



the **Restore Trust** initiative,

One Consortium and the
global regulatory forum : **GIRAF**

September 2024

i3Forum in a nutshell

not-for-profit, membership-driven, membership-funded organization of the international communications wholesale ecosystem – voice & messaging

- founded in 2008
- incorporated in Delaware as a US nonprofit
- 31 members to date
- open to international carriers, aggregators, vendors...
- not a “club”: what we do is public and benefits entire industry – not just members
- spearheading the Restore Trust initiative to fight fraudulent/unwanted international communications (voice & messaging) : One Consortium for the industry, Global Regulatory Forum (GIRAF)
- members-led working groups (approx. 100 volunteers collaborate globally) : fighting voice and messaging fraud, tracking int’l market data, navigating technology change, improving knowledge of the global numbering plan, international traceback, KYC/KYT....
- cooperation with multiple industry organizations, including GSMA (Cooperation Agreement), GLF, GSC...



Perimeter (for voice)

Direct interconnection between two int'l carriers.

- **Voice over IP (VoIP)** rides on **IP tunnels** over the **public Internet** or **private IP networks**. Protocol used is **SIP**. See SIP Header.
- **Legacy voice (TDM)** rides on dedicated point-to-point links. Signaling protocol is **SS7** (separate network)

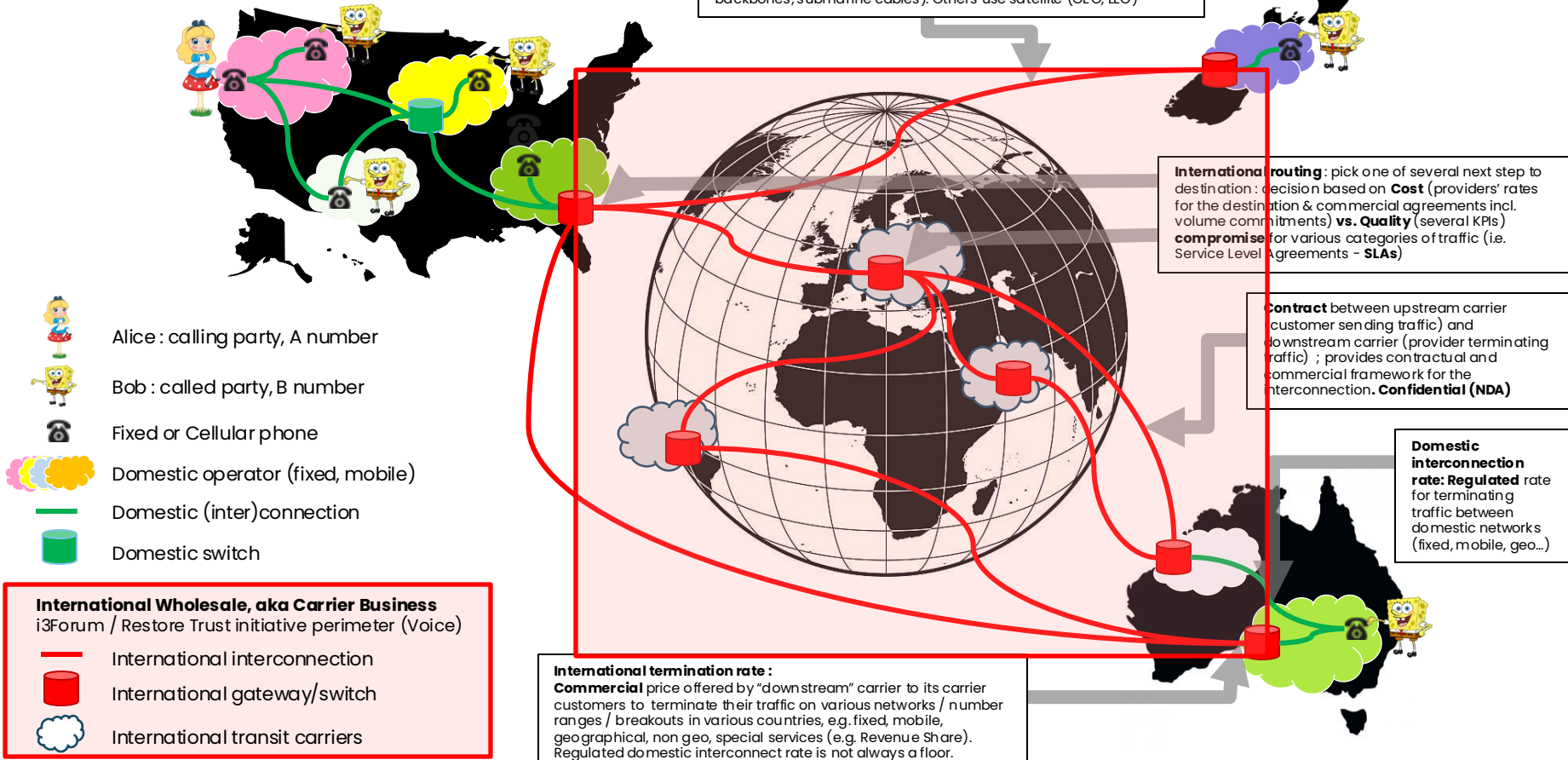
Most interconnections rely on fiber optic transmission (land backbones, submarine cables). Others use satellite (GEO, LEO)

