

**Policy statement**  
**by the head of the Russian Administration's delegation**  
**at the 2018 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference**

Dear Mr. Chairman,  
Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Currently, the world is undergoing major changes – we live in the era of digital transformation. Technological innovations gain faster pace, manufacturing, logistics and consumption change dramatically. The traditional industry under the so-called “Fourth industrial revolution” changes its technologies and business models annually. New technologies, such as: Internet of Things, cloud technologies, distributed ledger, artificial intelligence, big data, radically change business and management processes and, most importantly, change the speed of decision-making.

Digital transformation is the new reality, where an important role is given to digital data. Data in digital form become a factor in production. Implementing big data takes companies, industries and countries as a whole to a new competitive level.

With the rapid development of information technologies the International Telecommunication Union should remain the leading UN platform to coordinate the collective approaches to solving the pressing problems in the field of ICT development, including the Internet. The Union should preserve its key role of ramping up international cooperation for safe and rational use of all types of telecommunications.

Russia, as always, is consistent in its stand on ITU adopting rules and regulations of responsible conduct by states in the information space. We uphold the principle of privacy and the protection of personal data on the Internet. Russia intensifies its efforts in combating the criminal use of the Internet and ICTs in general.

We welcome the initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacities of developing and least developed countries and expanding their abilities to use the Internet, including building a broadband infrastructure.

The Russian Federation greatly appreciates the ITU activities and its management and is proud that the room in ITU is named after an outstanding Russian scientist Alexander Popov.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the ITU management for preserving the room in the new headquarters to be built.

Russia, as one of the founding members of the Union, has traditionally put forward its candidacy for the ITU Council, as well as the candidacy of Mr. Nikolay Varlamov for the Radio Regulations Board. We are confident that Russia's participation in the work of the ITU Council and the Radio Regulations Board will help strengthen the positions and the role of the ITU in the information world, bringing further development and prosperity of the Union.

We look forward to your support of our candidacies.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.