

# ITU Regional Development Forum for the Commonwealth of Independent States



14-15 December 2020

15 December 2020

Original: Russian

## REPORT

### Introduction

The ITU Regional Development Forum for the Commonwealth of Independent States (RDF-CIS) was held with the objective of helping ITU Member States formulate proposals for the 2021 world telecommunication development conference (WTDC-21) and for the operational plan of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), and to contribute to preparations for the WTDC-21 regional preparatory meeting for the CIS (RPM-CIS) planned for 21-22 April 2021.

To this end, the outcome of the work done by the Regional Office (RO) in 2020 was presented to the RDF-CIS. Representatives of the ITU membership provided information about projects implemented jointly with ITU within the framework of the WTDC-17 regional initiatives (RIs). Forum participants discussed progress made in the implementation of the WTDC-17 regional initiatives and examined implementation and funding mechanisms for ITU projects. The results of advanced studies on the four main areas of the ITU's work in the region were also presented: ICT infrastructure; digital transformation; digital skills; and smart sustainable cities.

The ITU Member States shared their main national priorities and made proposals on the directions of ITU's work in the region.

The present report covers the work of the Forum and its outcomes.

### Participants

Registered Forum participants included 122 delegates from 26 countries.

The programme and presentations are available on the [website](#) of ITU.

### Session 1: Implementation of the CIS Regional Initiatives approved by WTDC-17

Session 1 opened with a presentation from the ITU Regional Office for the CIS Region on the main areas of activity, the partners, a brief account of the state of implementation for the main projects in each of the WTDC-17 regional initiatives, and a comparison of the portfolio of projects of the CIS region with that of the other regions.

ITU Member States and partners gave more detailed presentations of projects being implemented jointly with ITU, technical assistance, and events held in 2018-2020 for each of the regional initiatives.

Session 1 continued with reports from BDT representatives on the overall advancement of implementation of projects under the WTDC-17 regional initiatives and descriptions of the existing resource mobilization mechanisms for ITU projects.

Session 1 ended with the ITU Regional Office reporting on the tasks accomplished and the achievements in implementation of the WTDC-17 regional initiatives, an assessment of the current state of regional initiative implementation, and planned activities for 2021 to ensure the fullest possible results for each of the initiatives by the end of the period.

## **Principal conclusions:**

1 In the framework of the implementation of *RI 1: Development of e-health to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages*, from 2018 to 2020:

- Specialized multimedia training courses were developed for questions relating to e-health (<https://ehealthcourses.online/info/>);
- A regional workshop on e-health was held for Europe and CIS ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/10\\_Odessa/10\\_Odessa.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/10_Odessa/10_Odessa.aspx));
- Recommendations were prepared for the construction of telemedicine networks at the local (individual settlements), regional (districts, regions) and national levels taking into account the specific situation of the countries in the region ([https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Documents/RI-WTDC17/ONAT\\_RI2\\_Recommendations\\_Rev2.pdf](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Documents/RI-WTDC17/ONAT_RI2_Recommendations_Rev2.pdf));
- ITU online training on a country basis was conducted on questions relating to e-health (<https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/Direct%20Assistance/eHealth2020.aspx>).

2 The partners for the implementation of *RI 1: Development of e-health to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages* are the Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications and the World Health Organization.

3 For 2021, the implementation of *RI 1: Development of e-health to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages* includes plans to:

- Create a pilot telemedicine station in Uzbekistan with a secure electrical power source using solar energy;
- Analyse and disseminate information about start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises working in the digital healthcare sector;
- Create a distributed ITU repository for digital health care via the ITU Startup Central Eurasia platform.

