



ITU Regional Development Forum for CIS (RDF-CIS) 2026

Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future

29-30 September 2026 | Dushanbe, Tajikistan

RDF-CIS 2026 is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and co-hosted by the Communication Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Forum is held back-to-back with RCC Ministerial Board meeting (29 September 2026)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY 1 Tuesday, 29 September	
8:00-10:30	Registration
10:30-11:10	OPENING CEREMONY • H.E. Mr. Isfandiyori Sadullo, Chairman, Communication Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan • Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau • Mr. Alexey Borodin, Director General, RCC • Ms. Parvathy Ramaswami, UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan • H.E. Mr. Khurshed Mirzo, Director, Agency of Innovation and Digital Technologies under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Appointment of the Chair of the ITU Regional Development Forum for CIS • H.E. Mr. Isfandiyori Sadullo, Chairman, Communication Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
11:10-12:40	SESSION ONE: State of digital development and trends: Challenges and opportunities <i>This session provides an evidence-based overview of the current state of digital development in the CIS Region. It highlights emerging trends, structural challenges, and strategic opportunities shaping the region's digital transformation. Building on ITU's data and reports, the session examines progress and remaining gaps across infrastructure and connectivity, policy and regulatory readiness, digital skills, and investment environments.</i> Setting the stage: Ms. Natalia Mochu, ITU Regional Director for CIS Moderator: Mr. Alexey Borodin, Director General, RCC Panellists: • H.E. Mr. Isfandiyori Sadullo, Chairman, Communication Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan • H.E. Mr. Jamol Makhsudov, Deputy Minister of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan • Mr. Damir Seisembekov, Chairman of the Telecommunications Committee, Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan • Mr. Altynbek Toktorbaev, Chairman of the Communications Regulation and Supervision Service of the Kyrgyz Republic



12:40-12:50	Partnership announcement Partnership between the Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau to contribute to bridging the digital skills divide.
12:50-13:00	Group photo
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-18:00	RDF-CIS is followed by the RCC Ministerial Board meeting

DAY 2 Wednesday, 30 September	
09:00-10:00	Special event on Landlocked Developing Countries <i>The session will focus on the needs of the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and it will build on the discussions and recommendations of the High-level dialogue for landlocked countries “Connectivity as Catalyst: Delivering the Awaza Programme through Digital Transformation” held during WSIS Forum 2026</i> Opening remarks: Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau Host-country perspective: Mr. Parviz Noriyon, First Deputy Head of Communications Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan Moderator: Ms. Natalia Mochu, ITU Regional Director for CIS Panellists: Mr. Altynbek Toktorbaev, Chairman of the Communications Regulation and Supervision Service of the Kyrgyz Republic Ms. Kristine Gyonjyan, Director, Union of Operators of Armenia Ms. Isabelle Mauro, Director General, Global Satellite Operators Association Mr. Dmitry Konarev, Senior Solution Architect, Huawei Key takeaways and closing: Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau
10:00-11:00	SESSION TWO. Partner2Connect (P2C) matchmaking roundtable: Matching the country and regional needs with stakeholders’ interests to support digital development across the CIS region <i>This session will serve as a platform for sharing P2C pledges that are already implemented, currently being implemented, or in demand in the CIS region. It will also highlight multistakeholder approaches to building sustainable, high-value partnerships that unlock transformative opportunities. This session and the sessions that follow will highlight impactful initiatives to accelerate the region's digital agenda, driving inclusive and effective capacity-development efforts to support digital transformation and regional growth.</i> Setting the stage: Mr. Paul Kasera Demba, Special Initiatives Program Manager, ITU Moderator: Mr. Tair Ismailov, Regional Director, Eurasia, GSMA Speakers: Mr. Ozodkhon Davlatshoev, CEO TCell, Tajikistan Ms. Kristine Gyonjyan, Director, Union of Telecom Operators, Armenia



