Chair, RPM-CIS

Final report of the RPM-CIS chair

Introduction

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the CIS region (RPM-CIS) for the 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) was organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of ITU and held 24-25 April 2025 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, at the invitation of the Ministry of Digital Development and Innovative Technologies of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The objective of RPM-CIS was to identify and align priorities at the regional level for the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) on the basis of contributions submitted by Member States, Sector Members of the Telecommunication Development Sector of ITU (ITU-D), the regional telecommunication organization and academia from the region.

The meeting adopted proposals on priority issues that will serve as a basis for the elaboration of contributions to the Conference, which is to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025, and which will consider the ITU-D activities to be carried out over the next four-year period (2026-2029).

This report gives an account of the work of RPM-CIS and the results achieved.

Participation

The meeting was attended by 64 participants, including: 41 delegates representing 8 ITU Member States from the CIS region, 4 delegates as observers from ITU Member States, 4 representatives of ITU-D Sector Members, 3 ITU-D Sector Member representatives as observers, and 1 representative of Academia. Participants included 27 women and 37 men.

The list of participants has been published as Document 17.

1 Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony included several high-level speeches. In their opening remarks, speakers noted the following:

Contact:	Name/Organization/Entity:	Mr Azamat Zhamangulov, Kyrgyz Republic, RPM-CIS Chair
	Phone number:	
	E-mail:	Info@digital.gov.kg

–   **H.E. Mr Azamat Zhamangulov**, Minister of Digital Development and Innovative Technologies of the Kyrgyz Republic, expressed gratitude to ITU for organizing the event and acknowledged the crucial role of the upcoming WTDC-25 in shaping the region's digital future. He outlined the meeting's key focus areas, including the state of digital development, the implementation of the WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan, and preparations for WTDC-25.

–   **Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of BDT**, opened RPM-CIS, welcoming ministers, heads of delegations and other participants in a meeting he characterized as a further milestone on the long road to bridging the digital divide. He recapitulated the five priorities approved by WTDC-22 and confirmed that the CIS region had already made good progress on its existing regional initiatives. He encouraged delegates to work towards consensus on an updated set of five initiatives for the forthcoming WTDC-25. He noted that WTDC-25 would be hosted by Azerbaijan, making it the first WTDC to be held in the CIS region. Dr Zavazava expressed his appreciation to the Government of Kyrgyzstan for hosting the meeting and for investing in regional cooperation, noting that the meeting of the heads of delegations had already agreed on the chair and vice-chairs of RPM-CIS. He concluded by shining a spotlight on Girls in ICT Day, stressing the need to help girls acquire digital skills so that they could become innovators and entrepreneurs, not just consumers of technology. He also reaffirmed the commitment of the ITU secretariat to ensuring productive and participant-oriented preparations for WTDC-25.

–   **Ms Bella Cherkesova, Chair of the RCC Commission for the Coordination of International Cooperation and Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation**, emphasized the importance of international cooperation and the role of ICT in sustainable development. Ms Cherkesova expressed her gratitude to the ITU Regional Office for CIS and to Kyrgyzstan for their hospitality and highlighted the forthcoming WTDC in Baku, Azerbaijan. In her speech she also stressed the importance of modern ICT infrastructure for digital transformation, announced the first Global Digital Forum in Russia on 5-6 June 2025, and invited the participants to attend the Forum, where issues of digital development and international cooperation would also be discussed. She expressed her hopes for a successful RPM and WTDC-25.

The ceremony concluded with a group photograph of key officials and delegates, marking the official start of the meeting. The opening remarks of the BDT Director can be found here.

2   Election of the chair and vice-chairs

On the basis of consultations in the CIS region, **Mr Azamat Zhamangulov** of the Kyrgyz Republic was elected by acclamation as the Chair of RPM-CIS.

The meeting also unanimously endorsed the two nominations for vice-chairs of RPM-CIS:

–   **Ms Bella Cherkesova, Russian Federation;**

–   **Mr Jahongir Shukurov, Republic of Uzbekistan.**

In view of his scheduling commitments and the impossibility for him to physically attend the remaining sessions of the RPM, the Chair invited Ms Cherkesova to chair the rest of the meeting.

