
DECLARATION OF THE BISHKEK-MOSCOW CONFERENCE ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

We, participants of the Bishkek-Moscow Conference on the Information Society, address this Declaration to the Pan-European Regional Conference on the Information Society, Bucharest, 7-9 November 2002 in order to make a contribution of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications to the preparatory process of the World Summit on the Information Society.

We note that:

- building of the information society is one of the main trends of the mankind development. A human being with all the diversity of his interests is in the focus of the information society concept;
- development of the information and communication technologies (ICT) is of priority for carrying out socio-economic reforms in our countries;
- an important factor determining use of ICTs in our countries is a specific character of the region with its enormous distances, existence of remote, difficult of access areas with sparse population and also with significant differences in the level of economic development of the states;
- development and implementation of the national programmes for transition to the information society are necessary for successful development of ICTs;
- an important role in the interstate integration of information infrastructure in our region should be played by the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) and Coordination Council of the CIS members states on Informatization attached to the RCC.

We believe that:

- each person has to have the possibility of access to information and ICT facilities notwithstanding the gender, nationality, confession, social standing and residence;
- shaping of the information society should take place in the atmosphere of mutual trust of all the interested parties;
- when shaping information society the full-scale participation and co-operation of the state, business circles and civil society at the international, regional, national and local levels are necessary;
- improvement and harmonization of the legal base at the international and national levels are necessary for building the information society;
- intellectual, scientific and technical and educational potential accumulated in our countries can and should be used with the object of development of other countries;
- benefits of the ICTs are fully realized when the reliability and safety of the relevant technologies are insured;
- activities undertaken by international organizations aimed at prompt reaction to the cases of violations of information security, exchange of information and technical facilities for combat against violations are of great importance.

We come out for:

- preserving cultural and linguistic diversity of the information society;

- taking into account geographical location of the countries of the region;
- further development of scientific researches and training of qualified personnel in the field of ICTs;
- wider use of intellectual potential of our countries in the global division of labour through participation in international projects;
- solution of problems of intellectual property protection at national and international levels.

We reject the use of ICTs for the purposes incompatible with international stability and security, for criminal, including terrorist, purposes.

We consider it expedient to realize:

1. analysis of the existing and potential threats to information security, safety of information and communication networks and systems and also development and introduction of methods and facilities for combat against these threats;
2. enhancement of the scale of international co-operation in the sphere of ensuring safety of information and communication networks and systems;
3. development of international convention on security in the sphere of information and communication networks and systems.

We appeal to the international organizations and investors with a proposal to co-operate in development of the ICTs in the region, first of all in the following priority fields:

- a) development and implementation of a special programme of assistance to the less developed countries of the region taking into account the Istanbul Declaration and Action Plan for bridging digital divide taking account of local development peculiarities;
- b) development of the socially important information services, first of all telemedicine and distance learning;
- c) creation of a broad network of the public access at the local level including post offices which is to ensure equal rights and possibilities for population of remote, sparsely populated and difficult of access areas;
- d) use of high speed communication channels for national scientific and educational networks;
- e) provision of access to the world information resources for the broad masses of population of our countries.

The present Declaration was adopted on the base of the Resolutions of the Bishkek and Moscow stages of the Bishkek-Moscow Conference on the Information Society which are the integral part of the Declaration (Annexes 1, 2).

Moscow, 24 October 2002.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE BISHKEK-MOSCOW CONFERENCE
ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY**

**(First stage)
(Bishkek, 9-11 September 2002)**

This Conference initiated discussion on the challenges of advancing the information society in the CIS region and Turkey. This Conference is a first phase of the Bishkek-Moscow Conference of the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003). The second phase will take place in Moscow in October 2002. The conference was conducted at the Residence of the Kyrgyz Republic Government (Cholpon-Ata) on September 9-11, 2002. Twelve countries, with representatives from governments, private sector and civil society, participated at the conference along with representatives of international organizations.

A wide range of issues was discussed at the conference. Plenary sessions and “Round Tables” were arranged on the following topics:

- **People and the information society;**
- **Development of the infrastructure of the information society;**
- **Readiness for the information society**

The conference reviewed major challenges facing the creation of the information society, discussed new regional initiatives and assessed existing problems, as well as proposed ways of addressing them.

The Conference notes the following achievements in the participating countries:

- Intensive development of ICTs;
- Formulation of national ICT strategies and in the emergence of the information society;
- Availability of substantial scientific and technical capacity and a high level of general education in some participating countries.

The Conference recognizes the following major problems in the creation of the information society in the region:

- Substantial differences in the level of access to information resources between various social groups, rural and urban population, women and men.
- The problem of focusing donor resources.
- Obstacles in the access to the telecommunication infrastructure, including access to the market for new operators.
- The existing regulations in the telecom sector do not fully comply with modern requirements.
- Limited availability of the open statistic information on ICT markets.
- Lack of well-qualified personnel in the ICT area.

The Conference considers that:

- The concept of the Information Society gives priority to people and to the role of information in the era of globalization. Technology is not the ultimate objective of the Information

Society, but rather a key instrument for achieving the objectives of socio- economic development (poverty reduction; human, social and economic development).

- Civil society and private sector must participate at all levels in decision-making processes (local, national, regional and international); similarly, young people and women, as well as socially vulnerable groups must be included in ICT activities.
- The development of comprehensive regional cooperation frameworks in the use of ICTs is required to promote the development of the countries of the region.
- Formulation and adoption of national ICT strategies in the participating countries should be viewed as a positive development.
- Standard assessment criteria of the development of the information society should be defined.