4 In the framework of the implementation of *RI 2: Use of telecommunications/information and communication technology to ensure inclusive, equitable, quality and safe education, including the enhancement of women's knowledge of information and communication technologies and e-government*, from 2018 to 2020:

- A regional workshop for Europe and CIS on cybersecurity and child online protection was held ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/04\\_Odessa/04\\_Odessa.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/04_Odessa/04_Odessa.aspx));
- Professional trainings were held in the Kyrgyz Republic for informatics teachers, within the framework of the ITU Initiative “Connect a School, Connect a Community” (<https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/Regional%20Initiatives/TeachersKG2019.aspx>);
- A training centre for IP telephony was created in Belarus (<https://www.mpt.gov.by/ru/news/03-03-2020-6019>);
- Online courses for women and girls were developed in Azerbaijan (<https://iktlab.edu.az/>);
- A forum on child online protection was held ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2020/09\\_Online/09\\_Online.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2020/09_Online/09_Online.aspx));
- The multimedia distance-learning course on the safe use of Internet resources was updated and localized (<https://onlinesafety.info/#/home>);
- The new AR/VR laboratory in Armenia is nearing completion.

5 The partners for the implementation of *RI 2: Use of telecommunications/information and communication technology to ensure inclusive, equitable, quality and safe education, including the*

*enhancement of women’s knowledge of information and communication technologies and e-government* are the Ministry of Transport, Communication and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Republic of Belarus, the State Committee on Information Technologies and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Belarusian State Academy of Telecommunications, the Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications, ZTE Corporation, M. Dulatov Kostanay Engineering and Economics University, the non-governmental organization Cross of Armenian Unity, and the Armenian Operators’ Association.

6 For 2021, the implementation of *RI 2: Use of telecommunications/information and communication technology to ensure inclusive, equitable, quality and safe education, including the enhancement of women’s knowledge of information and communication technologies and e-government* includes plans to:

- Continue implementation of the initiative “GIGA – Connecting Every School to the Internet”;
- Create a digital skills centre for women and young people in Uzbekistan;
- Create a smart education ecosystem in Kostanay;
- Provide targeted assistance to foster the acquisition of digital skills and reduce the digital divide;
- Incorporate courses for child online protection and electronic health care in the ITU Academy platform;
- Study and provide targeted assistance on accessible ICTs for persons with disabilities.

7 In the framework of the implementation of *RI 3: Development and regulation of infocommunication infrastructure to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient*, from 2018 to 2020:

- A cyber drill was conducted for the countries of the CIS ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/09\\_Baku/09\\_Baku.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/09_Baku/09_Baku.aspx));
- A document was produced examining the experience of Moscow in putting the ITU-T Recommendations on building smart cities into practice ([https://www.itu.int/en/publications/Documents/tsb/2018-U4SSC-Case-of-Moscow-RU/files/downloads/The-Case-of-Moscow\\_18-00503-R.pdf](https://www.itu.int/en/publications/Documents/tsb/2018-U4SSC-Case-of-Moscow-RU/files/downloads/The-Case-of-Moscow_18-00503-R.pdf));
- A feasibility assessment was carried out for the creation of a computer incident response team (CIRT) centre in Kyrgyzstan;
- National training was conducted on "How to Build a CIRT Based on Open Source Tools" ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2019/02\\_Bishkek/02\\_Bishkek.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2019/02_Bishkek/02_Bishkek.aspx));
- ITU held the forum “Smart sustainable cities: technological trends, success stories and future prospects” and ran training on “Key performance indicators for smart sustainable cities to achieve the SDGs” ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2019/02\\_Minsk/02\\_Minsk.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2019/02_Minsk/02_Minsk.aspx));
- The forum "Smart sustainable cities: from concept to implementation" was held ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2020/03\\_Minsk/03\\_Minsk.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2020/03_Minsk/03_Minsk.aspx));
- The “Workshop on Intelligent Transport Systems” was held ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2019/04\\_Baku/04\\_Baku.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2019/04_Baku/04_Baku.aspx));
- The Asia-Pacific-CIS Inter-Regional Cyberdrill was held (<https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/ASP-CIS-Cyberdrill-2019.aspx>);
- The “Report of BBA Regulation in CIS and Neighbouring Countries” was published (ITU study of broadband regulation policies and principles) (<https://www.itu.int/pub/D-PREF-THEM.18-2020>);

- The ITU Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Europe and CIS was held (<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2020/CSF/SofiaBG.aspx>);
- A CIS regional dialogue on cybersecurity was held (<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/CyberDrill-2020-CIS-Regional-Dialogue.aspx>);
- A global cyber drill was held (<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/Cybedrills-2020.aspx>).

