

## **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM FOR CIS SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS**

### **1 Introduction**

The ITU Regional Development Forum for the CIS region (RDF-CIS) was organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 18 February 2013, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Moldova (Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Moldova).

This meeting was held on the eve of the ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for the CIS region (RPM-CIS) with the main goal to consider setup key trends in the development of telecommunications/ICT over the past year. Its main objective was to have an open and interactive exchange of opinions and discussions to improve telecommunication/ICT in the CIS countries. Outcomes of the meeting will serve as an input to the RPM-CIS and preparatory process of the overall review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10).

The meeting was attended by around 90 participants representing 10 Member States from the CIS region and 2 other Member State, 2 recognized operating agencies, 3 scientific/industrial organizations and 5 other entities dealing with telecommunications and 5 regional and international organizations. The list of participants can be found [here](#).

This report provides brief overview issues discussed and challenges identified during the meeting. Annex includes meeting agenda.

### **Session 1: Trends in telecommunications/ICT development in the CIS**

This session focused on providing an overview of the efforts made by countries in the CIS region to create a more dynamic ICT sector. It addressed examples of national concepts for ICT development, including programmes for broadband access, views on effective legislation, the role of the private sector in the creation of an enabling environment for the development of ICT, promotion of broadband access and development of e-services. Series of issues, challenges and proposals for follow-up were identified during the discussion, as follows:

- Delivery of public e-services and e-literacy is an important challenge in the region that needs to be addressed in coordinated manner.
- There are significant efforts directed towards elaboration of strategies for the region, with the aim to standardize legislation, plans and actions of all administrations of CIS. Nevertheless there is a need for model laws and concrete strategies facilitating development of the ICT sector.
- Monitoring of trends and collection of appropriate ICT statistics are important for development of ICT policies and strategies. Timely collection of statistical information and its transmission to appropriate regional and international bodies has strategic meaning.
- While internet of things is becoming a reality and wins importance for socio-economic development, there are several challenges, including the following: need for new algorithms, protocols, transition to IPv6, interoperability, security paradigms, computing power, information management etc.

- Cybersecurity is vital to further development of e-services in the region. There is significant work going on in this field, in particular within the framework of the ITU Study Group 17. Involvement of stakeholders in ongoing works is indispensable.
- There is a need for coordinated approach for implementation of digital signature in CIS countries. Case study of Moldova provided good example how this challenge might be addressed. In Moldova digital signature was introduced through authentication principle, which was developed based on sim cards. This enables delivery of series of e-services through government, administration, banking, commerce etc. Appropriate legal framework gives digital signature the same legal status as it would be a real one.
- Public-private partnership was suggested as an efficient way for implementation of projects, like digital signature. Close cooperation between all stakeholders based on win-win approach is compulsory. Each country has its own particularities and legal set-up. In this context it is compulsory that Governments develop appropriate strategies. Regional coordination and international cooperation in this context is important.
- Slow development of the legal basis enabling development of the e-services triggered discussion leading towards concrete proposal of taking actions at the regional level to develop regional approach for legal framework in field of e-services. RCC will initiate the works in close collaboration with Moldova.

## **Session 2: Enabling Environment for the development of the Telecommunication/ICT sector in the CIS: Broadband Policy, e Applications, and cyber security.**

This session addressed key trends in ICT development in CIS countries, in particular infrastructure building, especially for broadband access, Internet development, including broadband Internet, investment in the ICT Sector over the last few years, the development of ICT services and measures taken by countries to enhance security and confidence in the use of ICT.

Open exchange of experiences and in-depth discussion led towards identification of series of key challenges faced by CIS countries while offering practical solutions for the promotion of ICT services. The following presents some of issues discussed:

- Strategic meaning of broadband infrastructure and e-services for socio-economic development of CIS countries was reiterated. Rural areas still remains a challenge for many countries and significant efforts need to be dedicated in order to avoid broadband divide.
- Even though in some countries fixed broadband is still at low level, rapid implementation of 4G technologies creates an opportunity for connecting people to broadband.
- Several countries reported on their national strategies, noting evolution of the policy frameworks for ICT ecosystem, taking into account convergence in the ICT sector, i.e. mobile and fixed technologies, broadband infrastructure and access, broadcasting, e-services, etc.
- Creation of digital content and e-services will have positive impact on demand, fostering investment in the infrastructure. While many countries are doing progress in implementation of e-government services, and even creating single window for service delivery to citizens and private sectors many challenges need to be addressed by administrations, including security issues, digital signature, document flow, communication systems, cloud computing. Coordinated approach between administrations might possibly accelerate implementation of such e-services.
- Ongoing coordination of efforts in the region led towards creation of new Strategy and Action Plan on Information Society up to 2015, where broadband, e-applications, cybersecurity and capacity building remains on the top of the agenda. While institutional setup for implementation of this strategy is under processing, administrations reiterated importance for this regional approach.
- Work on cybersecurity under ITU Study Group 17 results in elaboration series of technical recommendations. It was suggested to create a regional group to facilitate development of the standards reflecting regional views and interests, including those in field of security. It was recommended that existing structures should be used instead of setting up new structures.