3   Approval of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda in Document 1(Rev.2).

4   Approval of the time management plan

The secretariat noted that RPM-CIS had received 16 documents: 8 from Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, 4 from the secretariat and 4 from the TDAG working groups. All the meeting documents were available on the RPM website.

Having examined the pertinent meeting documents, the meeting adopted the draft time management plan proposed (Document DT/1(Rev.1)).

5   Report on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan of WTDC-22 (including regional initiatives) and the presentation of information on the state of digital technology development in the CIS Region and trends in this area: challenges and opportunities

The secretariat introduced Document 2(Rev.3), entitled "Report on the implementation of the WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan (KAP)".

The document reports on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan (KAP) during the period from May to December 2024 and outlines the progress made in telecommunications and ICT development in various regions.

It highlights initiatives in infrastructure mapping, spectrum management and broadband development as critical to addressing inequalities in ICT connectivity and enhancing infrastructure resilience. The document notes capacity-building efforts, such as workshops and training on digital skills and ICT policy, targeting diverse groups including women, youth, and isolated communities. It reports significant strides in fostering digital innovation ecosystems, advancing regulatory frameworks, and promoting sustainable development through digital transformation projects. The report calls for strengthened collaboration, tailored strategies, and investment in emerging technologies to address persistent disparities and ensure robust connectivity for all in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The ITU regional initiatives for the CIS region are the five priority areas that were elaborated and agreed by the CIS region membership and approved under WTDC-22 Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022).

ITU regional initiatives for the CIS region:

–   CIS1: Developing infrastructure to promote innovation and partnerships in the introduction of new technologies – the Internet of Things, including the industrial Internet, smart cities and communities, 5G/IMT-2020 and next-generation NET-2030 communication networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, digital health, digital skills and environmental protection

–   CIS2: Cybersecurity and personal data protection

–   CIS3: Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation

–   CIS4: Digital skills and information and communication technology accessibility for the public, in particular for persons with disabilities

–   CIS5: Development of smart cities and communities

The membership was invited to make financial and in-kind contributions to the implementation of future regional initiatives, as financing them during the current period was found to be a

challenge. The membership was also invited to engage in the formulation of new regional initiatives to be adopted at WTDC-25, to ensure that they were inclusive of the needs in all countries of the region. Ongoing projects would continue in accordance with their time plans.

The presentation of the document was followed by a video about the outcomes of work done by ITU.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 2(Rev.3) and the video presentation.

The secretariat introduced Document 3(Rev.1), entitled "State of Digital Development and Trends in the CIS Region - Challenges and Opportunities" (available here). The presentation consisted of two parts.

The first part concerned the recent overview of the state of digital connectivity in the CIS region, aimed at supporting the countries in the region in elaborating policies and regulations, especially in preparation for WTDC-25. ITU highlighted the importance of universal and meaningful digital connectivity (UMC), defined as delivering a safe, productive and enriching online experience at an affordable cost.

The CIS region demonstrates the following strengths: Internet use reached 92 per cent of the population in 2024 (the highest of any ITU region), and Internet gender parity is almost achieved, with 93 per cent of men and 91 per cent of women using the Internet. Mobile broadband is widespread at relatively low cost, and 93 per cent of the population now have a fibre-optic station within 100 km.

However, progress remains uneven. In rural areas, 7 per cent of residents remain unconnected; seven out of nine countries in the region (78 per cent) are land-locked, resulting in higher backbone costs; and only one country reached the most advanced stage in ITU's ICT regulatory rankings. Cyber resilience also varies widely among countries: while the level of development of the region on the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) is rated 67 per cent overall, a gap of 70 points separates the best performers from the worst.

