



BDT COMMUNIQUÉ

Collaboration and Partnerships at the Heart of ITU's Regional Development Forum for the CIS

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 30 September 2026

The annual ITU Regional Development Forum for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region, held on 29 and 30 September in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, welcomed around 143 participants representing 14 Member States, UN specialized agencies, Sector Members, Academia and other stakeholders to discuss priority development issues for the region including the implementation of the new Regional Initiatives adopted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2025 (WTDC-25).

The Forum was organized by the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and hosted by the Communications Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Forum exchanged views on the state of digital development and trends in the region, the needs of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), emerging technologies, innovation, capacity building and human-centric digital development, policy, regulation and cybersecurity and AI for digital development.

“Just ten months ago, in Baku, the ITU family made history: WTDC-25 was the first World Telecommunication Development Conference ever held in the CIS region,” said Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, in his opening address to the Forum. “The Conference gave us a people-centred roadmap for digital development. At this RDF, we translate that global vision into regional action, aligning national priorities with investments, partnerships, and concrete solutions that accelerate meaningful connectivity and inclusive digital development across the CIS region. I would like to thank the Government of Tajikistan for hosting us and for our continued and strong partnership in accelerating digital transformation in the country and beyond,” he added.

“The telecommunications sector is one of the important priorities of Tajikistan’s state policy,” said H.E. Mr Isfandiyori Sadullo, Chairman of the Communication Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and Chair of RDF-CIS. “This is an investment in the country’s digital future, in expanding opportunities for our citizens, and in creating the conditions in which modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, can deliver practical benefits to society and the economy. I am confident that the Forum will serve as an important platform for open and constructive dialogue, the exchange of experiences and the development of practical solutions that respond to the interests of our countries and the region as a whole,” he added in his opening remarks.

Under the theme 'Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future', participants discussed the implementation of the Regional Initiatives for the period 2026-2029.

A session on LLDCs focused on the very real digital constraints facing LLDCs, from increased dependence on cross-border infrastructure and transit arrangements to persistent gaps in rural coverage, service quality and affordability, while the Regional Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable session allowed participants to match countries and regional needs with stakeholders' interests to support digital development in the CIS region.

"I am very pleased that the ITU Regional Development Forum is being held in Tajikistan for the first time. This high-level event is pivotal for the ITU and shapes our work plan for the CIS region for the coming year. We discussed the implementation of Regional Initiatives and ongoing projects, and agreed on new partnerships," said Mrs Natalia Mochu, Regional Director of the ITU Regional Office for the CIS region.

The Forum was held back-to-back with the 66th meeting of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC)'s Board of Ministers and the 33rd Coordination Council of the CIS Member States for Informatization under the RCC, held on 29 September 2026.

Announcements:

During the Regional Development Forum, several announcements were made:

- Under the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, and in support of South-South cooperation, the Government of Kazakhstan pledged to provide 100 training places in digital technologies, programming and artificial intelligence for participants from African countries, with particular attention to least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. With an estimated value of CHF 100,000, the initiative will be implemented in phases through Kazakhstan's digital education ecosystem, including Astana Hub and the alem.ai International Centre for Artificial Intelligence. Self-paced online courses will be available immediately, with flexible start dates, while in-person intensive training programmes in Kazakhstan will be offered from 2027, subject to the terms and admission requirements of the respective programmes. The initiative will be implemented in partnership with BDT, which will coordinate outreach and participant selection;
- A partnership with the Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov will help develop a regional cooperation platform for ITU Academia members and advance regional research and innovation;
- Regional cooperation among countries in the region in the field of digital transformation of public administration and the development of digital services.

The draft RDF outcome report will be available on the RDF CIS website.

Resources and background information:

- [RDF-CIS website](#)
- [RDF-CIS photos](#)
- [RDF-CIS highlights video](#)

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For questions, please contact:

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About the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations agency for digital technologies, driving innovation for people and the planet with 194 Member States and a membership of over 1,000 companies, universities, civil society, and international and regional organizations. Established in 1865, ITU coordinates the global use of the radio spectrum and satellite orbits, establishes international technology standards, drives universal connectivity and digital services, and is helping to make sure everyone benefits from sustainable digital transformation, including the most remote communities. From artificial intelligence (AI) to quantum, from satellites and submarine cables to advanced mobile and wireless broadband networks, ITU is committed to connecting the world and beyond.

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