

**ITU Regional Development Forum for members of CIS/RCC on
“Broadband for Sustainable Development”, Chisinau, Republic of
Moldova, 31 March – 1 April 2015**

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FINAL REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the ITU Regional Development Forum for members of CIS/RCC on “Broadband for Sustainable Development was discussion of general principles of the implementation of the regional initiatives approved by the 2014 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14). To achieve the objective, the participants considered best practices of the implementation of the CIS regional initiatives approved by WTDC-10 (Hyderabad, India), which can be used in the period of 2015-2018, and marked possible ways of the improvement of the implementation process in the 4-year period.

In particular, the Forum participants reviewed the WTDC-14 decisions and marked the most significant ones. Special attention was paid to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2016-2019, including the result orientation strategy. In the light of the regional initiative implementation, the work of the ITU-D Study Groups is very significant, resulting in elaboration of guiding materials in the field of ICT development, including for development countries, as well as activities of the ITU Centres of Excellence (CoE) as a key tool of human capacity building in the region.

5 Session of the Forum (from 3rd to 7th) were dedicated to detailed discussion of the 5 regional initiatives approved by WTDC-14. This approach allowed to focus on exact objectives and tasks and mark the stakeholders, as well as to start planning of the implementation of the projects by joint efforts.

Session 8 of the Forum covered Key Performance Indicators of the implementation of the regional initiatives (RIPIs) as a key instrument to monitor the successfulness of the completing of the tasks set, that did not contradict general approach of the BDT to the KPIs. Also, the Session covered the BDT efforts to improve work in the field of innovation, partnership, and resource mobilization.

The present report provides information of the work of the Forum and its results.

2. PARTICIPATION

The Forum was attended by 66 representatives of 10 Members States from the CIS (Azerbaijan Republic, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Uzbekistan, Ukraine), 3 non-CIS Member States (Lithuanian Republic, Republic of Poland, Romania), ICT Regulators of the CIS, scientific and industrial institutions, universities and other ICT related institutions. The Forum was also attended by representatives of the ITU and the RCC.



3. OPENING CEREMONY

Minister of Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Moldova Mr. Pavel Filip welcomed the Forum participants and thanked the ITU for the support in the organization of the Forum. Appreciating the preference of the Republic of Moldova as host country for holding the Regional Development Forum, organized the year of 150th Anniversary of the ITU, Mr. Filip highlighted the significance of the regional initiatives and the work of the BDT in general for the development and implementation of national ICT-related strategies in all ITU Member States. Mr. Filip also highlighted the importance of continued dialogue between all stakeholders to adequately react to all demands of the society and wished to the Forum participants a fruitful work.

The BDT Director Mr. Brahim Sanou expressed gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Moldova in the person of Mr. Pavel Filip, Minister of Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Moldova for the invitation to hold the Regional Development Forum for CIS/RCC in Chisinau and noted the significance of the event within the framework of the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan and the decisions of the WTDC-14 and as a tool of yearly reporting between the WTDCs. Also, Mr. Sanou expressed gratitude to the RCC and personally to Mr. Nurudin Mukhitdinov, the RCC Executive Committee Director General for the support of the ITU activities. Mr. Sanou highlighted the regional initiatives as his priority. Also, Mr. Sanou noted that broadband access development is one of the priorities of the CIS, which is one of the most dynamic regions in terms of ICT, to contribute to sustainable development through timely service delivery for health, education, banking, and business and to avoid a new digital divide arising from unequal access to broadband technologies.

When welcoming the Forum participants, Mr. Nurudin Mukhitdinov, RCC Executive Committee Director General noted, that broadband universal application, which is being developed in all RCC countries, plays a

key part in improving competitiveness of national economies. Highlighting that RCC is a platform for elaboration of the inputs and initiatives of the Communication Administrations of the CIS countries to be approved by the global forums and conferences, Mr. Mukhitdinov particularized the process of preparation for and participation in WTDC-14, as well as the challenges of the building of information society and implementation of the 2015 RCC Action Plan. In conclusion, Mr. Mukhitdinov expressed gratitude to the Communication Administration of the Republic of Moldova for the excellent ministrations of the Republic of Moldova for the excellent organization of the Forum.



