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Dear organizers and participants of meeting on preparation of World Summit on Information Society, dear colleagues and friends,

Let me to express sincere gratitude for the invitation to participate in work of the present forum. It delivers me the great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the people and Government of Kyrgyz Republic.

The information society is a next step of development of a civilization, in which basic value determining well-being of the people, society, state, regions and the whole world are not so much material assets - as access to information resources and right of possession them. The reception of the material boons will depend on skill of using of information technologies and application of the knowledge, received with their help.

Our purpose is strenuous efforts to make an information society, acceptance of effective, coordinated in scales states, and regions of measures on liquidation of a digital inequality in access to information resources.

The Kyrgyz Republic, as well as all global community, realizes, that making of an information society is impossible without realization of the coordinated policy in all spheres of vitality of the country. It is necessary to work out seriously questions of the coordination of regional and interregional policy on construction of an information society and in this connection in the beginning of September and at the end of October of the last year in Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation were held sessions of the Bishkek-Moscow conference on an information society with participation of state bodies of and nongovernmental organizations of the

countries of CIS and Turkey. These sessions were the components of preparatory process, which results were designated on Pan-European Regional Conference on preparation to the World Summit on an Information society in November, 2002.

The representatives of many countries of the European-Asian region, as from governmental structures, and private sector, from a civil society, and also number of the international organizations have taken part in work of the mentioned conferences. The representatives of a civil society were satisfied with the opportunity, given them to take part in development of the coordinated positions on all questions born in agenda of a conference.

At a conference the considered issues were systematized and the complex of the recommendations under their decision was offered, also there were produced the recommendations to the governments, private business, civil society, the reference to the international organizations and countries - donors was accepted.

The resulting accent of the Bishkek - Moscow conference was the understanding of that the formation of an information society should pass in conditions of trust on the part of all interested parties. The advantages of ICT one can fully realize only at maintenance of their reliability and safety. It is especially necessary to prevent use of information resources both technologies for criminal and other illegal purposes. The conference has addressed to the international organizations and investors with the offer on cooperation in development of ICT in region.

In the framework of Bishkek - Moscow conference were carried out plenary sessions and group sessions:

- the man and information society;
- development of an infrastructure of an information society;
- readiness for an information society.
- e-services of an information society;
- a role of the state and public organizations in development and providing of access to information and communication technologies;
- information security.

In Bishkek, at the first stage of the Bishkek-Moscow conference on an information society we submitted National strategy «Information communication technologies for development of Kyrgyz Republic». The realization of the basic rules of this National Strategy certainly will play a positive role in reduction of the so-called «digital inequality» both inside the country, and in comparison with the advanced countries of the world, will allow to supply equal access to wide layers of the population and regions of republic to information resources outside of it. This strategy is considered as one of the important directions for development of the country within the framework of realization of the basic National program

«Complex bases of development of Kyrgyz Republic till 2010». The basic purposes of Complex bases include effective and transparent state management, fair and ensuring protection human development in society, steady economic growth and development. The information communication technologies give the large opportunities for achievement of these purposes, including acceleration of economic development and reduction of poverty.

We are pleased to note, that the ideas of this Strategy have found reflection in the projects of the documents of the present stage of a conference.

The major mechanism of realization of National strategy is the system of monitoring and estimation of development of information communication technologies and their influence on development of a society. At the Bishkek stage of a conference discussed a problem of search of quantitatively measurable parameters of development of an information society, necessity of development of unique methodology of its monitoring. In the international practice the term «readiness for an information society» already was strongly ratified. Hundreds of techniques of an estimation of readiness now are known, each of which has the conditions of application and subject domain. The realization of complex researches of these techniques is obviously important with the purpose of a unique technique of development estimation of an information society to have an opportunity to compare the different countries, different regions. Snatching at a chance, I would like to tell about powerful scientific potential of the Russian scientists, which could become the catalyst of such researches.

In 1998 on the world economic forum in Davos the President of Kyrgyz Republic Askar Akaev has proclaimed: «Kyrgyzstan chooses an information society» and it became the starting point on ways to construction of an information society.