## **Session 3: Development of Public-Private Partnership for Improved Capacity-building in the ICT Sector**

This session examined the capacity for mutually profitable cooperation between public institutions, private sector and scientific/educational institutions for improved capacity building in the ICT Sector. It focused on the potential for closer cooperation between universities, telecommunication companies, the private sector and ITU-D in the field of personnel training for the ICT Sector.

- It was noted that high-level of innovation dynamics in the ICT industry requires close collaboration between educational entities and the ICT industry.
- Higher education entities need to work hand in hand with private sector in order to ensure that training curriculums are up-to-date and reflect real needs of industry.
- There is a lot of interest of the private sector in fostering human capacity building in CIS. Several win-win partnerships were presented during the meeting. It included PPPs on testing centers and academic chairs set up thanks to the private sector.
- Distance and remote education is an important mechanism in building human capacity in many CIS countries. Exchange of best practices in this field would be of high value.
- Close cooperation between higher education establishments in CIS is important. Initiatives like International Rectors' Conference of Telecommunication Universities, was noted as effective mechanism for coordination amongst academic institutions.
- New approach for the ITU Academy was noted, as a new mechanism for building human capacity worldwide. New approach leading towards certification with academic accreditation was appreciated. Stakeholders were encouraged to cooperate with ITU on the project.

#### **Session 4. Roundtable Dialogue: The future of the information society in the CIS**

This session provided an opportunity for a roundtable discussion on all issues considered in sessions 1, 2, 3 of the Forum, with participation of representatives of all CIS countries, ITU-D Sector Members, as well as invited participants. The main objectives of the round table was: to identify "bottlenecks" in ICT development; bring to light obstacles to creating free competition in the ICT market and non-discriminatory access to infrastructure and frequency resources; find possible solutions to the problem of distortion and discriminatory practices in price settings; trace ways of creating an integrated infrastructure and avoid the appearance of parallel infrastructures, in particular for countries with limited resources. Also, the roundtable participants had an opportunity to share their views on influence of implementation of the WSIS outcomes on the future of the information society.

The Forum recognized:

- Necessity of collaboration and close cooperation between state bodies and the private sector companies, as well as the higher education institutions.
- Need for creation of a specialized fund for the purposes of upgrading qualifications and capacity building of the CIS countries. The fund could be created through private-public partnership, in particular at the cost of communication providers.
- Necessity of creation of a teaching resource e-database aimed at facilitation of a system of education, training and advanced training for the CIS countries in the field of infocommunication, including the possibility to use information resource of ITU.

The Forum encouraged to support:

- The international project on the Centres of Excellence, initiated by ITU and supported by many countries, with special attention to search for new sources of financing and ways to ensure financial sustainability of the Centres of Excellence.
- Development of cooperation between higher education institutions of the CIS countries, providing specialist trainings in the field of infocommunication technologies and communications systems.
- Development of activities at the telecommunication universities as an essential mechanism leading towards upgrading qualifications of teaching staff and practical training of the students.

The Forum recommended to telecommunication providers and IT companies to:

- Provide students with paid jobs based on programmes and schedules agreed with specialized universities;

- Take active part in composing of curriculums and programmes of the CIS higher education institutions, which provide professional training in the field of infocommunication technologies and communication system.

The Forum considered a number of upcoming trends in the activities in the field of ICT, which appeared after the World Summit on the Information Society, including:

- broadband access and mobility;
- future Internet, including the Internet of things, "smart" networks and objects, etc.;
- potential of the ICTs and climate change;
- use of ICTs in emergency situations;
- energy efficiency and ecology;
- environment friendliness;
- virtualization and cloud computing;
- trust, identification, intellectual property rights;
- social networks;
- expanding rights and opportunities, as well as protection of vulnerable groups of society, especially of children and youth, as well as of people with disabilities;
- further internationalization of the Internet governance and international efforts aimed at building confidence and security in field of information, energy, and transport.

Moreover Forum recommended to further study above listed trends and use results in preparatory process of the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and identification vision beyond 2015.

