

CLAIMS

1. A method for indicating a purpose of a network handover, comprising:

obtaining, by a first device, a fallback identifier in a process of handing over a radio access technology, RAT, of a terminal device from a first radio access network to a second radio access network, wherein the fallback identifier indicates a purpose of handing over the RAT of the terminal device from the first radio access network to the second radio access network, and the first radio access network and the second radio access network are under different communication protocol versions, wherein the first radio access network is a new radio, NR, network, and the second radio access network is a long term evolution, LTE, network, and

wherein the fallback identifier indicates that the purpose of handing over the RAT of the terminal device from the first radio access network to the second radio access network is to establish for the terminal device a voice service under the second radio access network.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the obtaining, by a first device, a fallback identifier in a process of handing over an RAT of a terminal device from a first radio access network to a second radio access network comprises:

obtaining, by the first device, the fallback identifier in a process of handing over the RAT of the terminal device from the first radio access network to the second radio access network in a first handover mode, wherein in the first handover mode, a core network for the first radio access network remains unchanged, an internal network element of the core network remains unchanged, and the core network serving the first radio access network simultaneously serves the second radio access network.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein in the first handover mode, a core network, 5GC, for the NR network remains unchanged, an access and mobility management function, AMF, of the 5GC remains unchanged, and the 5GC serving the NR network simultaneously serves the LTE network.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the first device is an AMF device, the obtaining, by the first device, the fallback identifier comprises: receiving, by the AMF device, the fallback identifier from an access network device.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein after the receiving, by the AMF device, the fallback identifier from an access network device, the method further comprises:

sending, by the AMF device, the fallback identifier to a session management function, SMF.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the obtaining, by a first device, a fallback identifier in a process of handing over an RAT of a terminal device from a first radio access

network to a second radio access network comprises:

obtaining, by the first device, the fallback identifier in a process of handing over the RAT of the terminal device from the first radio access network to the second radio access network in a third handover mode, wherein a core network for the first radio access network is switched to a core network for the second radio access network in the third handover mode.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the first radio access network is an NR network, the second radio access network is an LTE network, and a 5GC for the NR network is switched to an evolved packet core, EPC, for the LTE network in the third handover mode.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the first device is a session management function + core packet gateway, SMF+PGW-C, device,
the obtaining, by the first device, the fallback identifier comprises:
receiving, by the SMF+PGW-C device, the fallback identifier from an access network device.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the receiving, by the SMF+PGW-C device, the fallback identifier from an access network device comprises:

receiving, by the SMF+PGW-C device, the fallback identifier forwarded by an AMF device from the access network device.

10. A network device, comprising:

a processing unit, configured to obtain a fallback identifier in a process of handing over a radio access technology, RAT, of a terminal device from a first radio access network to a second radio access network, wherein the fallback identifier is used for indicating a purpose of handing over the RAT of the terminal device from the first radio access network to the second radio access network, and the first radio access network and the second radio access network are under different communication protocol versions, wherein the first radio access network is a new radio, NR, network, and the second radio access network is a long term evolution, LTE, network, and

wherein the fallback identifier indicates that the purpose of handing over the RAT of the terminal device from the first radio access network to the second radio access network is to establish for the terminal device a voice service under the second radio access network.

11. The network device according to claim 10, wherein the processing unit is configured to:
obtain the fallback identifier in a process of handing over the RAT of the terminal device from the first radio access network to the second radio access network in a first handover mode, wherein in the first handover mode, a core network for the first radio access network remains unchanged, an internal network element of the core network remains unchanged, and the core network serving the first radio access network simultaneously serves the second radio access

network.

12. The network device according to claim 10, wherein the processing unit is configured to:
obtain the fallback identifier in a process of handing over the RAT of the terminal device
from the first radio access network to the second radio access network in a third handover mode,
5 wherein a core network for the first radio access network is switched to a core network for the
second radio access network in the third handover mode.

13. A network device, comprising a processor, a memory configured to store instructions, a
communication interface configured to communicate with other network elements under control
of the processor which is connected to the memory and the communication interface, wherein
10 execution of the instructions stored in the memory enables the processor to implement the
method according to any one of claims 1 to 9.