The Conference of the countries of the CIS region and Turkey calls on governments and parliaments, non-governmental organizations and private sector to:

1. Improve laws and regulations facilitating the creation of the information society development; provide free access to public information.
2. Stimulate development of the electronic economy by implementing country-specific measures.
3. Stimulate the development of electronic payment systems and electronic trade within and among the countries; develop mechanisms to implement standards for document identification, electronic signature and information protection systems.
4. Facilitate readiness of the people to the conditions and opportunities of the information society.
5. Take steps ensuring equal opportunities for information access for various age and social groups and greater involvement of youth and socially vulnerable population strata in the process of information production and dissemination.
6. Improve information security activities.
7. Improve national systems of intellectual property protection to stimulate innovations; develop national systems of the evaluation of intellectual property.
8. Arrange for broad country-level discussions of the Memorandum of Understanding on the World Electronic Trust.
9. Encourage local authorities to implement ICT projects and apply new ICT-based services in public and economic affairs.
10. Stimulate research in the area of ICTs.
11. Conduct regular independent evaluations of the efficiency of donor assistance in the area of ICTs.
12. Develop a monitoring and evaluation system on the readiness to the information society.
13. Ensure support to research and educational centers for vocational training and re-training in ICT area.

14. Undertake a comprehensive set of measures at the level of statistical bodies, ministries and agencies to improve reliability and credibility of information describing the status of the information society.
15. Ensure state support in the creation of educational Web-sites at leading universities and development of electronic training curricular including distance learning technologies.
16. Create mechanisms encouraging the influx of human resources into the ICT area.
17. Assist in the preservation of national cultures and languages, develop content in local languages, promote the multilingual Internet, and create technical, linguistic and software tools in support of national languages.
18. Create enabling environment for small and medium size enterprises in ICT area.
19. Stimulate the development of content for children and adolescents and implement measures protecting them from information received through the Internet that might lead to unlawful acts or to an abuse of their rights and freedoms.
20. Divide functions of state regulation and service delivery in ICT area.
21. Assist in the application of universal service in communications.
22. Stimulate regional contests and related activities raising awareness about the Internet.
23. Ensure the use of ICTs as a means to reduce gender inequality.
24. Ensure equal participation of women in building the information society at local, national and regional level.

The Conference appeals to the international organizations and donors: The following directions have been prioritized for international cooperation and donor assistance:

- Access to informational resources of the developed countries.
- Creation of high-speed communication channels in the area of education and science.
- Establishment of national research and education networks.
- Creation of a wide network of collective public access points to ICTs at local level.
- Development of on-line language translators for countries in need.
- Implementation of small-scale grant-based ICT projects.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE BISHKEK-MOSCOW CONFERENCE
ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY
(Second stage)
(Moscow, 23-24 October 2002)**

The second stage of the Bishkek-Moscow Conference on the Information Society of the CIS Countries for Preparation for the World Summit on Information Society was held in Moscow (Russia) 23-24 October 2002.

Representatives of governments, business circles and civil society of the 10 countries took part in the Conference.

Within the Moscow stage plenary sessions and sessions of the sections were held:

Electronic services in the information society;

Role of a state and public organizations in development and ensuring of access to information and communication technologies;

Information safety.

The Conference considers that:

- Building of the information society is one of the main trends of the mankind development. A human being with all the diversity of his interests is in the focus of the information society concept.
- An important factor determining use of the information and communication technologies (ICTs) in our countries is a specific character of the region with its enormous distances, existence of remote, difficult of access areas with sparse population and also with significant differences in the level of economic development of the states.
- Improvement and harmonization of the legal base at the international and national levels are necessary for building of the information society.
- High intellectual, scientific and technical potential was accumulated in our countries and high level of general education is available in the ICT field. It is important to use it with the object of development of our countries and assistance to other countries.

The Conference comes out for:

- preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity of the information society, for taking into account specific geographical location of the countries of the region;
- further development of scientific researches and training of qualified personnel in the field of ICTs.

The Conference shares the universally recognized in the world community apprehension that ICTs can be used for the purposes incompatible with the tasks of ensuring world stability and security and can affect security of states.

Shaping of the information society should take place in the atmosphere of confidence on the part of all the interested parties. The benefits of the ICTs can be fully realized only when their reliability and safety are ensured. It is necessary to prevent use of the information resources and technologies for criminal, including terrorist, purposes.

The Conference considers it expedient to realize:

1. analysis of the existing and potential threats to information and communication networks and systems safety and also methods and facilities for combat against these threats;
2. enhancement of the scale of international co-operation in the sphere of ensuring safety of information and communication networks and systems;
3. development of international convention on security in the sphere of information and communication networks and systems.
4. Establishment of international organizations for prompt reaction to the cases of security violations, exchange of information and technical facilities for combat against violations.

The Conference believes that Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communication (RCC) and Coordination Council of the CIS member states on Informatization attached to the RCC should play an important role in the interstate integration of the information structure in our region. Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications is open for international co-operation with other states, business circles and civil society structures.

The Conference welcomes conclusion of the agreements between the RCC and ATU, CITEL and CEPT as important steps in development of interregional co-operation in the ICTs field which in its turn is one of the stages of the Global Information Society building.

The Conference appeals to the international organizations and investors with a proposal to co-operate in development of the ICTs in the region, first of all in the following priority fields:

- f) development and implementation of a special programme of assistance to the less developed countries of the region taking into account the Istanbul Declaration and Action Plan for bridging digital divide taking account of local development peculiarities;
- g) development of the socially important information services, first of all telemedicine and distance learning;
- h) creation of a broad network of the public access at the local level (“ciberpost”) which ensures equal rights and possibilities for population of remote, sparsely populated and difficult of access areas. Integration of the telecommunication and conventional post creates basis for implementation of the universal services which can become an important factor for progress in the regions through full-scale connection to international division of labour;
- d) prompt construction of high speed communication channels with maximum use of existing networks for creation of national scientific and educational networks.