



Report

Annual ITU Regional Forum on Development for CIS Countries “The Policy and Strategy for ICT Development in the CIS Region and Regulatory Aspects”

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 22-23 May 2012

The **Annual ITU Regional Forum on Development for CIS Countries “The Policy and Strategy for ICT Development in the CIS Region and Regulatory Aspects”** was carried out by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in cooperation with the Communication Administration of Republic of Moldova and National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of Moldova in the city of **Chisinau, Republic of Moldova from 22 to 23 May 2012.**

The main subject of the Forum were issues of the ICT sector development in the CIS Region, issues of ICT policy and strategy, issues of regulations in the field of communications, as well as issues of interaction between public administration bodies and independent regulatory bodies for the ICT sector development. The Forum programme was prepared with participation of the CIS Communication Administrations, and regulators, moreover, opinions of the ITU-D Sector Members from the CIS Region were taken into consideration, and the programme was approved by them as a document, which maximally comprehends all aspects of the ICT development in the CIS Region and roles of all players of the ICT market.



Within the framework of the Forum, following issues were covered:

- ICT development level in the CIS Region. Main indexes of ICT development in the Region in reference to other regions of the world. Education and research in ICT in the CIS Region.
- Forming of regional and country strategy of provision and extend of the broad band connection in the CIS Region. Strategy of growth.
- Reforming of telecommunication sector, institutional reform: creation of independent regulatory bodies in the CIS countries, experience.
- Cyber environment: strategy and tasks. Legislative norms to guarantee cybersecurity and protect children in on-line environment. Role of regulatory bodies and policy-making bodies in the field of cybersecurity.
- Issues of licensing of convergent and broadband services.
- Resolution of disputes between the service providers.

- WRC-12 decisions, tasks as a result of WRC-12 decisions. International aspects of migration to digital TV broadcasting.

Leading specialists in the field, representatives of communication ministries and regulators, leading telecommunication companies, research and scientific institutions and universities of the CIS made presentations at the Forum.

The Forum was opened by the Minister of Information Technologies and Communication of Republic of Moldova, Pavel Filip, who addressed to the audience with a welcome speech. Welcome speeches were also given by the Director of the National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of Moldova Sergiu Sytnik and the BDT Deputy Director Yuri Grin.

Special postage stamp “Posta Moldovei” issued on the occasion of the Forum was presented at the opening ceremony.

93 persons participated in the Forum , including experts, representatives of communications ministries, regulators, universities, research and scientific institutions and telecommunication companies of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, as well as representatives of ITU.

The Forum was attended by one minister, two deputy ministers, one director of regulator, two deputy directors of regulators, one rector of academy, and one president of academy (both academicians).

During two days of the Forum, 22 presentations were made, which excited interest of the audience and numerous questions (final version of the programme attached, for the better understanding).

Based on the Forum results, a roundtable was hold chaired by the BDT Deputy Director, Yuri Grin.



When opening the roundtable, Mr. Grin thanked the Minister of Information Technologies and Communications of Republic of Moldova and the Director of the National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of Moldova for excellent organizational arrangements and informative programme of the Forum. Mr. Grin also thanked the speakers for interesting presentations. After summing up results of the Forum, Mr. Grin briefed the audience of the ITU-D role in organization of similar events in America and Africa he personally attended. When telling about his participation in the African forum, Mr. Grin noted high level of the participants. In conclusion, Mr. Grin noted one more time a high level of Moldova event and thanked the hosting part. The roundtable was also attended by the Deputy Minister of Information Technologies and Communications of Republic of Moldova, Ms. Dona Shkola and Deputy Director of the National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of Moldova Mr. Yuri Ursu. All the participants had an opportunity to express their opinions on the Forum and propose possible subject and format of future forums.

The Forum participants unanimously noted:

- Excellent organizational arrangements, content-richness of the programme, topicality of the issues considered;

- Practical significance of the presentations made for ministries, regulators and companies and universities specialized in ICT.

1. Representative of Azerbaijan, having expressed his satisfaction with information obtained at the Forum and informed the audience of the ICT development in Azerbaijan, proposed to include the e-government issue into programme of next regional forum.

2. Representative of Kazakhstan, having noted active work of the ITU Area Office for CIS and topicality of the issues considered by the Forum for the policy-makers in the ICT field and equipment providers, proposed the public private partnership issue as a subject of next regional forum.

3. First Deputy Director – State Secretary of the State Communication Agency under the Government of Kyrgyz Republic, after appreciation of the Forum, specially noted the presentation of Ms. Abdrakhmanova from Russia and presentation of the child protection in the Internet, made by the representative of Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications named after A.Popov, Ukraine, and presentation of representative of Moldova “Digital Moldova 2020”, and expressed intention to start cooperation on the above issues with colleagues from Ukraine and Moldova.

4. Representative of Moldova, having thanked the Forum participants for the high evaluation of the event and expressed readiness of the Communication Administration of Moldova to host similar events in the future, suggested to reduce number of issues to be considered at a forum and pay more attention to exchange of opinions at the roundtable.

