CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A multi-link communication setup method, comprising:

sending (S101), by a first station of a non-access point multi-link device, non-AP MLD, a first association request frame on a first link, wherein the first association request frame comprises a multi-link element, the multi-link element comprises indication information, and the indication information indicates a second link; and

receiving (S102), by the first station of the non-AP MLD, a first association response frame on the first link, wherein the first association response frame comprises a first status code field and a multi-link element, the multi-link element of the first association response frame comprises a second status code field; and characterized in that:

a value of the first status code field is not 0, to indicate that the first link is not accepted; and the second status code field is set to a first value that is 139, to indicate that a cause why the second link is not accepted is that the first link is not accepted.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first status code field is a status code field located outside the multi-link element of the first association response frame.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the second status code field is a status code field comprised in a STA profile subfield of a per-STA profile subelement.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the second status code field is set to a first value that is 139, to indicate that a cause why the second link is not accepted is only because the first link is not accepted.

5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein after the receiving, by the first station of the non-AP MLD, a first association response frame on the first link, the method further comprises:

sending (S103), by a second station of the non-AP MLD, a second association request frame on the second link; and

receiving (S104), by the second station of the non-AP MLD, a second association response frame on the second link.

6. A communication apparatus, wherein the communication apparatus comprises a processing

unit (20) and a transceiver unit (10), and the processing unit (20) is configured to control the transceiver unit (10) to:

send a first association request frame on a first link, wherein the first association request frame comprises a multi-link element, the multi-link element comprises indication information, and the indication information indicates a second link; and

receive a first association response frame on the first link, wherein the first association response frame comprises a first status code field and a multi-link element, the multi-link element of the first association response frame comprises a second status code field; and characterized in that:

a value of the first status code field is not 0, to indicate that the first link is not accepted; and the second status code field is set to a first value that is 139, to indicate that a cause why the second link is not accepted is that the first link is not accepted.

7. The communication apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the transceiver unit (10) is further configured to:

send a second association request frame on the second link; and

receive a second association response frame on the second link.

8. The communication apparatus according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the first status code field is a status code field located outside the multi-link element of the first association response frame.

9. The communication apparatus according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the second status code field is a status code field comprised in a STA profile subfield of a per-STA profile subelement.

10. The communication apparatus according to any one of claims 6 to 9, wherein the second status code field is set to a first value that is 139, to indicate that a cause why the second link is not accepted is only because the first link is not accepted.

11. A computer-readable storage medium, wherein the computer-readable storage medium is configured to store a computer program, and when the computer program is executed, the method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 is performed by a non-access point multi-link device, non-AP MLD.