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Chairman, RDF-CIS

Pavel Filip, Minister of Information Technology and Communications

Republic of Moldova

18 February 2013, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova



**ITU Regional Development Forum for the CIS**  
**«Trends in the Development of Telecommunications/ICT in the CIS**  
**Region »**



***Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 18 February 2013***

**Agenda**

The Regional Development Forum participants will consider key trends in the development of telecommunications/ICT over the past year. Its main objective is to have an open and interactive exchange of opinions and discussions to improve telecommunication/ICT in the CIS countries.

**18 February 2013, Monday**

<b>08:30-09:00</b>	<b>Registration of the Forum participants</b>
<b>09:00—09:30</b>	<p align="center"><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Mr. Pavel Filip, Minister of Information Technology and Communications, Republic of Moldova</li> <li>- Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)/ITU</li> <li>- Mr. Nurudin Mukhitdinov, Director General, Executive Committee, Regional Commonwealth in field of Communications (RCC)</li> </ul>
<b>09:30 – 10:00</b>	<b>Break. Photograph of the Forum participants. Press-briefing</b>
<b>10:00 –11:30</b>	<p><b>Session 1: Trends in telecommunications/ICT development in the CIS</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Abstract</b></p> <p>This session will focus on providing an overview of the efforts made by countries in the CIS region to create a more dynamic ICT sector. It will address national concepts for ICT development, including programmes for broadband access, sharing of views on effective legislation, the role of the private sector in the creation of an enabling environment for the development of ICT and the promotion of broadband access. ICT in the future (Internet of Things and their Enablers – Internet of Nano-things; Trillion Networks, self-organizing networks, ubiquitous sensor networks (USN) as a technology base of IoT concept implementation; Swarm Intelligence; Heterogeneous LTE networks; Electromagnetic and Molecular Nano-networks.</p> <p align="center"><b>Moderator</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Mihaela Iacob</b>, Deputy Minister of Information Technology and Communications, Republic of Moldova</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panelists (TBC)</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Nurudin Mukhitdinov</b>, Director General, RCC Executive Committee</p> <p><b>Mr. Andrey Koucheryavy</b>, Deputy Director, Giprosvyaz, North-West Branch</p> <p><b>Mr. Evgeny Bondarenko</b>, Deputy Director General, Intervale CJSC, Vice –chairman of the SG-2, BDT</p> <p><b>Ms. Liudmila Climoc</b>, General Director, Orange Moldova</p> <p><i>The discussion will be based on the topics preliminarily proposed by the panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Of the ICT development trends in the RCC Member States</i></li> <li>- <i>Technologies of the future</i></li> <li>- <i>Implementation of joint WHO-ITU initiative</i></li> <li>- <i>Wireless broadband technologies</i></li> </ul>
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>12:00-13:30</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Enabling Environment for the development of the Telecommunication/ICT sector in the CIS: Broadband Policy, e Applications, and cyber security.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Abstract</b></p> <p>This session will address key trends in ICT development in CIS countries, in particular infrastructure building, especially for broadband access, Internet development, including broadband Internet, investment in the ICT Sector over the last few years, the development of ICT services and measures taken by countries to enhance security and confidence in the use of ICT. It will encourage an open exchange of experiences and challenges faced by CIS countries in these areas as well as offering practical solutions for the promotion of ICT services.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderator</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nurudin Mukhitdinov</b>, Director General of the RCC</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Panelists:</i></p> <p><b>Mr. Heydar Rustamov</b>, Head, Economic Analysis Sector, Finance, Accounting and Economic Analysis Department, Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies, Republic of Azerbaijan</p> <p><b>Mr. Dumitru Parfentiev</b>, Director, Electronic Communications Policy Directorate, Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications, Republic Moldova</p> <p><b>Mr. Leonid Velichko</b>, Deputy Director General, CJSC NPP Belsoft, Minsk, Republic of Belarus</p>