The second part presented practical national cases, such as a pilot project for rural broadband in Armenia, a regional seminar on ICT data policy in Uzbekistan and other successful initiatives that were implemented in CIS countries. To address the digital divide, the report called for further infrastructure deployment (especially in rural areas), harmonization of policy and regulations to encourage competition and investment, stronger statistical systems, and deeper regional cooperation. It also highlighted barriers such as fragmented regulation, weak institutions, limited digital skills and uneven cybersecurity capabilities.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 3(Rev.1) with thanks.

6   Report on the decisions of other ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work

The secretariat introduced agenda Document 4, entitled "Report on the decisions of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work".

The document summarizes the key decisions of the 2024 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24), the 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-23) and the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23), with a particular focus on their relevance to ITU-D. It aims to inform the meeting of these results and the work being undertaken by ITU-D

study groups and by the BDT secretariat, collaborating with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) and the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) to achieve these results.

This includes coordinating with TSB to promote the effective adoption of cybersecurity-related standards, and ensuring appropriate measures on the ground such as establishment of computer incident response teams (CIRTs), BDT efforts to assist developing countries with the transition from IPv4 to IPv6, including human and institutional capacity-building, collaboration on bridging the standardization gap in developing countries, and joint sessions at the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) and the AI for Good summit.

Regarding the WRC and its outcomes, the secretariat highlighted the long-standing joint work outlined in WTDC Resolution 9 to increase the efficiency of radio spectrum utilization, especially for developing countries, through the deployment of an application, the Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC). Attention was drawn to existing and forthcoming collaborative work on reducing energy consumption for environmental protection and mitigating the effects of climate change through the use of ICT/radiocommunication technologies and systems, where BDT in particular provides assistance to developing countries and where coordination between the study groups of BDT and TSB helps to optimize their mandates, and to ongoing innovations in satellite and space communications derived from the outcomes of WRC-23 as reflected in BDT commitments to awareness-raising and capacity-building, such as joint sessions at GSR and joint participation in space communication forums.

The document invites the ITU membership to review these results and ensure that the results and resolutions of WTDC-25 are aligned with those adopted at WRC-23 and WTSA-24.

Document 4 is accompanied by two addenda: Addendum 1(Rev.1) provides details on the outcomes of WTSA-24 held in New Delhi from 15 to 24 October 2024, and Addendum 2 provides details on the outcomes of RA-23, WRC-23, and the first session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM27-1) for WRC-27, all held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The secretariat introduced the attachments as part of Document 4.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 4 and its addenda with appreciation.

7   Preparations for WTDC-25

7.1   Preliminary draft ITU-D contribution to the ITU strategic plan and draft action plan

Ms Inga Rimkevičienė, Chair of the TDAG Working Group on ITU-D Priorities, introduced Document 8(Rev.2), entitled "Progress report of the TDAG Working Group on the ITU-D Priorities".

Ms Rimkevičienė provided an overview of the progress report in that document. She emphasized the group's mandate to analyse and align ITU-D priorities with global development goals, and to make recommendations for the Baku Action Plan for WTDC-25.

The presentation highlighted the group's work to date, including the meetings held so far. Ms Rimkevičienė also provided information on the group's next steps to develop a final deliverable for presentation to TDAG at its 2025 meeting.

The presentation is available here.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 8(Rev.2) with thanks.

7.2   Future study group questions

Dr Ahmed Sharafat, Chairman of the TDAG Working Group on Future Study Groups, introduced Document 5(Rev.3), entitled "Progress report on the work of the TDAG-WG-futureSGQ".

He reported on the group's work and outlined its key tasks, including assessing the relevance of existing study Questions, proposing new topics, and ensuring alignment with ITU-D priorities. The report details the methodology used, such as the consultation with stakeholders through online questionnaires, which revealed significant interest in topics such as broadband development, cybersecurity and smart cities.

Dr Sharafat stressed the importance of merging study group Questions to increase efficiency. He also highlighted the importance of contributions to the group from Member States and from regional telecommunication organizations (RTOs) to represent regional perspectives in upcoming discussions. Dr Sharafat concluded by encouraging continued contributions to ensure that the final document reflected diverse regional insights, with the outcomes set to be presented at the TDAG meeting in May 2025, before WTDC-25.

