

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method, comprising
receiving a radio access network (RAN)-user equipment (UE) identifier from a first
access and mobility management function (AMF), the RAN-UE identifier configured to identify
a UE or UE context for a RAN;
producing an AMF-UE identifier, the AMF-UE identifier configured to identify the UE or
10 UE context for a second AMF;
selecting a transport network layer association (TNLA) link towards a RAN; and
sending the AMF-UE identifier to the RAN.
2. The method of claim 1, comprising:
15 sending the AMF-UE identifier to the RAN via the TNLA link.
3. The method of claim 1, comprising:
selecting a TNLA link identifier that identifies the TNLA link; and
sending the TNLA link identifier and the AMF-UE identifier to the first AMF.
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4. The method of claim 1, wherein the UE context is associated with UE context
information, wherein the UE context information comprises information selected from the group
consisting of: a UE identifier, a UE security state parameter, a UE mobile state parameter, and a
UE mobility parameter.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the RAN-UE identifier is a RAN UE N2AP ID .
- 5 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the AMF-UE identifier is an AMF UE N2AP ID.
7. A method, comprising:
- receiving a message including a first access and mobility management function (AMF)-
user equipment (UE) identifier that identifies a UE or UE context for a first AMF from a radio
10 access network (RAN);
- retrieving UE context information from a data store using the first AMF-UE identifier;
- producing a second AMF-UE identifier, the second AMF-UE identifier configured to
identify the UE or UE context for a second AMF; and
- 15 sending the second AMF-UE identifier to the RAN.
8. The method of claim 7, comprising sending a N2 message via an N2 interface to the
RAN, the N2 message comprising the second AMF-UE identifier.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the second AMF-UE identifier is an AMF UE N2AP ID.

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10. The method of claim 7, wherein the UE context information comprises information selected from the group consisting of: a UE identifier, a UE security state parameter, a UE mobile state parameter, and a UE mobility parameter.
- 5 11. An apparatus, comprising:
- a receiver configured to receive a radio access network (RAN)-user equipment (UE) identifier from a first access and mobility management function (AMF), the RAN-UE identifier configured to identify a UE or UE context for a RAN;
- at least one processor configured to:
- 10 produce an AMF-UE identifier, the AMF-UE identifier configured to identify the UE or UE context for a second AMF; and
- select a transport network layer association (TNLA) link towards a RAN; and
- a transmitter configured to:
- send the AMF-UE identifier to the RAN.
- 15 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
- the transmitter is further configured to:
- send a TNLA link identifier to the RAN via the TNLA link.
- 20 13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
- the at least one processor is further configured to select a TNLA link identifier that identifies the TNLA link; and

the transmitter is further configured to send the TNLA link identifier and the AMF-UE identifier to the first AMF.

14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the UE context is associated with UE context information, and wherein the UE context information comprises information selected from the group consisting of: a UE identifier, a UE security state parameter, a UE mobile state parameter, and a UE mobility parameter.

15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the RAN-UE identifier is a RAN UE N2AP ID.

16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the AMF-UE identifier is an AMF UE N2AP ID.

17. An apparatus, comprising:
a receiver configured to receive a message including a first access and mobility management function (AMF)-user equipment (UE) identifier that identifies a UE or UE context for a first AMF from a radio access network(RAN);
at least one processor configured to:
retrieve UE context information from a data store using the first AMF-UE identifier; and
produce a second AMF-UE identifier, the second AMF-UE identifier configured to identify the UE or UE context for a second AMF; and
a transmitter configured to send the second AMF-UE identifier to the RAN.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the transmitter is further configured to send a N2 message via a N2 interface to the RAN, the N2 message comprising the second AMF-UE identifier.
- 5 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the second AMF-UE identifier is an AMF UE N2AP ID.
20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the UE context information comprises information selected from the group consisting of: a UE identifier, a UE security state parameter, a UE
10 mobile state parameter, and a UE mobility parameter.
21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first AMF-UE identifier is an AMF UE N2AP ID.
22. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the message is received at a second AMF from the
15 RAN.