8 The partners for the implementation of *RI 3: Development and regulation of infocommunication infrastructure to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient* are the Ministry of Transport, Communication and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Information Technology Department of the city of Moscow, PJSC Rostelecom, Saint-Petersburg State University of Telecommunications, OJSC Giprosvjaz, the State Committee on Information Technologies and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the World Bank.

9 For 2021, the implementation of *RI 3: Development and regulation of infocommunication infrastructure to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient* includes plans to:

- Implement the Connect2Recover initiative;
- Create a CIRT centre in Kyrgyzstan;
- Perform a comparative analysis of the level of development of smart sustainable cities;
- Hold regional and national cybersecurity exercises;
- Provide targeted assistance for broadband access mapping and last-mile solutions;
- Hold a regional forum on regulation and economics in the sector;
- Provide targeted assistance on regulation and government policy on ICTs;
- Provide targeted assistance on digital transformation and the development of smart cities;
- Hold a regional forum on smart sustainable cities.

10 In the framework of the implementation of *RI 4: Monitoring the ecological status and the presence and rational use of natural resources*, from 2018 to 2020:

- The seminar "Using ICT to save lives" was conducted for Europe and CIS (<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2019/WO/Using-ICT-to-save-lives.aspx>);
- A spatial data infrastructure was created for analysing and monitoring the region's ecological situation;
- Support was provided to the project "Regional E-waste Monitor for the CIS+" ([https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Documents/Events/2019/10\\_Bishkek/Presentations/ITU%20RDF%20CIS%20-%20Kees%20Balde.pdf](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Documents/Events/2019/10_Bishkek/Presentations/ITU%20RDF%20CIS%20-%20Kees%20Balde.pdf)).

11 The partners for the implementation of *RI 4: Monitoring the ecological status and the presence and rational use of natural resources* are the State Committee on Information Technologies and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic, Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications, and the Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications.

12 For 2021, the implementation of *RI 4: Monitoring the ecological status and the presence and rational use of natural resources* includes plans to:

- Support the further development and implementation of the spatial data infrastructure for analysing and monitoring the ecological situation in Central Asia;
- Study the use made of the outcomes of the project "Regional E-waste Monitor for the CIS+" in the countries of the region.

13 In the framework of the implementation of *RI 5: Fostering innovative solutions and partnership for the implementation of Internet of Things technologies and their interaction in telecommunication networks, including 4G, IMT-2020 and next-generation networks, in the interests of sustainable development*, from 2018 to 2020:

- The International Research, Development and Testing Centre for New Equipment, Technologies and Services (phase 1) was created (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlcNQ2KFZLA>);
- A regional workshop was held for the CIS on mobile number portability, conformance and interoperability ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/03\\_Moscow/03\\_Moscow.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/03_Moscow/03_Moscow.aspx));
- A regional forum was held on “Internet of Things, Telecommunication Networks and Big Data as basic infrastructure for Digital Economy” (<https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/20180604/Pages/default.aspx>);
- The ITU forum "Internet of Things: future applications and services. Perspective 2030" and the fourth ITU Workshop on Network 2030 were held ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2019/05\\_St\\_Petersburg/05\\_St\\_Petersburg.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2019/05_St_Petersburg/05_St_Petersburg.aspx));
- The second annual CIS and Central and South-Eastern European Spectrum Management Conference was held ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/09\\_Almaty/09\\_Almaty.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/09_Almaty/09_Almaty.aspx));
- The third annual CIS and Central and South-Eastern Europe Spectrum Management Conference and the ITU workshop “How to achieve interference free communication at the current technological stage” were held ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2019/04\\_Minsk/04\\_Minsk.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2019/04_Minsk/04_Minsk.aspx));
- A regional workshop was held on deployment of VoLTE/ViLTE networks based on IMS ([https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/10\\_Samarkand/10\\_Samarkand.aspx](https://www.itu.int/ru/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2018/10_Samarkand/10_Samarkand.aspx));
- Technical assistance was provided to Belarus on the unification of top-level data exchange processes and development of the necessary technical standard for the data format and exchange processes in smart cities (<http://giprosvjaz.by/ru/news/videokonferenciya-po-voprosam-2657>).

14 The partners for the implementation of *RI 5: Fostering innovative solutions and partnership for the implementation of Internet of Things technologies and their interaction in telecommunication networks, including 4G, IMT-2020 and next-generation networks, in the interests of sustainable development* are the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Central Science Research Telecommunication Institute, PJSC Rostelecom, Saint-Petersburg State University of Telecommunications and OJSC Giprosvjaz.

15 For 2021, the implementation of *RI 5: Fostering innovative solutions and partnership for the implementation of Internet of Things technologies and their interaction in telecommunication networks, including 4G, IMT-2020 and next-generation networks, in the interests of sustainable development* includes plans to:

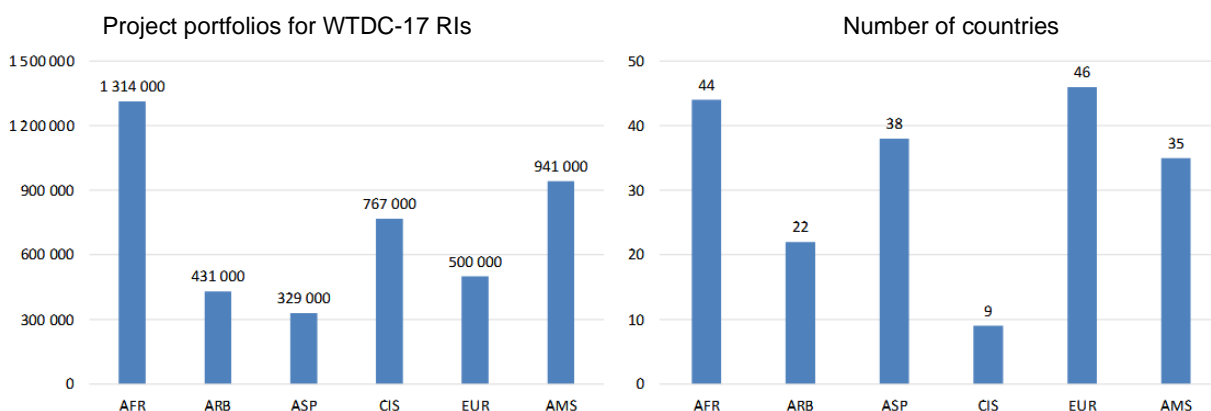
- Create the International Research, Development and Testing Centre for New Equipment, Technologies and Services (phase 2);
- Provide targeted assistance for compatibility and compliance testing and admission of additional countries to the ITU testing centre;
- Hold a regional forum on future networks;
- Conduct studies on the health effects of electromagnetic fields;
- Provide targeted assistance for radio monitoring;
- Conduct a regional 5G/IMT-2020 forum;

- Conduct targeted training on implementation of the outcomes of WRC-19 and spectrum management;
- Develop methods and tools for calculating tariffs for ICT services (for public-private partnerships).

16 To develop methods for assessing in-kind contributions, a contribution needs to be prepared and submitted to the ITU Council in 2021, or to the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources.

17 ITU has plans to examine the question of simplifying the manner in which procurement procedures are handled for project implementation.

18 The ratio of regional project portfolios to number of countries for CIS is higher than that for any other region.



19 The implementation of regional initiatives is well advanced.

RI	Expected outcome	Status	Percent completed
cis1	1	Green	<b>70 %</b>
	2	Red	
	3	Yellow	
	4	Green	
	5	Green	
cis2	1	Green	<b>100 %</b>
	2	Green	
	3	Green	
	4	Green	
	5	Green	
cis3	1	Green	<b>80 %</b>
	2	Green	
	3	Red	
	4	Green	
	5	Green	
cis4	1	Yellow	<b>87.5 %</b>
	2	Green	
	3	Green	
	4	Green	
cis5	1	Green	<b>100 %</b>
	2	Green	
	3	Green	
	4	Green	
	5	Green	

20 The Kyrgyz Republic proposed a regional initiative on digital skills for persons with disabilities for the next study period.

## Session 2: Vision 2025 – Digital/ICT development priorities of the CIS countries

One of the most important items on the WTDC-21 agenda will be the adoption of new regional initiatives: five major areas of development work agreed by the Member States for each region, providing the framework for the activities of ITU-D in the 2022-2025 period.

In preparation for WTDC-21 the Regional Office for the CIS region is studying promising areas of development based on the interest shown by the Member States in recent years:

- ICT infrastructure;
- Cybersecurity;
- Digital transformation;
- Digital skills;
- Smart sustainable cities.

Four of the areas for studies were the subjects of presentations in session 2. The area on cybersecurity is currently being studied and will be presented at the RPM-CIS. RDF-CIS participants were also asked to assign priorities to concrete themes for each of the development areas, voting online via Zoom.

At the end of session 2 the Vice-Chairmen of ITU-D Study Group 1 and Study Group 2 presented the main outputs and plans for future studies for their respective Study Groups.

### **Main conclusions:**

#### 1 Proposals in the area of ICT infrastructure:

- ICT infrastructure development is a priority for the CIS in the following eight areas:
  - 1) Future networks (pre-Network 2030)
  - 2) Efficiency and automation
  - 3) 5G
  - 4) Internet of Things
  - 5) Optical technology
  - 6) Evolving technologies
  - 7) ICT projects of social value
  - 8) Connected transport.
- Examine the proposed areas of study for ICT infrastructure and incorporate them in the ITU work plan, including regional initiatives and operational plans of ITU for orderly ICT development in the region in the 2022-2025 period.
- Examine and plan for the use of those methods for developing new technologies (expert groups, case studies and virtual laboratories) that are most in demand.
- Examine partnerships with nominated companies as part of the process of presentation of the study areas.

#### 2 Proposals in the area of digital transformation:

- Develop an interconnected, innovative ecosystem for start-ups and digital transformation for the countries of the central Eurasian region.
- Create digital government services based on open innovations and foster their development.
- Develop regional financial innovations.
- Develop regional educational innovations.
- Create a high-speed data transmission backbone based on open access and foster its development.

### 3 Proposals in the area of digital skills:

#### For participating countries:

- Enshrine the term “digital skills” in the legislation, incorporate key performance indicators (KPIs), and pursue further harmonization of standards in education and employment.
- Create favourable conditions for remote work with digital skills, and set up a unit to promote professional digital skills on the basis of the sectoral government bodies or the civil service.
- In the employment domain, involve non-governmental organizations in addition to government bodies responsible for ICTs and education, study best practices, and implement the recommendations of United Nations organizations.
- Create and disseminate courses on “digital technologies plus the sector” in partnership with the private sector and non-governmental organizations, for the acquisition of basic digital skills by specific groups: persons with disabilities, elderly persons.
- Provide financial support (in the form of grants or subsidies) for organizations that provide retraining or expert training for practical use of digital skills in priority sectors of the economy and industries where employment is declining significantly.

#### For ITU:

- Train chief data officers, responsible for digital technologies in ministries, committees, services, agencies and local government, to achieve a more effective integration of digital and new technologies in government politics (cases, pilots);
- Support and develop recommendations for the acquisition of basic digital skills by specific groups: persons with disabilities, elderly persons;
- Allocate grants/subsidies for scalable innovative educational projects (active learning, gamification) to study ICT professions of the future (machine learning, blockchain, cloud computing, fintech);
- Expand cooperation with specialized media, ICT employers’ associations and university student clubs; organize platforms to host young people and digital youth ambassadors;
- Promote a variety of services and systems for monitoring Internet speed; implement the recommended Internet speed for purposes of education and professional training; support piloting of new digital technologies, e.g. through the UNICEF Innovations Fund.

### 4 Proposals in the area of smart sustainable cities:

- Hold SSC-related events (forums, seminars, training, etc.);
- Translate ITU documents relating to SSCs;
- Involve international experts as moderators of working groups on questions relating to SSC development;
- Create a “smart city” pavilion following the example of Moscow;
- Develop SSC development standards, adapt the recommendations of ITU and other international organizations;
- Develop a system of SSC indicators or adapt existing systems in international use;
- Develop or upgrade SSC information resources;
- Develop a digital SSC platform;
- Run sector projects for SSC development;



- Develop an information resource that matches specified characteristics of a city to suitable SSC services and applications already in use in other cities or countries.

### **Session 3: CIS country priorities for the development of digital technologies/ICTs to 2025**

Session 3 had a strategic orientation. High-level managers from administrations, Sector Members, academic organizations and ITU took part.

A representative of BDT briefed the participants on forthcoming steps in the preparations for WTDC-21, including procedures and deadlines for submissions, questions about partnerships and resource mobilization, and WTDC-21 proposals and organizational matters being discussed in the working groups of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group.

#### **Key conclusions:**

The key outputs of the session and the Forum as a whole were the statements of the ITU Member States regarding their national priorities and proposals for the work of ITU in the CIS region. A brief summary of the statements is provided below (proposals for the cooperation with the Regional Office for the CIS region):

- 1 The Republic of Azerbaijan envisions cooperation with ITU and with the other CIS countries in the area of continued work on the development of online courses for women and girls.
- 2 The Kyrgyz Republic envisions cooperation with ITU in the creation of a creation of a CIRT centre.
- 3 The Republic of Belarus envisions cooperation with ITU for the following:
  - Translation into Russian of the English-language texts of recommendations, resolutions, reviews etc. pertaining to ICTs, the digital economy, and smart cities;
  - Joint events (forums, training, seminars) with ITU on questions related to ICTs, the digital economy, and smart cities;
  - Development of courses and organization of a seminar/training series for upgrading digital knowledge and skills among civil servants and the general public;
  - Development and/or adaptation of international standards pertaining to ICTs, the digital economy, and smart cities;
  - The creation of a training/research centre for quantum technologies in telecommunication systems;
  - Organization of workplaces for teleworking with ITU's International Research, Development and Testing Centre for New Equipment, Technologies and Services.
- 4 The Republic of Kazakhstan envisions cooperation with ITU and with the other CIS countries in the area of a coordinated improvement of the level of informatization and cybersecurity.
- 5 The Russian Federation mentioned the following areas for the activities of ITU in the CIS region:
  - Creation of a single information space (joint action in overcoming digital inequalities, achieving digital transformation, and incorporating modern ICT);
  - Compilation of regional experience and of best practices among sector leaders and worldwide, with dissemination through measures such as specialized events on current challenges in the digital world, focussing on relevance for regional practice, in particular questions related to new and emerging technologies and the protection of data and privacy in the digital space;

- Assistance to countries in the region in the form of technical expert help with the adoption of technical, programmatic and regulatory solutions in telecommunications and ICTs to overcome digital inequalities;
- Assistance in stimulating the interest of representatives of administrations and Sector Members from the countries of the region in the broad range of meetings and other events in ITU-D;
- Assistance in obtaining the Russian translations of important current ITU publications.

During Session 3, representatives of the Information Technology Department of the city of Moscow and the Regional Office of ITU for the CIS region announced an agreement on partnership for a joint project on assessing the level of development of ICT in smart sustainable cities.

As the RDF-CIS closed, participants expressed their gratitude to the Regional Office of ITU for the CIS region for the professional and timely organization of the event, and for its successful work to implement the WTDC-17 regional initiatives and measures of the operational plan. Participants endorsed the five new areas of work for the 2022-2025 period that had been presented and confirmed their readiness to take part actively in the preparations and conduct of RPM-CIS, planned for 21-22 April 2021.

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