feel that these initiatives will enable global roaming in the best way achievable to meet the requirements set for the introduction of IMT-2000 networks.

Conclusion

To conclude, 3GPP TSG SA is of the firm opinion that IMT-2000 can best be achieved by allowing the initiatives between family members partnership projects already begun (such as the "Hooks and Extensions" workshops, the Operators Harmonization Group and the GAIT initiative) to develop the protocols and architectures needed to fulfil the IMT-2000 framework. We feel that the role of ITU-T should be the further development of the guiding vision and evolution of the IMT-2000 family concept. This vision has already led to the effective development of detailed protocol specifications by the 3G Partnership Projects.