The presentation is available here.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 5(Rev.3) with thanks.

7.3   Preliminary draft WTDC-25 Declaration

Dr Abdulkarim Oloyede, Chair of the TDAG Working Group on the WTDC Declaration, introduced Document 7(Rev.1), entitled "Report on progress of the TDAG Working Group on the Declaration", and gave a progress report on the work of the Group, including meetings held.

He informed RPM-CIS that the working group had held three meetings to date, during which a zero draft had been developed, incorporating feedback from stakeholders. The proposed theme for the 2025 WTDC declaration, "Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future," was accepted in principle, with no objections raised. The draft follows the structure of the Kigali Declaration, consisting of an introduction, declaration statement, commitments, and a call to action. The working group also worked to ensure alignment with ITU-D priorities and the discussions within other TDAG working groups.

He elaborated on the steps towards further engagement with the RTO. The aim was to refine the draft and present it to TDAG for its consideration at the upcoming May 2025 meeting, before submitting it to WTDC-25. He underlined the inclusive approach taken and encouraged Member States to contribute actively to the upcoming meeting (during TDAG-25) and to the proposed zero draft, particularly in the preparations for the May 2025 TDAG meeting.

The presentation is available here.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 7(Rev.1) with thanks.

7.4   Rules of procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1)

There was no specific contribution under this agenda item, so this agenda item was considered within the discussions under agenda item 7.5 which focused on the streamlining of WTDC resolutions.

7.5   Streamlining WTDC resolutions

Ms Andrea Grippa, chair of the TDAG WG on streamlining resolutions, introduced Document 6(Rev.1), entitled "Progress report of the TDAG-WG-SR". She summarized the Working Group's activities and highlighted the four meetings held to date, focused on reviewing existing WTDC resolutions and identifying opportunities to enhance their alignment and relevance. She explained the adopted approach of clustering resolutions into thematic groups, with designated volunteers coordinating the review process for each cluster.

The group proposed a thematic clustering of resolutions into ten categories, including information and statistics, regional cooperation and projects, access infrastructure and networks, environment, gender and youth, cybersecurity, and accessibility. She stressed the importance of aligning ITU-D priorities with the evolving digital policies while still maintaining the relevance and feasibility of resolutions.

Ms Grippa reported on the 26 March 2025 meeting and drew attention to the meeting scheduled for 2 May 2025, where the group would conclude its discussions on contributions and prepare a comprehensive report for the May 2025 TDAG meeting. She reiterated the call for recognized volunteers to contribute to the review process, in particular regarding the four remaining clusters which require further analysis.

The presentation is available here.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 6(Rev.1) with thanks.

7.6   Presentation by WTDC-25 host country Azerbaijan

The representative from Azerbaijan gave an update on preparations for the upcoming WTDC in Baku, Azerbaijan, 17-28 November 2025. The presentation covered various aspects of the preparations. A video clip was shown along with the presentation.

RPM-CIS took note of the update with thanks.

8   Priority setting for regional initiatives, related projects and financing mechanisms

The chair of RPM-CIS invited the contributors to present their inputs on regional initiatives. The following contributions were presented:

Document 9, entitled "Addressing Barriers to Mobile Internet Adoption", was introduced by the GSM Association (GSMA). The document offers the mobile industry's perspective on efforts to close the digital divide, outlining two distinct groups of digitally excluded people: those affected by the "coverage gap", and those affected by the "usage gap". The proposal calls on WTDC-25 to take action to recognize the urgency of tackling the usage gap, which is now larger than the coverage gap, and to support joint action in dismantling barriers, as part of the overall effort to advance digital inclusion.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 9 with thanks.

Document 10, entitled "RCC position on the future structure of ITU-D study groups and their study Questions", proposes a comprehensive review and restructuring of ITU-D study groups to optimize efforts in addressing new and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and metaverse to enhance universal and meaningful digital connectivity. The proposal includes merging some questions to eliminate duplication and creating new study groups to focus on specific areas, such

as digital transformation and ICT metrics. The proposed structure for the next study period (2026-2029) aims to better align with the global goals and make the work of ITU-D more effective.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 10 with thanks.

Document 11, "Progress on the consideration of the draft common proposals of the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications on the CIS regional initiatives for the period 2026-2029", was introduced by RCC. The document gives an overview of progress in the development of the RCC common proposals on regional initiatives for the CIS region for the period 2026-2029. It outlines a number of initiatives, including the introduction of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT systems and networks; education and skills in telecommunications/ICTs, including persons with disabilities and specific needs; security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, including combating fraud; creation of an enabling environment and regulation of telecommunications/ICTs; development and implementation of artificial intelligence technologies. It is proposed that the material agreed at the level of the RCC working groups serve as the basis for further discussions of the structure of the regional initiatives for the CIS region for the period 2026-2029 within the framework of the WTDC-25 RPM for the CIS countries.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 11 with thanks.

Document 12, entitled "Proposals for work items with ITU", contains proposals for cooperation with ITU for the period 2026-2029. It highlights the importance of strategic cooperation in areas such as digital transformation, ICT solutions for sustainable development, international standards and protocols on AI and IoT, science and education, cybersecurity and environmental monitoring. The proposals aim to improve digital infrastructure, support youth-led and inclusive ICT initiatives, and foster collaborative research and education activities. The document calls for these suggestions to be included in recommendations for the forthcoming ITU conference and in the annual operational plan.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 12 with thanks.

Document 13, entitled "KINEU proposals for regional initiatives for 2026-2029: Enhancing access to ICTs and developing digital skills through educational initiatives" was introduced by Dulatov Kostanay Engineering and Economic University, KINEU. The document makes proposals for regional initiatives for 2026-2029 focusing on increasing access to ICTs and developing digital skills through educational initiatives. It highlights the importance of digital inclusion, support for youth-driven ICT initiatives, sustainable connectivity for educational institutions, and development of a university-based network infrastructure. The main proposals include the creation of digital competence centres, support for youth initiatives and ICT start-ups, sustainable school connectivity, inclusive digital solutions for vulnerable groups, capacity building for teachers and administrators, and joint research and pilot projects. The recommendations are aimed at strengthening cooperation with ITU and supporting the Kostanay Smart Educational Ecosystem 2.0 initiative as an example of regional partnership.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 13 with thanks.

Document 14, entitled "IT4Everyone: Inclusive IT Education for Children with ASD", was introduced by the Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It presents the IT4Everyone project, which aims to create an inclusive IT centre for adolescents aged 10-13 years with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The centre, called Aaron Academy Kids, will offer an adapted educational program in electronics, programming, 3D modelling, and project work, tailored to the unique needs of children with ASD. The project will address the acute shortage of

inclusive programmes in Uzbekistan and propose a sustainable model of digital inclusion that can be scaled in the future. The initiative includes educator training and systematic monitoring and analysis of learning outcomes to ensure effective implementation and scalability. The goal is to develop digital skills, confidence and motivation among children with ASD, thereby promoting their technological and social integration.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 14 with thanks.

Document 15, entitled "Sahiya – Uzbek Imo Sign Language Development Platform", was presented by the Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It outlines an innovative project to develop sign language interpretation software and a plugin that automatically translates websites into sign language. The project uses AI technologies, including neural networks for gesture recognition and automatic translation of multimedia data, to improve access to educational, vocational and social resources for persons with hearing, speech and visual impairments. The proposal highlights the importance of addressing the daily challenges faced by people with hearing and visual impairments, with the aim of providing equal access to information and opportunities, thereby promoting social adaptation and digital literacy. The project is in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in the field of reducing inequalities and ensuring quality education.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 15 with thanks.

Document 16, entitled "Proposals of Tajikistan to RPM-CIS", was presented by the Agency for Innovations and Digital Technologies of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. It outlines Tajikistan's strategic initiatives on digital development, focusing on enhancing cybersecurity, strengthening bilateral cooperation with ITU, and improving the country's position in various international indices. Suggestions include developing a national strategy for cybersecurity, creating a computer incident response team (CERT) and a security operations centre (SOC), and enlisting international donors and expertise to support these efforts. The document highlights the importance of cooperation among various national and international organizations to achieve these goals and to ensure the protection of critical information infrastructure. This contribution was accompanied by an oral presentation from Tajikistan on topics that will be considered during the discussions related to the future regional initiatives of the CIS region.

RPM-CIS took note of Document 16 with thanks.

In addition to the written contributions, the following oral presentations were made during the RPM plenary meeting:

–		The Kyrgyz Republic proposed that the discussion of regional initiatives should include a human capacity development track for sustainable digital transformation, noting that the region's progress depends on three interconnected pillars: modern broadband infrastructure, an up-to-date legal framework, and well-prepared human capital, without which the first two pillars cannot bring their full benefits.

–		Intersputnik highlighted the importance of regional initiatives in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and presented a project aimed at improving digital skills in satellite communications. The proposal focuses on building industry capabilities and digital skills in satellite communication and broadcasting technologies and addressing skills shortages through education programmes. The project is aimed at improving the quality of services in the field of satellite communication. The speaker expressed support for the RPM-CIS

format, recognizing its potential to contribute to addressing social and economic challenges, and to international cooperation under the Connect 2030 Agenda.

Work by the drafting group of the RPM plenary

After considering all the inputs, a drafting group was established to elaborate regional initiatives (RIs) for the CIS region for the 2026-2029 cycle, led by Mr Alexey Borodin, RCC Director-General. The drafting group met on 24 April 2025 from 1500 to 1800 hours and harmonized draft regional initiatives based on the successful execution of the existing regional initiatives for the CIS region and on all the written and oral contributions presented during the RPM plenary session.

The outcome of the drafting group's work was presented on the second day of RPM-CIS and published in Document DT/3. Thus, the following proposed regional initiatives were adopted:

CIS1: Introduction of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT systems and networks

CIS2: Telecommunication/ICT education and skills, including for persons with disabilities and specific needs

CIS3: Security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, including countering fraud

CIS4: Creation of an enabling environment and telecommunication/ICT regulation

CIS5: Development and implementation of artificial intelligence technologies

9   Other business

The following questions were addressed in this agenda item:

–   The draft outcome report of the 2025 Regional Development Forum was presented. RPM-CIS accepted the report with thanks. The report was issued as an information document (INF/10) for RPM-CIS.

–   An update on the Global Youth Summit held in Varadero, Cuba, from 11 to 13 March 2025 was presented (INF/3), accompanied by a video recording of the event. The Director of BDT presented a certificate to Intersputnik in recognition of its invaluable contribution to the Global Youth Summit.

RPM-CIS took note of this information.

10   Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony of RPM-CIS was marked by addresses by the Director of BDT, Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, and by the RPM vice-chair, Ms Bella Cherkesova.

In his speech, the Director of BDT expressed his gratitude to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for organizing the event, and gave special thanks to Ms Cherkesova for chairing the meeting in the absence of the RPM chair. He also expressed his gratitude to the Member States, Sector Members, and all participants, both in-person and remote, for their active involvement in discussions that contributed to the identification of draft regional initiatives for the forthcoming cycle. He emphasized that these initiatives would be carried forward to the World Telecommunication Development Conference in November 2025, ensuring that the priorities of the CIS countries were represented.

Dr Zavazava reaffirmed the commitment of the ITU secretariat to supporting Member States in their preparations for WTDC and in their broader goal of achieving universal and meaningful

connectivity. Emphasizing the shared vision and commitment to impactful results under the principle of BDT4Impact, he reiterated ITU's focus on delivering tangible outcomes. Dr Zavazava also presented a CPM highlights video before concluding his remarks.

