|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Document EG-ITRs-5/9** |
| **28 August 2025** |
| **English only** |
|  |  |
| Contribution by the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (Executive Committee), the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan (Republic of)[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| EMPIRICAL DATA ON THE CURRENT USE OF THE ITRS BY OPERATING AGENCIES (TELECOMMUNICATION OPERATORS) AND/OR ADMINISTRATIONS IN RCC/CIS MEMBER STATES |
| **Purpose**Provide the EG-ITRs with empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by operating agencies (telecommunication operators) and/or administrations in RCC/CIS Member States and the proportion of global telecommunication services which now rely on the ITRs to include in the EG-ITRs final report and to Council 2026 and provide this information for examination and submission to the 2026 Plenipotentiary Conference with the Council's comments.**Action required**The Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations is invited to **include** empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by operating agencies and/or administrations and the proportion of global telecommunication services which now rely on the ITRs in the EG-ITRs final report and to Council 2026, and **provide this information for examination** **and submission** to the 2026 Plenipotentiary Conference with the Council's comments.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**[*Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-146-E.pdf)*of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Council*[*Resolution 1379*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0121/en),[*Document EG-ITRs-4/8*](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLEGITR4-C-0008/en)*, Agreement on the terms and conditions for inter-operator settlements when providing international telecommunications services in CIS member States. Dushanbe, 30 October 2015* |

I. Introduction

The Communications Administrations of the RCC Member States in close collaboration with the RCC Executive Committee carried out a survey among telecommunication operators involved in providing international telecommunication services, on the application of the provisions and standards of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) and relevant Recommendations of the ITU’s Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in collaboration with their partners in the region and beyond.

The sample questionnaire is provided in Annex 1.

This survey was based on available experience of collaboration between Communications Administrations and telecommunication operators in the RCC/CIS Member States during the period of preparations for the World Conference on International Telecommunications 2012 (WCIT-12), of application of the 1988 ITRs and 2012 ITRs, and in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the EG-ITR as set out in Resolution 1379 of the Council.

**II. Empirical data**

2.1. RCC/CIS Member States implement Agreement on the terms and conditions for inter-operator settlements when providing international telecommunications services in CIS member States dated October 30, 2015, which in Article 7 provides that «*the Parties shall take measures to prevent discrimination in approaches to the establishment, introduction and collection of taxes, including indirect taxes, included in tariffs applied in inter-operator settlements. In doing so, the Parties shall take into account international practice in regulating the tax segment of the international telecommunications industry,* ***including the International Telecommunication Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union****.*».

2.2. Main summarized results of the survey on the applicability of the ITRs are set out below.

**Questionnaire on the applicability of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) to the activities of telecommunication operators in the RCC/CIS region**

