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# Contents

|                                                                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Intellectual Property Rights .....                                                | 2  |
| Legal Notice .....                                                                | 2  |
| Modal verbs terminology.....                                                      | 2  |
| Foreword.....                                                                     | 9  |
| 1 Scope .....                                                                     | 11 |
| 2 References .....                                                                | 11 |
| 3 Definitions and abbreviations.....                                              | 12 |
| 3.1 Definitions .....                                                             | 12 |
| 3.2 Abbreviations .....                                                           | 13 |
| 4 General Description.....                                                        | 13 |
| 4.1 Introduction .....                                                            | 13 |
| 4.2 N32 Interface.....                                                            | 13 |
| 4.2.1 General.....                                                                | 13 |
| 4.2.2 N32-c Interface .....                                                       | 13 |
| 4.2.3 N32-f Interface.....                                                        | 14 |
| 4.3 Protocol Stack .....                                                          | 15 |
| 4.3.1 General.....                                                                | 15 |
| 4.3.2 HTTP/2 Protocol.....                                                        | 15 |
| 4.3.2.1 General .....                                                             | 15 |
| 4.3.2.2 HTTP standard headers .....                                               | 15 |
| 4.3.2.3 HTTP custom headers .....                                                 | 16 |
| 4.3.2.4 HTTP/2 connection management .....                                        | 16 |
| 4.3.3 Transport Protocol .....                                                    | 17 |
| 4.3.4 Serialization Protocol.....                                                 | 17 |
| 5 N32 Procedures .....                                                            | 17 |
| 5.1 Introduction .....                                                            | 17 |
| 5.2 N32 Handshake Procedures (N32-c) .....                                        | 18 |
| 5.2.1 General.....                                                                | 18 |
| 5.2.2 Security Capability Negotiation Procedure.....                              | 18 |
| 5.2.3 Parameter Exchange Procedure .....                                          | 20 |
| 5.2.3.1 General .....                                                             | 20 |
| 5.2.3.2 Parameter Exchange Procedure for Cipher Suite Negotiation .....           | 21 |
| 5.2.3.3 Parameter Exchange Procedure for Protection Policy Exchange .....         | 22 |
| 5.2.3.4 Parameter Exchange Procedure for Security Information list Exchange ..... | 24 |
| 5.2.4 N32-f Context Termination Procedure .....                                   | 25 |
| 5.2.5 N32-f Error Reporting Procedure .....                                       | 26 |
| 5.3 Message Forwarding Procedure on N32 (N32-f) .....                             | 27 |
| 5.3.1 Introduction.....                                                           | 27 |
| 5.3.2 Use of Application Layer Security.....                                      | 27 |
| 5.3.2.1 General .....                                                             | 27 |
| 5.3.2.2 Protection Policy Lookup.....                                             | 28 |
| 5.3.2.3 Message Reformatting .....                                                | 29 |
| 5.3.2.4 Message Forwarding to Peer SEPP .....                                     | 31 |
| 5.3.2.5 JOSE Protected Forwarding Options .....                                   | 32 |
| 5.3.3 Message Forwarding to Peer SEPP when TLS is used .....                      | 32 |
| 5.3.3.1 General .....                                                             | 32 |
| 5.3.3.2 Correlation of N32-c context and N32-f Connection for TLS Security .....  | 32 |
| 5.3.3.3 3gpp-Sbi-N32-Handshake-Id .....                                           | 33 |
| 5.3.3.4 Error Handling .....                                                      | 33 |
| 5.3.4 Void .....                                                                  | 33 |
| 5.4 Nsepp_Telescopic_FQDN_Mapping Service .....                                   | 33 |
| 5.4.1 General.....                                                                | 33 |
| 5.4.2 Foreign FQDN to Telescopic FQDN Mapping Procedure.....                      | 34 |

|           |                                                                                        |    |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 5.4.3     | Telescopic FQDN to Foreign FQDN Mapping Procedure.....                                 | 34 |
| 5.5       | Support of Roaming Intermediaries .....                                                | 35 |
| 5.5.1     | General.....                                                                           | 35 |
| 5.5.2     | N32-c connection establishment via RIs.....                                            | 35 |
| 5.5.2.1   | N32-c connection establishment using HTTP CONNECT .....                                | 35 |
| 5.5.2.1.1 | General .....                                                                          | 35 |
| 5.5.2.1.2 | Successful N32-c connection establishment via one RI .....                             | 35 |
| 5.5.2.1.3 | Successful N32-c connection establishment via two RIs .....                            | 37 |
| 5.5.2.2   | Error messages originated by RIs over the N32-c interface .....                        | 38 |
| 5.5.2.2.1 | General .....                                                                          | 38 |
| 5.5.2.2.2 | N32-c connection establishment rejection by RI A .....                                 | 38 |
| 5.5.2.2.3 | N32-c connection establishment rejection by RI B .....                                 | 39 |
| 5.5.3     | N32-f messages forwarding or origination via RIs.....                                  | 39 |
| 5.5.3.1   | Error messages originated by (or related to) RIs over the N32-f interface.....         | 39 |
| 5.5.3.1.1 | General .....                                                                          | 39 |
| 5.5.3.2   | N32-f related error determined upon receipt of an N32-f request .....                  | 40 |
| 5.5.3.2.1 | Error message originated by RI via N32-f.....                                          | 40 |
| 5.5.3.2.2 | Error message originated by pSEPP on N32-f (and optionally N32-c) .....                | 41 |
| 5.5.3.3   | N32-f related error determined upon receipt of an N32-f response.....                  | 42 |
| 5.5.3.3.1 | Error message originated by RI via N32-f interface .....                               | 42 |
| 5.5.3.3.2 | Error message formatting by the RI.....                                                | 44 |
| 5.5.3.4   | Applicative (i.e. SBI related) error determined upon receipt of an N32-f request ..... | 45 |
| 5.5.3.4.1 | Applicative error originated by RI via N32-f .....                                     | 45 |
| 5.5.3.4.2 | Error message formatting by the RI.....                                                | 45 |
| 5.5.3.5   | Handling of applicative events trigger determined by RI.....                           | 46 |
| 5.5.3.5.1 | Applicative request message originated by RI via N32-f .....                           | 46 |
| 5.5.3.5.2 | Originated request message formatting by the RI.....                                   | 46 |
| 5.5.4     | N32-f Context and/or N32-f Connection termination initiated by the RI .....            | 47 |
| 5.5.4.1   | General .....                                                                          | 47 |
| 5.5.4.2   | N32-f error reporting request encapsulated in a N32-f request .....                    | 47 |
| 5.5.4.3   | Using N32-f error response .....                                                       | 48 |
| 6         | API Definitions .....                                                                  | 49 |
| 6.1       | N32 Handshake API.....                                                                 | 49 |
| 6.1.1     | API URI .....                                                                          | 49 |
| 6.1.2     | Usage of HTTP .....                                                                    | 50 |
| 6.1.2.1   | General .....                                                                          | 50 |
| 6.1.2.2   | HTTP standard headers .....                                                            | 50 |
| 6.1.2.2.1 | General .....                                                                          | 50 |
| 6.1.2.2.2 | Content type .....                                                                     | 50 |
| 6.1.2.3   | HTTP custom headers .....                                                              | 50 |
| 6.1.2.3.1 | General .....                                                                          | 50 |
| 6.1.3     | Resources .....                                                                        | 50 |
| 6.1.3.1   | Overview .....                                                                         | 50 |
| 6.1.4     | Custom Operations without Associated Resources.....                                    | 51 |
| 6.1.4.1   | Overview .....                                                                         | 51 |
| 6.1.4.2   | Operation: Security Capability Negotiation .....                                       | 51 |
| 6.1.4.2.1 | Description .....                                                                      | 51 |
| 6.1.4.2.2 | Operation Definition.....                                                              | 51 |
| 6.1.4.3   | Operation: Parameter Exchange .....                                                    | 52 |
| 6.1.4.3.1 | Description .....                                                                      | 52 |
| 6.1.4.3.2 | Operation Definition.....                                                              | 52 |
| 6.1.4.4   | Operation: N32-f Context Terminate .....                                               | 53 |
| 6.1.4.4.1 | Description .....                                                                      | 53 |
| 6.1.4.4.2 | Operation Definition.....                                                              | 53 |
| 6.1.4.5   | Operation: N32-f Error Reporting.....                                                  | 54 |
| 6.1.4.5.1 | Description .....                                                                      | 54 |
| 6.1.4.5.2 | Operation Definition.....                                                              | 54 |
| 6.1.5     | Data Model .....                                                                       | 54 |
| 6.1.5.1   | General .....                                                                          | 54 |
| 6.1.5.2   | Structured data types .....                                                            | 55 |
| 6.1.5.2.1 | Introduction .....                                                                     | 55 |

|            |                                                            |    |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 6.1.5.2.2  | Type: SecNegotiateReqData.....                             | 56 |
| 6.1.5.2.3  | Type: SecNegotiateRspData.....                             | 59 |
| 6.1.5.2.4  | Type: SecParamExchReqData.....                             | 62 |
| 6.1.5.2.5  | Type: SecParamExchRspData.....                             | 64 |
| 6.1.5.2.6  | Type: ProtectionPolicy.....                                | 66 |
| 6.1.5.2.7  | Type: ApiIeMapping.....                                    | 66 |
| 6.1.5.2.8  | Type: IeInfo.....                                          | 67 |
| 6.1.5.2.9  | Type: ApiSignature.....                                    | 69 |
| 6.1.5.2.10 | Type: N32fContextInfo.....                                 | 70 |
| 6.1.5.2.11 | Type: N32fErrorInfo.....                                   | 71 |
| 6.1.5.2.12 | Type: FailedModificationInfo.....                          | 72 |
| 6.1.5.2.13 | Type: N32fErrorDetail.....                                 | 72 |
| 6.1.5.2.14 | Type: CallbackName.....                                    | 72 |
| 6.1.5.2.15 | Type: IpxProviderSecInfo.....                              | 72 |
| 6.1.5.2.16 | Type: IntendedN32Purpose.....                              | 73 |
| 6.1.5.2.17 | Type: RiErrorInformation.....                              | 73 |
| 6.1.5.2.18 | Type: ExtRedirectResponse.....                             | 73 |
| 6.1.5.2.19 | Type: RedirectResponseAddInfo.....                         | 73 |
| 6.1.5.3    | Simple data types and enumerations.....                    | 74 |
| 6.1.5.3.1  | Introduction.....                                          | 74 |
| 6.1.5.3.2  | Simple data types.....                                     | 74 |
| 6.1.5.3.3  | Enumeration: SecurityCapability.....                       | 74 |
| 6.1.5.3.4  | Enumeration: HttpMethod.....                               | 74 |
| 6.1.5.3.5  | Enumeration: IeType.....                                   | 75 |
| 6.1.5.3.6  | Enumeration: IeLocation.....                               | 75 |
| 6.1.5.3.7  | Enumeration: N32fErrorType.....                            | 76 |
| 6.1.5.3.8  | Enumeration: FailureReason.....                            | 77 |
| 6.1.5.3.9  | Enumeration: N32Purpose.....                               | 77 |
| 6.1.5.3.10 | Enumeration: N32ReleaseIndication.....                     | 78 |
| 6.1.5.4    | Binary data.....                                           | 78 |
| 6.1.6      | Error Handling.....                                        | 78 |
| 6.1.6.1    | General.....                                               | 78 |
| 6.1.6.2    | Protocol Errors.....                                       | 78 |
| 6.1.6.3    | Application Errors.....                                    | 78 |
| 6.1.7      | Feature Negotiation.....                                   | 79 |
| 6.1.8      | HTTP redirection.....                                      | 80 |
| 6.1.8.1    | HTTP redirection to a dedicated SEPP.....                  | 80 |
| 6.1.8.2    | HTTP redirection to target SEPPs with a new discovery..... | 80 |
| 6.2        | JOSE Protected Message Forwarding API on N32.....          | 81 |
| 6.2.1      | API URI.....                                               | 81 |
| 6.2.2      | Usage of HTTP.....                                         | 81 |
| 6.2.2.1    | General.....                                               | 81 |
| 6.2.2.2    | HTTP standard headers.....                                 | 81 |
| 6.2.2.2.1  | General.....                                               | 81 |
| 6.2.2.2.2  | Content type.....                                          | 82 |
| 6.2.2.2.3  | Accept-Encoding.....                                       | 82 |
| 6.2.2.3    | HTTP custom headers.....                                   | 82 |
| 6.2.2.3.1  | General.....                                               | 82 |
| 6.2.3      | Resources.....                                             | 82 |
| 6.2.3.1    | Overview.....                                              | 82 |
| 6.2.4      | Custom Operations without associated resources.....        | 82 |
| 6.2.4.1    | Overview.....                                              | 82 |
| 6.2.4.2    | Operation: JOSE Protected Forwarding.....                  | 82 |
| 6.2.4.2.1  | Description.....                                           | 82 |
| 6.2.4.2.2  | Operation Definition.....                                  | 83 |
| 6.2.4.3    | Operation: JOSE Protected Forwarding Options.....          | 87 |
| 6.2.4.3.1  | Description.....                                           | 87 |
| 6.2.4.3.2  | Operation Definition.....                                  | 87 |
| 6.2.5      | Data Model.....                                            | 88 |
| 6.2.5.1    | General.....                                               | 88 |
| 6.2.5.2    | Structured data types.....                                 | 89 |
| 6.2.5.2.1  | Introduction.....                                          | 89 |

|            |                                                                                           |     |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 6.2.5.2.2  | Type: N32fReformattedReqMsg .....                                                         | 89  |
| 6.2.5.2.3  | Type: N32fReformattedRspMsg .....                                                         | 90  |
| 6.2.5.2.4  | Type: DataToIntegrityProtectAndCipherBlock .....                                          | 90  |
| 6.2.5.2.5  | Type: DataToIntegrityProtectBlock .....                                                   | 91  |
| 6.2.5.2.6  | Type: RequestLine .....                                                                   | 92  |
| 6.2.5.2.7  | Type: HttpHeaders .....                                                                   | 92  |
| 6.2.5.2.8  | Type: HttpPayload .....                                                                   | 93  |
| 6.2.5.2.9  | Type: MetaData .....                                                                      | 96  |
| 6.2.5.2.10 | Type: Modifications .....                                                                 | 97  |
| 6.2.5.2.11 | Type: FlatJweJson .....                                                                   | 98  |
| 6.2.5.2.12 | Type: FlatJwsJson .....                                                                   | 99  |
| 6.2.5.2.13 | Type: IndexToEncryptedValue .....                                                         | 99  |
| 6.2.5.2.14 | Type: EncodedHttpHeaderValue .....                                                        | 99  |
| 6.2.5.2.15 | Type: ProblemDetailsMsgForwarding .....                                                   | 99  |
| 6.2.5.2.16 | Type: AdditionInfoMsgForwarding .....                                                     | 100 |
| 6.2.5.3    | Simple data types and enumerations .....                                                  | 100 |
| 6.2.5.3.1  | Introduction .....                                                                        | 100 |
| 6.2.5.3.2  | Simple data types .....                                                                   | 100 |
| 6.2.5.3.3  | Void .....                                                                                | 100 |
| 6.2.5.3.4  | Void .....                                                                                | 100 |
| 6.2.6      | Error Handling .....                                                                      | 100 |
| 6.2.6.1    | General .....                                                                             | 100 |
| 6.2.6.2    | Protocol Errors .....                                                                     | 100 |
| 6.2.6.3    | Application Errors .....                                                                  | 100 |
| 6.3        | Nsepp_Telescopic_FQDN_Mapping API .....                                                   | 101 |
| 6.3.1      | API URI .....                                                                             | 101 |
| 6.3.2      | Usage of HTTP .....                                                                       | 102 |
| 6.3.2.1    | General .....                                                                             | 102 |
| 6.3.2.2    | HTTP standard headers .....                                                               | 102 |
| 6.3.2.2.1  | General .....                                                                             | 102 |
| 6.3.2.2.2  | Content type .....                                                                        | 102 |
| 6.3.2.3    | HTTP custom headers .....                                                                 | 102 |
| 6.3.2.3.1  | General .....                                                                             | 102 |
| 6.3.3      | Resources .....                                                                           | 102 |
| 6.3.3.1    | Overview .....                                                                            | 102 |
| 6.3.3.2    | Resource: Mapping .....                                                                   | 103 |
| 6.3.3.2.1  | Description .....                                                                         | 103 |
| 6.3.3.2.2  | Resource Definition .....                                                                 | 103 |
| 6.3.3.2.3  | Resource Standard Methods .....                                                           | 103 |
| 6.3.4      | Data Model .....                                                                          | 104 |
| 6.3.4.1    | General .....                                                                             | 104 |
| 6.3.4.2    | Structured data types .....                                                               | 104 |
| 6.3.4.2.1  | Introduction .....                                                                        | 104 |
| 6.3.4.2.2  | Type: TelescopicMapping .....                                                             | 105 |
| 6.3.4.3    | Simple data types and enumerations .....                                                  | 105 |
| 6.3.4.3.1  | Introduction .....                                                                        | 105 |
| 6.3.4.3.2  | Simple data types .....                                                                   | 105 |
| 6.3.5      | Error Handling .....                                                                      | 105 |
| 6.3.5.1    | General .....                                                                             | 105 |
| 6.3.5.2    | Protocol Errors .....                                                                     | 105 |
| 6.3.5.3    | Application Errors .....                                                                  | 105 |
| 6.3.6      | Feature Negotiation .....                                                                 | 106 |
| 6.3.7      | Security .....                                                                            | 106 |
| 6.3.7.1    | General .....                                                                             | 106 |
| 7          | Usage of HTTP CONNECT for N32-c connection establishment via Roaming Intermediaries ..... | 106 |
| 7.1        | General .....                                                                             | 106 |
| 7.2        | HTTP standards headers .....                                                              | 106 |
| 7.3        | HTTP custom headers .....                                                                 | 107 |
| 7.3.1      | 3gpp-Connect-Req-Info .....                                                               | 107 |
| 7.3.2      | 3gpp-Connect-Resp-Info .....                                                              | 108 |
| 7.4        | Error Handling .....                                                                      | 108 |

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                     |            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 7.4.1                         | General.....                                                                                                                                                        | 108        |
| 7.4.2                         | Application Errors .....                                                                                                                                            | 108        |
| <b>Annex A (normative):</b>   | <b>OpenAPI Specification .....</b>                                                                                                                                  | <b>110</b> |
| A.1                           | General .....                                                                                                                                                       | 110        |
| A.2                           | N32 Handshake API.....                                                                                                                                              | 110        |
| A.3                           | JOSE Protected Message Forwarding API on N32-f .....                                                                                                                | 119        |
| A.4                           | SEPP Telescopic FQDN Mapping API.....                                                                                                                               | 123        |
| <b>Annex B (informative):</b> | <b>Examples of N32-f Encoding.....</b>                                                                                                                              | <b>126</b> |
| B.1                           | General .....                                                                                                                                                       | 126        |
| B.2                           | Input Message Containing No Binary Part.....                                                                                                                        | 126        |
| B.3                           | Input Message Containing Multipart Binary Part .....                                                                                                                | 127        |
| B.4                           | Input Message Containing Sensitive Information in URI Path and/or URI Query Parameters .....                                                                        | 129        |
| <b>Annex C (informative):</b> | <b>End to end call flows when SEPP is on path .....</b>                                                                                                             | <b>132</b> |
| C.1                           | General .....                                                                                                                                                       | 132        |
| C.2                           | TLS security between SEPPs .....                                                                                                                                    | 132        |
| C.2.1                         | When http URI scheme is used .....                                                                                                                                  | 132        |
| C.2.1.1                       | General.....                                                                                                                                                        | 132        |
| C.2.1.2                       | Without TLS protection between NF and SEPP and with TLS security without the 3gpp-Sbi-Target-apiRoot header used over N32f.....                                     | 132        |
| C.2.1.3                       | Without TLS protection between NF and SEPP and with TLS security with the 3gpp-Sbi-Target-apiRoot header used over N32f.....                                        | 135        |
| C.2.2                         | When https URI scheme is used.....                                                                                                                                  | 136        |
| C.2.2.1                       | General.....                                                                                                                                                        | 136        |
| C.2.2.2                       | With TLS protection between NF and SEPP relying on telescopic FQDN, and TLS security without the 3gpp-Sbi-Target-apiRoot header used over N32f .....                | 136        |
| C.2.2.3                       | With TLS protection between NF and SEPP relying on 3gpp-Sbi-Target-apiRoot header, and TLS security without the 3gpp-Sbi-Target-apiRoot header used over N32f ..... | 140        |
| C.2.2.4                       | With TLS protection between NF and SEPP relying on telescopic FQDN, and TLS security with the 3gpp-Sbi-Target-apiRoot header used over N32f .....                   | 143        |
| C.2.2.5                       | With TLS protection between NF and SEPP relying on 3gpp-Sbi-Target-apiRoot header, and TLS security with the 3gpp-Sbi-Target-apiRoot header used over N32f.....     | 146        |
| C.3                           | Application Layer Security between SEPPs.....                                                                                                                       | 148        |
| C.3.1                         | When http URI scheme is used .....                                                                                                                                  | 148        |
| C.3.2                         | When https URI scheme is used .....                                                                                                                                 | 150        |
| C.3.2.1                       | General.....                                                                                                                                                        | 150        |
| C.3.2.2                       | With TLS protection between NF and SEPP relying on telescopic FQDN .....                                                                                            | 151        |
| C.3.2.3                       | With TLS protection between NF and SEPP relying on 3gpp-Sbi-Target-apiRoot header .....                                                                             | 154        |
| <b>Annex D (informative):</b> | <b>Withdrawn API versions.....</b>                                                                                                                                  | <b>157</b> |
| D.1                           | General .....                                                                                                                                                       | 157        |
| D.2                           | N32 Handshake API.....                                                                                                                                              | 157        |
| <b>Annex E (Normative):</b>   | <b>ABNF grammar for HTTP custom headers.....</b>                                                                                                                    | <b>158</b> |
| E.1                           | General .....                                                                                                                                                       | 158        |
| E.2                           | ABNF definitions (Filename:"TS29573_CustomHeaders.abnf") .....                                                                                                      | 158        |
| <b>Annex F (Informative):</b> | <b>Examples of encoding of N32-c protection policies.....</b>                                                                                                       | <b>160</b> |
| F.1                           | General .....                                                                                                                                                       | 160        |
| F.2                           | Protection policies for an API with a schema without recursive non-leaf IEs .....                                                                                   | 160        |

F.3    Protection policies for an API with a schema with recursive non-leaf IEs .....161

**Annex G (informative):      Change history .....163**

History .....167

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# Foreword

This Technical Specification has been produced by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).

The contents of the present document are subject to continuing work within the TSG and may change following formal TSG approval. Should the TSG modify the contents of the present document, it will be re-released by the TSG with an identifying change of release date and an increase in version number as follows:

Version x.y.z

where:

- x the first digit:
  - 1 presented to TSG for information;
  - 2 presented to TSG for approval;
  - 3 or greater indicates TSG approved document under change control.
- y the second digit is incremented for all changes of substance, i.e. technical enhancements, corrections, updates, etc.
- z the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the document.

In the present document, modal verbs have the following meanings:

- shall** indicates a mandatory requirement to do something
- shall not** indicates an interdiction (prohibition) to do something

The constructions "shall" and "shall not" are confined to the context of normative provisions, and do not appear in Technical Reports.

The constructions "must" and "must not" are not used as substitutes for "shall" and "shall not". Their use is avoided insofar as possible, and they are not used in a normative context except in a direct citation from an external, referenced, non-3GPP document, or so as to maintain continuity of style when extending or modifying the provisions of such a referenced document.

- should** indicates a recommendation to do something
- should not** indicates a recommendation not to do something
- may** indicates permission to do something
- need not** indicates permission not to do something

The construction "may not" is ambiguous and is not used in normative elements. The unambiguous constructions "might not" or "shall not" are used instead, depending upon the meaning intended.

- can** indicates that something is possible
- cannot** indicates that something is impossible

The constructions "can" and "cannot" are not substitutes for "may" and "need not".

- will** indicates that something is certain or expected to happen as a result of action taken by an agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document
- will not** indicates that something is certain or expected not to happen as a result of action taken by an agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document
- might** indicates a likelihood that something will happen as a result of action taken by some agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

**might not** indicates a likelihood that something will not happen as a result of action taken by some agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

In addition:

**is** (or any other verb in the indicative mood) indicates a statement of fact

**is not** (or any other negative verb in the indicative mood) indicates a statement of fact

The constructions "is" and "is not" do not indicate requirements.

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# 1 Scope

The present document specifies the stage 3 protocol and data model for the PLMN and/or SNPN interconnection Interface. It provides stage 3 protocol definitions and message flows, and specifies the APIs for the procedures on the PLMN interconnection interface (i.e N32).

The 5G System stage 2 architecture and procedures are specified in 3GPP TS 23.501 [2] and 3GPP TS 23.502 [3].

The Technical Realization of the Service Based Architecture and the Principles and Guidelines for Services Definition are specified in 3GPP TS 29.500 [4] and 3GPP TS 29.501 [5].

The stage 2 level N32 procedures are specified in 3GPP TS 33.501 [6].

---

# 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: "System Architecture for the 5G System; Stage 2".
- [3] 3GPP TS 23.502: "Procedures for the 5G System; Stage 2".
- [4] 3GPP TS 29.500: "5G System; Technical Realization of Service Based Architecture; Stage 3".
- [5] 3GPP TS 29.501: "5G System; Principles and Guidelines for Services Definition; Stage 3".
- [6] 3GPP TS 33.501: "Security architecture and procedures for 5G system".
- [7] IETF RFC 9113: "HTTP/2".
- [8] IETF RFC 8259: "The JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) Data Interchange Format".
- [9] IETF RFC 9110: "HTTP Semantics".
- [10] Void.
- [11] IETF RFC 793: "Transmission Control Protocol".
- [12] 3GPP TS 29.571: "5G System; Common Data Types for Service Based Interfaces Stage 3".
- [13] IETF RFC 7518: "JSON Web Algorithms (JWA)".
- [14] IETF RFC 7516: "JSON Web Encryption (JWE)".
- [15] IETF RFC 4648: "The Base16, Base32, and Base64 Data Encodings".
- [16] IETF RFC 7515: "JSON Web Signature (JWS)".
- [17] IETF RFC 6901: "JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) Pointer".
- [18] 3GPP TS 29.510: "Network Function Repository Services; Stage 3".
- [19] 3GPP TS 23.003: "Numbering, addressing and identification".

- [20] 3GPP TR 21.900: "Technical Specification Group working methods".
- [21] IETF RFC 7468: "Textual Encodings of PKIX, PKCS, and CMS Structures".
- [22] IETF RFC 9457: "Problem Details for HTTP APIs".
- [23] IETF RFC 1952: "GZIP file format specification version 4.3".
- [24] Void
- [25] 3GPP TS 29.518: "5G System; Access and Mobility Management Service; Stage 3".
- [26] 3GPP TS 29.503: "5G System; Unified Data Management Services; Stage 3".
- [27] OpenAPI: "OpenAPI Specification Version 3.0.0", <https://spec.openapis.org/oas/v3.0.0>.
- [28] 3GPP TS 22.261: "Service requirements for the 5G system; Stage 1".
- [29] 3GPP TS 23.288: "Architecture enhancements for 5G System (5GS) to support network data analytics services; Stage 2".
- [30] GSMA PRD IR.67: "DNS Guidelines for Service Providers and GRX and IPX Providers version 23.0".

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## 3 Definitions and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

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

**c-SEPP:** The SEPP that is present on the NF service consumer side is called the c-SEPP.

**p-SEPP:** The SEPP that is present on the NF service producer side is called the p-SEPP.

**NOTE:** For the purpose of N32-c procedures, the two interacting SEPPs are called "initiating" SEPP and "responding" SEPP. The c-SEPP and p-SEPP terminology is not used in this specification though it is used in 3GPP TS 33.501 [6].

**c-IPX:** The IPX on the NF service consumer side.

**p-IPX:** The IPX of the NF service producer side.

**N32-c context:** This context is set up at the SEPP after the Security Capability Exchange procedure is finalized. It defines the security capability that is mutually agreed and effective for both the cSEPP and the pSEPP.

**Roaming Hub:** A type of Roaming Intermediary that provides a set of services to client PLMNs to facilitate the deployment and the operation of roaming and interworking services; as defined by GSMA (see clause 3.1 of 3GPP TS 33.501 [6]).

**Roaming Intermediary:** an entity that provides roaming related services (see clause 3.1 of 3GPP TS 33.501 [6]).

**Leaf IE:** it is a JSON attribute defined as a simple data type, an enumeration or an array of simple data type.

**Non-Leaf IE:** it is a JSON attribute defined as an object (i.e. structured data type) or an array of structured data type.

**Recursive non-leaf IE:** it is a non-leaf attribute defined with the same data type as one of its ancestor attributes (see examples in Annex F.3).

## 3.2 Abbreviations

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

|       |                                          |
|-------|------------------------------------------|
| GZIP  | GNU ZIP                                  |
| IPX   | IP Exchange Service                      |
| JOSE  | Javascript Object Signing and Encryption |
| JWE   | JSON Web Encryption                      |
| JWS   | JSON Web Signature                       |
| PRINS | PRotocol for N32 INterconnect Security   |
| RI    | Roaming Intermediary                     |
| SEPP  | Security and Edge Protection Proxy       |
| TLS   | Transport Layer Security                 |
| UPU   | UE Parameters Update                     |

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## 4 General Description

### 4.1 Introduction

This clause provides a general description of the interconnect interfaces used between the PLMNs and/or SNPNs for transporting the service based interface message exchanges.

### 4.2 N32 Interface

#### 4.2.1 General

The N32 interface is used between SEPPs of different PLMNs for both roaming and PLMN interconnect scenarios.

The N32 interface may also be used between SEPPs from an SNPN and another SNPN or PLMN, for SNPN interconnect scenarios (e.g. for SNPN connectivity with a Credentials Holder network, see clause 5.30.2.9.3 of 3GPP TS 23.501 [2]). Unless specified otherwise, references to "PLMN" throughout this specification shall be substituted by "SNPN" for a SEPP that is deployed in an SNPN.

The SEPP that is on the NF service consumer side is called the c-SEPP and the SEPP that is on the NF service producer is called the p-SEPP. The NF service consumer or SCP may be configured with the c-SEPP or discover the c-SEPP by querying the NRF. The NF service producer or SCP may be configured with the p-SEPP or discover the p-SEPP by querying the NRF.

The N32 interface can be logically considered as 2 separate interfaces as given below.

- N32-c, a control plane interface between the SEPPs for performing initial handshake and negotiating the parameters to be applied for the actual N32 message forwarding.
- N32-f, a forwarding interface between the SEPPs which is used for forwarding the communication between the NF service consumer and the NF service producer after applying application level security protection or TLS security protection.

#### 4.2.2 N32-c Interface

The following figure shows the scope of the N32-c interface.