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|  | | **Document** **RPM-CIS21/37-E** | |
|  | | **22 April 2021** | |
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| Chairman, Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-21 for CIS (RPM-CIS) | | | |
| Report by the Chairman of RPM-CIS | | | |

Introduction

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Preparatory Meeting for CIS (RPM-CIS) was hosted by the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in a virtual format from 21 to 22 April 2021.

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 ITU‑D 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 (WTDC‑21), which will consider the ITU‑D activities to be carried out over the next four-year period (2022-2025).

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

Participation

The meeting was attended by 87 delegates representing 7 Member States from the CIS region and 15 Member States from other regions. The list of participants can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/online/mm/scripts/s/gensel23?_lang=&_event=C-00009412&_event_type=ZSED).

# 1 Opening Ceremony

At the opening ceremony, greetings from the following high-level participants were presented:

**Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU;

**Mr Nurudin Mukhitdinov**, Director General, Executive Committee, Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC);

**Mr Elmir Velizade**, Deputy Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

# 2 Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

In line with the proposal made by the Administration of the Russian Federation and informal consultations with ITU Member States from the CIS region, Mr Rashid Ismailov, President of PJSC VimpelCom, Russian Federation, was unanimously elected as RPM-CIS Chairman. The meeting also supported the recommendation of the heads of delegations regarding the election of Mr Alexey Borodin, PJSC Rostelecom Representative in Geneva, Russian Federation, as Vice-Chairman.

Ms Natalia Mochu, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for CIS, was introduced by the Chairman as Secretary of RPM-CIS.

# 3 Adoption of the agenda and time management plan

The meeting approved the agenda as presented in [**Document 1**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0001).

The BDT secretariat noted that RPM-CIS had received 36 contributions. Having examined all the inputs in relation to ITU‑D action areas, the meeting adopted the proposed time management plan in [**Document DT/1**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-210421-TD-0001/en). All the meeting documents are available on the RPM-CIS website.

# 4 Digital trends in the CIS region

[**Document 2**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0002/en) entitled “Digital trends in the CIS region in 2021” was presented by Ms Natalia Mochu, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for CIS. This document provides an overview of trends and developments in ICT infrastructure, access and use in the CIS region. The document illustrates progress in ICT development since the last World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2017 (WTDC-17), which was held from 9 to 20 October 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It also tracks the evolution of sector policies and regulations, digital services and applications, cybersecurity and digital skills and looks at the implementation of ITU regional initiatives for the CIS region. This document can be used by ITU members as reference material when analysing progress and identifying priorities in ICT development in the CIS region.

RPM-CIS took note of the document.

# 5 Reporting on the implementation of the WTDC-17 Buenos Aires Action Plan (including the regional initiatives), and contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**[Document 3](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0003/en)** entitled “Result Based Management (RBM) implementation in BDT” was presented by Mr Stephen Bereaux, Deputy to the Director of BDT. In 2019, BDT embarked on a comprehensive overhaul of its use of RBM to equip itself for the challenges of a rapidly changing development landscape and make it “Fit4Purpose.” This reform will introduce RBM for the implementation of all work programmes, as a managerial decision and monitoring tool, and to provide the evidence to demonstrate BDT’s impact. RBM will also serve as the platform to engage with internal and external partners, and to replicate and scale up successful projects and work programme initiatives.

RPM-CIS took note of the document.

[**Document 4**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0004/en) entitled “Reporting on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan to WTDC‑17 (including regional initiatives), and contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” was presented by Mr Stephen Bereaux, Deputy to the Director of BDT, and Ms Natalia Mochu, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for CIS. WTDC-17, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 9 to 20 October 2017, adopted the [Buenos Aires Action Plan](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Documents/WTDC17_final_report_en.pdf) (BAAP). The plan includes the ITU-D programmes, a set of regional initiatives and new and revised resolutions, recommendations and study group questions and defines the mandate, objectives and priorities of the ITU-D Sector for the period 2018-2021. It also aligns ITU-D’s work with ITU’s strategic objectives to allow countries to harness the full benefits of ICTs.

This document reports on the implementation of the BAAP and its contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the SDGs. It also highlights the changes that BDT, the executing arm of ITU-D, has undergone to ensure that it is able to keep pace with the fast-changing environment in which it serves. The fundamental importance of ICTs and their role of promoting social and economic development and facilitating the path to economic recovery have again been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected every country in the world. This has also underscored the need for a more agile and responsive BDT that can lead efforts to ensure that all people in all countries are connected.