	• Ms. Elina Sakkaræva, Digital Transformation and Public Sector, Digital Competencies Expert, Kyrgyzstan • Mr. Seymour Bayramov, Head of International Cooperation Department, Innovation and Digital Development Agency, Azerbaijan • Mr. Andrei Kirillovich, Director of the Department of Strategy, Marketing and Business Development, Intersputnik
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:30	SESSION THREE. Next-generation ICT infrastructure and emerging technologies (RI CIS1) <i>This session will focus on strategies for the coordinated implementation of Regional Initiative 1. It will further explore opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing to advance its implementation across the region.</i> Moderator: Mr. Farid Nakhli, Programme Coordinator, Regional Office for CIS, ITU Speakers: • Mr. Orzu Naimi, Head of the International Relations and Investment Attraction Department, Communications Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan • Mr. Tair Ismailov, Regional Director, Eurasia, GSMA • Ms. Barchyn Tuzabaeva, Chief Specialist, Radio Frequency Spectrum Department, Service for Regulation and Supervision in the Communications Sector, Kyrgyz Republic • Ms. Isabelle Mauro, Director General, GSOA • Dr. Maksim Pylinskii, Dean, Belarusian State Academy of Communication, Belarus • Mr. Azat Zhamanbalanov, Director of Strategic Projects, JSC Kazakhtelecom, Kazakhstan • Ms. Luda Bujoreanu, Senior Digital Specialist, World Bank Group
12:30-13:20	SESSION FOUR. Innovation, capacity building and human-centric digital development (RI CIS2 and CIS3) <i>This session will focus on strategies for the coordinated implementation of Regional Initiatives 2 and 3. It will further explore opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing to advance its implementation across the region.</i> Setting the stage: Mr. Mohamed Ba, Head of Digital Innovation Service, ITU Moderator: Ms. Irina Divakova, Project Officer, Regional Office for CIS, ITU Speakers: • Mr. Bakhtiyar Mammadov, Deputy Head of the Administration of the Ministry of Digital Development and Transportation of the Republic of Azerbaijan • Ms. Nazila Madatli, Project Manager, Innovation and Digital Development Agency, Azerbaijan • Mr. Damir Mnaidarov, Director, Qostanai Hub, Kazakhstan • Mr. Udo Folkers, Project Manager, Professional Green Skills for Central Asia (PROGRESS), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany • Mr. Nazarbek Zhunusaliev, Head of Projects Implementation Department, Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov, Kyrgyzstan
13:20-13:30	Partnership announcement • Partnership with ITU Academia member Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov on development of ITU Academia members regional cooperation platform and advancement of regional research and innovation • Regional cooperation on strengthening digital transformation of public administration and digital services development



13:30-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-16:00	SESSION FIVE. Measures to enable digital transformation: policy and regulatory environment and cybersecurity (RI CIS3 and CIS4) <i>This session will focus on strategies for the coordinated implementation of Regional Initiatives 3 and 4. It will further explore opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing to advance its implementation across the region.</i> Setting the stage and moderation: Ms. Kristine Gyonjyan, Director, Union of Telecom Operators, Armenia Speakers: • Mr. Dauren Rakhimzhanov, Managing Director, Digital Initiatives Directorate, Eurasian Development Bank (virtual) • Mr. Adilet Aisautov, Director, SDU Big Data Department, JSC National Information Technologies, Kazakhstan • Ms. Irina Divakova, Project Officer, Regional Office for CIS, ITU • Mr. Arseny Plossky, Vice Chairman of TDAG, Rapporteur on ITU D SG 1 Question 4/1 and Ms. Uliana Stoliarova, Vice Chairman ITU-D SG2, Vice-Rapporteur Q 1/1 and 5/2, youth envoy for cis, Member of ITU Secretary General Youth Advisory Board, Russia • Mr. Valeriy Zubanov, Managing Director of Regional Office in Kazakhstan, Central Asia and Mongolia, Kaspersky • Dr. Afroz Kaviani Johnson, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-17:30	SESSION SIX: Artificial Intelligence for digital development and innovation (RI CIS5) <i>This session will focus on strategies for the coordinated implementation of Regional Initiative 5. It will further explore opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing to advance its implementation across the region.</i> Setting the stage and moderation: Mr. Farid Nakhli, Programme Coordinator, Regional Office for CIS, ITU Speakers: • Mr. Dmitry Konarev, Senior Solutions Architect, Huawei • Ms. Anna Abramova, Head of the Artificial Intelligence Center, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russia • Mr. Yerbol Absalyamov, Executive Director, Institute of Smart Systems and Artificial Intelligence, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan • Mr. Valijon Rakhimov, Director, Telecom-Zehn, Tajikistan • Mr. David Manset, Senior Advisor on Digital Government Infrastructure and Open Source, ITU
17:30-17:45	Presentation of the RDF summary by the Chair
17:45-18:00	CLOSING CEREMONY • H.E. Mr. Isfandiyori Sadullo, Chairman, Communication Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan • Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau