

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1 Introduction

The ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for the CIS region (RPM-CIS) was organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, from 19 to 21 February 2013, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Moldova (Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Moldova).

The ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for the CIS region (RPM-CIS) was held in close collaboration with the RCC Executive Committee.

The objective of RPM-CIS was to identify priorities, at the regional level, for the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), taking into account contributions submitted by Member States and Sector Members from the region. The meeting arrived at a set of proposals on the priority issues for the region that will serve as a basis for the formulation of contributions to the World Telecommunication Development Conference to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in March 2014 (WTDC-14), which will consider the ITU-D activities to be carried out over the next four-year period (2015-2018).

This report gives an account of the work and results of the meeting.

2 Participation

The meeting was attended by 76 participants representing 10 Member States from the CIS region and 2 other Member States, 5 recognized operating agencies, 4 scientific/industrial organizations and other entities dealing with telecommunications and 5 regional and international organizations. The list of participants can be found [here](#).

3 Meeting of heads of delegation

The meeting of heads of delegation was held on 18 February 2013 and, following ITU's long-standing practice, it formally agreed that the host country, Moldova, would nominate the Minister of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Moldova, Mr Pavel Petrovich Filip, for the post of chairman of RPM-CIS for WTDC-14. The meeting also agreed to propose two vice-chairmen from the administrations of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation. The draft agenda, time-management plan and allocation of documents were also informally agreed upon.

4 Opening ceremony

The Minister of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Moldova, Mr Pavel Filip, welcomed all RPM-CIS participants and thanked ITU, and personally Mr Brahima Sanou, Director of BDT, for selecting Chisinau to host this high-level meeting. He took this as recognition of Moldova's successes in the field of telecommunication/ICT development. He highly valued the work of ITU, and especially ITU-D, in the CIS region, as well as the support which ITU provided for the CIS region, and emphasized the need for RPM to identify priority issues for the CIS region on the basis of the contributions submitted

by the countries of the region. The Minister stated that ICT development is one of the most important factors for social and economic development. He also mentioned that fostering universal broadband deployment is one of the prerequisites for enabling e-commerce, e-health, e-learning and e-employment. He concluded by noting that the work of the ITUD study groups, programmes and regional initiatives was vital to improving the implementation of national ICT strategies. He wished all participants in RPM-CIS a fruitful and successful meeting.

The ITU Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Houlin Zhao, thanked the Government of Moldova and the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Moldova for hosting RPM-CIS. He congratulated the countries of the region for their achievements in the field of ICTs. He made reference to the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT-12), which reviewed the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs), which were last revised 25 years previously, in 1988 in Melbourne, Australia. He further pointed to the process of the World Summit on the Information Society and its 10-year review leading towards a High-Level Event on WSIS+10 to be held back to back with WTDC-14. He underlined importance of RDF and RPM for this process as a mechanism to collect regional views on emerging trends and vision beyond 2015. He further referred to key ITU meetings to be held in 2013, including WSIS Forum, World Telecommunication Policy Forum and World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, TELECOM-World-13, Global Youth Summit, Asia-Pacific Connect Summit and Global Symposium for Regulators. Mr Zhao called upon CIS countries and ITU-D Sector Members to play an active role in the work of ITU, and especially ITU-D, and to participate actively in WTDC-14 and in the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014, which will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea.

The Director-General of the Executive Committee of the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC), Mr Nurudin Mukhitdinov, greeted the meeting on behalf of the RCC Executive Committee. He highlighted the successes achieved by the countries of the region over the preceding period, and the active role which the countries of the region played in the work of ITU as a whole, and ITU-D in particular. He further noted the importance of the RPM for defining priority objectives and actions for the region in the coming cycle. He referred to the preparatory discussions held by RCC in the context of this RPM.

The Director of BDT, Mr Brahima Sanou, thanked the Government of Moldova, through its Minister of Information Technologies and Communications, Mr Pavel Filip, for its invitation to host this very important three-day ITU event for the preparation of WTDC-14 in Chisinau. RPM-CIS is the first in a series of six RPMs for WTDC-14, which will take place in March-April 2014 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. He indicated that the RPM would provide an opportunity to evaluate progress since the last WTDC and examine the current needs of the region in the light of the extremely rapid changes taking place in the telecommunication/ICT sector. The Director expressed ITU's readiness to support ITU members from the region in using ICTs to further their social and economic development, and thanked the CIS countries for their active role in ITU-D activities. He congratulated the countries for their achievements and progress in the field of ICTs. He referred to three global initiatives on Smart Sustainable Development Model (SSDM), m-Powering Development, and the ITU Academy. He underlined the importance of regional initiatives and the work of the study groups. All countries of the CIS region were encouraged to continue to remain committed and proactively involved in the future work of the Development Sector.

5 Agenda and time-management plan

The BDT secretariat noted that 29 contributions had been received from Member States and ITU-D Sector Members. Having examined all the inputs in relation to ITU-D action areas, the proposed draft agenda, time-management plan and allocation of documents were adopted by the meeting. All the meeting documents are available on the RPM-CIS [website](#).

