



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY
ICT DEPARTMENT

Numbering Policy

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1. INTRODUCTION

Somalia, before 1990 the Telecommunication was a state monopoly and only the central government having the power to control the telecommunication. after the civil war, various new telecommunications companies began to flourish in the country and competed to provide missing infrastructure in the need of the people. Somalia now offers some of the most technologically advanced and competitively prices telecommunications and Internet services in Africa. At that time Somalia Telecommunication Sector are using Numbering plan that can be called unorganized or randomly choosing without following ITU E.164. Since, the telecommunications industry was widely unregulated until the National Communication Law was approved in 2017. National Communications Authority (NCA) introduces a Unified Licensing Framework that liberalizes the market and allows the sector to obtain more benefits by competition among operators.

Ministry of Post, Telecommunications and Technology and National Communications Authority (NCA) will carry out a consultation with the operators on the efficient management of the numbering resources and the implementation of the new numbering Plan to be introduced by NCA

This Policy ensures the optimum utilization of the numbering resources of the federal republic of Somalia.

The policy introduces the possibility of introduction of new services and technologies. In Article 54, 55, 56, 57 of the National Communications Law, 2017, gives power to NCA to regulate the numbering resources. This policy considers further liberation of the communication market in terms of numbering resources and number utilization, their forecast, their position of number portability and usage of machine to machine communication. The code of conduct on use of numbers and charging for numbers also form the basis of this policy. NCA will need to manage numbering allocations in greater detail to ensure a level playing field, non-discrimination and transparent for all operators and service providers.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. **“Number”** means a string of decimal digits that uniquely indicates the public network termination point. The number contains the information necessary to route the call to this termination point. A number can be in a format determined nationally or in an international format. The international format is known as the International Public Telecommunication Number, which includes the country code and subsequent digits, but not the international prefix
- 2.2. **“Country Code (CC) for Networks”** means a shared 3-digit Country Code used in combination with an identification code to identify an international Network
- 2.3. **“Network”** means an Internationally interconnected physical nodes and operational systems operated and maintained by one or more Recognized Operating Agencies (ROAs) to provide public telecommunication services. Private networks are not included in this section. Note: The use of capital ‘N’ in the word ‘Networks’ indicates that this definition applies.
- 2.4. **“National (Significant) Number (N(S) N)”** means a number that shall be dialed following the national (trunk) prefix to obtain a subscriber in the same country (or group of countries included in one integrated numbering plan) but outside the same local network or numbering area.
- 2.5. **“Subscriber Number (SN)”** means a number identifying a subscriber in a network or numbering area.
- 2.6. **“National Destination Code (NDC)”** means a nationally optional code field within the E.164 number plan, which combined with the subscriber’s number (SN), will constitute the national (significant) number of the international public telecommunication number for geographic areas. The NDC will have a network and/or trunk code selection function.
- 2.7. **“Non-Geographic Number”** means a National Significant Number in which the National Destination Code indicates a non-geographic usage (such as “Mobile” or “Free phone”).

3. NUMBERING POLICY PRINCIPLES

3.1. The numbering policy is based on the principles that it should:

- a) Ensure Adequate provision of numbers for growth in telecommunications market;
- b) Promote fair competition between all entrants in the market;
- c) Meet the needs of telecommunications users in terms of simplicity of use and the information conveyed by a number
- d) Be compatible with international obligations and recommendations

3.2. The numbering Plan incorporates the following characteristic:

- a) Designation of sufficient capacity to meet the growth of telephone services, considering the characteristics of available technologies, the geographic distribution of demand and the prospect of increasing telephone density, particularly in the under-served rural areas and among the business communities.
- b) Designation of numbering capacity for the future introduction of services which may be new to Somalia but are proven to commercially successful in other countries;
- c) Spare capacity in the form of codes and number ranges that are not associated with any known services and therefore potentially suitable for unforeseen expansion or the introduction of brand new services
- d) Significance in the first few digits of national numbers to enable callers to recognize service characteristics and call charges, and for network operators to be able to route calls efficiently
- e) A neutral position in the allocation of numbering capacity, to support fair competition where multiple operators are competing to provide service to existing and new customers
- f) independent identification and association of codes and numbers–blocks with geographic areas and non-geographic services, so that the Numbering Plan is not locked into any structure that network operators use to provide services, nor to the names of the exchanges; and

- g) suitability for independent administration, including the application and allocation procedures and provision of information on the status of all codes and blocks of numbers.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THIS POLICY

- Main objective: Numbering policy insures efficient control, planning, administration, management and use of scarcity numbering resource, this objective includes not limit to:
 - Coming up with the optimum utilization of the numbering resources;
 - Looking at the possibility of the introduction of new services and technologies;
 - Implementation of Code of Conduct for telephone numbering management by Service Providers;
 - Incorporating the numbering regulation to enforce the requirements of the National Communication Law.