4. AGENDA

The approved Agenda of the ITU Regional Development Forum for members of CIS/RCC on “Broadband for Sustainable Development” was approved and enclosed in the annex.

5. PROCESS OF THE FORUM

Session 1: Results of Implementation of the CIS Regional Initiatives Approved by WTDC-2010

Chair: Mr. Vitalie Tarlev, Deputy Minister of Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Moldova

The Session presented the results of the implementation of the projects within the frameworks of the CIS regional initiatives, approved by WTDC-10, and included presentations of Mr. Orozobek Kaiykov and Mr. Andrei Untila (ITU), Mr. Anatol Neumiaryzhytski (Republic of Belarus), Mr. Vadim Plakhov (Russian Federation), Mr. Rikhsi Isaev (Republic of Uzbekistan), Mr. Yevgeny Bondarenko (Russian Federation), Mr. Vadim Kaptur (Ukraine). They acquainted the Forum participants with the ITU activities in the CIS in 2011-2014 and presented in details the results of the implementation of the CIS regional initiatives approved by WTDC-10. The participants expressed content with the information provided. The Speakers replied to the questions. The participants highly appreciated the results of the implementation of the regional initiatives and the positive effect for the region.

Session 2: Key Decisions of WTDC-14 in the context of Sustainable Development

Chair: Mr. Yevgeny Bondarenko, Deputy Director General, CJSC Intervale, Russian Federation;

The Session included presentations of Mr. Nurudin Mukhitdinov, the RCC Steering Committee Director General, Mr. Farid Nakhli, CIS representative to the ITU-D Study Groups (vice speaker for Questions 2/1 Study Group 1 and Question 4/2 Study Group 2 of BDT), and Mr. Vadim Kaptur, representative of CIS Centre of Excellence. The speakers presented key decision of WTDC-14 aimed at sustainable development of the CIS countries in 2015-2018. In particular, the session considered key resolutions of WTDC-14; objectives of the TDAG and ITU-D Study Groups and the ways of the achievement; documents identifying the CoE new strategy for the period up to WTDC-17.

The participants appreciated the BDT activities aimed at implementation of result oriented management, as well as at organization of the activities of the ITU-D Study Groups and the CIS CoE in 2015-2018. Noting the importance of the regional initiatives, the participants highlighted that the issues considered by the Study Groups should be coordinated with the ICT-related priorities of the regional and the regional initiatives. The speakers invited the participants to actively participate in the work of the TDAG, Study Groups and other ITU-D Meetings, noting the possibility of remote participation.

The participants thanked the speakers for the interesting presentations.

Session 3: Regional Initiative Approved by WTDC-14 on Creating a Child Online Protection Centre for the CIS Region

Chair: Petr Vorobienko, Rector, ONAT n.a. A.Popov, Ukraine

The Session included 3 presentations (by Mr. Vadim Kaptur, Pro-rector for Scientific Work, ONAT n.a. A.Popov, Mr. Artur Kocharyan, independent expert, Ukraine), covering the ways of implementation of the project on creation of the centre of child online protection for the CIS under the regional initiative, approved by WTDC-14. The initiative is aimed at provision of Member States from the CIS with centralized consultancy and technical assistance in different aspects of child online protection. The speakers marked potential partners and detailed expected results, which could be used for child online protection. The speakers also highlighted responsibility of teachers, parents, and children themselves directly influencing the security in the Internet. The presentations raised great interest of the participants, who appreciated the suggested approach to the regional initiative implementation.