5. Representative of Russia, Head of Department of the Ministry of Communications and Mass Media offered a number of issues to be considered by next forum, which could be interesting for Russia: information society dimension, public private partnership, reforming of regulatory bodies, licensing liberalization (as a result of Russia’s WTO membership), national segment of the Internet, quality of services.

6. Deputy Chairman of the State Communication Service of Republic of Tajikistan in his short speech highly appreciated the event and thanked the organizers and the participants.

7. Representative of Uzbekistan, having thanked the Forum organizers and speakers, proposed to include the issue of transition to one dial-up number for emergency services (112) and to international principle of dialing “0”.

8. Representative of Ukraine, Rector of Odessa National Academy of Communications named after A.Popov (ITU-D Sector Member) noted good organizational arrangements of the Forum and topicality of the issues considered, highly appreciated activities of the ITU Area Office for the CIS, which gives it positive results.

9. One more representative of Republic of Moldova, from Defence Ministry, noted a good organizational arrangement of the event and topicality of the issues considered, suggested to include issues of cybercrime and tariff policy (especially for services provided to security structures during certain events) into programme of next forum.

10. In conclusion, the floor was taken by Head of the ITU Area Office for CIS, Mr. Orozobek Kaiykov. He thanked the Communication Administration of Moldova and its partners for participation in organization of the Forum and the workshop on migration from IPv4 to IPv6, as well as participants of the roundtable, who offered some issues for consideration at next regional forum. Mr. Kaiykov informed the audience that all the suggested issues had been included into agendas of forthcoming ITU workshops

and forums in the CIS Region within the framework of the OP-12: issue of public private partnership will be considered at the workshop in Kyrgyzstan in August 2012, tariff issues – at the workshop in Kiev, Ukraine in September 2012 and in Baku, Azerbaijan in October 2012, issues of information society dimension – at the workshop in Baku in October or November of 2012, while the next workshop in June in St. Petersburg will be dedicated to radiocommunication development. Mr. Kaiykov also noted, that the Forum serves the purposes of Resolution 25 and Resolution 179 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, Mexico 2010) and Resolutions 11, 20, 37, and 48 of the World Conference of Telecommunication Development (Hyderabad, India 2010) and lines C01, C02, C06, and C11 of the World Summit on Information Society.

Mr. Grin, Ms. Shkola, and Mr. Ursu thanked the participants one more time. The Forum was closed.

The Annual ITU Regional Forum on Development for CIS countries was held at a high level.

Bilateral Meeting within the framework of the Regional Forum on Development

*On 22 May, second day of the Forum, from 15:30 to 16:30, a **bilateral meeting** between the Communication Administration of Moldova and International Telecommunication Union took place. The Communication Administration was represented by the Minister of Information Technologies and Communications of Republic of Moldova, Mr. **Pavel Filip** and Head of Department of International Cooperation and European Integration of the Ministry, Mr. **Vitalie Tarlev**. ITU was represented by the BDT Deputy Director Mr. **Yuri Grin**, Head of the ITU Area Office for the CIS Mr. **Orozobek Kaiykov**, and Programme Officer of the ITU Area Office for the CIS Mr. **Andrei Untila**.*

Mr. Grin thanked the Ministry for the warm reception and high appreciation of the ITU activities in the world and in the region and shortly briefed the meeting participants about other regional forums he attended: in America and Africa. Also, Mr. Grin told about a number of summits he participated: Connect Africa in 2007 and Connect CIS in 2009, as well as about forthcoming summits Connect Arab States and Connect America Minister of Communication and Information Technologies of Azerbaijan Republic, Mr. Ali Abbasov plans to attend. According to Mr. Grin, Mr. Abbasov is a member of the Broad Band Connection Commission and actively works in this field. Mr. Grin also told about ITU global events planned for 2012: Global Symposium of Regulators, World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, World Conference on International Telecommunications, ITU Telecom World Exhibition, Consultative Group on Telecommunication Development, and meetings of Study Group 1 and Study Group 2 of the ITU-D.

*Mr. Filip, in his turn, thanked ITU for extension of the project on creation of the Internet access points in rural areas of Moldova, which is to be completed soon. Also, Mr. Filip told about conception of **Digital Moldova 2020** and his view on this conception. Mr. Filip addressed to ITU with the **request to assist in its elaboration**. The Ministry was proposed to form its expectations and fix tasks to be realized within the framework of the supposed assistance, and after that, it will be decided in which way and by whose efforts this assistance will be rendered.*

Mr. Grin thanked the participants of the representatives of the Ministry for the kind invitation to carry out the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Telecommunication Development Conference for CIS 2014 in Chisinau.

The parts thanked each other for the fruitful meeting.

Conclusion: The Communication Administration of Republic of Moldova requested expert assistance in elaboration of the conception of Digital Moldova 2020.

Recommendations: ITU Area Office for CIS is to consider an opportunity of providing expert assistance to the Communication Administration of Republic of Moldova in elaboration of the conception of Digital Moldova 2020.