

# ETSI TS 123 503 V16.15.0 (2024-04)



**5G;**  
**Policy and charging control framework**  
**for the 5G System (5GS);**  
**Stage 2**  
**(3GPP TS 23.503 version 16.15.0 Release 16)**

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# Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Intellectual Property Rights .....   | 2  |
| Legal Notice .....   | 2  |
| Modal verbs terminology.....   | 2  |
| Foreword.....  | 6  |
| Introduction .....   | 6  |
| 1 Scope .....  | 7  |
| 2 References .....   | 7  |
| 3 Definitions and abbreviations.....   | 8  |
| 3.1 Definitions .....  | 8  |
| 3.2 Abbreviations .....  | 11 |
| 4 High level architectural requirements .....                                      | 11 |
| 4.1 General requirements .....   | 11 |
| 4.2 Non-session management related policy control requirements .....               | 12 |
| 4.2.1 Access and mobility related policy control requirements .....                | 12 |
| 4.2.2 UE policy control requirements .....   | 12 |
| 4.2.3 Network analytics information requirements.....                              | 12 |
| 4.2.4 Management of packet flow descriptions .....                                 | 12 |
| 4.2.5 SMF selection management related policy control requirements .....           | 12 |
| 4.2.6 Support for non-session management related network capability exposure ..... | 13 |
| 4.3 Session management related policy control requirements.....                    | 13 |
| 4.3.1 General requirements.....  | 13 |
| 4.3.2 Charging related requirements.....   | 14 |
| 4.3.2.1 General .....  | 14 |
| 4.3.2.2 Charging models .....  | 14 |
| 4.3.2.3 Charging requirements .....  | 14 |
| 4.3.2.4 Examples of Service Data Flow Charging .....                               | 15 |
| 4.3.3 Policy control requirements .....  | 15 |
| 4.3.3.1 Gating control requirements.....   | 15 |
| 4.3.3.2 QoS control requirements .....   | 15 |
| 4.3.3.2.1 QoS control at service data flow level.....                              | 15 |
| 4.3.3.2.2 QoS control at QoS Flow level.....                                       | 15 |
| 4.3.3.2.3 QoS control at PDU Session level.....                                    | 16 |
| 4.3.3.3 Subscriber spending limits requirements .....                              | 16 |
| 4.3.4 Usage monitoring control requirements.....                                   | 16 |
| 4.3.5 Application detection and control requirements .....                         | 17 |
| 4.3.6 Support for session management related network capability exposure .....     | 17 |
| 4.3.7 Traffic steering control .....   | 17 |
| 5 Architecture model and reference points.....                                     | 17 |
| 5.1 General .....  | 17 |
| 5.2 Reference architecture .....   | 18 |
| 5.2.1 Non-roaming architecture .....   | 18 |
| 5.2.2 Roaming architecture.....  | 19 |
| 5.2.3 Void .....   | 21 |
| 5.3 Service-based interfaces and reference points.....                             | 21 |
| 5.3.1 Interactions between PCF and AF .....  | 21 |
| 5.3.2 Interactions between PCF and SMF .....                                       | 21 |
| 5.3.3 Interactions between PCF and AMF.....  | 21 |
| 5.3.4 Interactions between V-PCF and H-PCF .....                                   | 22 |
| 5.3.5 Interactions between PCF and UDR.....  | 22 |
| 5.3.6 Interactions between SMF and CHF.....  | 22 |
| 5.3.7 Void .....   | 23 |
| 5.3.8 Interactions between PCF and CHF.....  | 23 |

|           |   |    |
|-----------|---|----|
| 5.3.9     | Interactions between SMF and NEF .....                                  | 23 |
| 5.3.10    | Interactions between NEF and PCF .....                                  | 23 |
| 5.3.11    | Interactions between NWDAF and PCF .....                                | 24 |
| 6         | Functional description .....  | 24 |
| 6.1       | Overall description .....   | 24 |
| 6.1.1     | General .....   | 24 |
| 6.1.1.1   | PCF Discovery and Selection .....                                       | 24 |
| 6.1.1.2   | Binding an AF request targeting an UE address to the relevant PCF ..... | 24 |
| 6.1.1.2.1 | General .....   | 24 |
| 6.1.1.2.2 | The Binding Support Function (BSF) .....                                | 25 |
| 6.1.1.3   | Policy decisions based on network analytics .....                       | 26 |
| 6.1.2     | Non-session management related policy control .....                     | 27 |
| 6.1.2.1   | Access and mobility related policy control .....                        | 27 |
| 6.1.2.2   | UE policy control .....   | 28 |
| 6.1.2.2.1 | General .....   | 28 |
| 6.1.2.2.2 | Distribution of the policies to UE .....                                | 29 |
| 6.1.2.3   | Management of packet flow descriptions .....                            | 31 |
| 6.1.2.3.1 | PFD management .....  | 31 |
| 6.1.2.3.2 | Packet Flow Description .....   | 33 |
| 6.1.2.4   | Negotiation for future background data transfer .....                   | 33 |
| 6.1.2.5   | Policy Control Request Triggers relevant for AMF .....                  | 35 |
| 6.1.3     | Session management related policy control .....                         | 37 |
| 6.1.3.1   | General .....   | 37 |
| 6.1.3.2   | Binding mechanism .....   | 37 |
| 6.1.3.2.1 | General .....   | 37 |
| 6.1.3.2.2 | Session binding .....   | 37 |
| 6.1.3.2.3 | PCC rule authorization .....  | 38 |
| 6.1.3.2.4 | QoS Flow binding .....  | 38 |
| 6.1.3.3   | Reporting .....   | 39 |
| 6.1.3.4   | Credit management .....   | 40 |
| 6.1.3.5   | Policy Control Request Triggers relevant for SMF .....                  | 41 |
| 6.1.3.6   | Policy control .....  | 49 |
| 6.1.3.7   | Service (data flow) prioritization and conflict handling .....          | 49 |
| 6.1.3.8   | Termination action .....  | 50 |
| 6.1.3.9   | Handling of packet filters provided to the UE by SMF .....              | 50 |
| 6.1.3.10  | IMS emergency session support .....                                     | 50 |
| 6.1.3.11  | Multimedia Priority Service support .....                               | 51 |
| 6.1.3.12  | Redirection .....   | 52 |
| 6.1.3.13  | Resource sharing for different AF sessions .....                        | 52 |
| 6.1.3.14  | Traffic steering control .....  | 53 |
| 6.1.3.15  | Resource reservation for services sharing priority .....                | 53 |
| 6.1.3.16  | 3GPP PS Data Off .....  | 54 |
| 6.1.3.17  | Policy decisions based on spending limits .....                         | 55 |
| 6.1.3.18  | Event reporting from the PCF .....                                      | 56 |
| 6.1.3.19  | Mission Critical Services support .....                                 | 59 |
| 6.1.3.20  | Access Traffic Steering, Switching and Splitting .....                  | 59 |
| 6.1.3.21  | QoS Monitoring to assist URLLC Service .....                            | 60 |
| 6.1.3.22  | AF session with required QoS .....                                      | 61 |
| 6.1.3.23  | Support of integration with Time Sensitive Networking .....             | 61 |
| 6.1.3.24  | Policy control for redundant PDU Sessions .....                         | 62 |
| 6.2       | Network functions and entities .....                                    | 63 |
| 6.2.1     | Policy Control Function (PCF) .....                                     | 63 |
| 6.2.1.1   | General .....   | 63 |
| 6.2.1.1.1 | Session management related functionality .....                          | 63 |
| 6.2.1.1.2 | Non-session management related functionality .....                      | 64 |
| 6.2.1.2   | Input for PCC decisions .....   | 64 |
| 6.2.1.3   | Policy control subscription information management .....                | 67 |
| 6.2.1.4   | V-PCF .....   | 70 |
| 6.2.1.5   | H-PCF .....   | 70 |
| 6.2.1.6   | Application specific policy information management .....                | 71 |
| 6.2.1.7   | Usage monitoring .....  | 71 |

|                               |   |            |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|
| 6.2.1.8                       | Sponsored data connectivity.....  | 72         |
| 6.2.2                         | Session Management Function (SMF).....  | 72         |
| 6.2.2.1                       | General .....   | 72         |
| 6.2.2.2                       | Service data flow detection .....   | 74         |
| 6.2.2.3                       | Measurement.....  | 75         |
| 6.2.2.4                       | QoS control .....   | 76         |
| 6.2.2.5                       | Application detection .....   | 77         |
| 6.2.2.6                       | Traffic steering.....   | 77         |
| 6.2.2.7                       | Access Traffic Steering, Switching and Splitting.....   | 77         |
| 6.2.3                         | Application Function (AF).....  | 77         |
| 6.2.4                         | Unified Data Repository (UDR) .....   | 78         |
| 6.2.5                         | Charging Function (CHF).....  | 78         |
| 6.2.6                         | Void .....  | 78         |
| 6.2.7                         | Network Exposure Function (NEF) .....   | 78         |
| 6.2.8                         | Access and Mobility Management Function (AMF) .....   | 79         |
| 6.2.9                         | Network Data Analytics Function (NWDAF) .....   | 79         |
| 6.3                           | Policy and charging control rule.....   | 79         |
| 6.3.1                         | General.....  | 79         |
| 6.3.2                         | Policy and charging control rule operations .....   | 91         |
| 6.4                           | PDU Session related policy information .....  | 92         |
| 6.5                           | Access and mobility related policy information.....   | 98         |
| 6.6                           | UE policy information.....  | 99         |
| 6.6.1                         | Access Network Discovery & Selection Policy Information.....                                  | 99         |
| 6.6.1.1                       | General .....   | 99         |
| 6.6.1.2                       | UE selecting a WLANSP rule.....   | 99         |
| 6.6.1.3                       | UE procedure for selecting a WLAN access based on WLANSP rules.....                           | 100        |
| 6.6.2                         | UE Route Selection Policy information.....  | 100        |
| 6.6.2.1                       | Structure Description .....   | 100        |
| 6.6.2.2                       | Configuration and Provision of URSP .....   | 104        |
| 6.6.2.3                       | UE procedure for associating applications to PDU Sessions based on URSP .....                 | 104        |
| 6.6.3                         | V2X Policy information.....   | 105        |
| <b>Annex A (informative):</b> | <b>URSP rules example .....</b>   | <b>106</b> |
| <b>Annex B (informative):</b> | <b>Deployment option to support of BSF and DRA coexistence due to network migration .....</b> | <b>110</b> |
| <b>Annex C (Normative):</b>   | <b>Support for Application Functions supporting Rx interface .....</b>                        | <b>111</b> |
| <b>Annex D (informative):</b> | <b>PCC usage for sponsored data connectivity .....</b>  | <b>113</b> |
| D.1                           | General .....   | 113        |
| D.2                           | Reporting for sponsored data connectivity.....  | 114        |
| <b>Annex E (informative):</b> | <b>Change history .....</b>   | <b>115</b> |
| History                       | .....   | 121        |

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# Foreword

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# Introduction

For references to TS 23.203 [4] made in this document,

- the IP-CAN session of TS 23.203 [4] maps to the PDU Session in 5GC.
- the APN of TS 23.203 [4] maps to DNN in 5GC.
- the IP-CAN bearer of TS 23.203 [4] maps to the QoS Flow in 5GC.
- The PCRF of TS 23.203 [4] maps to the PCF in 5GC.
- The PCEF of TS 23.203 [4] maps to the combination of SMF and UPF in 5GC.
- The BBF shall be considered as being located in the PCEF.
- TDF related description does not apply.
- NBIFOM related description does not apply.

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# 1 Scope

The present document defines the Stage 2 policy and charging control framework for the 5G System specified in TS 23.501 [2] and TS 23.502 [3].

The policy and charging control framework encompasses the following high level functions:

- Flow Based Charging for network usage, including charging control and online credit control, for service data flows;
- Policy control for session management and service data flows (e.g. gating control, QoS control, etc.);
- Management for access and mobility related policies;
- Management of UE policy information.

Interworking with E-UTRAN connected to EPC is described in TS 23.501 [2].

TS 23.502 [3] contains the stage 2 procedures and flows for the policy and charging control framework and it is a companion specification to this specification.

TS 32.255 [21] contains the functional description of the converged offline and online charging functionality for the 5G System.

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# 2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

- [1] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".
- [2] 3GPP TS 23.501: "Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects; System Architecture for the 5G System".
- [3] 3GPP TS 23.502: "Procedures for the 5G System; Stage 2".
- [4] 3GPP TS 23.203: "Policies and Charging control architecture; Stage 2".
- [5] 3GPP TS 23.228: "IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS); Stage 2".
- [6] 3GPP TS 23.179: "Functional architecture and information flows to support mission-critical communication service; Stage 2".
- [7] Void.
- [8] 3GPP TS 32.240: "Charging management; Charging architecture and principles".
- [9] 3GPP TS 23.402: "Architecture enhancements for non-3GPP accesses".
- [10] 3GPP TS 23.161: "Network-Based IP Flow Mobility (NBIFOM); Stage 2".
- [11] 3GPP TS 23.261: "IP flow mobility and seamless Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) offload; Stage 2".

- [12] 3GPP TS 23.167: "3rd Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Services and Systems Aspects; IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) emergency sessions".
- [13] 3GPP TS 29.507: "Access and Mobility Policy Control Service; Stage 3".
- [14] Void.
- [15] 3GPP TS 22.011: "Service Accessibility".
- [16] 3GPP TS 23.221: "Architectural requirements".
- [17] 3GPP TS 29.551: "5G System; Packet Flow Description Management Service; Stage 3".
- [18] 3GPP TS 32.421: "Telecommunication management; Subscriber and equipment trace; Trace concepts and requirements".
- [19] 3GPP TS 24.526: "UE Equipment (UE) policies for 5G System (5GS); Stage 3".
- [20] 3GPP TS 32.291: "Charging management; 5G system, Charging service; stage 3".
- [21] 3GPP TS 32.255: "Telecommunication management; Charging management; 5G Data connectivity domain charging; Stage 2".
- [22] 3GPP TS 24.501: "Non-Access-Stratum (NAS) protocol for 5G System (5GS); Stage 3".
- [23] 3GPP TS 23.280: "Common functional architecture to support mission critical services; Stage 2".
- [24] 3GPP TS 23.288: "Architecture enhancements for 5G System (5GS) to support network data analytics services".
- [25] 3GPP TS 23.216: "Single Radio Voice Call Continuity (SRVCC); Stage 2".
- [26] 3GPP TS 23.272: "Circuit Switched (CS) fallback in Evolved Packet System (EPS); Stage 2".
- [27] 3GPP TS 23.316: "Wireless and wireline convergence access support for the 5G System (5GS)".
- [28] 3GPP TS 23.287: "Architecture enhancements for 5G System (5GS) to support Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) services".
- [29] 3GPP TS 24.229: "IP multimedia call control protocol based on Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) and Session Description Protocol (SDP); Stage 3".
- [30] 3GPP TS 24.237: "IP Multimedia (IM) Core Network (CN) subsystem IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) Service Continuity; Stage 3".
- [31] 3GPP TS 26.114: "IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS); Multimedia telephony; Media handling and interaction".
- [32] 3GPP TS 29.510: "5G System; Network Function Repository Services; Stage 3".

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## 3 Definitions and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in TR 21.905 [1], TS 23.501 [2], TS 23.502 [3] and the following apply. A term defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same term, if any, in TR 21.905 [1].

**Application detection filter:** A logic used to detect packets generated by an application based on extended inspection of these packets, e.g. header and/or payload information, as well as dynamics of packet flows. The logic is entirely internal to a UPF, and is out of scope of this specification.

**Application identifier:** An identifier referring to a specific application detection filter.

**Application service provider:** A business entity responsible for the application that is being / will be used by a UE, which may be either an AF operator or has an association with the AF operator.

**Authorised QoS:** The maximum QoS that is authorised for a service data flow. In the case of an aggregation of multiple service data flows within one QoS Flow, the combination of the "Authorised QoS" information of the individual service data flows is the "Authorised QoS" for the QoS Flow. It contains the 5QI and the data rate.

**Binding:** The association between a service data flow and the QoS Flow transporting that service data flow.

**Binding mechanism:** The method for creating, modifying and deleting bindings.

**Charging control:** The process of associating packets, belonging to a service data flow, to a charging key and applying online charging and/or offline charging, as appropriate.

**Charging key:** information used by the CHF for rating purposes.

**Detected application traffic:** An aggregate set of packet flows that are generated by a given application and detected by an application detection filter.

**Dynamic PCC Rule:** a PCC rule, for which the definition is provided to the SMF by the PCF.

**Gating control:** The process of blocking or allowing packets, belonging to a service data flow / detected application's traffic, to pass through to the UPF.

**Monitoring key:** information used by the SMF and PCF for usage monitoring control purposes as a reference to a given set of service data flows or application (s), that all share a common allowed usage on a per UE and DNN basis.

**Non-3GPP access network selection information:** It consists of ePDG identifier configuration, N3IWF identification and non-3GPP access node selection information, as defined in clause 6.3.6.1 in TS 23.501 [2].

**Non-Seamless Offload:** A capability of the UE to access the data networks via non-3GPP access (e.g. WLAN radio access) outside of a PDU Session.

**Operator-controlled service:** A service for which complete PCC rule information, including service data flow filter information, is available in the PCF through configuration and/or dynamic interaction with an AF.

**Operating System (OS):** Collection of UE software that provides common services for applications.

**Operating System Identifier (OSId):** An identifier identifying the operating system.

**OS specific Application Identifier (OSAppId):** An identifier associated with a given application and uniquely identifying the application within the UE for a given operating system.

**Packet flow:** A specific user data flow from and/or to the UE.

**Packet Flow Description (PFD):** A set of information enabling the detection of application traffic provided by a 3rd party service provider.

**PCC decision:** A PCF decision for policy and charging control provided to the SMF (consisting of PCC rules and PDU Session related attributes), a PCF decision for access and mobility related control provided to the AMF, a PCF decision for UE policy information provided to the UE or a PCF decision for background data transfer policy provided to the AF.

**PCC rule:** A set of information enabling the detection of a service data flow and providing parameters for policy control and/or charging control and/or other control or support information. The possible information is described in clause 6.3.1.

**Policy control:** The process whereby the PCF indicates to the SMF how to control the QoS Flow. Policy control includes QoS control and/or gating control.

**Policy Control Request trigger report:** a notification, possibly containing additional information, of an event which occurs that corresponds with a Policy Control Request trigger.

**Policy Control Request trigger:** defines a condition when the SMF shall interact again with the PCF.

**Policy counter:** A mechanism within the CHF to track spending applicable to a subscriber.

**Policy counter identifier:** A reference to a policy counter in the CHF for a subscriber.

**Policy counter status:** A label whose values are not standardized and that is associated with a policy counter's value relative to the spending limit(s) (the number of possible policy counter status values for a policy counter is one greater than the number of thresholds associated with that policy counter, i.e. policy counter status values describe the status around the thresholds). This is used to convey information relating to subscriber spending from CHF to PCF. Specific labels are configured jointly in CHF and PCF.

**Policy Section:** A Policy Section is identified by a Policy Section Identifier and consists of one or multiple URSP rule(s) or one or multiple WLANSP rule(s) or non-3GPP access network selection information or a combination of WLANSP rule(s) and non-3GPP access network selection information.

**Predefined PCC Rule:** a PCC rule that has been provisioned directly into the SMF by the operator.

**Redirection:** Redirect the detected service traffic to an application server (e.g. redirect to a top-up / service provisioning page).

**Service data flow:** An aggregate set of packet flows carried through the UPF that matches a service data flow template.

**Service data flow filter:** A set of packet flow header parameter values/ranges used to identify one or more of the packet flows in the UPF. The possible service data flow filters are defined in clause 6.2.2.2.

**Service data flow filter identifier:** A scalar that is unique for a specific service data flow (SDF) filter within a PDU Session.

**Service data flow template:** The set of service data flow filters in a PCC Rule or an application identifier in a PCC rule referring to an application detection filter in the SMF or in the UPF, required for defining a service data flow.

**Service identifier:** An identifier for a service. The service identifier provides the most detailed identification, specified for flow based charging, of a service data flow. A concrete instance of a service may be identified if additional AF information is available (further details to be found in clause 6.3.1).

**Session based service:** An end user service requiring application level signalling, which is separated from service rendering.

**Spending limit:** A spending limit is the usage limit of a policy counter (e.g. monetary, volume, duration) that a subscriber is allowed to consume.

**Spending limit report:** a notification, containing the current policy counter status generated from the CHF to the PCF.

**Subscribed guaranteed bandwidth QoS:** The per subscriber, authorized cumulative guaranteed bandwidth QoS which is provided by the UDR to the PCF.