6 Election of the chairman and vice-chairmen

Following the recommendation made by the heads of delegation, Mr Pavel Filip, Minister of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Moldova, was unanimously elected as chairman of RPM-CIS.

The meeting also endorsed the recommendation by the heads of delegation that Mr Baiysh Nurmatov (Kyrgyz Republic) and Mr Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation) be elected as vice-chairmen.

Mr Orozobek Kaiykov, Head of the ITU Area Office for the CIS region, was introduced by the Chairman as Secretary of RPM-CIS.

7 Report on implementation of the Hyderabad Action Plan (WTDC-10) and of the WSIS Plan of Action

The following documents were presented by BDT:

Document 2: The document entitled *Report on implementation of the Hyderabad Action Plan in the CIS region*, introduced on behalf of the Director of BDT, provides detailed information on the results achieved through the various types of activities undertaken by BDT, while implementing the Hyderabad Action Plan (HAP), with particular focus on actions linked to programmes, study groups, activities and special initiatives, as well as an overview of the types of activity carried out by BDT within the framework of implementation of the WSIS Action Plan. The document highlights BDT's dual role as implementer and facilitator for a number of action lines.

The document reviews in detail the regional initiatives identified in Resolution 17 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), points to the successful implementation prior to RPM-CIS for WTDC-14 of several projects within the framework of the regional initiatives for the CIS countries adopted at WTDC-10, and gives an overview of projects and activities carried out in the CIS region.

Questions were asked on the Study Groups, Global Symposium for Regulators, programming of activities in the region, evolution towards results-based management, and new features of the WTDC-14.

Participants noted and approved ongoing efforts by BDT leading towards implementation of Results-Based Management (RBM) and Budgeting (RBB) principles in ITU-D, including creation of an Innovation Division with the aim of facilitating this ongoing process. They further noted that identification of main priority areas will be of key importance for making RBM a reality. Regional initiatives and study group questions should be linked to the priority areas. As a reorganization of the study groups is ongoing, it will be necessary for CIS to provide its vision, taking into account the possibility of reducing the number of questions and defining of expected outputs and recommendations. It was noted that the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) is not only targeting regulators, but also policy makers. Therefore all countries, also those that do not have a regulator, were encouraged to participate in this event. Regarding programming of the activities, countries took note that the future plan of action should reflect the real needs identified through consultations with telecommunication administrations of the CIS region.

Document 3(Rev.1): The document entitled *ICT trends and developments in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)* was introduced on behalf of the Director of BDT. It supplements Document 2, and provides an overview of current ICT trends, with particular focus on the status of ICT and broadband development both worldwide and in the CIS region. It also sets out the results of a comparative analysis of ICT achievements of the various countries in this region. The report highlights that the mobile sector is the most dynamic in the sector. In the past year alone, the number of mobile subscribers grew by 600 million, many of them in developing countries, and the total number of mobile subscribers has now climbed to around 6 billion, representing an 86 per cent coverage rate.

The document provides a comprehensive in-depth analysis of ICT development trends in the CIS region, as well as data at country level. Over the past year, the CIS region achieved significant successes in terms of mobile communications, and a number of CIS countries, such as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, significantly improved their 2011 ranking. Progress in the development of broadband, however, was less marked than in the mobile industry. The document also provides a comprehensive analysis of a "price basket" for the CIS region and across CIS countries. It provides a brief analysis of trends in regard to the development of regulatory mechanisms for ICTs in the CIS and the establishment of independent regulatory bodies in the region.

Countries appreciated ITU-D's activities in the area in question, and commented on the mechanisms used by ITU to measure and rank the achievements of ICT sector.

Document INF/1: The document entitled *Development of the ICT sector in the Kyrgyz Republic* was introduced by Kyrgyzstan as an information document, containing information on the implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic of the relevant WSIS Action Lines. The document looks at aspects related to creation of an enabling environment, formulation of a legislative framework, development of the ICT infrastructure, transition from analogue to digital TV, cybersecurity issues and investment in the ICT sector.

Participants welcomed the document and took note of the contribution.

Document INF/2: The document entitled *Implementation of World Summit on the Information Society Action Plan* was introduced by the Republic of Moldova as an information document. The contribution gives a short description of current achievements, challenges, and goals in Moldova within the context of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes. Recognizing the insight and future impact of the WSIS Action Plan, the authorities of Moldova structured and oriented its activities in order to co-facilitate the implementation of the action lines.

Participants welcomed the document and took note of the contribution.

Document 12: Document 12, entitled Report on implementation of the CIS regional initiative approved by WTDC-10 (Hyderabad, 2010) on assistance in the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting, was introduced by Belarus. The contribution sets out information on the implementation of a project under the CIS regional initiatives, related to the establishment in Minsk of an ITU Advisory and Methodological Centre for the provision of assistance in the transition to digital broadcasting in the CIS countries. It also provides an update on the centre's activities.

The countries supported the contribution, and the work of the ITU Advisory and Methodological Centre.

