

**Welcoming address by Mr N. Mukhitdinov,  
Director-General of the RCC Executive Committee, to participants in the  
Regional Preparatory Meeting of the CIS countries for WTDC-17**

*(9 to 11 November, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic)*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Participants in the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the CIS countries,

Today we are holding the first Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) of the CIS countries to prepare for the 2017 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17). During this meeting we shall be considering RCC's common proposals to WTDC-17. The preparatory meeting is being conducted by the International Telecommunication Union at the kind invitation of the State Committee for Information Technologies and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The work of the RPM encompasses the main elements of the Strategy for cooperation between the CIS participant countries in the development of the information society during the period up to 2025, the discussion of which took place at the joint session of the 51st Board of Heads of RCC Telecommunication Administrations, held on 24 May 2016 in Dushanbe (Republic of Tajikistan). This strategy was, moreover, adopted by the Council of Heads of Government of the CIS participant countries, meeting on 28 October 2016 in Minsk (Republic of Belarus).

The following work has been done by way of preparation for this RPM:

The 16th session of the RCC Working Group on work with ITU attached to the RCC Commission for the Coordination of International Cooperation was held on 12 September 2016. The discussions focused on preparations by the RCC Administrations for the 2016 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16), the Regional Preparatory Meeting of RCC participant countries for WTDC-17, and matters relating to implementation of the regional initiatives from WTDC-14.

Yesterday, the RCC Commission for the Coordination of International Cooperation held a meeting at which it took decisions on a number of issues relating to the outcomes of the work done by the RCC Administrations at such international ITU and UPU events as WTSA-16 and the 26th Universal Postal Congress, as well as to preparations by the RCC Administrations for WTDC-17 and ITU's 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18).

At this RPM, we shall be seeking to identify the areas of highest priority in terms of ICT development for the countries of our region, and discussing the proposals and contributions, as well as the RCC participant countries' regional initiatives, for the work of the conference and subsequent work period of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector.

I should like to express my gratitude to the RCC participant country administrations that have played an active part in the preparation of the contributions to be examined at the meeting. The RPM agenda contains a set of documents that we will be considering together over three working days. It is my hope that we will put together a package of relevant proposals pertaining to the work of WTDC-17 and the ITU Development Sector that will contribute to the effectiveness of the work done by the Sector and by our region as a whole.

My very special gratitude goes to the International Telecommunication Union for the excellent manner in which it has organized this event.

I should also like to thank the State Committee for Information Technologies and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic for having created a positive working atmosphere.

Finally, please allow me to conclude by wishing all participants in this RPM a successful and fruitful event.

Thank you.