



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/DDR/CIS/DM024

Geneva, 19 February 2024

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States,
- ITU-D Sector Members,
- Academia,
- Regulators,
- Regional and international organizations,
- Regional chairs and vice-chairs of the Advisory Groups (TSAG, TDAG, RAG) and ITU-D Study Groups in the CIS region

Subject: ITU Regional Development Forum (RDF) for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region (26-27 March 2024), Astana, Kazakhstan

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the **Regional Development Forum (RDF) for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Region (RDF-CIS)**, organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The forum will take place from 26 to 27 March 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan, and will be held in hybrid format with simultaneous interpretation in Russian and English.

RDF-CIS will report on the outcomes and ongoing implementation of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) held in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2022. Emphasis will be given to the five Regional Initiatives for CIS Region approved at WTDC-22 as well as other activities under the five ITU-D priority areas adopted at WTDC-22.

This year's RDF-CIS will focus on Partner2Connect (P2C) matchmaking between Member States needs and partner pledges under the P2C Digital Coalition. This initiative has so far attracted globally over 866 pledges with a value of over 37.95 billion US Dollars (as of 12 February 2024). The aim will be, together with partners, to operationalize these pledges and implement impactful projects across the CIS Region. New pledges could also be announced on this occasion.

The Annual Regional Development Forum for the CIS provides an opportunity for the exchange of views between ITU and its stakeholders including ITU Member States, Sector Members as well as other stakeholders in the CIS Region. It serves as a platform for an exchange of views on how to achieve meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in the region.

For more details on the agenda, please see the attached draft agenda in **Annex 1**.

Member-States and stakeholders who will attend the RDF-CIS and Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtables are invited to submit their written contributions to be used as basis for discussions, by using the

RDF-CIS Contributions Template (**Annex 2**) and submitting to: itu-ro-cis@itu.int, no later than 15 March 2024. This template is also available on the website of the event.

Finally, our Regional Development Forums are open to all stakeholders involved in digital development and digital transformation with an interest in forging multistakeholder partnerships. Key participants include telecommunication/ICT policymakers, regulators, industry, academia, United Nations Agencies, regional and international development agencies, and banks.

To participate, please register online via this [link](#), also available on the [RDF-CIS website](#), by no later than **18 March 2024**. Kindly refer to the event website for more details on the agenda and for updates on the event.

Following the RDF-CIS, the ITU Regional Forum on Digital Government will take place on 28-29 March 2024 at the same venue, with the kind support of the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan. A separate invitation letter will be sent to the ITU membership in the CIS region on this event.

For any additional enquiry, please contact the ITU Regional Office for CIS (email: itu-ro-cis@itu.int; telephone: +7 495 926 60 70).

I look forward to meeting you at this important event.

Yours faithfully,

(Original signed)

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director