8 Reports on the results of WTSA-12 and WCIT-12 that relate to the work of ITU-D

Document 17: The document entitled *Report on the results of WTSA-12 that relate to the work of ITU-D* was introduced on behalf of the Director of BDT. The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20 to 29 November 2012. Contributions made to the WTSA can be broadly classified in three main categories: proposals related to the work of the ITU-T study Groups, proposals related to the ITU-T recommendations and proposals related to WTSA resolutions. A significant number of WTSA-12 resolutions address the needs of developing countries and are therefore related to the work of ITU-D. Most of them include, in the text of their respective "instructs" part, a clear mention to the fact that the implementation of that particular aspect of the resolution is to be done by the Director of the TSB jointly with, or in coordination with, the Director of the BDT.

The following are the WTSA-12 resolutions considered to have a significant impact on the work of ITU-D:

- Resolution 44 on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries
- Resolution 50 on cybersecurity
- Resolution 58 on encouraging the creation of national Computer Incident Response Teams, particularly for developing countries
- Resolution 64 on IP address allocation and facilitating the transition to and deployment of IPv6
- Resolution 76 on studies related to conformance and interoperability testing, assistance to developing countries, and a possible future ITU mark programme
- Resolution 78 on information and communication technology applications and standards for improved access to e-health services.

Other resolutions that also relate to the work of ITU-D are: Resolution 29 (Alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks), Resolution 38 (Coordination among ITU-T, ITU-R and ITU-D for activities relating to IMT), Resolution 54 (Creation and assistance to regional groups), Resolution 57 (Strengthening coordination and cooperation among ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D on matters of mutual interest), Resolution 70 (Telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities), Resolution 72 (Measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields), Resolution 73 (Information and communication technologies, environment and climate change) and Resolution 79 (The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it).

Document 24: The document entitled *Report on the results of WCIT-12 that relate to the work of ITU-D* was introduced on behalf of the Director of BDT. The ITU's World Conference on International Telecommunications 2012 (WCIT-12), met in December 2012, to review the ITRs. The agreed ITRs, which have treaty status, will come into force in 2015. As the core mission of the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) includes fostering international cooperation for the delivery of technical assistance and the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication/ICT networks and services, there is a clear link between the outcome of the WCIT-12 and the work of the ITU-D.

The following are the main topics addressed by the ITRs that relate to the work of the ITU-D:

- creating and maintaining an enabling policy and regulatory environment;
- improving energy efficiency and cutting e-waste;
- bringing the benefit of ICTs to the 650 million people living with some kind of disability;
- bringing greater security by promoting greater international cooperation in ensuring the security and robustness of international telecommunication networks;
- improving broadband connectivity to landlocked developing countries and small island states;
- improving access to emergency services.

The main purpose of both documents is to facilitate the preparation of the WTDC-14 contributions, while taking into account the outcomes of both conferences having implications for the ITU-D future work.

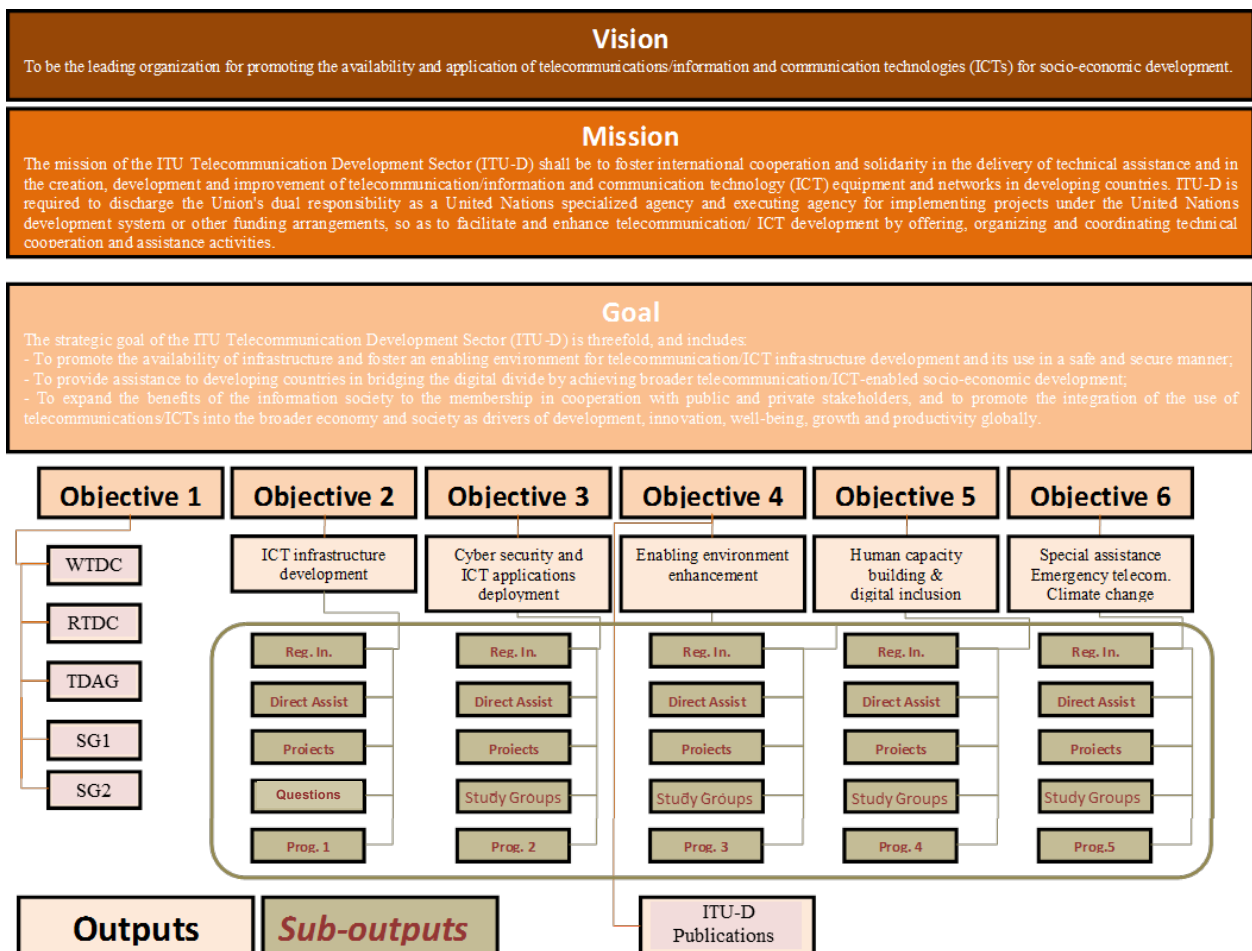
Participants noted both documents with appreciation.

