



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/DIR/CIS/DM/026

Geneva, 21 July 2026

- Administrations of ITU Member States from the CIS region
- ITU-D Sector Members from the CIS region
- ITU Academia from the CIS region
- Regional Telecommunication Organization from the CIS region
- Intergovernmental Organizations operating satellite systems
- The United Nations and its Funds and Programmes
- Specialized agencies of the United Nations
- TDAG Bureau members
- Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ITU-D study groups

Subject: ITU Regional Development Forum for the CIS Region 2026, Dushanbe (Tajikistan), 29—30 September 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the **Regional Development Forum for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) 2026 (RDF-CIS)**, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the Communication Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Forum will be held from 29 to 30 September 2026 in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**, back-to-back with the 66th meeting of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC)'s Board of Ministers and the 33rd Coordination Council of the CIS Member States for Informatization under the RCC, to be held on 29 September 2026.

Under the theme '**Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future**', the Regional Development Forum for CIS Region serves as a platform for ITU and its stakeholders, including Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia, regional organizations, development partners and financial institutions, to discuss the progress in implementing the newly adopted World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25)'s regional initiatives for the CIS Region.. RDF-CIS will feature Partner2Connect matchmaking sessions to match country specific and regional needs with the 100 billion dollars pledges that have so far been announced, and any other new pledges to be announced at the event.

In this context, the Telecommunication Development Bureau through the Regional Office for CIS Region is inviting ITU Member States, Sector Members, and other stakeholders to prepare submissions outlining their priorities, or views on how the Baku Action Plan could be successfully implemented to deliver desired results for the benefit of the region during the period 2026 – 2029.

Stakeholders focusing on the CIS region are invited to provide their written input by **28 August 2026** to: itu-ro-cis@itu.int. The documents should be based on the Contributions Template attached as **Annex 3**, and also available on the [RDF-CIS website](#). All submitted Contributions and discussions at the RDF-CIS will be

consolidated in the form of the meeting report at the end of the event. The report will inform and guide the ongoing implementation of the Baku Action Plan and in particular the Regional Initiatives.

To encourage participation of [developing countries](#) and subject to availability of funds, one full, or two partial fellowships may be granted per eligible Member State, within the CIS region only. Full fellowships will cover the air ticket (one return economy class ticket by the most direct/economical route from the country of origin to the meeting venue), and appropriate daily subsistence allowance intended to cover accommodation, meals and incidental expenses. Member States shall cover the remainder of the cost of the participation. The duly validated fellowship request form in **Annex 4** and its annexes, if any, must be returned to the Fellowships Service by e-mail to fellowships@itu.int or by fax: + 41 22 730 57 78, by **14 August 2026** (23:59 hours, Geneva, Switzerland) at the very latest. Registration prior to submitting the fellowship request is mandatory.

A draft agenda can be found in **Annex 1**. For practical information, including on registration and fellowships, please refer to practical information provided in **Annex 2**.

For any additional enquiries, Ms Natalia Mochu, ITU Regional Director for CIS (e-mail: itu-ro-cis@itu.int, natalia.mochu@itu.int) remains at your disposal.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1: Draft agenda

2026 ITU Regional Development Forum for CIS Region (RDF-CIS)

***Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for
an inclusive and sustainable digital future***

RDF-CIS is organized by the ITU and is hosted by the Communication Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

**29-30 September 2026
Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

[RDF-CIS website](#)

The 2026 ITU Regional Development Forum for the CIS Region (RDF-CIS) will be held under the theme “Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future”. In line with the ITU Baku Action Plan and for the effective implementation of the 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) outcomes and recommendations, RDF-CIS explores synergies that include the agreed CIS regional initiatives, projects and other initiatives.

RDF-CIS 2026 is held back-to-back with the 66th meeting of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC)’s Board of Ministers and the 33rd Coordination Council of the CIS Member States for Informatization under the RCC.

