

**ITU Forum on Conformance and Interoperability Testing in CIS and Europe Regions, Moscow (Russia),
9-11 November 2011–Opening speech by the Deputy Director of BDT, Mr Yuri Grin**

Esteemed Director,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

It gives me great pleasure to comply with the request of the Director of ITU's Development Bureau, Mr Brahim Sanou, and the Director of its Standardization Bureau, Mr Malcolm Johnson, by opening this **ITU Forum on Conformance and Interoperability Testing in CIS and Europe Regions**.

I should like first and foremost to express my deep gratitude to the Telecommunication Administration of the Russian Federation and to Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Central Science Research Telecommunication Institute" for their fruitful collaboration with ITU on the organization of this forum.

As you know, ITU develops international standards that are subsequently used in all countries and regions of the world. These standards (officially known as Recommendations) must therefore satisfy the requirements of the entire ITU membership, comprising 193 governments and over 700 private-sector entities.

ITU standards ensure interoperability so that items and equipment developed in accordance with them can be used anywhere in the world, irrespective of manufacturer or service provider.

Interoperability is an exceptionally difficult objective to achieve on a worldwide scale and with a multiplicity of interested parties. In pursuit of this objective, ITU is implementing a Conformance and Interoperability Programme (C&I Programme), which includes resolutions and decisions adopted by Member States at the various high-level conferences, such as the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, World Telecommunication Development Conference and World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, and ITU Council.

The C&I Programme comprises four key pillars:

- conformance testing to identify compatible items and equipment;
- interoperability testing of various manufacturers' products in which one or more standards are implemented;
- human capacity building through explanation of standards, training, and so on;
- assistance to developing countries in the establishment of regional and subregional test centres.

ITU also develops testing specifications for all new standards. This helps to increase competition, satisfy requirements with respect to existing equipment, reduce costs and lower the risk for users of being locked into a single manufacturer's product.

The Union is currently constructing a conformance database to register information on products that have been tested for conformity with ITU Recommendations. It can be populated both by ITU members and non-members.

The database is intended to contain reliable information obtained through conformance testing in accredited laboratories or by an accredited certification body. Further details on this will be provided later on in the seminar. Companies will also, voluntarily and directly, input data into the database, that data being authenticated by a Supplier's Declaration of Conformity issued in accordance with ISO standards.

ITU has already embarked upon a programme of interoperability events. In 2010, such events were held in Geneva, Singapore and India. Several IPTV manufacturers participated to demonstrate their adherence to ITU's IPTV standards and the interoperability between their own and other manufacturers' equipment.

The first event to test for interoperability under the ITU-T G.hn (home networking) standard was held in 2011. Other events are planned for Dubai and Geneva in the near future.

The third pillar of the C&I Programme is capacity building. ITU has already conducted events in Nairobi, Quito and Accra. The current event is in Moscow, and the Union is looking forward to holding more seminar-workshops and training activities on this subject. At the regional level, occupational training and expert consultation events are being held, including on the subject of guidelines for the establishment of test laboratories. In 2011, such events have been held in Africa and the CIS countries, and in 2012 are due to be held in the Asia-Pacific Region, North and South America and the Arab States.

The fourth pillar of the Programme – and the subject of this event – is helping in the establishment of regional or subregional test centres. We are currently working with a number of countries that are interested in setting up such centres. ITU's first project is with ZNIIS, within the framework of the CIS regional initiative adopted by WTDC-06 in Doha, Qatar, entitled "Creation of international centres for the implementation and testing of new technologies" for the CIS Region. Another project is now under way in Tanzania. ITU's approach is that the countries of the region or subregion should themselves determine the location of each test centre, with the Union then providing the necessary assistance for its establishment.

To this end, ITU is, among other things, drawing up a set of guidelines on the establishment of testing laboratories for the conformance and interoperability testing of equipment and systems in developing countries.

We have begun to put together the basis of a business plan for the long term implementation of the C&I Programme which will include an ecological component, a road map for implementation of the actions, a budget, legal aspects, study group activities, and partnerships for taking the work forward.

ITU is continuing to focus on this important topic, in consultation with all its members and in collaboration with other standards development organizations, forums and consortiums.

Activities aimed at the enhancement of conformance and interoperability will ensure the more efficient use of the resources made available by modern ICTs and help in the achievement of ITU's mission to connect the world.

I should like to thank every one of you for your participation in our forum. I am confident that the discussions over the next three days will be conducive to the implementation of WTSA-10 Resolution 76, WTDC Resolution 47, and PP-10 Resolution 177

I wish you a fruitful event, and would like once again to thank our highly considerate hosts for their excellent organization of this seminar.

Thank you for your attention.