9 Identification of priority areas

In order to identify priority areas for the CIS region the meeting started by examining the current vision, mission, goals, objectives and outputs of the ITU-D sector. While the participants considered that the existing approach reflects the priorities of the region, they proposed to add Study Groups related questions to each output. This would ensure a direct link and consistency between all ITU-D activities and the identified priorities and strategic objectives.

In addition participants felt that the ITU-D goals should include a reference to Bridging the Standardization Gap and the Millennium Development Goals.

The following is an updated diagram showing the interlinkages among ITU-D vision, mission, goals, objectives and outputs, including the corresponding sub-outputs, now encompassing Study Group related questions. This approach ensures consistency with Results-Based Management and Budgeting principles.



Under each of the objectives and outputs, the following priority areas were identified for the CIS region:

Objective/Output 2 ICT infrastructure development	Objective/Output 3 Cyber security and ICT applications deployment	Objective/Output 4 Enabling environment enhancement	Objective/Output 5 Human Capacity Building & Digital inclusion	Objective/Output 6 Special assistance; Emergency telecom.; Climate change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bridging the standardization gap - Broadband access - Wireless broadband infrastructure - Transition from IPv4 to IPv6 - Internet of things - Energy efficiency - Affordability of equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs - Child online protection - e-health - e-education - e-libraries and cultural heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bridging the standardization gap - Creation of database with access to the ITU publications - Availability of ITU publications in Russian language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of courses on ITU - Harmonization of Centres of Excellence and ITU Academy - Development of training programmes with certification - Creation of training materials to be publicly available - Assistance to people with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance to LLDCs in developing their broadband infrastructure - Disaster forecasting and monitoring mechanisms - E-waste

10 Topics for ITU-D future work (including working methods and Study Group questions) linked to the identified priority areas

Documents RPM-CIS13/4, 5, 9, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, aimed at identifying the topics for the ITU-D future work, including working methods and Study Group questions, were discussed.

Topics for ITU-D future work

Human capacity development

Document 4: The document entitled *Introductory course on ITU activities for students at higher education establishments specializing in telecommunications* was introduced by the A.S. Popov National Academy of Communications (Odessa), an ITU-D Sector Member. The document proposes measures to raise awareness among officials and specialists working in the ICT domain about the work of ITU, its aims, mandate, structure and principles. The course, which lasts between 8 and 12 hours, suggests that appropriate measures should be developed in order to introduce such courses in other higher education establishments.

Participants found the proposal quite interesting and useful for publicizing the work of ITU and making it more widely known. The meeting as a whole supported the proposal. Ultimately, it is a matter for decision by each country (higher education establishment), but the contribution could be submitted to WTDC-14 and/or to TDAG and the Group of Experts on Human Resources Development for their consideration and follow-up. ITU Academy might be also used as a delivery mechanism. Some participants offered to support the Union in developing the curriculum of such course.

Conformance and Interoperability

Document 14: The document entitled *Draft modifications to Resolution 47 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU Recommendations in developing countries, including conformance and interoperability testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU Recommendations*, was introduced by the A.S. Popov National Academy of Communications (Odessa), an ITU-D Sector Member. The document presents a revised text and a proposal for new wording in Resolution 47 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) for adoption at WTDC-14. The amendments stem from the decision taken by the 2012 session of the ITU Council and the revision of WTS-12 Resolution 76 (Rev. Dubai, 2012). In this context, in addition to the provisions of the old Resolution, the BDT Director is

invited to facilitate the action plan agreed by the Council at its session in 2012 (C12/91); facilitate the implementation of the ITU programme on conformance and interoperability; and facilitate a meeting of experts at the regional and subregional levels to promote awareness about C&I.

Participants supported the document, as a basis for further refinement for submission as RCC common proposals to WTDC-14.