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1, 29 September 2026

1. Opening Ceremony: ITU, Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC)
2. Session 1: State of Digital Development and Trends – Challenges and Opportunities
3. Session 2: Building upon the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) in the CIS Region

Day 2, 30 September 2026

4. Introduction to Day 2: Partner2Connect matchmaking sessions on the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for CIS
 5. Session 3: Next-generation ICT infrastructure and emerging technologies (RI CIS1)
 6. Session 4: Capacity building and human-centric digital development (RI CIS2 and CIS3)
 7. Session 5: Measures to enable digital transformation: policy and regulatory environment and cybersecurity (RI CIS3 and CIS4)
 8. Session 6: Artificial Intelligence for digital development and innovation (RI CIS5)
 9. Any other business (AOB)
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Annex 2: Practical information for participants

Venue

RDF-CIS will be held at Crowne Plaza, Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Additional information is available on the [RDF-CIS website](#).

Accommodation

Recommended hotels:

1. [Crowne Plaza](#) (<https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=CP&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=DYUDB&rateCode=IMGOV&PMID=99585603&cn=no>),
2. [Hyatt Regency Dushanbe](#) (<https://www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/en-US/dushr-hyatt-regency-dushanbe>)
3. [Hilton Dushanbe](#) (<https://www.hilton.com/en-gb/hotels/dyuhih-hilton-dushanbe/>)
4. [Rumi Hotel](#) (<https://therumihotel.com/>)

Crowne Plaza (venue of the RDF-CIS) is the recommended hotel of primary choice for RDF-CIS delegates.

Participants booking their accommodation at the Crowne Plaza Hotel through the [link](#) will be eligible for a special preferential rate, including a 10% discount on the following room categories: 1 King Premium, 2 Single Premium, 2 Single Standard, and 1 King Premium Corner Room.

Participants are invited to make their own hotel reservations.

Registration

Advance registration is mandatory and will be carried out exclusively online with manual approval. Online registration is open at the following [link](#).

1. [Create an ITU user account](#) (if you already have an account, go to step 2): When creating an ITU user account affiliated to an ITU Member ([Member States](#), [Sector Members](#), [Associates](#), [Academia](#), and UN System), users must obtain approval of their affiliation from the corresponding TIES Focal Point prior to submitting a registration request.
2. Register [here](#): Log in with your ITU user account credentials and complete the corresponding registration request form. After successful submission, you will receive an acknowledgement of successful submission of the registration request.

For assistance with the registration process, please contact: BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int

Remote Participation

Advance registration is required to participate remotely. Instructions on how to connect to the remote participation platform will be sent to registered participants and [registered remote participants](#) can access the meeting through the [restricted virtual event portal](#) using their ITU user account credentials. [Zoom](#) will be used as the remote participation platform for the meetings.

Participation fees

No participation fee is required for this event. However, all participants are to cover their own expenses for travel, accommodation and insurance.

Paper policy and access to documents

ITU-D meetings are paperless. An ITU user account with [TIES access](#) is required to download the meeting documents.

Interpretation and translation of documents

RDF-CIS will be conducted with interpretation into English and Russian.

Fellowships

To encourage participation of [developing countries](#) and subject to availability of funds, one full, or two partial fellowships may be granted per eligible Member State, within the CIS region only. Full fellowships will cover the air ticket (one return economy class ticket by the most direct/economical route from the country of origin to the meeting venue), and appropriate daily subsistence allowance intended to cover accommodation, meals and incidental expenses. Member States shall cover the remainder of the cost of the participation.

Member States are encouraged to select their candidates taking into consideration the inclusion of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, bearing in mind gender balance.

In line with Plenipotentiary Resolution 213 (Dubai, 2018), it is encouraged that fellowship nominations take into consideration gender balance and inclusion of persons with disabilities and with specific needs. The criteria to grant a fellowship include: available ITU budget; active participation, including the submission of relevant written contributions; equitable distribution among countries and regions; application by persons with disabilities and specific needs; and gender balance.

The duly validated fellowship request form (**Annex 4**) and its annexes, if any, must be returned to the Fellowships Service by e-mail to fellowships@itu.int or by fax: + 41 22 730 57 78, by **August 14, 2026** (23:59 hours, Geneva, Switzerland) at the very latest. Registration prior to submitting the fellowship request is mandatory.

Please refer to the [ITU Fellowships Portal](#) for additional information concerning fellowships.

Table 1: Summary of key deadlines

Region	RDF dates	Deadline for submission of contributions	Deadline for fellowship application	Deadline for registration
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	29-30 September 2026	28 August 2026	14 August 2026	28 September 2026

Other practical information and Visa

You are invited to check your visa requirements to enter the Republic of Tajikistan at <https://consular.tj/visa/>.

Contact person from the Republic of Tajikistan is Orzu Naimi, Head of the International Relations and Investment Attraction Department, Communication Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. Contact details: email o.naimi@communication.tj, phone: +992 988 83 90 00.

Any additional practical information and visa requirements will be made available on the RDF-CIS [website](#).

Contact

Ms Natalia Mochu
Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for CIS
Email: itu-ro-cis@itu.int
Phone: +7 495 926 60 70

Annex 3: Contribution template

2026 ITU Regional Development Forum for CIS Region (RDF-CIS)

*Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for
an inclusive and sustainable digital future*

**29-30 September 2026
Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

[RDF-CIS website](#)

CONTRIBUTION FORM

This form is intended to collect inputs from stakeholders contributing to the implementation of the Baku Action Plan and the ITU Regional Initiatives for CIS Region (2026-2029).

Please send the filled in form to: itu-ro-cis@itu.int by 28 August 2026

ORGANIZATION: [Name of the submitting organization and country]

FOCAL POINT: [First Name and Surname, Title, email address, phone number]

TITLE: [Title of submission]

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: [Provide a brief description up to 500 words]

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: [Name countries to be impacted by this action]

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION: [Tick the relevant boxes]

☐ 2026

☐ 2027

☐ 2028

☐ 2029

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE: [Tick the relevant boxes]

- ☐ CIS1: Introduction of new and emerging telecommunication/information and communication technology systems and networks
- ☐ CIS2: Telecommunication/information and communication technology education and skills, including for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs
- ☐ CIS3: Security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, including countering fraud
- ☐ CIS4: Enabling environment and telecommunication/information and communication technology regulation
- ☐ CIS5: Development and implementation of artificial intelligence technologies

Please find more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2026-2029, as defined by WTDC-25, [here](#).

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2025 [Tick the relevant boxes]

- ☐ Affordable connectivity
- ☐ Digital Transformation
- ☐ Enabling policy and regulatory environment
- ☐ Resource mobilization and international cooperation
- ☐ Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development

Please find more information on the ITU-D Priorities, as defined by WTDC-25, [here](#).

RELATED PARTNER2CONNECT FOCUS AREAS [Tick the relevant boxes]

- ☐ Focus Area 1 - ACCESS: Connecting people everywhere
- ☐ Focus Area 2 - ADOPTION: Empowering communities
- ☐ Focus Area 3 - VALUE CREATION: Building digital ecosystems
- ☐ Focus Area 4 - ACCELERATE: Incentivizing investments

Please find more information on the Partner2Connect [here](#).

RELATED WSIS ACTION LINE: [Tick the relevant boxes]

- ☐ C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
- ☐ C2: Information and communication infrastructure
- ☐ C3: Access to information and knowledge
- ☐ C4: Capacity building
- ☐ C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
- ☐ C6: Enabling environment
- ☐ C7: ICT applications
- ☐ C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
- ☐ C9: Media

- ☐ C10: Ethical dimensions the Information Society
- ☐ C11: International and regional cooperation

RELATED GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT: [Tick the relevant boxes]

- ☐ 1: Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals
- ☐ 2: Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all
- ☐ 3: Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promote human rights
- ☐ 4: Advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance approaches
- ☐ 5: Enhance international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity

RELATED SDG: [Tick the relevant boxes]

- ☐ SDG 1: No Poverty
- ☐ SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- ☐ SDG 3: Good Health and Well- being
- ☐ SDG 4: Quality Education
- ☐ SDG 5: Gender Equality
- ☐ SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- ☐ SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- ☐ SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- ☐ SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- ☐ SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- ☐ SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- ☐ SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- ☐ SDG 13: Climate Action
- ☐ SDG 14: Life Below Water
- ☐ SDG 15: Life on Land
- ☐ SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- ☐ SDG 17: Partnerships for the SDGs

Annex 4:

ITU Fellowship Application Form Full Fellowship – Regular Budget

This form serves as your application for a fellowship to support your participation in:

ITU Regional Development Forum for CIS Region 2026

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

29 - 30 September 2026

Fellowship type: Full. See section 1 below for further details.