As task of tasks the President of the country Askar Akaev designated the creation “of e-government”, strategy of which will become information technologies. Basing on them, in opinion Askar Akaev, it is possible to organize rather operative and flexible infrastructure of management.

To the present time there was a sufficient legislative and legal base regulating jural relations of the subjects in the sphere of ICT: they are the laws of Kyrgyz Republic «About information», «About post and telecommunication», National strategy «ICT for development of Kyrgyz Republic», authorized by the decisions of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic «The ICT development Program in Kyrgyz Republic», State Action plan on realization of the above mentioned program documents. The main thing now – is the organization of their purposeful execution.

The achieved level and the problems of development of information communication technologies in Kyrgyz Republic cause necessity of transition from policy directed to development of separate branches of information,

communication and information technologies to formation of general strategy of entry of global information community. By virtue of already available technological opportunities the basic direction of policy to be possible to transfer on formation of unique information space of republic, development of information resources, databases, knowledge and information infrastructure, which in an equal measure can use both state structures, and civil society as a whole.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me say a few words about condition of formation of an information society in our republic.

Latter in Kyrgyz Republic achieved the sufficient progress in development of an information infrastructure, information of state organizations and private companies, the appropriate legislation is developing, the educational level is high. Completed the First telecommunication project, Projects TAE, created the State Computer Network, carried out the various branch projects of information.

As I mentioned above, the National strategy «Information communication technologies for development of Kyrgyz Republic» is accepted. By the Government of republic authorized the Program of ICT development, Plan of actions on realization of Strategy and Program.

The presence of such strategic documents already begins to bring the first fruits.

For these years there were significant changes in an infrastructure of telecommunications. The transition to modern digital and transport networks is carried out, the powerful output of a national network in the world telecommunication networks is supplied. The large telecommunication projects which have allowed to provide high readiness for introduction of the newest information technologies in scales of republic were realized. The general extent of a transport network, including satellite, radiorelay, wireless and fiber-optic network makes about 3 mln. channel/km.

The number of Internet providers has exceeded 15. For the small country it is already significant progress. If in 1998 the total channel of an output in the Internet was estimated all per 768 kbs/seconds, by 2002 it has grown in 20 times and has made 15 megabits per one second. However, in spite of the fact that due to creation of competitive environment the prices for the Internet services are reduced, as a whole they remain rather expensive for the majority of the population.

Latter there are intensive processes of information education, expansion of access of the schoolchildren and students of high schools to ICT, created e-textbooks and manuals. However there is a significant disorder of availability to ICT in the capital (80 % from general number) and remote village areas.

As a whole ICT is penetrating in Kyrgyz society more deeply. The audience of the Internet (14,2 % of the adult population of the largest cities) and the intensity of its use raise. The trust to the electronic bargains grows. On social researches of this year, 53 % of the users in Kyrgyzstan concern with trust to the on-line bargains.

Local content of the Internet also grows. Today there are more than 1000 web sites, registered 35 000 e-mail addresses. Unfortunately from this quantity only 1 % support local, Kyrgyz language.

Coming back to a theme of my statement, I would like to report to you on additional measures carried out in Kyrgyz Republic on preparation to World Summit on an information society. This is, first of all that by the order of the President of Kyrgyz Republic of January 17, 2003 authorized working groups on realization of National strategy «Information communication technologies for development of Kyrgyz Republic». At present under the support of UNDP the works are conducted on 4 directions:

1. E-government;
2. E-economy;
3. E-education;
1. Study of questions of legislative maintenance, investment and monitoring.

Besides under the support of Government of the United States of America the works on drawing up of the feasibility study of the project of e-government are begun. For these purposes the Government of the United States of America has allocated of 246 800 dollars on grant basis. I am sure, that it is the essential help for the beginning of large-scale process on reduction of a digital inequality between regions of republic and its center.

Our purpose is strenuous assistance in forming of an information society, acceptance of effective, coordinated in scales states, regions and whole world measures on liquidation of a digital inequality in access to information resources.

I hope, that the present meeting will be fruitful and will bring good contribution to process of preparation to the World Summit on an information society.

Thank you for attention and I wish you successful work.