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|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-43/19** |
| **28 August 2025** |
| **English only** |
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| Contribution by the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (Executive Committee), the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan (Republic of) |
| DECLARATION OF THE REGIONAL COMMONWEALTH IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS ON THE PREPARATION FOR THE OVERALL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY IN 2025 |
| **Purpose**As part of the preparations for the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society 2025, the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC) has prepared the Declaration of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications on the preparation for the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025 (RCC Declaration on WSIS+20). The RCC Declaration on WSIS+20 reviews what has been achieved under the WSIS Action Lines, identifies remaining challenges from the Tunis Agenda, and recommends future actions*.* In the spirit of transparency, this document outlines the key stages of its preparation throughout 2024 –2025.**Action required**The Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs is invited to **note** this document, and all relevant stakeholders are encouraged to review its content and consider endorsing the RCC Declaration on WSIS+20. |

**I. Introduction**

In preparation for the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society 2025 that will be held by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2025 and in the spirit of expanding cooperation between the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in the field of WSIS+20 global preparations, in December 2024 the RCC Executive Committee along with the General Secretariat of the ITU held thematic consultations on WSIS+20 preparations for the Communications Administrations and members of the subsidiary (working) bodies of the RCC.

Based on the outcomes of the thematic consultations, the RCC Executive Committee initiated the process of preparation of the contribution – Declaration of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications on the preparation for the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025 (the RCC Declaration on WSIS+20) – which, as a result, was submitted to and presented at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 (7 – 11 July 2025, Geneva, Switzerland), and is now expected to be submitted for consideration by the 80th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations under [agenda item 15](https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/150) “Information and communications technologies for sustainable development.”

**II. Key Stages of Preparation**

During the consultations mentioned above, the RCC Executive Committee presented the following plan for the RCC’s preparation for WSIS+20:

**December 4 – 20, 2024** – the RCC Executive Committee worked on drafting the initial version of the RCC’s contribution to WSIS+20.

**December 20, 2024 – January 13, 2025** – the Communications Administrations and members of subsidiary (working) bodies of the RCC, having considered the draft contribution, submitted their proposals to the RCC Executive Committee regarding the RCC’s contribution to WSIS+20.

**20 January 2025** – the RCCthrough its Working Group on Cooperation with ITU, in accordance with [ITU Council Resolution 1332](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0141/en) resolving to invite the members and other stakeholders to contribute views on the work of the ITU in the WSIS+20 review including ideas related to the review of the WSIS Action Lines through the CWG-WSIS&SDG, agreed upon the Common RCC input to WSIS+20 review in the following two formats: a) responses to the online consultation questions on WSIS+20 Review on the ITU web-site; b) an input to the Council Working Group on WSIS & SDGs [an input to the Council Working Group on WSIS & SDGs](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0015/en)[[1]](#footnote-1) and [an input to the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-RCLINTPOL21-C-0009/en)[[2]](#footnote-2).

At this point, the draft contribution primarily covered issues related to the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action since the ITU is specifically responsible for implementing it.

In implementation of the Decision of the Working Group on Cooperation with ITU dated January 20, 2025, the RCC Executive Committee developed and sent to Communications Administrations and members of subsidiary (working) bodies of the RCC the draft of the RCC Declaration of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications on the preparation for the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025 (draft Declaration) for the purpose of collecting comments, observations and proposals.

**April 24, 2025** – during the meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation with ITU, an editorial session was held, during which RIPE NCC presented its proposals to the draft Declaration. Following the session, the text of the draft Declaration was finalized and submitted for consideration to the joint meeting of the RCC Commission on the Coordination of International Cooperation and the Working Group on Cooperation with ITU (25 April 2025), which, in turn, endorsed the draft Declaration.

**21 May 2025** – the meeting of the RCC Board of the Communications Administrations Heads – Members of the Commonwealth (the Board of “digital” Ministers) endorsed the RCC Declaration on WSIS+20 ([Annex 1](#Annex_1)) and resolved to publish [the Declaration](https://en.rcc.org.ru/announcements/announcements_53.html) on the RCC web-site to facilitate the**endorsement of the** Declaration by organizations that do not belong to the RCC but support its provisions, as well as by representatives of international organizations, governments, business, civil society, academic and technical communities.

**06 June 2025** – the RCC Declaration on WSIS+20 was also open for endorsement during the Global Digital Forum (5-6 June 2025, Nizhny Novgorod, Russian Federation) resulting in stakeholders from other world regions becoming signatories to the document (the full list of signatory parties is set out in [Annex 2](#Annex_2)).