RPM-CIS took note of the document.

# 6 Report on the implementation of outcomes of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work: PP-18, WRC-19, RA-19, and WTSA-16

[**Document 5**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0005/en) entitled “Report on the implementation of outcomes of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work: PP-18, WRC-19, RA-19, and WTSA-16” was presented by Mr Marco Obiso, Head, Digital Networks and Society Department, BDT. The document summarizes the outcomes of the ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work and provides a status update on their implementation.

RPM-CIS took note of the document.

# 7 Preparation for WTDC-21

## 7.1 Report of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep)

[**Document 6**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0006/en) entitled “Final report of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep)” was presented by Mr Stephen Bereaux, Deputy to the Director of BDT. This document contains a final report on the work of TDAG-WG-Prep, including those items where the group had not reached a consensus and TDAG-20/3 took a decision.

RPM-CIS took note of the document.

## 7.2 Report of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP)

[**Document 7**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0007/en) entitled “Report of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP)” was presented by Mr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Chairman of TDAG-WG-RDTP. This document contains the progress report of TDAG-WG-RDTP. The group will continue its work and submit the next report to TDAG-21.

RPM-CIS took note of the document.

## 7.3 TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP)

[**Document 8**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0008/en) entitled “Report on the meeting of TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP)” was presented by Ms Blanca Gonzalez, TDAG Vice-Chairperson. The document provides a report on the activities of TDAG-WG-SOP since its establishment. It also contains some recommendations approved by TDAG-20/3 on the way forward.

RPM-CIS took note of the document.

# 8 Identification of regional priority areas

The following contributions were considered during the discussion of agenda item 8:

[**Document 9**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0009/en) entitled “The measurement system for time, frequency and data volume in the digital ICT networks” was presented by Mr Sergey Melnik, Moscow Technical University of Communications and Informatics (MTUCI). The objective of the contribution is to propose a new initiative that defines the rules and procedures for the measurement of parameters for digital data transmission via communication channels, Internet and telephony in modern and future communication systems. This initiative will contribute to countries’ economic and social development.

[**Document 10**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0010/en) entitled “Proposed regional initiative for WTDC-21 ‘Development of smart cities and communities (SC&C), including smart regions, smart sustainable cities (SSC) and smart villages’” was presented by Mr Evgeny Solovyov, Ministry of Communications and Informatization, Republic of Belarus. In the CIS region, SC&C are currently gaining popularity as an approach to socio-economic development. The concept does not only cover the development of sustainable smart cities, but also smart villages and smart regions as a whole. This approach is a modern trend that must be analysed, developed and complemented. In this regard, ITU can actively assist ITU Member States of the region in developing legal and regulatory frameworks, creating necessary infrastructure, introducing modern services and applications in different aspects of SC&C (education, healthcare, tourism, transport, energy, security, the environment, etc.) and raising the digital literacy of the population, business and authorities in terms of SC&C.

**The Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan** proposed a new regional initiative for WTDC-21 entitled “Cybersecurity: building capacity and strengthening regional cooperation to ensure timely response to cyberthreats.” The main objectives of the proposed regional initiative are to:

1) Conduct regional and national cybersecurity drills;

2) Establish and enhance governmental and national cyberincident response centres;

3) Facilitate the development of national cybersecurity strategies;

4) Conduct specialized training and seminars.

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan also proposed annually holding ITU regional cybersecurity drills in Baku.

[**Document 11**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0011/en) entitled “Proposal of the Kyrgyz Republic to broaden the priority area of cybersecurity” was presented by Ms Natalia Mochu, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for CIS. The document contains a proposal made by the Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic to identify cybersecurity as a priority area and increase assistance to countries in strengthening cybersecurity. The Kyrgyz Republic makes the corresponding proposals to broaden assistance and aid to developing countries in cybersecurity.

[**Document 20**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0020/en) entitled “Draft CIS regional initiative ‘Development and raising of digital literacy for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs’” was presented by Ms Ainura Sadyrbaeva, Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications, Kyrgyz Republic. Currently, all countries are transitioning to a digital economy and the number of professions without digital skills is decreasing. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced everyone to reconsider working methods and technologies and even further accelerated the transition to digital technologies in all spheres of human activity. This situation has exacerbated the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, significantly reducing the total number of jobs available and making digital skills a key requirement for recruitment. Consequently, it is more important than ever before to develop and raise the level of digital literacy among persons with disabilities. This proposed regional initiative is intended to determine conditions for the sustainable operation of digital literacy development services for persons with disabilities and to prepare appropriate recommendations.

[**Document 31**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0031/en) entitled “New WTDC-21 regional initiative ‘Information security (cybersecurity) and personal data protection’” was presented by Ms Natalia Mochu, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for CIS. The Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and the Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan notes an acceleration in informatization processes in all spheres of activity of the State, organizations and civil society. One of the most important issues of informatization is ensuring information security and personal data protection. In this regard, it is proposed to make information security (cybersecurity) one of ITU-D’s regional priorities for the new cycle.

[**Document 35**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0035/en) entitled “Draft CIS regional initiative ‘Digital Skills’” was presented by Ms Ekaterina Fomicheva, PJSC Rostelecom. In recent years, the world has seen rapid growth in the development of digital technologies. Most States are currently implementing national strategies/programmes for the development of digital economies, and, in this regard, new activities and professions are emerging where priority is given to specialists with specific digital skills and knowledge.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many citizens have come to appreciate just how important ICTs are in such difficult conditions, which can leave a person completely isolated. Citizens have had to adapt to new conditions, and the market has had to quickly offer new digital solutions in various areas, such as healthcare, education and communications. In addition to essential services, it also proved important to offer online services for access to art and culture.

Currently, until countries have lifted all COVID-19-related restrictions, there remains a great demand for online services in art and culture, such as virtual tours of museum exhibitions and galleries. Moreover, virtual reality (VR) is capable of teleporting people to places they may never be able to visit. In this regard, VR tours of museums have steadily gained in popularity. Modern technology allows people to experience the greatest masterpieces and exceptional relics; many citizens, however, in particular older people, do not have the requisite digital skills to take advantage of the broad range of opportunities on offer.

[**Document 36**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0036/en) entitled “RI 5: Infrastructure development to foster innovation and partnerships in new technologies – IoT, including the Industrial Internet, smart cities and communities, 5G/IMT-2020 and NET-2030 next-generation networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), digital health, digital skills, environmental protection” was presented by Ms Ekaterina Fomicheva, PJSC Rostelecom. The WTDC-17 adopted five regional initiatives for ITU Member States of the CIS region. Regional initiatives target specific priority areas in telecommunications/ICTs through partnerships and resource mobilization for the implementation of specific projects. This regional initiative is aimed at developing telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and fostering innovation and partnerships in the implementation of new technologies – the Internet of Things, including the Industrial Internet, Smart cities and communities, 5G/IMT-2020 and NET-2030 next-generation networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), digital health, digital skills and environmental protection.

The meeting agreed to create a drafting group led by the Vice-Chairman of RPM-CIS, Mr Alexey Borodin, to consider Documents 9, 10, 11, 20, 31, 35 and 36. The group held a meeting on the second day of RPM-CIS on 22 April 2021 and, on the basis of consensus, drew up five draft regional initiatives:

**Regional Initiative 1:** Infrastructure development to foster innovation and partnerships in the implementation of new technologies – the Internet of Things, including the Industrial Internet, 5G/IMT-2020 and NET-2030 next-generation networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, digital health, digital education, environmental protection, smart cities, digital skills, etc.

**Regional Initiative 2:** Cybersecurity and personal data protection.

**Regional Initiative 3:** Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation.

**Regional Initiative 4:** Digital skills and ICT accessibility for the population, in particular for persons with disabilities.

**Regional Initiative 5:** Development of smart cities and communities.

RPM-CIS agreed five draft CIS regional initiatives and urged the Member States of the region to submit additional proposals to WTDC-21, including specific projects for implementation within the framework of the regional initiatives. The meeting also agreed that new proposals could be added to the text of the draft regional initiatives without withdrawing the expected results agreed upon.

The Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic noted the following:

1) These regional initiatives are common priorities and therefore open to all countries of the region. Any country of the region may join, irrespective of which countries proposed the regional initiatives at RPM-CIS on 21-22 April 2021. ITU should seek to finance implementation of the regional initiatives on an equitable basis;

2) Given that WTDC-21 is being postponed until 2022 and countries’ priorities may have changed by then, the CIS countries reserve the right to refine or, if necessary, change the regional initiatives adopted at RPM-CIS.

