

**WTDC-17 Regional Preparatory Meeting for CIS**

**11 November 2016, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**

**Mr Brahima Sanou,**

**Director of the ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau**

**Closing speech**

Mr. Eshmambet Amatov, Deputy Chairman, State Committee of Information Technologies and Communications and Chairman of the RPM,

Representatives of ITU Sector Members,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen:

We have reached the end of the first Regional Preparatory Meeting in preparation for WTDC-17.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Kyrgyz Republic for hosting this RPM and for its hospitality, generosity, kindness and friendship.

Over the last three days, we have been discussing the regional priorities for ICT development.

Before we had a very successful Regional Development Forum. The presentations and discussion definitely inspired our work during this RPM.

I am pleased to see that we have reached important milestones towards WTDC-17. The Regional Initiatives outlined in the Chairman's report cover issues of great importance: from e-health, education, and infrastructure, to natural resources future technologies such as Internet of things, innovation and partnership.

The report will serve as a basis and roadmap for the formulation of contributions to WTDC-17, when we will forge a global plan for telecommunication and ICT development over the next four years.

With this first RPM we have taken the first step to formulate our vision for the future.

Ladies and gentlemen:

I would also like to thank Mr. Sharshembiev, Chairman of the State Committee of Information Technologies and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic and his team.

I would like to thank Chairman Amatov, on behalf of all the participants, for his leadership. Under his guidance, all sessions ran very smoothly.

Special Thank to our vice-chairmen Mr. Kirill Oparin from the Russian Federation, Mr. Vadym Kaptur from Ukraine and Mr. Sanjar Alimov from Uzbekistan

Thanks to the observers Members States of USA and Lithuania who joined us for this RPM.

Special thanks go to all those who have been involved in the organization of this Meeting: the interpreters, the technicians, the volunteers and all those who have been working behind the scenes to make this event possible and successful.

TDAG Vice-Chairmen

Azerbaijan: Ms Nurzat Boljobekova

Vice-Chairmen study group 1

Mr Vadym KAPTUR (Ukraine)

Mr Almaz TILENBAEV (Kyrgyzstan)

Vice-Chairmen study group 2

Mr Henadz ASIPOVICH (Belarus)

Mr Evgeny BONDARENKO (Russian Federation)

My particular thanks to Gaspadin Nurmatov

I would like to thank ITU staff. This RPM has been prepared in the seamless manner by ITU staff in the HQs. Let me mention particularly Farid Nakhli who recently joined BDT.

Now let me come to someone who is special to all of us and to me particularly.

Someone I have known since I was regional director for Africa. Someone who is a hard worker with a military type discipline and result based orientation. Someone who above all is very human, very easy going, very nice to work with, always available for other, with a great sense of humor in front of any difficult situation. Someone who has always put the interest of membership above everything he does. Someone who has devoted part of his life to fully serve ITU and the CIS region. You know that I am talking about Gaspadin Orozobek Kaiykov. He has served with commitment and dedication as Head of the ITU office for CIS countries for almost 10 years. Gaspadin Kaiykov will retire from ITU on 30th November, in 20 days. This RPM is therefore his last important meeting as ITU staff. We need to celebrate today a great gentlemen who have served without counting, who has given without expecting to receive. I know that you are still very young because you climbed to the top of Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Europe in 2014. We all look forward to working with you in your new career path