

**Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 for the CIS
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 9 November 2016**

*Welcome address by Mr Eshmambet AMATOV,
Deputy Chairman of the State Committee of Information
Technologies and Communications (SCITC) of the Kyrgyz Republic*

Mr Sanou,
Honoured participants,

Today is the second day of our work and the start of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Telecommunication Development Conference, which will be held in Buenos Aires from 9 to 20 October 2017.

On behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and of the State Committee for Information Technologies and Communications, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you here at this meeting, which is of such importance for the development of ICTs in our region.

I wish once again to note my particular appreciation for the assistance given to the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications and to the Kyrgyz State Technical University in organizing this Regional Preparatory Meeting.

I would like to say a few words about our State Committee for Information Technologies and Communications, which acts as Kyrgyzstan's Administration in ITU. The Committee was established only in July this year and is responsible for implementing public policy and ensuring inter-sectoral coordination in the field of informatization, e-government, e-services, and electrical and postal communications.

We are fully committed to creating enabling conditions for building a modern, hi-tech, competitive data network with a view to developing informatization, e-government and the communication services market, and to achieving integration in global cyberspace.

Guided by these objectives, we have been able in such a short time to begin implementation of a number of national ICT projects.

Among these we must mention, first and foremost, the national project to achieve full Internet connectivity for all the nation's schools. Choosing schools for such a project was not fortuitous and reflects above all the fact that in all the country's remote and inaccessible population centres, it is schools that currently have the broadest network. Implementing this infrastructure project will facilitate access to the global network for many of our remote and inaccessible population centres and will help to create the conditions for ensuring connectivity of other socially significant public and municipal establishments in future. This will enable us to provide Internet access not only via mobile networks, which cover more than 90 per cent of the country, but also by constructing additional fibre-optic links.

The next project currently being implemented by this authority involves the creation of a closed internal network linking a number of government bodies and allowing instantaneous exchanges of protected information. For that purpose some 63 km of optical fibre have been laid to date, connecting 33 government bodies. In addition, the "Tunduk" system has been deployed based on a universal integrated intercommunication bus.

Another project is the launch of a single e-government service gateway E-GOV.KG. Our Committee has already developed the necessary software tools and work is currently progressing on the requisite standards base.

In all these activities our State Committee fully supports ITU's ideal of connecting people, wherever they live and whatever the means of communication available to them.

In conclusion, I would also draw participants' attention to the fact that the Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic is currently considering the question of putting forward the candidature of the Kyrgyz Republic for membership of the ITU Council at the next plenipotentiary conference.

Thank you for your attention.