Session 4: Regional Initiative Approved by WTDC-14 on Ensuring Access to Telecommunication/ICT Services for Persons with Disabilities

Chair: Mr. Baiyish Nurmatov, Director, Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications (IET) under Kyrgyz State Technical University (KSTU) n.a. I.Razzakov

The Session presented the ways of implementation of the projects under the regional initiative on ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities. The initiative is aimed at assistance to the Member States of the CIS region in elaboration of regulatory framework and technical solutions, as well as at implementation of special training programmes for provision of ICT accessibility and usability for persons with disabilities. The speakers marked potential partners and detailed expected results, which could be used for child online protection.

The Session included 5 presentations. Mr. Baiyish Nurmatov and Ms. Janna Barakova from Kyrgyz Republic and Ms. Anastasiya Rak and Mr. Farid Nakhli from the Republic of Belarus presented main points of the regional initiative implementation and the region's expectations. Mr. Andrei Untila, Programme Officer, ITU Area Office for CIS delivered presentation composed by Ms. Susan Shorr, Head of Special Initiative Division of BDT on ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report, containing the ITU approach to the issue of ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Following the presentations, the Forum participants recommended to maximally use the world experience to settle problems of persons with disabilities, including using modern mobile applications to ease using of ICT by persons with disabilities.

Session 5: Regional Initiative approved by WTDC-14 on Introduction of Training Technologies and Methods using Telecommunications/ICTs for Human Capacity Building

Chair: Mr. Farid Nakhli, Independent Expert, Vice-speaker, Q2/1 SG1 and Q4/2 SG2, BDT, Republic of Belarus

The Session presented the ways of implementation of the projects under the regional initiative on the implementation of telecommunications/ICT in education aimed at human capacity building. The 4 presentations delivered by Mr. Baiysh Nurmatov and Ms. Janna Barakova from Kyrgyz Republic and Mr. Petr Vorobiyenko and Mr. Vadim Kaptur from Ukraine covered the approach to the regional initiative implementation and set potential partners and detailed expected results. The initiative is aimed at assistance to Member States from the CIS in creation and development of national programmes on ICT implementation in education for human capacity building. The Forum participants accepted the suggested approach to the implementation.

Session 6: Regional Initiative Approved by WTDC-14 on Development of Broadband Access and Adoption of Broadband

Chair: Mr. Vadim Belyavsky, Project Director, LLC Intellect Telecom, Russian Federation

The Session presented the ways of the implementation of the projects under the regional initiative on broadband access development. The initiative is aimed at assistance to the Member States from the CIS region in the broadband access development using energy efficiency technologies, including broadband access for rural and remote settlements. The Session included 5 presentations. Mr. Vadim Belyavsky (Russian Federation) and Vadim Kaptur (Ukraine) presented the ways of implementation of the regional initiative. Mr. Vitalie Boboc and Andrei Kovalsky from the Republic of Moldova presented the experience of their country in the broadband access implementation, in particular regulatory framework of the broadband access implementation and the technological neutrality policy, that allowed to set the milestones of the regional initiative implementation. The European experience of the broadband access development was presented by Felixas Dobrovolskis and Evaldas Stankevichus from Lithuanian Republic.

One of the regional initiative priorities is elaboration of recommendations on identification of technologies and economically justified approaches to the issues of broadband access development in the region. Since lack of financial resources is a key challenge, the recommendations to be elaborated under the regional initiative implementation are expected to be of high demand in the countries. The presented approach was accepted by the participants. It was suggested to broadly use the experience of other regions and particular countries possessing national strategies of broadband access development, as well as efficiently use human resources of the region.

Session 7: Regional Initiative Approved by WTDC-14 on Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

Chair: Mr. Vladimir Dokuchaev, Director General, LLC Telesoft; Head of Department of Multimedia Networks and Communication Services, MTUCI, Doctor of Science (Engineering), Professor, Russian Federation

The Session presented ways of implementation of the projects under the regional initiative approved by WTDC-14 on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. The initiative is aimed at assistance to the Member States from the CIS region in the field of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs within the frameworks of the concept of information ecology for provision of sustainable development and prevention of possible negative consequences of the information environment impact.