| **Questionnaire Items** | **Answers** |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Do you apply the provisions of the ITRs and the relevant ITU-T Recommendations in international commercial agreements (hereinafter referred to as international treaties)?** | *Yes, we apply provisions of the ITRs and of relevant ITU-T Recommendations (all survey respondents).* |
| **2 In what percentage of international agreements do you apply the ITRs?** | *100% by both direct and indirect application:**2.1. by including an explicit reference:* *– in 70 per cent of international agreements.**2.2 Indirectly, by applying provisions (without an explicit reference):* *– in 30 per cent of international agreements and also by application in annexes to agreements* |
| **3. Which provisions of the ITRs do you apply in relations with your partners under international treaties, and in what percentage of the international treaties indicated in question 1 above?** | ***1. Avoidance of double taxation - in 100% of contracts (RCC/CIS);******2. Gratuitousness of service (technical) traffic - service telecommunications - in 100% of contracts;******3. Application of offsets (offsetting - in 100% of contracts);******4*. *Pricing and settlements - in 100% of contracts:****- ITU-T Recommendations D- Series: D.1, D.3, D.4, D.7, D.10, D.11, D.35, D.36, D.40, D.45, D.60, D.67, D.70, D.71, D.73, D.79, D.90, D.91, D.94, D.95, D.103, D.110, D.116, D.140, D.150, D.155, D.170, D.176, D.180, D.188, D.192, D.196, D.197, D.220, D.232, D.240, D.250, D.260, D.300, D.306R, D.307, D.500, D.501;**- Sources used: Red Book (Volume II, issues II.1 – II.5), Blue Book, White Book; The provisions of the General Principles of Tariffing and the CCITT White Paper also apply.****5. International Telephone Service:******- ITU-T Recommendations E.100–E.600 series (General Operation, Network Management and Load Calculations);******- References: Red Book, Volume II, Issues II.2 and II.3.******6. Telematic Services:******- ITU-T Recommendations F.160–F.350 series (Operation and Quality of Service);******- ITU-T Recommendations T.0–T.101, T.64, T.65–T.101, T.150–T.390, T.400–T.418, T.431–T.564;******- References: Red and Blue Books (Volume VII, Issues VII.3 – VII.7).******7. Technical Operation, maintenance and maintenance organization:******- ITU-T Recommendations M.10–M.782, M.800–M.1375, M.1400;******- ITU-T Recommendations X.300–X.370;******- References: Blue Book (Vol. IV and Vol. VIII).******8. Signalling and Transmission:******- ITU-T Recommendations G.101–G.181, G.704;******- ITU-T Recommendations Q.700–Q.716, Q.784–Q.788;******- ITU-T Recommendations V.120;******- References: Blue Book (Vol. III, VI, VIII), White Book.******9. Telegraph Transmission:******- ITU-T Recommendations R.2–R.150, S.1–S.140, U.1–U.140;******- References: Red Book (Vol. VII, Issues VII.1 – VII.2).******10. Description and Specification Languages:******- ITU-T Recommendations Z.100, Z.110;******- ITU-T Recommendations Z.100, Appendix D – SDL User’s Guide;******- References: Blue Book, Vol. X.*** |
| **4. In what percentage of the total number of international treaties do you apply the relevant ITU-T Recommendations and which series, as indicated in question 1 above?** | *4.1. By direct inclusion of a reference:**- apply it in 100% of the total number of international treaties by including references to ITU-T Recommendations of the series:* *- ITU-T Recommendations D.1, D.3, D.4, D.7, D.10, D.11, D.35, D.36, D.40, D.45, D.60, D.67, D.70, D.71, D.73, D.79, D.90, D.91, D.94, D.95, D.103, D.110, D.116, D.140, D.150, D.155, D.170, D.176, D.180, D.188, D.192, D.196, D.197, D.220, D.232, D.240, D.250, D.260, D.300, D.306R, D.307, D.500R, D.501R);*- *ITU-T Recommendations E.100–E.600;**- ITU-T Recommendations F.160–F.350;**- ITU-T Recommendations T.0–T.101, T.64, T.65–T.101, T.150–T.390, T.400–T.418, T.431–T.564;**- ITU-T Recommendations M.10–M.782, M.800–M.1375, M.1400;**- ITU-T Recommendations X.300–X.370;**- ITU-T Recommendations G.101–G.181, G.704;**- ITU-T Recommendations Q.700–Q.716, Q.784–Q.788;**- ITU-T Recommendations V.120;**- ITU-T Recommendations R.2–R.150, S.1–S.140, U.1–U.140;**- ITU-T Recommendations Z.100, Z.110.**4.2. Some operators noted that they indirectly use ITU-T recommendations in international treaties.* |
| **5. Are there in your view questions that should be covered by the ITRs in their future revision?** | *5.1. Most operators consider that the following issues should be taken into account:**- misuse – fraud (actions related to the illegal appropriation and use of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources, manipulation of the delivery of the calling subscriber number, calling subscriber line identification and identification of origin);**- principles of traffic management;**- classification of international telecommunication services to which the requirement of paragraph 6.3 is applied;**- protection of users of international telecommunication services,* *- global harmonization of national numbers for access to emergency services;**- ensuring the availability of emergency services calls to users from different regions, including issues of roaming when using data transmission networks;**- general principles of tariffication and mutual settlements for international telecommunication services;**- mutual settlements for international telecommunication services in roaming;**- settlement of disputes;**- clarifications on the timing (duration) of testing new organized (direct, transit) communication channels;**- standardization of approaches to the use of various methods of rounding the billing step (billing increment);**- standardization of approaches in terms of IFS/UIFN services;**- development of recommendations in terms of the billing systems used;**- development of recommendations in terms of new services (for example, SMS, OTT services).**5.2. A significant number of operators also noted that further work is needed to update the provisions of the ITU-T Recommendation. In cases where in practice there are controversial issues, the solution of which is not directly reflected in the inter-operator agreement, the relevant ITU-T recommendations are always applied to achieve a mutual solution without the need to go to court. The cancellation of the ITRs may negatively affect telecommunications activities in terms of inter-operator interaction.**5.3. Some operators noted the possibility of making mutual settlements for communication and Internet services regardless of the geopolitical situation and current unilateral sanctions regimes.**5.4. Some operators noted that it is not required* |
| **6. Does your organization have information on any current problems and obstacles with regard to the application of provisions of ITRs 1988[[2]](#footnote-2) and ITRs 2012[[3]](#footnote-3) in relations with international partners applying different versions of the ITRs?** | *6.1. Some operators noted that they had encountered the impossibility of making payments for telecommunications and Internet services due to the policy of foreign banks*  *While the provision of such services is not subject to sanctions, payments for telecommunications services are restricted under unilateral sanctions.**6.2. In connection with the inclusion of the provisions of the Regulations in the text of international treaties most operators responded that they had not encountered any difficulties in practice.* |
| **7. In your opinion, are there any potential difficulties and/or risks associated with the cancellation of the international treaty – ITRs?** | Most operators answered – Yes, the cancellation of the ITRs may entail a number of significant risks and difficulties. The most significant of them are the following:1. Yes, in case of the cancellation of the ITRs, we see significant risks associated with the complexity of justifying the need to include in international treaties the provisions that are currently contained in the ITRs.2. Loss of legal grounds for offsetting.In international telecommunications practice, services are often provided by partners to each other on a reciprocal basis (import and export of traffic), and settlements are made based on the balance. The possibility of conducting offsetting is justified primarily by the provisions of the ITRs, since this form of settlement is not regulated at the level of national legislation. The cancellation of the ITRs will deprive operators of the legal basis for using such mechanisms.2. Restrictions on the accounting of invoices and the deadlines for their submission.For example, according to the requirements of the national legislation, all invoices for foreign economic transactions must be promptly entered into the Unified Electronic Information System of Foreign Economic Activity. At the same time, the provisions of the ITRs provide for the possibility of challenging invoices between the parties within 30 days. In the case of the cancellation of the ITRs, the possibility of referring to these provisions as a legal basis for deferring the entry of invoices will be lost.3. Risks of tax consequences.A number of rules governing telecommunications settlements actually help to eliminate double taxation, especially in terms of recognizing mutual services and the correct distribution of income and expenses between the parties. Since these mechanisms are based on international recommendations (ITRs and relevant ITU-T Recommendations), the cancellation of the ITRs may give rise to risks of tax duplication. |

**III. Proposal**

The Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations is invited to include empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by RCC/CIS operating agencies and/or administrations and the proportion of global telecommunication services which now rely on the ITRs in the EG-ITRs final report and to Council 2026 and provide this information for examination and submission to the 2026 Plenipotentiary Conference with the Council's comments, in particular:

1. That RCC/CIS Member States include a reference to the ITRs in their interstate agreements, e.g. - Agreement on the terms and conditions for inter-operator settlements when providing international telecommunications services in CIS Member States dated October 30, 2015

2. That telecommunications operators apply the provisions of the ITRs directly and indirectly in their commercial agreements, as indicated in Table "Questionnaire on the applicability of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) to the activities of telecommunication operators in the RCC/CIS region" in paragraph 2.2.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. This contribution was considered by members of the RCC Telecommunication and Infocommunications Operators Board and at the joint meeting of the RCC Working Group on cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union and the RCC Commission on Coordination of International Cooperation (20-22 August 2025): Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC), Communications Administrations of the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan; operators: Mobile TeleSystems JLLC(Belarus), Belarusian Telecommunications Network CJSC (Belarus), Aztelecom (Azerbaijan), JSC Kazakhtelecom (Kazakhstan), Rostelecom PJSC (Russia), Uztelecom JSC (Uzbekistan), MTC PJSC (Russia), T2 Mobile LLC (Russia), GNС Alfa (Armenia), Viva Armenia (Armenia), Ucom (Armenia), Telekom Armenia (Armenia), NUR Telecom LLC (Kyrgyzstan), Alfa Telecom CJSC (Kyrgyzstan), Sky Mobile LLC (Kyrgyzstan), Kyrgyztelecom OJSC (Kyrgyzstan), RPO RMTR OJSC (Kyrgyzstan), Saima Telecom CJSC (Kyrgyzstan), Inform Communications LLC (Kyrgyzstan). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ITRs 1988: <http://handle.itu.int/11.1004/020.1000/1.1.48.ru.600> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. ITRs 2012: <http://handle.itu.int/11.1004/020.1000/1.42.48.ru.601> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)