**07 – 11 July 2025** – the RCC Declaration on WSIS+20 was presented by the RCC Executive Committee at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 and, as a result, included in the outcome document “[WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025: High-Level Outcomes and Executive Brief](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Files/outcomes/draft/WSIS20HighLevelEvent2025-HLOutcomesAndExecutiveBrief.pdf).”

The Declaration is now expected to be submitted for consideration by the 80th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations under [agenda item 15](https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/150) “Information and communications technologies for sustainable development.”

As of 28 August 2025, about forty interested parties have joined the Declaration, including RCC Communications Administrations, representatives of international organizations, governments, business, civil society, academic and technical communities from both the RCC/CIS region and other regions of the world.

**III. Proposal**

The Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs is invited to **note** this document, and all relevant stakeholders are encouraged to review its content and consider endorsing the RCC Declaration on WSIS+20.

*Annexes:* ***2***

Annex 1

**DECLARATION**

**of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications**

**on the preparation for the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes
of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025**

*We, Heads of the Communications Administrations – Members of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications and Members of the Commonwealth, as well as representatives of international organizations, governments, business, civil society, academic and technical communities,*

1. **Assessment of the Current Situation**

*recognizing* that over the 22 years since the start of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process, digitalization has deeply penetrated all spheres of societal life at the international, national, regional, local, and individual levels, significantly impacting sustainable development by transforming industry, agriculture, education, healthcare, business, and public administration,

*noting* that the world’s dependence on information and communication technologies (ICTs) continues to grow, and responsible state behavior in the use of ICTs is of critical importance for maintaining international peace and security,

*recognizing* that ICTs are becoming increasingly integrated into all spheres of life, we emphasize the importance of coordinated efforts and responsible behavior by all stakeholders, including international organizations, governments, businesses, civil society, academia, and the technical community, to ensure the safe and mutually beneficial use of these technologies,

*acknowledging* that the adoption of new ICTs such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, cloud computing, blockchain, and broadband wireless technologies enabling global connectivity has integrated not only large corporations but also small and medium-sized businesses and individual entrepreneurs into the digital economy, unlocking their economic potential and fostering commercial activities in new formats,

*being convinced* that one of the key enablers of sustainable development remains the advancement of accessible, secure, and inclusive telecommunication/ICT infrastructure to achieve universal digital inclusion, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the critical importance of ICTs in sustaining all societal processes,

*recognizing* that an open, global, interoperable, reliable and secure Internet serves as a foundation for enhancing the well-being and development of individuals, societies and our planet, while also accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,

*mindful* of the goal to build an inclusive, open, sustainable, equitable, safe and trustworthy digital future for all,

*recognizing* that digital development has revealed not only new opportunities but also new challenges and risks for the international community in its efforts to ensure universal inclusion in the digital economy, eliminate wealth and gender inequality, integrate digital development and environmental sustainability, and address cybersecurity threats, including cybercrime,

*emphasizing* the significance of international information security as a key element of the regional security system,

*noting* the importance of developing financial support mechanisms and refraining from the application of unilateral economic, financial and trade measures that are inconsistent with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, particularly in ensuring access to telecommunication and ICT technologies and related services and applications, as well as reducing the cost of Internet access for developing countries, especially the least developed countries, with a view to bridging the digital divide between the Global South and the Global North,

*taking into account* the potential of ICTs to address environmental protection challenges, including through the development of environmentally sound technologies, the application of ICTs for climate change adaptation and mitigation, the promotion of sustainable use and conservation of natural resources, and the preservation and protection of biodiversity and other environmental protection domains,

*mindful* also that the more effective and sustainable functioning of agricultural production requires the application of advanced ICTs for its automation and comprehensive mechanization,

*reaffirming* the belief that ICTs contribute to the achievement of inclusive education through the provision of educational tools, teacher training and professional skills development, and enhance the current capabilities of scientists both in obtaining up-to-date scientific information and in enhancing professional communication, and their introduction into science, and stimulate the emergence of new forms of research organization, which are essential components in the production of new knowledge,

*being confident* that cultural diversity and cultural identity, linguistic diversity and local content constitute not only essential conditions for the development of the information society as a whole, but also form the foundation for advancing modern intelligent systems being deployed worldwide, enhancing their applicability, user-centric orientation and, consequently, their contribution to improving people's quality of life,

*recognizing* the urgent need to ensure information security, combat cybercrime in all its forms, protect personal data and the inviolability of private life, and enhance trust and security in the use of ICTs, against the backdrop of pervasive digital penetration into all spheres of human life,

*reaffirming* in this regard the central role of the United Nations, particularly the Open-ended Working Group on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies 2021-2025, in the global negotiation process on international information security,

*welcoming* the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime and calling upon all Member States of the United Nations to sign and ratify the instrument to facilitate its earliest possible entry into force,

*recognizing* the role of mass media in facilitating global access to and exchange of information, we regretfully note that in today's world they are increasingly being used as instruments of public opinion manipulation,

*emphasizing* the need for special attention to identifying risks and threats posed by new technologies to the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly incitement to violence, racism and hate crimes targeting ethnic and religious groups, as well as the spread of disinformation, and supporting in this context the WSIS vision of building a “people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society”, with particular focus on protecting human rights in the digital space,

*observing* the direct correlation between technological advancement and healthcare quality, particularly how healthcare technology adoption enables teleconsultations for patients and medical staff, secure inter-institutional patient data exchange, remote physiological monitoring, and real-time surgical oversight, thereby enhancing service quality, significantly improving operational efficiency, reducing patient costs, and fostering healthy lifestyle practices,

*supporting* the substantial efforts undertaken and being implemented by the overwhelming majority of countries to meet the global indicators for growth in ICT connectivity and access to the use of ICTs,

*noting* with satisfaction that the majority of countries worldwide have adopted digital development strategies and are transitioning to digital economies, thereby establishing the technical and regulatory foundations for advancing a “people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society”,

*being convinced* that the collective will and commitment of the entire international community and all WSIS stakeholders are essential to achieve the goals and objectives established through the WSIS process,

***reiterate our commitment*** to the provisions and principles set out in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which remain fully relevant today, noting, however, that much remains to be done to implement them and to achieve the goals and objectives of the WSIS process based on them,

1. **Foundation for Joint Efforts**

*bearing in mind* that the WSIS Action Lines set out in the Geneva Plan of Action serve as a key framework for advancing progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing eleven key areas where technology is a key enabler for sustainable development,

*considering* that the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society focuses on financial mechanisms to bridge the digital divide, Internet governance and related issues,

*considering* the adoption of the Global Digital Compact (GDC), which implementation should not replace or contradict the processes established pursuant to the final documents of both phases of the WSIS,

***emphasize*** that the development, transfer and use of ICTs in any given state should be carried out in strict compliance with national legislation as well as international law,

***encourage*** international and regional cooperation among all stakeholders to reduce the digital divide by, inter alia, providing real assistance to developing countries in terms of financing ICT development and applications, affordable technology transfer and digital literacy, with priority attention to the special needs of marginalised and vulnerable groups,

***note the need*** for full implementation of the WSIS Action Lines taking into account the proposals contained in Section II “Further Improvement of the Action Lines” of the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015 (WSIS+10 High-Level Event, Geneva, 2014) to support the achievement of the SDGs by 2030,

***call for*** the implementation of the provisions of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, including the rights and responsibilities of stakeholders with regard to public policy issues pertaining to the Internet,

***recognising*** the development of digital governance, we stress the importance of continuous improvement and cooperation among all stakeholders to adapt to new challenges and opportunities,

***believe*** that the structure and parameters of digital governance will be of key importance in the subsequent long-term system of geopolitical and economic relations,

***note the importance*** of taking into account the complementary nature of international processes aimed at expanding and improving the use of telecommunications/ICTs to support the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 and beyond,

***see an urgent need*** to harmonise the processes of the WSIS, SDGs and GDC, as well as the International Telecommunication Union and the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development and taking into account the interests of all stakeholders, not only transnational companies, in the Internet governance system, while clearly harmonising the efforts of their secretariats and avoiding duplication of efforts,

***advocate against the practice*** of adopting documents similar to existing ones, but of a declaratory nature, while focusing on the implementation of already agreed documents noting the necessity to increase the level of coordination of efforts between the New York and Geneva headquarters in initiating and implementing global processes,

***support*** the continuation of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the WSIS Forum on an annual basis beyond 2025:

* 1. by focusing their discussions: for example, the WSIS Forum could review the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action on an annual basis, while the Internet Governance Forum discussions should provide a basis for informed decision-making on Internet-related issues within the framework of the Tunis phase of the WSIS;
	2. by holding them according to common schemes and agendas at the regional level, with the results being heard at the global level, so that the outputs of global events are as informed and fair as possible in representing the views of developed and developing countries,

***note with satisfaction and support***, as Members of a regional telecommunication organization of the International Telecommunication Union, its leadership role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and its high-level engagement in this activity, as the lead facilitator in the implementation of key WSIS Action Lines for an increasingly digitalised world: C2 (Information and communication infrastructure), C4 (Capacity Building), C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) and C6 (Enabling environment), as well as a co-facilitator of a number of other important WSIS Action Lines.