5. NATIONAL NUMBERING PLAN

- 5.1. NCA shall develop a new Numbering Plan which modernizes the current allocation of numbering which is used before the establishment of NCA
- 5.2. The new numbering plan is in the conformity with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) standard E.164.

6. NUMBER PORTABILITY

- 6.1. The operators should be ready to implement number portability that will be a step forward towards greater liberalization. Consultation with the operators will be conducted with the aim of introducing number portability once the consultation is completed.
- 6.2. Operators require to have modern switches in order to implement number portability
- 6.3. Once this service is introduced across all networks, it would go some way towards enhancing competition as well as meeting users' convenience. It is recommended that non-Geographic numbers should be able to ported on a block basis from network to another.

7. NUMBERING AND ADDRESSING REGULATION

- 7.1. NCA shall have powers to prepare numbering and addressing regulation as well as dealing with breaches in the license conditions and having effective enforcement powers.
- 7.2. National Communications Law 2017 shall give NCA the mandate to regulate the numbering and addressing resources in Somalia. The basis of the numbering policy and regulations in the Law can be summarized as:
 - a) Efficient Management and use of scarce resources in the form of numbering Plan
 - b) Issues Numbering Resource Licenses
 - c) NCA will introduce Numbering regulation with collaboration with Ministry of Post, Telecommunications and Technology, as well as adopting the National ICT policy and Strategy
 - d) NCA will take necessary steps to encourage the infrastructure development of numbering resource plans.

8. ADMINISTRATION OF Country Code Top Level Domain name (ccTLD)

- 8.1. The National Communications Authority has been mandated to manage and operate the .SO ccTLD.
- 8.2. ccTLDs are a national resource as mandated by National Communications Law article 54 by managing it in a manner which serves the public and industrial interests.
- 8.3. NCA role is to, among others:
 - a) Become the .SO domain administrative contact as well as technical contact
 - b) Administer the .SO ccTLD and its Second level domains
 - c) Maintain and promote the operational stability and utility of the .SO ccTLD
 - d) Ensure a cost effective administration of the .SO ccTLD and its subdomains
 - e) Provide name service for all .SO and ensure that the database is secure and stable
- 8.4. .SO ccTLD is open to both local and international registrars.
- 8.5. To maintain a stable and well coordinated name space the .SO ccTLD has some conditions, addressing policies which are used day to day operations. are as follows:

- a) The Whois service will provide public access to the information in the .SO domain name register. The Whois Policy stipulates how the Whois service is to be used by the public to mitigate against abuse

8.6. The ccTLD in Numbering and Addressing regulations sets out to regulate on the registration, renewal, transfer, expiry, Management, protect registrant and deletion of domain names in .SO zones.

9. NUMBERING ADMINISTRATION

9.1. In a multi-operator environment, it is necessary for operators to share the numbering ranges to ensure a level playing field. This requires numbering administration to be undertaken by the regulator at more detailed plan.

9.2. The need for NCA to take over more detailed management shall be explained to stake holders; this is also recommended by ITU-T for a competitive market.

9.3. Allocating blocks and numbers should be in accordance with the Law and the best practices to conserve capacity and avoid potentially anti-competitive effects of branding.

9.4. Conserving Capacity

- a) In order to identify any capacity constraints or unused allocations and take timely action to deal with them, the authority shall conduct initial audit on taking over responsibility for administering a Numbering Plan and to repeat it periodically when there are capacity concerns
- b) It is good practice for operators to recycle numbers to conserve capacity, with clear strategy of not burdening the customers
- c) NCA shall develop a Code of Practice in consultation with operators to assist numbering rules compliance.

9.5. CHARGING FOR NUMBERS

- a) The numbering charges are compulsory for Licensees who wish to provide communication services
- b) Different Numbering Fees are outlined in the License regulations

- c) Charges is introduced to incentivize operators not to apply unnecessarily for number allocations without a clear plan for its usage.

10. NUMBERING MANAGEMENT

10.1. Under section 52 of the National Communication Law, NCA will assign with the control, planning, administration, management and assignment of the numbering and electronic addressing of network services and applications services. NCA shall be responsible for the development of a numbering and electronic addressing plan for the numbering and electronic addressing of such network services and applications services.

10.2. Numbering and Electronic Addressing are crucial for the proper operation of networks, the provision of network based services and the development of an online economy and society. The efficiency and simplicity of numbering and electronic addressing arrangements, and the timely availability of numbering and electronic addressing resources, can either facilitate or hinder the socio-economic development of a country's communication network.

11. LICENSE CONDITIONS AND REGULATIONS

11.1. NCA shall regulate the numbering resources and impose a penalty for breach of a license condition

11.2. NCA shall adopt a more open and transparent approach when regulating numbering resources.

11.3. Numbering regulations shall be inline with National ICT Policy and the National Communications Law.

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