**Subscriber category:** is a means to group the subscribers into different classes, e.g. gold user, silver user and bronze user.

**UE Local Configuration:** Information about the association of an application to either a PDU Session or to non-seamless Offload is configured in the Mobile Termination (MT) and in the Terminal Equipment (TE). For example, UE Local Configuration can include operator specific configuration (e.g. operator provided S-NSSAI(s)), or application specific parameters to set up a PDU Session or end user configuration for specific applications.

**UE policy information:** Policy information preconfigured in the UE and/or provisioned to the UE for access selection (i.e. ANDSP), PDU Session selection (i.e. URSP) and/or V2X communications (i.e. V2XP).

**Uplink binding verification:** The network enforcement of terminal compliance with the negotiated uplink traffic mapping to QoS Flows.

**User Preferences On Non-3GPP Access Selection:** The list of configuration parameters provided by a layer (e.g. application) above NAS and used by the UE for access network discovery and selection.

## 3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in TR 21.905 [1], TS 23.501 [2], TS 23.502 [3], TS 23.316 [27] and the following apply. An abbreviation defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same abbreviation, if any, in TR 21.905 [1].

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| AMBR   | Aggregated Maximum Bitrate                  |
| ANDSP  | Access Network Discovery & Selection Policy |
| ARP    | Allocation and Retention Priority           |
| ASP    | Application Service Provider                |
| BDT    | Background Data Transfer                    |
| BSF    | Binding Support Function                    |
| CHF    | CHarging Function                           |
| H-PCF  | A PCF in the HPLMN                          |
| H-UDR  | A UDR in the HPLMN                          |
| MPS    | Multimedia Priority Service                 |
| NBIFOM | Network-based IP flow mobility              |
| NSWO   | Non-Seamless WLAN Offload                   |
| NWDAF  | Network Data Analytics Function             |
| OAM    | Operation Administration and Maintenance    |
| OCS    | Online Charging System                      |
| PCC    | Policy and Charging Control                 |
| PF     | Packet Flow Description                     |
| PFDF   | Packet Flow Description Function            |
| PRA    | Presence Reporting Area                     |
| RAN    | Radio Access Network                        |
| URSP   | UE Route Selection Policy                   |
| V2XP   | V2X Policy                                  |
| V-PCF  | A PCF in the VPLMN                          |
| V-UDR  | A UDR in the VPLMN                          |
| vSRVCC | video Single Radio Voice Call Continuity    |
| WLANSP | WLAN Selection Policy                       |

## 4 High level architectural requirements

### 4.1 General requirements

It shall be possible to apply policy and charging control to any kind of 3GPP and non-3GPP accesses defined in TS 23.501 [2].

The policy and charging control framework shall support the roaming scenarios defined in TS 23.501 [2].

The policy and charging control shall be enabled on a per slice instance, per DNN, or per both slice instance and DNN basis.

**NOTE:** In single PCF deployment, the PCF will provide all mobility, UE access selection and PDU Session related policies that it is responsible for. In deployments where different PCFs support N15 and N7 respectively, no standardized interface between them is required in this release to support policy alignment.

The policy and charging control framework shall fulfil non-session management related requirements as defined in clause 4.2 and session management related requirements as defined in clause 4.3.

## 4.2 Non-session management related policy control requirements

### 4.2.1 Access and mobility related policy control requirements

The policy framework shall provide following functionality for the access and mobility enforcement:

- Policy Control Function (PCF) shall support interactions with the access and mobility policy enforcement in the AMF, through service-based interfaces.
- The PCF shall be able to provide Access and Mobility Management related policies to the AMF.
- The PCF shall be able to evaluate operator policies that are triggered by events received from the AMF.

### 4.2.2 UE policy control requirements

The 5GC shall be able to provide policy information from the PCF to the UE. Such UE policy information includes:

- Access Network Discovery & Selection Policy (ANDSP): It is used by the UE for selecting non-3GPP accesses network.
- UE Route Selection Policy (URSP): This policy is used by the UE to determine how to route outgoing traffic. Traffic can be routed to an established PDU Session, can be offloaded to non-3GPP access outside a PDU Session, or can trigger the establishment of a new PDU Session.
- V2X Policy (V2XP): This policy provides configuration parameters to the UE for V2X communication over PC5 reference point or over Uu reference point or both. V2X Policies are defined in TS 23.287 [28].

### 4.2.3 Network analytics information requirements

The PCF shall be able to collect directly network analytic information from the NWDAF. The NWDAF provides network data analytics (e.g. load level information on a network slice level) to PCF. The PCF shall be able to use those data in its policy decisions. The details are defined in clause 6.1.1.3.

### 4.2.4 Management of packet flow descriptions

Management of Packet Flow Descriptions (PFDs) refers to the capability to create, update or remove PFDs in the NEF (PFDF) and the distribution from the NEF (PFDF) to the SMF and finally to the UPF. This feature may be used when the UPF is configured to detect a particular application provided by an ASP.

NOTE 1: A possible scenario for the management of PFDs in the SMF is when an application, identified by an application detection filter in the UPF, deploys a new server or a reconfiguration occurs in the ASP network which impacts the application detection filters of that particular application.

NOTE 2: The management of application detection filters in the SMF can still be performed by using operation and maintenance procedures.

NOTE 3: This feature aims for both: to enable accurate application detection at the UPF and to minimize storage requirements for the UPF and the SMF.

The management of PFDs is supported in non-roaming and home-routed scenarios for those ASPs that have a business relation with the home operator.

### 4.2.5 SMF selection management related policy control requirements

The policy framework may provide following functionality for the SMF selection management for a PDU Session:

- The Policy Control Function (PCF) may support interactions with the SMF selection functionality in the AMF and the PCF may provide SMF selection management related policies to the AMF;
- The PCF may provide a policy to the AMF to contact PCF for performing DNN replacement of specific DNNs;

- The PCF may provide a policy to the AMF to contact PCF for performing DNN replacement for an unsupported DNN.

## 4.2.6 Support for non-session management related network capability exposure

Support for network capability exposure enables an AF (e.g. an external ASP) to request the following non-session management related policy control functionality from the NEF:

- Management of PFDs as defined in clause 4.2.4 and in clause 4.18 of TS 23.502 [3];
- Negotiations for future background data transfer as defined in clause 6.1.2.4 and in clause 4.16.7 of TS 23.502 [3];
- Applying a previously negotiated background data transfer policy to a UE or group of UEs as defined in clause 6.1.2.4 and in clause 4.15.6.8 of TS 23.502 [3];
- Traffic steering control for AF influenced traffic diversion, as defined in clause 4.3.7 and in clause 5.6.7 of TS 23.501 [2];
- Service specific parameter provisioning for V2X communication (see clause 5.20 of TS 23.501 [2] and clause 4.15.6.7 of TS 23.502 [3]);
- 5G VN group management (see clause 5.29 of TS 23.501 [2] and clause 4.15.6 of TS 23.502 [3]).

## 4.3 Session management related policy control requirements

### 4.3.1 General requirements

It shall be possible for the PCC framework to base decisions upon subscription information, Access Type and the RAT Type.

The PCC framework shall perform Gating Control and discard packets that don't match any service data flow of the active PCC rules. It shall also be possible for the operator to define PCC rules, with wild-carded service data flow filters, to allow sending or receiving packets that do not match any service data flow template of any other active PCC rules.

The PCC framework shall allow the charging control to be applied on a per service data flow and on a per application basis, independent of the policy control.

The PCC framework shall have a binding method that allows the unique association between service data flows and specific QoS Flow.

A single service data flow detection shall suffice for the purpose of both policy control and flow based charging.

A PCC rule may be predefined or dynamically provisioned at establishment and during the lifetime of a PDU Session. The latter is referred to as a dynamic PCC rule.

It shall be possible to take a PCC rule into service, and out of service, at a specific time of day, without any PCC interaction at that point in time.

It shall be possible to take DNN-related policy information into service, and out of service, once validity conditions specified as part of the DNN-related policy information are fulfilled or not fulfilled anymore, respectively, without any PCC interaction at that point in time.

PCC shall be enabled on a per DNN basis at the SMF. It shall be possible for the operator to configure the PCC framework to perform charging control, policy control or both for a DNN access.

The PCC framework shall allow the resolution of conflicts which would otherwise cause a subscriber's Subscribed Guaranteed Bandwidth QoS to be exceeded.

It should be possible to use PCC framework for handling IMS-based emergency service.