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Introduction

This contribution outlines a process for how 3GPP could interact with IETF in order to achieve a complete standard for R00 and later releases where important protocols are developed in IETF.

Normal Work Process:

- 3GPP defines the service requirements and the architecture (e.g. reference model, information flows and protocol architecture including IETF protocols)
- Based on the architecture and requirements the IETF protocols are evaluated and the necessary changes identified
- The proposed additions/modifications of selected IETF protocols shall be endorsed by 3GPP and then driven in IETF (the normal IETF process is used but the handling of each issue in 3GPP is decided on a case by case basis). The work on the architecture (information flows) in 3GPP and the work on RFCs in IETF should proceed somewhat in parallel.
- IETF develops, reviews and approves the RFCs according to its normal process, see RFC 2026 (http://www.ietf.org)
- 3GPP shall then standardise the use of a specific IETF RFC (by referencing) and shall specify which functionality in such RFC shall be used.
- 3GPP shall guarantee the stability and backward compatibility of the air interface protocols including multimedia towards UEs. These protocols shall also be part of the 3GPP test specifications. Other multimedia aspects such as the real-time radio bearers and which codecs to be mandated in a UE shall be standardised by 3GPP.

Note: Only inter operational tested parts of the draft RFCs will remain in the reference RFC. This means that 3GPP members need to pay special attention to the scope of inter operational tests.

Note: Extensions can be standardised in IETF as an amendment to an IETF RFC or as a new RFC.

The preference is to utilise the IETF protocols, however in the exceptional case that these do not satisfy the 3GPP requirements (e.g. 3GPP may need to remove or modify mandatory functions in an IETF protocol (such as mandating a specific codec)), 3GPP should specify the required revisions. The firm aim of 3GPP is to subsequently influence the relevant IETF working groups to incorporate the identified 3GPP needs into the IETF specifications. If, for some reason, IETF do not finalise a protocol fulfilling the 3GPP needs (in time), 3GPP may choose to select, develop or extend an alternative standard to deliver the required 3GPP functionality.