	<p><b>Mr. Alexei Domrachev</b>, Advisor, Department for State Policy in the field of E-government, Ministry of Communications and Mass Media, Russian Federation</p> <p><b>Mr. Alexander Sazonov</b>, Head of Division, National Certification Authority CJSC, Russian Federation</p> <p><b>Mr. Georgy Vuss</b>, Scientific Consultant, FSUE All-Russian Scientific and Research Institute for the issues of Computation and Informatization</p> <p><b>Ms. Tatiana Kholmurodova</b>, Deputy Chairperson, Communication Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan</p> <p><b>Mr. Arkady Kremer</b>, Chairman, SG-17, ITU-T</p> <p><i>The discussion will be based on the topics preliminarily proposed by the panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>ICT Policy and Development of Broadband Internet in Azerbaijan</i></li> <li>- <i>Current evolution of policy framework for ICT</i></li> <li>- <i>One stop principle as a fundamental of interaction between the state and citizens</i></li> <li>- <i>Of creation of transboundary trust space of the CIS countries in the Internet</i></li> <li>- <i>Of the tasks of the CIS base organization on methodical and organizational and technical support of the works in the field of information security and specialist training in the field</i></li> <li>- <i>Of creation of the RCC Regional Group for Cooperation with SG-17</i></li> </ul>
<b>13:30 – 14:45</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>14:45 – 15:45</b>	<p><b>Session 3: Development of Public-Private Partnership for Improved Capacity-building in the ICT Sector</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Abstract</b></p> <p>This session will examine the capacity for mutually profitable cooperation between public institutions, private sector and scientific/educational institutions for improved capacity building in the ICT Sector. It will focus on the potential for closer cooperation between universities, telecommunication companies, the private sector and ITU-D in the field of personnel training for the ICT Sector.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Moderator</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Artem Adzhemov</b>, Rector, Moscow Technical University of Communications and Informatics (MTUCI), Russian Federation</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Petro Vorobiyenko</b>, Rector, Odessa National Academy of Communications named after A.S.Popov, Ukraine</p> <p><b>Mr. Bayish Nurmatov</b>, Director, Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications under</p>

	<p>Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I.Razzakov, RRB Member, Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p><b>Mr. Anton Zarubin</b> , Vice-Rector , Saint-Petersburg State University of Telecommunications (SPbGUT) named after M.Bonch-Bruevich, Russian Federation</p> <p><b>Mr. Grigory Sagiyan</b>, Assistant Professor, Telecommunications Department, Russian-Armenian University; Vice President, Armenia Internet Society; Technical Director, Armyankoi company, Republic of Armenia</p> <p><b>Mr. Oleg Ievlev</b>, Vice–Rector, Moscow Technical University of Communications and Informatics (MTUCI), Russian Federation</p> <p><b>Mr. Cosmas Zavazava</b>, Chief, Project and Knowledge Management Department, BDT/ITU</p> <p><i>The discussion will be based on the topics preliminarily proposed by the panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Particularities of practical specialist training for the ICT;</i></li> <li>- <i>Specialist training for the ICT in Kyrgyz Republic;</i></li> <li>- <i>Review of subjects taught at universities and other educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia;</i></li> <li>- <i>Experiences of training for the ICT sector in SPbGUT named after M.A. Bonch – Bruevich;</i></li> <li>- <i>Improving teaching and methodological base for specialist training in ICT</i></li> <li>- <i>The ITU Academy.</i></li> </ul>
<b>15:45 – 16:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16:00-17:30</b>	<p><b>Session 4. Roundtable Dialogue: The future of the information society in the CIS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Abstract</b></p> <p>This session will provide an opportunity for a roundtable discussion on all issues considered in sessions 1, 2, 3 of the Forum, with participation of representatives of all CIS countries, ITU-D Sector Members, as well as invited participants. The main objectives of the round table are: to identify “bottlenecks” in ICT development; bring to light obstacles to creating free competition in the ICT market and non-discriminatory access to infrastructure and frequency resources; find possible solutions to the problem of distortion and discriminatory practices in price settings; trace ways of creating an integrated infrastructure and avoid the appearance of parallel infrastructures, in particular for countries with limited resources. Also, the roundtable participants will have an opportunity to share their views on influence of implementation of the WSIS objectives on the future of the information society.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Moderator:</b></p>



	<p><b>Ms. Mihaela Iacob</b>, Deputy Minister of Information Technology and Communications, the Republic of Moldova</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panelists</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Vladimir Minkin</b>, Chairman, Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)/BDT and ITU Council Group on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)</p> <p><b>Mr. Nurudin Mukhitdinov</b> , Director General, RCC Executive Committee</p> <p><b>Mr. Artem Adzhemov</b> , Rector, MTUCI, Russian Federation</p> <p><b>Mr. Andrey Koucheryavy</b> ,Deputy Director, Giprosvyaz, North-West Branch, Russian Federation</p> <p><i>The roundtable discussion will be based on the topics discussed during the day, as well as on information provided by Mr. Vladimir Minkin</i></p>
<b>17:30-18:00</b>	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Information Technology and Communications, Republic of Moldova</li> <li>- Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)/ITU</li> </ul>
<b>18:00-18:30</b>	Informal Meeting of Heads of Delegations
<b>18:30</b>	Reception on behalf of the Communication Administration of Moldova Coral Hall, Codru Hotel