Deadline for application: 14 August 2026 (23:59 hours, Geneva, Switzerland). Any application received after this deadline will not be considered.

Selection Criteria

- Refer to the corresponding invitation letter for further information on the selection criteria.
- Fellowship awards for this event are governed by the [Policy for awarding fellowships for events and activities funded through the ITU regular budget](#).
- To ensure good governance in the use of fellowships, any **one individual may not be awarded more than one full fellowship, or two partial fellowships in a financial year**. In this respect, the amount granted to any one individual **shall not exceed ten thousand (10 000) Swiss Francs** in a financial year.
- Member States wishing to apply for an ITU fellowship **must not have any type of debt** related to the contributions derived from their contributory unit, except those who have agreed to a repayment plan and are in compliance with their obligations.
- **Highest-ranking officials** (Head of State, Head of Government, Minister, Vice-Minister, Secretary of State or equivalent, high-ranking diplomats) shall **not be considered** for fellowships.

How to fill out this form

- All questions marked with * are mandatory.
- Please print all pages of this form and complete the signature sections.

How to submit this signed form (and any relevant documents)

- Email: fellowships@itu.int or Fax: +41 22 730 57 78

ITU will only consider requests that meet all the above requirements

Conditions

1. A Full fellowship offer for this activity includes the following:	one (1) return economy class air ticket by the most direct/economical route from the country of origin to the location of the activity/event, AND a subsistence allowance to cover accommodation, meals and incidental expenses. (Other costs will not be covered as part of this fellowship award)
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Personal Information

2. Country *	
3. Name of Administration *	
4. Gender *	☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Prefer not to say
5. Email address *	
6. Phone number *	

Passport Information

7. Family/Last Name *	
8. Middle Name	
9. First/Given Name *	
10. Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY) *	
11. Place of Birth (City, Country) *	
12. Nationality *	
13. Passport Number *	
14. Passport Date of Issue (DD/MM/ YYYY) *	
15. Passport Date of Expiry (DD/MM/YYYY) *	
16. Passport Place of Issue/Issuing Authority *	

Education and Work Experience

17. Job title *	
18. Highest level of education completed *	☐ Doctorate Degree of Post Doctorate studies ☐ 2nd University Degree (Master or equivalent) ☐ 1st University Degree (Bachelor or equivalent) ☐ Technical Diploma (or equivalent) ☐ High school diploma ☐ Other
19. Field of Studies *	
20. Number of years of relevant work experience *	☐ 1-5 years ☐ 6-10 years ☐ 11-15 years+16-20 years ☐ More than 20 years
21. Briefly describe your current work functions * (provide separate documents or CV as necessary)	
22. Describe your experience in relation to the activity * (provide separate documents or CV as necessary)	
23. Upon return to your country, how will you make use of the knowledge acquired during the activity * (provide separate documents or CV as necessary)	

Additional Information

24. Have you already benefited from fellowship(s) during the current year? *	☐ No	☐ Yes - Provide the activity name(s)/year(s):
25. Describe any accessibility or specific needs you may have (optional)		

Conditions and Applicant Signature

In signing and submitting this form, I certify that I have read the following conditions and accept them in their entirety. *	Please agree to all conditions. ☐ I hereby certify that the statements in this application are true and complete * ☐ If selected for a fellowship, I undertake to attend the entire event * ☐ If selected for a fellowship, I undertake to inform ITU whenever there are changes in my availability that will affect the terms of my ITU award *
Applicant Signature *	Date (DD/MM/YYYY) * :

National Designated Focal Point Signature

This application shall be duly signed and authorized by the national designated focal point and/or a senior officer from the Administration/Member State.

Full name *: Job title *: Email *:	Signature * Date (DD/MM/YYYY) * :
Stamp of the Administration/Member State *	