**3GPP TSG-SA WG2 Meeting #154AH-eS2-2301011r05**

**E-Meeting, 16th – 20th January 2023**

**Title: [draft] LS on Support of Network Slices which have Area of Service not matching deployed Tracking Areas**

**Response to: None**

**Release: Rel-18**

**Work Item: eNS\_Ph3**

**Source: SA2**

**To: RAN3**

**Cc: RAN2**

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Attachments: none

**1. Overall Description:**

SA2 is specifying the handling of network slices that have Area of Service (AoS) not matching deployed Tracking Areas. It is discussed that it is possible that such network slices are indicated as supported uniformly over the TA to CN so legacy UEs can be supported, but actually in some cells of the TA zero resources may be allocated. RAN feedback is welcome then on the expected handover behaviour when zero resources are allocated but the network slice is indicated as supported in the cell:

Q1: How the handover can be optimized to prevent the UE from leaving the network slice service area or steer the UE so it is entering into the network slice service area

Q2: Should the PDU sessions be handed over anyhow to a cell where its network slice has zero resources configured? i.e. can the PDU session context and DRBs that require no admission control be retained upon connected mode mobility? Would it be possible to then not schedule the PDU session in UL and drop DL packets and report UL the dropped data to CN (conceptually similar reporting to reporting NR data used to CN in EPS NR Option 3)

Q3: if Area of Interest reporting is configured to let the CN know when the UE is outside the area where S-NSSAI AoS can the AoI be identified by the S-NSSAI instead of a AoI ID? (i.e. can the AoI be enhanced to use S-NSSAI as AoI identifier?). This could avoid a tedious task of mapping S-NSSAIs to AoI IDs

Q4: Can RAN trigger, if configured to do so, release of the PDU Sessions or deactivation of the UP resources of PDU sessions according to policy as the UE is moving to an area where zero resources are allocated to their network slice?

**2. Actions:**

**To RAN3 group.**

**ACTION:** SA2 kindly asks RAN3 (and if considered applicable also RAN2) to provide feedback on the questions above.

**3. Date of Next SA2 Meetings:**

[Next SA2 Meetings dates](https://portal.3gpp.org/Home.aspx?tbid=375&SubTB=385#/)