1. **Looking Ahead**

*noting* that digitalisation has become a key aspect of societal development, necessary to effectively address emerging challenges, and that new and emerging digital technologies create and provide the necessary conditions for human and individual development, regional and international cooperation is key to a secure, stable and innovative digital future and to overcoming emerging regional and international challenges,

*being convinced* that in this context attention should also be paid to the younger generation, assistance and support for vulnerable populations, including persons
with disabilities and special needs and older persons,

*being convinced* that the application of telecommunication/ICT technologies should be human-centred and humanistic, respecting human free will in decision-making, the right to choose and the preservation of intellectual capacity, and that responsible behavior by States in the use of ICTs will become increasingly important in the interests of international peace and security, with the participation of other stakeholders in the process,

***recognise*** that stakeholder cooperation is the foundation for an inclusive, safe and secure digital space and should be flexible and adaptable to the rapidly changing digital landscape,

***call upon*** all stakeholders to take this Declaration into account in the preparation of the vision for WSIS beyond 2025.

Annex 2

List of Signatory Parties

1. The Ministry of the High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia

2. The Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Republic of Belarus
3. Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic
of Kazakhstan

4. Ministry of Digital Development and Innovative Technologies of the Kyrgyz Republic

5. The Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation

6. The Communication Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

7. Turkmenaragatnashyk Agency

8. Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan

9. [“Belpochta”](https://www.belpost.by/en/Pomoshch0/Obrashcheniyagrazhdaniyur1/GoryachiyeliniiRUPBelpoch) RUE (Republic of Belarus)

10. “Beltelecom” RUE (Republic of Belarus)

11. “MegaFon” PJSC (Russian Federation)

12. “Morsviazsputnik” FSUE (Russian Federation)

13. “Rostelecom” FSUE (Russian Federation)

14. “Kazakhtelecom” JSC (represented by its branch – Corporate Business Division) (Republic of Kazakhstan)

15. “ER-Telecom Holding” JSC (Russian Federation)

16. National Radio Technical Bureau” JSC (Russian Federation)

17. Saint-Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation (Russian Federation)

18. Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (National Research University) (Russian Federation)

19. The Bonch-Bruevich Saint Petersburg State University of Telecommunications (Russian Federation)

20. The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (Russian Federation)

21. “Mobile TeleSystems” JLLC (Republic of Belarus)

22. All-Russian Scientific and Technical Information Institute of Russian Academy
of Sciences (Russian Federation)

23. Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.РФ (Russian Federation)

24. “Telecom Armenia” OJSC (Republic of Armenia)

25. Mother Africa International (United States of America)

26. Digital Agenda for Tanzania Initiative (United Republic of Tanzania)

27. Geopolitics360 (Republic of Singapore)

28. Fadwa AlBawardi Consulting (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

29. Indonesia National Youth Coalition To Climate Action (Republic of Indonesia)

30. Indian Chamber of International Business (Republic of India)

31. Zorozion Prime

32. GMS Consultants (Pvt) Ltd (Republic of India)

33. Myanmar Digital Economy Association (Republic of the Union of Myanmar)

34. Ghana Russia Center for Commerce and Relations (Republic of Ghana)

35. Octagon Uganda Limited (Republic of Uganda)

36. Mirror Digital Limited (Republic of Uganda)

37. Association of Young Leaders United for Sustainable Development (AJLUDD) (Republic of Burundi)

38. Kawil Group Holding Limited (Republic of Uganda)

39. Nuru Trust Network (Republic of Kenya)

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1. The contribution was joined by the ITU Member States – RCC Communications Administrations of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and RCC Members – Sector Members of the ITU: PJSC Rostelecom, Center for Global IT-Cooperation, and Joint-Stock Company National Radio Technical Bureau [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The contribution was joined by the Communications Administration of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)