Centres of Excellence

Document 15: The document entitled *Draft modifications to Resolution 73 (Hyderabad, 2010), on centres of excellence* was introduced by Ukraine and the Russian Federation. The document welcomes BDT's work in this area, and proposes a new wording for Resolution 73 (Hyderabad, 2010), on ITU centres of excellence. The modifications aim at restructuring and harmonizing the ITU centres of excellence, by integrating them in the framework of academic institutions that are ITU Sector Members and are accredited for professional educational activities under the corresponding national legislation.

The contribution was supported by a number of delegates from academia. Participants noted that the approach would enhance the credibility of the ITU centres of excellence, since those have not yet been accredited and such accreditation is difficult to accomplish at international level. The approach to strengthen the ITU centres of excellence in cooperation with higher education institutions having academic accreditation in their respective countries would resolve such issues. It would also enhance Sector Members' visibility in the regions. Participants also welcomed BDT efforts towards building the ITU Academy as a comprehensive mechanism for developing human capacity at the global level.

Participants supported the document. Further refinement is expected for submission to WTDC-14 as RCC common proposals, taking into account results of recently held experts' group meeting and other discussions at the regional level.

World Summit on the Information Society

Document 22: The document entitled *Draft revision of Resolution 30 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on ITU-D's role in implementing the WSIS outcomes* was introduced by the Russian Federation. The document suggests that WTDC Resolution 30 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) be revised to take into account Resolution 140 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and the decision taken by the 2012 session of the ITU Council on WSIS+10, which is planned to be held in 2014 in conjunction with WTDC-14.

The countries supported the contribution and agreed to prepare on the basis thereof an RCC common proposal for WTDC. Participants also took note on the need to take a proactive approach towards the preparations to the WSIS+10 High Level Event, to be held in 2014 back to back with WTDC-14.

Working methods

Regional presence

Document 9(Rev.1): The document entitled *Draft new WTDC-14 Resolution, on strengthening the ITU regional presence in developing countries* was introduced by Ukraine. The contribution contains a draft new resolution leading towards broader outreach for the ITU activities. The resolution would not entail any financial implications for ITU and seeks, primarily, to ensure that the population of developing countries is better informed about the work and role of ITU in today's world. It seeks for a new mechanism to strengthen cooperation with Sector membership, translate and disseminate invitations, conduct seminars, roundtables, exhibitions, promote Sector membership, and coordinate activities of Sector Members at the national level. The representative of the Ukrainian Administration pointed out that the contribution builds upon an earlier proposal to TDAG, with the addition of the comments received during the 20th meeting of TDAG.

Participants noted the document, noted that the proposal went beyond the remit of one ITU Sector, and agreed to work on a common proposal leading towards a coordinated contribution to be submitted to the next Plenipotentiary Conference under the terms of the existing Resolution 25 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), while drawing attention to the financial implications that might be associated with this newly proposed working method.

Electronic working methods

Document 19: The document entitled *Draft new Resolution xx (Sharm el-Sheikh, 2014), on further development of electronic working methods for the work of ITU-D* was introduced by the Russian Federation. The document proposes the adoption of a new resolution, which recalls Resolutions 167

(Guadalajara, 2010) and 66 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and Resolution 32 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA-12. It recognizes the budgetary difficulties faced especially by developing and least developed countries in participating in meetings of ITU as a whole, and ITU-D in particular, and advocates for a more widespread use of electronic working methods for the work of ITU-D. A draft new resolution for WTDC-14 (Sharm el-Sheikh, 2014) is proposed to that end.

The countries supported the contribution and agreed to prepare on the basis thereof an RCC common proposal to WTDC.

Deadline for submission of documents

Document 20: The document entitled *Draft revision of Resolution 1 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) in regard to deadlines for the submission of documents* was introduced by the Russian Federation. The document suggests that the deadlines for the submission of documents to WTDC and meetings of TDAG and the ITU-D study groups be reviewed to take into account Resolution 165 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and ITU Council-11 Decision 556. The proposed approach aims at significantly improving the consideration of documents submitted, enabling participants to prepare properly for meetings, and bringing a real improvement in the effectiveness and results of the work of ITU-D. To this end, Resolution 1 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) would need to be revised to align it with the decisions of PP-10 and Council-11. A new version of Resolution 1 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2014) is proposed.

The countries supported the contribution and agreed to prepare on the basis thereof an RCC common proposal to WTDC.

Telecommunication and Development Advisory Group

Document 21: The document entitled *Draft revision of Resolution 24 (Hyderabad, 2010), on authorization for TDAG to act between WTDCs* was introduced by the Russian Federation. The document suggests that WTDC Resolution 24 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) be revised. The newly proposed version of Resolution 24 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2014) authorizes the TDAG to act between WTDCs, in particular in relation to the functioning of the ITU-D Study Groups. The proposed revision of the resolution includes the consideration of electronic working methods, coordination with the Advisory Groups of the other sectors as well as the consideration of the decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference and other conferences and assemblies of the Union that relate to the work of ITU-D.

The countries supported the contribution and agreed to prepare on the basis thereof an RCC common proposal to WTDC.