International routing: pick one of several next step to destination; decision based on **Cost** (providers' rates for the destination & commercial agreements incl. volume commitments) **vs. Quality** (several KPIs) **compromise** for various categories of traffic (i.e. Service Level Agreements - **SLAs**)

Contract between upstream carrier (customer sending traffic) and downstream carrier (provider terminating traffic); provides contractual and commercial framework for the interconnection. **Confidential (NDA)**

Domestic interconnection rate: **Regulated** rate for terminating traffic between domestic networks (fixed, mobile, geo...)

International termination rate: **Commercial** price offered by "downstream" carrier to its carrier customers to terminate their traffic on various networks / number ranges / breakouts in various countries, e.g. fixed, mobile, geographical, non geo, special services (e.g. Revenue Share). Regulated domestic interconnect rate is not always a floor.



- Alice: calling party, A number
 - Bob: called party, B number
 - Fixed or Cellular phone
 - Domestic operator (fixed, mobile)
 - Domestic (inter)connection
 - Domestic switch
- International Wholesale, aka Carrier Business**
i3Forum / Restore Trust initiative perimeter (Voice)

 - International interconnection
 - International gateway/switch
 - International transit carriers

Restore Trust in international communications: a global initiative

major industry-wide initiative to combat unwanted/fraudulent communications, spearheaded by i3Forum

- **growing public trust** issue stemming from spamming, phishing, spoofing, robocalling (and -texting)...
- National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) **each step in** to protect the public, address national situation and fight international incoming nuisance communications
- limited efficiency for int'l communications : structural **focus on terminating** end (consequence) vs. origin of coms (cause), “whack-a-mole” situation, lack of **global clarity and alignment**
- fragmented approach by individual NRAs creates **unsustainable situation** for int'l traffic carrying players
- international traffic carrying companies are **part of the solution**, need to be **part of the discussion**
- **i3Forum spearheading industry-wide initiative** to co-develop self/joint regulation for int'l ecosystem and collaborate with NRAs

3 pillars for the Restore Trust initiative

Initiative launched
Sept. 7, 2024

One Consortium
launched March 15

Global Regulatory Forum : GIRAF
May 13 2024

You are here

**International
industry discussions**

PreConsortium planning for One Consortium : 50 participants
representing 25+ companies and industry organizations incl. GSMA

**One Consortium
for the int'l ecosvstem**



**Regulatory
discussions**

Multiple one to one contacts, positive informal feedback, growing
list of NRAs, Govt Authorities, Law Enforcement...

**Global Regulatory
Forum : GIRAF**



**Broader
ecosystem**

Longer term : engage with National Communications Associations
and industry sectoral organizations (e.g. banking...): ECTA, CCUK,
CCA, CFCA...

Restore Trust
information
sessions

Sept. 7

Dec. 13th

March 19



the Restore Trust initiative,

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One Consortium for the international communications industry (voice and messaging)

the international communications industry's contribution to restoring trust in calls and messages.

- **One Consortium**, the industry pillar of the Restore Trust initiative, **launched on March 15th, 2024**
- One Consortium is an **inclusive, not-for-profit** organization for the international communications ecosystem to join forces and cooperate with Telecommunications Regulators (NRAs) globally in order to **fight unwanted/fraudulent voice calls and messages originating from abroad**.
- **One Consortium's initial objectives** are to allow this industry to :
 - 1) Co-develop and agree global guidance and a vendor neutral "toolbox" of technologies, best-practices, processes etc. to efficiently combat unwanted/fraudulent communications (calls and messages) originating from abroad.
 - 2) Drive adoption in the industry
 - 3) Build an industry-wide self-governance to ensure compliance
- One Consortium and the Restore Trust initiative are endorsed by **several major industry organizations**, including **i3Forum**, **GSMA**, the Cloud Communication Alliance (**CCA**), the Communications Fraud Control Association (**CFCA**), the Global Leaders Forum (**GLF**), the Global Solutions Council (**GSC**) and more

One Consortium for the int'l communications industry

- launched March 15th, 2024. No membership dues for now.
- **40+ members** to date, including traffic carrying companies (voting), vendors (non voting), global industry organizations including **i3Forum**, **GSMA**, the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (**ATIS**), the Cloud Communications Alliance (**CCA**), the Communications Fraud Control Association (**CFCA**), the USA Industry Traceback Group (**ITG**), the Global Leaders Forum (**GLF**), the Global Solutions Council (**GSC**)...
- Five **working groups kicking off** now (industry survey, regulatory survey, international traceback, spoofing and related topics, messaging)
- One Consortium is an **inclusive, not-for-profit** organization for the international communications ecosystem to join forces and cooperate with Telecom Regulators (NRAs) globally, in order to **fight unwanted/fraudulent voice calls and messages originating from abroad**.
- **One Consortium's initial objectives** are to allow this industry to :
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the international
communications
industry's
contribution
to restoring trust in
calls and messages.

www.oneconsortium.org

One Consortium – five working groups kicked off in June 2024

	Sub-topic (not limitative)	Initial goal	Timeframe	Notes
Working Group #1 : Survey of Industry Landscape (tools and best practices)	Identifying tools / approaches	Presentation of initial results	3 Months	- Initial focus on voice
	Format for categorisation and evaluation	Presentation of initial results	3 Months	
	How does the Industry Identify bad traffic on the network	Report on existing solutions and solution options	3 Months	- Clarifications for identifying best practice - Preserving parameters or tracing change - KYC / KYT
Working Group #2 : Survey of Regulatory initiatives – joint effort with GIRAF	Survey of regulatory policy	Initial report identifying potential regulatory roadblocks	3 Months	- Including jurisdictional policies
	Format for categorisation and evaluation	Presentation of initial results	3 Months	
	Potential enhancement of regulatory framework (carrier participation in traceback, legitimate spoofing, information sharing...)	Presentation of initial results	3 Months	
Working Group #3 : Int'l traceback	Approaches / Challenges to building an International Traceback mechanism and interworking with domestic solutions	High level paper on International traceback	3 Months	
Working Group #4 : Illegitimate spoofing	Managing the "Roaming" legitimate use case for National CLIs on Int'l trunk	Exploring "isRoaming query" - identify potential path for harmonisation / best practices	3 Months	- Need to consider privacy and impact of network migrations
	Managing the "Contact centre & Cloud services" legitimate use cases for having National CLIs on Int'l trunk	Identify potential path for harmonisation / best practices	3 Months	- Cloud services and virtual numbers
Working Group #5 : Messaging working group	Survey of messaging tools / best practices / approaches	Presentation of initial results	3 Months	
	Define approach	Problem statement	6 Months	- Identify differences and convergence opportunities between voice and messaging
	Survey of regulatory policy	Initial report identifying potential regulatory roadblocks	6 Months	



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Global Informal Regulatory Antifraud Forum GIRAF

Launched **May 13, 2024**

fast growing global
membership

- **Participants** to date : **28 National Regulatory Authorities** from 23 European countries, (o/w 18 publicly listed), as well as NRAS from North and South America, Middle East, South East Asia, Oceania
- Reaching out to additional NRAs **globally to keep growing participation** : Latin America, Asia-Pacific, South Asia, Middle East, Africa...
- **Objective** : ad-hoc, informal framework open to all NRAs globally, to facilitate global **multilateral NRA alignment & cooperation** and structured two-way **collaboration with the industry** (One Consortium)



GIRAF : a **global informal forum for NRAs*** to enhance the fight against international unwanted/fraudulent communications (voice and messaging)

potential
activities

- **information sharing, best practices** existing/planned regulatory approaches
- **cross-education** between Industry and NRAs – especially on international aspects
- discuss common objectives & harmonized guidelines for requirements from NRAs to enhance the measures they are encouraging/mandating **international traffic carrying companies** to adopt to combat unwanted/fraudulent communications originating from abroad
- agree common objectives & harmonized guidelines for NRAs to evolve their **own national framework** for international carriers registered in their respective countries, to include:
 - **safe harbour** conditions for providers to allow for the mitigation of the impact of unwanted/fraudulent communications (eg. block traffic based on reasonable conditions)
 - encourage/mandate int'l carriers registered in their country to **participate in International traceback** mechanism,(and other int'l efforts)
 - provide the framework for carriers to share int'l traceback information



GIRAF : a **global informal forum for NRAs*** to enhance the fight against international unwanted/fraudulent communications

potential activities

- agree common objectives & harmonized guidelines for NRAs to clarify and enhance their **own national framework** regarding legitimate and illegitimate **spoofing**, and **KYC/KYT obligations**, as well as related **requirements** to communication providers. Leverage existing CEPT NaN work on spoofing
- engage with **int'l communications industry** (One Consortium) to **co-develop** efficient, **joint framework** to fight unwanted/fraudulent communications
- engage with **Law Enforcement Agencies, Government Authorities** on behalf of participating NRAs
- engage with **standardization bodies** to explore relevance of evolving existing / developing new technical standards
- engage with **policy makers** globally to leverage existing policies and contribute to developing new ones (e.g. EU directive re: financial liability of Telcos in case of Fraud – complexity of international working. Article 59, Impersonation Fraud)
- engage with relevant **sectoral associations** (e.g. banking...)
- **Liaise** with **CEPT NaN** and other existing communications global or regional organizations, e.g. **ITU-T Study Group 2, UCENet, UNODC**, etc..
- potentially, discuss opt-in, **multilateral agreement** between NRAs to improve detection, traceability, and enforce joint measures to fight unwanted/fraudulent communications



GIRAF : a **global informal forum for NRAs*** to enhance the fight against international unwanted/fraudulent communications

initial
format &
governance

- **initial term** : 2 years
- **scope** : unwanted/fraudulent voice & messaging initially. Potential expansion to include other telecommunications services and Internet in the future.
- **goal** : enhance the fight against fraudulent/unwanted communications originating from abroad, through **multilateral NRA collaboration**, cooperation with the international communications **industry** (One Consortium) and with **other stakeholders** (e.g. law enforcement...)
- **inclusive**: opt-in, open to all NRAs or public competent Authorities with similar regulatory responsibilities, contributing as their resources and availability allow
 - potentially : separate participation status/ invitation mechanism for other public organizations e.g. Government Policy Authorities, Law Enforcement Agencies, as well as regional / international organizations (EU, Europol, Interpol...) etc.
- **free** : no dues
- **privacy / disclosure** :
 - Meetings are informal, with agreed public communications
 - NRA Forum could operate under **Chatham House Rule** if and when helpful
 - public disclosure of participation in the Forum is optional

** In this document, the term NRA refers broadly to National Regulatory Authorities and any public competent Authority with similar national telecom regulatory responsibilities, including numbering plan administrator*



GIRAF : a **global informal forum for NRAs*** to enhance the fight against international unwanted/fraudulent communications

initial format & governance

- **informal** : GIRAF is an informal experts group. It is not incorporated and completely independent from the i3Forum or any other industry body.
- **non-binding** : GIRAF works to produce **non-binding**, harmonized (where possible), recommended best practices and guidelines – for the Industry and for NRAs
- **sovereignty** : individual NRAs retain fully sovereignty and are free to implement such guidelines
- **cooperation** : GIRAF is the international communications industry's **established partner** for a two-way dialogue with the industry (One Consortium), including by holding joint sessions (**multi-stakeholder engagement**).
- **impact** :
 - collaboration and implementation of coordinated/harmonized guidelines & best practices. GIRAF will work to help design, agree, encourage & facilitate adoption and implementation of, guidelines and best practices
 - Potentially, as a future step, GIRAF will endeavour to facilitate / enable cooperation to ensure compliance with guidelines & best practices, and help enforce efficient global mechanisms against int'l fraudulent/unwanted communications – liaising with relevant national or international authorities (law enforcement, policy & law makers...)
- In addition, GIRAF could potentially provide a platform for discussing **open, opt-in multilateral operational frameworks** between NRAs and/or with Industry, and/or other stakeholders (e.g. Law Enforcement...) to enhance the fight against fraudulent/unwanted communications



GIRAF : a **global informal forum for NRAs*** to enhance the fight against international unwanted/fraudulent communications

GIRAF first steps

- **in-person** meeting held in Copenhagen (July 1st) :
 - focus on informal "training" by the industry on international voice and SMS ecosystems.
 - both GIRAF and One Consortium recognize the value of sharing information between the industry and the regulatory world.
- **virtual meetings** held monthly since July 2024,
 - participants exchanged updates on their various initiatives and plans
 - started to structure and draft a document that could ultimately provide guidelines and recommendations to the industry and to NRAs regarding the fight against unwanted/fraudulent int'l communications
- **initiated cooperation** with One Consortium
 - First potential joint initiative : conduct a global survey of NRAs on the topic of unwanted/fraudulent int'l communications
- exploring various formats to **allow efficient participation from various time zones** :
 - holding two identical meetings on the same day and sharing outcome vs trying to find a single time slot that could work for everyone.

Philippe Millet

Founder & Chair, i3Forum
philippe.millet@i3forum.org

Christian Michaud

Vice Chair, i3Forum
christian.michaud@i3forum.org