Within the frameworks of the Session, 2 presentations were delivered (by Mr. Pavel Şincariuc from the Republic of Moldova and Mr. Vladimir Dokuchaev from the Russian Federation) on the issues of confidence and security in the use of ICTs. The fear of users to provide personal data, which can be used for unlawful purposes, is the main obstacle in the use of ICT. The presented approach to the implementation of the regional initiative, which is very significant for the region, was approved by the participants of the Forum. In the future, the results of the implementation can be used by all CIS countries. The best professionals from the region are planned to be involved in the implementation.

Session 8: Evaluation of Efficiency of Implementation of the CIS Regional Initiatives Approved by WTDC-14; Special Topics on Membership, Innovation and Partnership Matters

Chair: Mr. Orozobek Kaiykov, Head, ITU Area Office for CIS

The Session presented (Mr. Vadim Kaptur from Ukraine) and discussed Regional Initiatives Performance Indicators (RIPIs), which can be used for evaluation of the results of implementation of the projects under the CIS regional initiatives in 2015-2018. This concept, which does not contradict the KPIs considered by WTDC-14 and TDAG-14, is an attempt of the region to evaluate, how efficient the implementation of the regional initiatives will be and how the implementation will further the settlement of different issues set under the regional initiatives.

Partially, the Session covered the issues of membership, partnership, and innovations (presented by Mr. Mohamed Ba from BDT/ITU).

Roundtable: Implementation of the Regional Initiatives in the context of the Sustainable Development

Chair: Mr. Rufat Tegizade, Deputy Chair, TDAG, Republic of Azerbaijan

The Forum was concluded by a roundtable, which summed up the work of 2 days. The roundtable participants noted a high level of the organization of the Forum, as well as a high level of the presentations delivered and involvement of the participants.

Based on the results of the Forum, the participants made following conclusions:

- The ITU performed a large amount of work in the CIS region in 2011-2014;
- The regional initiatives approved by WTDC-10 have been successfully implemented, and all countries of the region can benefit from the results of the implementation;
- The region took an active part in WTDC-14 (11 countries of 12);
- Implementation of the CIS regional initiatives approved by WTDC-14 is a priority for communication administrations of the countries of the region;
- The region has decided on the vision and the ways of implementation of the 5 regional initiatives approved by WTDC-14;
- Performers and partners of the implementation of the regional initiatives have been identified;
- All countries of the region should actively join to the implementation of the regional initiatives.

Closure of the Regional Development Forum

At the closing ceremony, a speech was delivered by Mr. Dumitru Parfentiev, Deputy Minister of Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Moldova. Mr. Parfentiev appreciated the work of the Forum as a very successful and noted, that the presentations delivered evidenced one more time the interest of the communication administrations of the region in the development of ICT technologies and in the regional cooperation, including the implementation of the regional initiatives, approved by WTDC-14. Mr. Parfentiev, thanked the ITU and, in particular, Mr. Brahim Sanou, BDT Director, and the ITU Area Office for CIS for participation and support in organization of the Forum, as well as all participants of the Forum, especially the speakers for the work done.

Mr. Orozobek Kaiykov, Head, ITU Area Office for CIS, thanked the Communication Administration of the Republic of Moldova for hosting the two ITU significant events in 2015: the Regional Development Forum for CIS/RCC and 1st Meeting of CIS CoE Steering Committee. Also, Mr. Kaiykov thanked the Forum participants – representatives of 10 CIS and 3 European countries, noting the broad participation. Also, Mr. Kaiykov thanked the communication administrations and the ITU Sector Members from the CIS for support in the implementation of the regional initiatives and expressed hope for further development of the cooperation. Also, Mr. Kaiykov thanked the colleagues from Europe for the interest to the event and the essential presentations.

The participants thanked the Communication Administration of the Republic of Moldova for the provision of the good premises for the event and the representatives of the communication administrations for active participation, and the Telecommunication Development Bureau and Mr. Brahim Sanou personally and the ITU Area Office for CIS for organization of the Forum.

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

1 April 2015