TDAG and Study Groups

Document 23: The document entitled *Draft revision of Resolution 61 (Hyderabad, 2010), on appointment and maximum term of office of chairmen and vice-chairmen of ITU-D study groups and of TDAG* was introduced by the Russian Federation. The document suggests that WTDC Resolution 61 (Hyderabad, 2010) be reviewed to take into account Resolution 166 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the decision adopted at the 2011 session of the ITU Council and the corresponding resolutions in ITU-R and ITU-T. It proposes the criteria for the appointment and maximum term of office of chairmen and vice-chairmen of ITU-D Study Groups and TDAG.

The countries supported the contribution and agreed to prepare on the basis thereof an RCC common proposal to WTDC.

Study Group Questions

Streamlining Study Group Questions

Document 5: The document entitled *Improving the structure of issues examined by study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector* was introduced by the A.S. Popov National Academy of Communications (Odessa), an ITU-D Sector Member. The contribution proposes changes to the structure of the Questions/issues examined by ITU-D Study Groups in order to eliminate possible duplication and reduce costs. It notes that some issues are studied in both Study Groups under different Questions. Combining some of those Questions and topics would lead to a more comprehensive consideration of the problems, which can in turn improve the quality and effectiveness of the Study Groups. The contribution asks for the following Questions to be combined: Questions 23/1 and 24/1; Questions 14-3/2 and 17-3/2; Questions 22-1/2 and 24/2; Questions 10-3/2, 25/2, and 26/2. Titles for the new combined Questions are also proposed. The contribution asks that the suggestions put forward be taken into account in the preparation of a revision to Annex 2 to Resolution 2 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), "Questions assigned by the World Telecommunication Development Conference to ITU-D study groups".

The participants noted this document, while welcoming proposals leading towards improvement of efficiency of Study Groups that should become result oriented and directly linked to the priority areas. This contribution should be treated as a basis for further discussions on proposed refinements of Study Group activities and for the drafting of an RCC common proposal to WTDC.

Aligning the ITU-D work with strategic priorities

Document 18: The document entitled *Proposals regarding ways of ensuring that the future work of ITU-D is as closely geared as possible to strategic priorities* was introduced by Republic of Moldova.

The contribution notes that while one of ITU-D's most important tasks is to assist developing countries in their knowledge and application of the standards (Recommendations) developed in the Radiocommunication and Standardization Sectors, there is no direct reference to this activity in the ITU-D strategic plan. It also calls for closer coordination between all three Sectors in order to develop coordinated decisions and avoid duplication of effort. In this regard it proposes the following actions to be taken:

- In developing the ITU-D strategic plan include, as one of the goals, bridging the standardization gap in terms of assisting developing countries in their knowledge and application of standards (Recommendations) developed in ITU-R and ITU-T.
- Convert the SG2 Rapporteur Group for Question 9-3/2 into an intersectoral coordination group dealing with the implementation of ITU standards and call upon the chairmen/vice-chairmen of study groups and advisory groups from developing countries to work in the group.
- Request the Director of BDT to hold consultations with the Directors of TSB and BR, and with the General Secretariat, in order to determine the financial implications of the work aimed at bridging the standardization gap.
- Examine, at Conference Preparatory Meetings (CPMs), sessions of the ITU Council and meetings of TDAG, the question of coordinating and harmonizing work to bridge the standardization gap. Based on the outcome of those discussions, adopt a decision on the need to develop a separate ITU-D Recommendation, in addition to PP Resolution 123 and to similar resolutions in the other Sectors, or alternatively to revise Resolution 47 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010).

Participants agreed to support the document in principle, and to consider it as a basis for discussion at the regional level on the Strategic Plan, Study Groups Questions, and possible revision of Resolution 47. It was proposed to prepare on the basis thereof an RCC common proposal to WTDC.

Proposed new question on transition to IPv6

Document 26: The document entitled *Assistance in the coordinated transition to IPv6 in developing countries using ITU experience* was introduced by JSC Giprosvyaz from Republic of Belarus, an ITU-D Sector Member. Given the importance of the transition from IPv4 to IPv6 addresses and the need to deploy IPv6 in the CIS region, the contribution proposes that the topic "Assistance in the coordinated transition to IPv6 in developing countries using ITU experience" be included in a future revision of ITU-D Question 26/2 "Migration from existing networks to next-generation networks for developing countries: technical, regulatory and policy aspects".

The participants agreed to support this document, subject to further refinement to produce an RCC common proposal to WTDC-14 and possible merging with the proposals of Document 5.

11 Priority setting for the CIS Regional Initiatives

The CIS regional initiatives are intended to address specific ICT priority areas through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement small-, medium- and large-scale projects. Under each regional initiative, projects will be developed and executed to meet the region's needs.

The following input documents were presented at the meeting in this context:

Document 6: The document entitled *Staff training in ICTs using modern facilities, including distance learning*, was introduced by the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications (IET) of the I. Razzakov Kyrgyz State Technical University (KSTU) (Kyrgyz Republic), an ITU-D Sector Member. The document contains basic information on the activities carried out by the I. Razzakov KSTU-IET, in regard to joint projects with ITU. With the aim of improving the quality of education and human and institutional capacity building in the developing countries, the contribution proposes the effective introduction of

distance-learning systems applying state-of-the-art technologies. A short project description defines required resources seeking for ITU's support of the aforementioned initiative.

Participants noted the document and indicated that the document should be considered during working group on regional initiatives.

Document 7: The document entitled *Use of digital TV for educational purposes based on "Allipe.TV" educational interactive TV* was introduced by the Institute for Electronics and Telecommunications (IET) of the I. Razzakov Kyrgyz State Technical University (KTSU) (Kyrgyz Republic), an ITU-D Sector Member. The contribution provides information on the potential of this interactive TV channel for bringing real-time school programmes to children living in rural areas who, for objective reasons (lack of teachers, remote location of schools, inability to attend school for various reasons, including poverty, religious beliefs, etc.), have no access to education. It proposes the use of digital TV and computer technologies for educational purposes in such situations. Given that by 2015, all countries will be moving to digital broadcasting, a new initiative on "Use of digital TV for educational purposes based on Allipe.TV educational interactive TV" might be considered as a possible regional initiative.

Participants noted the contribution and indicated that the document should be considered during working group on regional initiatives.

Document 25: The document entitled *Human capacity building for ICT development in rural areas of CIS countries* was introduced by Republic of Moldova. The document highlights the importance of capacity building in bridging the digital divide and promoting development. It notes that people in the rural areas are disadvantaged due to lack of access to ICTs. The document proposes that ITU supports the initiative on capacity building for ICT development in rural areas. The proposal covers networking and computerising of selected rural schools and universities, equipping them with the necessary ICT resources for the development of an e-learning capability, including the delivery of training courses for professionals.

Participants noted the contribution and the approach, while looking towards possible synergies with the proposal from Document 27.

Document 27: The document entitled *Regional initiative on the establishment of educational e-districts in border regions of CIS countries* was introduced by the A.S. Popov National Academy of Communications (Odessa, Ukraine), an ITU-D Sector Member. This contribution contains a proposal for a new regional initiative (for the CIS region) providing for the development of a model project and a series of practical implementations of educational e-districts in border regions of CIS countries. It proposes the establishment of a telecommunication platform to implement the latest technologies in the field of education, through specially selected general education institutions. Its implementation would allow people to have remote access to the education institution's educational resources. The platform would also be a single information source for education institutions in CIS countries.

Participants noted the document, while some comments were provided on the proposed approach of e-districts. It was felt that the focus of the initiative would be too limited. In this context it was suggested to focus on one regional initiative on Human Capacity Building combining both proposals from Documents 25 and 27.

It was proposed that Documents 6, 7, 25 and 27 be reviewed in the overall context of proposals on human resources development.

Document 8(Rev.1): The document entitled *Regional initiative on creating a child online protection centre for the CIS region* was introduced by Ukraine. The document proposes a new regional initiative entitled "Establishment of a child online protection centre for the CIS region", with a view to setting up a centre to provide assistance to CIS countries in protecting children from inappropriate content and strengthening user confidence in ICTs.

The proposal was supported by CIS countries and it was felt that it would help to build the foundations towards the development of the common CIS proposal on regional initiative on Child Online Protection.

Document 13(Rev.1): The document entitled *Cost-effective mobile wireless broadband access system for rural and sparsely populated areas and for covering transport links* was introduced by Intellect-Telecom OJSC, an ITU-D Sector Member from the Russian Federation. The document provides a short description of the wireless technology and its high degree of effectiveness, especially in rural and sparsely populated areas. Considering the importance for ITU of developing inexpensive wireless broadband systems, especially for developing and least developed countries, Intellect-Telecom proposes the wireless

technology for developing broadband and considers that the contribution could be taken up as one of the CIS regional initiatives.

The contribution was noted and forwarded for further discussion in the working group on regional initiatives, while there was a consensus that broadband access should be one of the regional initiatives for CIS.

Document 16(Rev.1): The document entitled *Creating IT/training centres with a view to ensuring access to ICTs for persons with disabilities* was introduced by the Republic of Belarus and the Kyrgyz Republic. The document analyses the problems faced by various categories of persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities, as well as the technologies that could help overcome those problems for such people and thereby enable them to enjoy the benefits of ICTs on an equal footing. The contribution draws attention to the needs of people with disabilities and the need to allocate resources to address their specific challenges. It proposes a regional initiative for the establishment of (an) IT/training centre(s) for persons with disabilities in the CIS countries. Kyrgyzstan considers that this issue is extremely important and that the contribution is a genuine candidate to become one of the regional initiatives for the CIS countries at WTDC-14.

Participants noted the contribution and agreed to propose a regional initiative on accessibility for people with disabilities.

The meeting agreed to create a working group on the regional initiatives for CIS chaired by the Vice-Chairman of RPM-CIS, Mr Baiysh Nurmatov (Kyrgyz Republic). The results of the discussions of the working group were submitted for the consideration of the meeting in Document DT/2. The meeting endorsed the proposal of the working group while taking note that the focus of the 5th Regional Initiative on Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs in the CIS countries should be further developed, on the basis of the proposals made by the Russian Federation and with the participation of all interested parties, prior to its submission to the WTDC.

