

TRAFFIC FLOW PROCESSING METHOD, APPARATUS, AND SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

This application discloses a traffic flow processing method, apparatus, and system, to provide a method for supporting a user plane network element in flexibly performing traffic flow processing based on a traffic flow steering status of a terminal device. The method includes: A
5 terminal device receives first policy information from a session management network element, where the first policy information includes a first processing method for an uplink traffic flow; if the terminal device meets a first condition, determines a second processing method for the uplink traffic flow or a downlink traffic flow; and sending first notification information to a user plane
10 network element, where the first notification information is for notifying the user plane network element to determine a third processing method for the downlink traffic flow. In this method, after meeting the first condition, the terminal device sends the first notification information to the user plane network element, to assist the user plane network element in determining whether to update a steering mode of a corresponding traffic flow. This effectively prevents the user plane network
15 element from blindly determining a downlink steering policy.

Fig. 4