Ms Cherkesova then made closing remarks expressing appreciation to the host, the ITU Member States, the ITU secretariat and all participants for their commitment and spirit of cooperation. Representatives of the delegations of the ITU Member States and RCC expressed their gratitude to the host, the telecommunications administration of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the RPM vice-chair Ms Cherkesova for the successful conduct of the RPM.

In the course of the closing ceremony, certificates of appreciation were presented to the RPM chair, Azamat Zhamangulov, in recognition of the holding of RPM-CIS, and to the Director General of RCC, Alexey Borodin, for the contribution of RCC to the preparations for WTDC-25.

ANNEX 1

Proposed regional initiatives for the CIS region for 2026-2029

(draft) CIS regional initiatives
CIS1: Introduction of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT systems and networks **Objective:** The need to close the digital divide in terms of the technical availability of telecommunication/ICT services and the emergence of ever more new telecommunication/ICT systems and networks make it necessary for Member States and business and academic institutions in the CIS region to work jointly for their integration. **Expected results:** 1   Study of the management of radio-frequency and orbital resources, including aspects of monitoring and control of their use, for the introduction of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT systems and networks; 2   Analysis of ways to develop and implement green ICTs, including improving energy efficiency; 3   Study of the integration of metaverse-related telecommunication/ICT systems and networks.
CIS2: Telecommunication/ICT education and skills, including for persons with disabilities and specific needs **Objective:** The need to close the digital skills divide in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, as well as the need for participation of all segments of the population, including persons with disabilities and specific needs, in the digital economy and digital transformation processes necessitate further focus on telecommunication/ICT education and skills in the CIS region. **Expected results:** 1   Studies on improving digital literacy and digital skills for persons with disabilities and specific needs in the interests of digital transformation; 2   Use of the metaverse for distance learning, including persons with disabilities and specific needs; 3   Creation of a network of training institutions running programmes for the development of human potential for persons with disabilities and with specific needs, taking into account the need to develop the necessary methodological framework and incorporate specialized technical resources; 4   Creation of a regional educational platform for sharing experience and training technical staff in digital broadcasting and media content production; 5   Enhancement of human resources in satellite communication and broadcasting technologies, including through regional training seminars.
CIS3: Security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, including countering fraud **Objective:** The need to build confidence and security in addressing the closing of the digital divide and the emergence of ever more new cyberthreats and new forms of economic crime using ICTs make it imperative to continue focusing on cybersecurity issues in the CIS region.

Expected results:

1   Study of the use of telecommunications/ICTs to combat economic crime and ICT fraud;

2   Cooperation and technical assistance for the protection of critical information infrastructure;

3   Establishment and support of computer incident response teams (CIRTs) in the CIS region, including the Central Asia sub-region;

4   Enhancement of technical staff qualification in the field of security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs in the CIS region and the Central Asia sub-region, including through dedicated training centres and cyber-exercises.

CIS4: Creation of an enabling environment and telecommunication/ICT regulation

Objective: The need to close the digital divide in terms of affordability and the emergence of ever more new telecommunication/ICT systems and networks make it necessary to ensure the timely evolution of digital regulation and the formulation of digital development strategies in the CIS countries and throughout the region.

Expected results:

1   Studies of ways to apply a common regional approach to digital transformation, which will require pooling the efforts and resources of the countries of the CIS region;

2   The shaping of regulatory frameworks for artificial intelligence and metaverse technologies and systems;

3   Formation of a regional system for the development, functioning and interaction of IT parks;

4   Establishment of regulatory frameworks for the development of non-GSO systems and access to them.

CIS5: Development and implementation of artificial intelligence technologies

Objective: The emergence of artificial intelligence technologies is creating a wide range of opportunities for using them to solve problems facing the communications sector in CIS countries.

Expected results:

1   Investigation of the use of artificial intelligence to improve quality of life for persons with disabilities and specific needs, including people with autism spectrum disorders;

2   Introduction of digital platforms based on artificial intelligence and big data to provide metrics on the information society and sustainable development;

3   The application of artificial intelligence and related technologies to monitor climate and environmental parameters;

4   Formation of a regional branch of the AI for Good platform for development purposes.

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