The following are the five Regional Initiatives identified by the RPM-CIS:

Regional Initiative 1: Creating a child online protection centre for the CIS region

Objective: To provide ITU Member States in the CIS region with centralized advisory and technical assistance on various aspects of child online protection.

Expected outcomes:

- 1 Distance training courses on safe use of Internet resources, with provision for testing children, parents, teachers, and so on.
- 2 National systems for updating and disseminating lists of useful Internet resources for children, as well as lists of other Internet resources flagged as unsuitable.
- 3 Provision of more complete information for representatives of administrations, law enforcement agencies, educational establishments and the private sector regarding the current legal/regulatory and organizational/technical frameworks in the area of child online protection.
- 4 A database with data on existing technical solutions for content filtering.
- 5 Provision of recommendations for any interested party on selecting the best content filtering system for a given organization.
- 6 Training courses on content filtering as part of school and university programmes.
- 7 Trial areas for systems restricting access to inappropriate resources for educational establishments in the region.

Regional Initiative 2: Ensuring access to telecommunications/ICT services for persons with disabilities

Objective: To assist ITU Member States in the CIS region in developing regulations and technical solutions, as well as in implementing specialized training programmes to ensure the accessibility and user-friendliness of ICTs for persons with disabilities.

Expected outcomes:

- 1 Recommendations and regulations setting out infrastructure and content requirements in terms of accessibility and user-friendliness of ICTs for persons with disabilities.
- 2 Recommendations on adapting web resources to make them as accessible as possible to persons with disabilities.
- 3 Community access points for persons with disabilities, equipped with specialized IT equipment and software.
- 4 IT training centre for persons with disabilities in the CIS region.
- 5 Methodology for training persons with disabilities to give them telecommunication/ICT user skills, and training for trainers in the use of these methodologies.

Regional Initiative 3: Introduction of training technologies and methods using telecommunications/ICTs in order to develop human potential

Objective: To assist ITU Member States in the CIS region in setting up and developing national programmes for introducing telecommunications/ICTs into education with a view to developing human potential.

Expected outcomes:

- 1 Further training courses, training sessions and seminars on introducing telecommunications/ICTs into education and human resource development, including in rural areas.
- 2 Development of distance learning technologies and methods in areas including protection of ethnic minorities' rights to receive education in their own languages by providing additional educational opportunities.
- 3 Development of methods for assessing personality traits in order to select the most suitable teaching methods for individual students using telecommunications/ICTs.
- 4 Recommendations on methods of setting up national programmes for the introduction of telecommunications/ICTs into education.
- 5 All-round development of human potential through education using modern developments in telecommunications/ICTs.

Regional Initiative 4: Development of broadband access in the CIS countries

Objective: To assist interested Member States in developing broadband access, including in rural and remote areas, using energy-efficient technologies.

Expected outcomes:

- 1 Recommendations for Member States on the development of national ICT plans to meet the demands of populations in participating States.
- 2 Improved infrastructure for broadband access to ICT services of acceptable price and quality, in urban, rural and remote areas.
- 3 Measures to promote the development of broadband access with a view to connecting state social institutions, training centres, and healthcare and social rehabilitation centres, and to promote the use of ICTs by the general public in order to access social services.
- 4 Improved skills in the use of broadband access networks; this will involve online training seminars and other activities.
- 5 Recommendations on selecting the most suitable technologies for constructing broadband networks.

Regional Initiative 5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs in the CIS countries

(To be further developed.)

12 Main Outcomes

The RPM-CIS, after considering all input documents, came to the following conclusions:

- The objectives for ITU-D set out by PP-10 in the strategic plan for the Union remain relevant for the countries of the region. In all cases, the outputs should include the Study Group questions related to each output. The proposed approach is consistent with the Results-Based Management and Budgeting principles. Priority areas for the region were identified within each Objective/Output (see Section 9).
- Bridging the standardization gap should be part of the strategic goals and objectives of the ITU-D.
- Topics for the ITU-D future work relevant to the CIS region were identified including Human Capacity Development, Conformance and Interoperability, Centres of Excellence and WSIS (see Section 10; Topics).
- Five CIS Regional Initiatives were identified. Objectives and expected outcomes were agreed for four of them while the fifth one would be further developed (see Section 11).
- Study Group Questions should be streamlined to maximize efficiency and avoid duplications. Questions should be aligned with the strategic priorities of ITU-D and coordination with the other ITU Sectors should be ensured (see Section 10; Study Group Questions).
- Working methods of ITU-D were considered including regional presence, electronic working methods, deadline for submission of documents, authorization for TDAG to act between WTDCs, and appointment and maximum term of office of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-D Study Groups and TDAG (see Section 10; Working Methods).
- It was emphasized that the ITU-D Regional Forum and the Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-14 were an effective mechanism for the gathering together and discussion of proposals and opinions for the overall review of implementation of the WSIS outcomes (WSIS+10) and for looking ahead to the period beyond 2015.

Chairman, RPM-CIS for WTDC-14
Pavel Filip, Minister of Information Technology and Communications
Republic of Moldova
21 February 2013, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova