CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An application relocation method, comprising:

sending, by a source application server AS, a subscription request to a source enabler server ES, wherein the subscription request indicates to notify the source AS when the source ES determines that a target AS exists;

receiving, by the source AS, a seventh notification message from the source ES, wherein the seventh notification message comprises connection information of the target AS; and

determining, by the source AS, to relocate a context of user equipment UE from the source AS to the target AS.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the source AS, fourth indication information to the source ES, wherein the fourth indication information indicates the source ES to relocate the context of the UE from the source AS to the target AS.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the target AS and the source AS serve a same application.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the source AS, an application relocation request message to the target AS, wherein the application relocation request message is for relocating the context on the source AS to the target AS.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving, by the source AS, an application relocation response message from the target AS, wherein the application relocation response message comprises third indication information, and the third indication information indicates whether the target AS agrees application relocation; and

correspondingly, the determining, by the source AS, to relocate a context of UE from the source AS to the target AS comprises: if the third indication information indicates that the target AS agrees application relocation, determining, by the source AS, to relocate the context of the UE from the source AS to the target AS.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the determining, by the source AS, to relocate a context of UE from the source AS to the target AS comprises:

if the third indication information indicates that the target AS agrees application relocation, determining, by the source AS, to relocate the context of the UE from the source AS to the target AS.

7. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the source AS, fifth indication information to the source ES, wherein the fifth indication information indicates whether the source AS supports the application relocation.

8. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the source AS, seventh indication information to the source ES, wherein the seventh indication information indicates that service continuity needs to be maintained during the application relocation.

9. An application relocation method, comprising:

receiving, by a source enabler server ES, a subscription request from a source application server AS, wherein the subscription request indicates to notify the source AS when the source ES determines that a target AS exists;

obtaining, by the source ES, first information, wherein the first information is location information of user equipment, UE, after a user plane path of a protocol data unit PDU session of the UE changes; and

determining, by the source ES, the target AS based on the first information.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the source ES, a seventh notification message to the source AS, wherein the seventh notification message indicates that the target AS exists, and the seventh notification message comprises connection information of the target AS.

11. The method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the location information of the UE comprises at least one of an IP address of the UE, a data network access identifier DNAI corresponding to the user plane path of the PDU session of the UE, a tracking area identity TAI of the UE, a cell identifier of the UE, a radio access network identifier of the UE, or geographic location information of the UE.

12. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the target AS and the source AS serve a same application.

13. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the obtaining, by the source ES, first information comprises:

receiving, by the source ES, a third notification message from a policy control function PCF entity or a session management function SMF entity, wherein the third notification message notifies the source ES that the user plane path of the PDU session of the UE changes, and the third notification message comprises the first information.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:

subscribing, by the source ES, to a user plane management event notification from the PCF entity or the SMF entity, wherein the user plane management event notification notifies the source ES when the user plane path of the PDU session of the UE changes.

15. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 14, wherein the subscription request comprises information about the PDU session of the UE, and the information about the PDU session of the UE comprises at least one of the Internet protocol IP address of the UE, a data network name DNN, or single network slice selection assistance information S-NSSAI.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the method further comprises:

determining, by the source ES, the policy control function PCF entity or the session management function SMF entity based on the information about the PDU session of the UE.

17. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 16, wherein the subscription request comprises application identification information; and the determining, by the source ES, the target AS based on the first information comprises:

determining, by the source ES, the target AS based on the first information and the application identification information.

18. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 17, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the source ES, sixth indication information to the SMF, wherein the sixth indication information indicates whether the source AS supports application relocation.

19. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 18, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving, by the source ES, seventh indication information from the source AS, wherein the seventh indication information indicates that service continuity needs to be maintained during the application relocation.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the source ES, eighth indication information to the SMF or the PCF, wherein the eighth indication information indicates that the service continuity needs to be maintained during the application relocation.

21. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 20, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the source ES, the connection information of the target AS to the SMF or the PCF.

22. An application relocation apparatus, comprising a unit or a means configured to perform the application relocation method according to any one of claims 1 to 8.

23. An application relocation apparatus, comprising a unit or a means configured to perform the application relocation method according to any one of claims 9 to 21.

24. A communication system, comprising a source application server AS and a source enabler server ES,

wherein the source AS is configured to:

send a subscription request to a source enabler server, ES, wherein the subscription request indicates to notify the source AS when the source ES determines that a target AS exists;

wherein the source ES is configured to:

receive the subscription request from the source AS;

obtain first information, wherein the first information is location information of user equipment, UE, after a user plane path of a protocol data unit PDU session of the UE changes;

determine the target AS based on the first information; and

send a notification message to the source AS, wherein the notification message comprises connection information of the target AS

wherein the source AS is further configured to:

receive the notification message from the source ES; and

determine to relocate a context of user equipment UE from the source AS to the target AS.

25. A communication method, comprising:

sending, by a source application server, AS, a subscription request to a source enabler server, ES, wherein the subscription request indicates to notify the source AS when the source ES determines that a target AS exists;

receiving, by the source ES, the subscription request;

obtaining, by the source ES, first information, wherein the first information is location information of user equipment, UE, after a user plane path of a protocol data unit PDU session of the UE changes; and

determining, by the source ES, the target AS based on the first information;

sending, by the source ES, a notification message to the source AS, wherein the notification message comprises connection information of the target AS;

receiving, by the source AS, the notification message; and

determining, by the source AS, to relocate a context of user equipment UE from the source AS to the target AS.

26. A computer storage medium, comprising computer program code, wherein when the computer program code is run on a processor, the processor is enabled to perform the application relocation method according to any one of claims 1 to 21.