RPM-CIS proposed to the Administrations of the CIS countries that they immediately initiate consultations with BDT concerning implementation of the proposed regional initiatives.

[**Document 32**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0032/en) entitled “Proposals of the CIS Youth Group (Generation Connect – CIS) for the work of RPM-CIS” was presented by Ms Daria Perepeliatnikova, ITU Regional Office for CIS. The goal of the CIS Youth Group (GC-CIS), created as part of the Generation Connect global initiative, is to provide young people from countries of the CIS region with an opportunity to discuss the prospects and challenges associated with ICT development.

Following the nomination and selection of candidates, GC-CIS includes participants from the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

At the initial stage, GC-CIS participants identified what they consider the three most relevant of ITU’s activities: 1) networks and digital infrastructure; 2) digital services and applications and innovation; 3) Cybersecurity and child online protection, which were the subject of topic-specific sessions. In addition, GC-CIS participants expressed interest in the subsequent study of such topics as: human capacity building; environmental protection; development of States’ international legal obligations in the field of human rights in the digital age; distributed ledger technologies; artificial intelligence systems and modern technologies of the future; the development of computer literacy; and online security.

The document contains opinions and proposals prepared on the basis of the thematic working sessions held by GC-CIS for presentation at RPM-CIS and possible consideration when discussing priority areas for the CIS region.

RPS-CIS decided to:

1) Continue active youth involvement in ITU activities;

2) Continue the successful experience of hosting sessions with the involvement of experienced ITU and industry experts;

3) Provide continued support for the establishment of contact and active interaction between GC-CIS and the Generation Connect Visionaries Board.

**Documents** [**12**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0012/en)**,** [**13**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0013/en)**,** [**14**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0014/en)**,** [**15**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0015/en)**,** [**16**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0016/en)**,** [**17**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0017/en)**,** [**18**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0018/en)**,** [**19**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0019/en)**,** [**21**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0021/en)**,** [**22**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0022/en)**,** [**23**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0023/en)**,** [**24**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0024/en)**,** [**25**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0025/en)**,** [**26**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0026/en)**,** [**27**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0027/en)**,** [**28**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0028/en)**,** [**29**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0029/en)**,** [**30**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0030/en)**,** [**33**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0033/en)and[**34**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMCIS-C-0034/en) were presented by Mr Alexey Borodin, Chairman of the RCC Working Group on work with ITU under the RCC Commission for the Coordination of International Cooperation. The documents contain proposals for the revision and abrogation of WTDC resolutions.

RPM-CIS supported these contributions and decided to use them as the basis for the preparation of RCC common proposals for WTDC-21.

# 9 Other business

Mr Alex Wong, BDT Senior Strategy Advisor, presented information on the implementation of the ITU International Centre of Digital Innovation (i-CoDI) initiative.

RPM-CIS took note of the information.

# 10 Main outcomes

RPM-CIS, after considering all input documents, arrived at the following outcomes:

RPM-CIS recognized that the ITU-D regional initiatives constitute an effective mechanism for fostering implementation of the WSIS outcomes and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

RPM-CIS agreed the five draft CIS regional initiatives:

• Regional Initiative 1: Infrastructure development to foster innovation and partnerships in the implementation of new technologies – the Internet of Things, including the Industrial Internet, 5G/IMT-2020 and NET-2030 next-generation networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, digital health, digital education, environmental protection, smart cities, digital skills, etc.

• Regional Initiative 2: Cybersecurity and personal data protection.

• Regional Initiative 3: Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation.

• Regional Initiative 4: Digital skills and ICT accessibility for the population, in particular for persons with disabilities.

• Regional Initiative 5: Development of smart cities and communities.

See the Annex for the five draft CIS regional initiatives.

RPM-CIS also supported the work of TDAG and all its correspondence groups. In addition, it examined and supported the proposals for the revision and abrogation of WTDC resolutions.

The following two side events were held as part of RPM-CIS:

• [ITU infrastructure planning tools: ITU Interactive Transmission Maps, Giga broadband calculation tool, ICT Infrastructure Business Planning Toolkit](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/RPM/CIS/Side-Event/ITU-IPT.aspx) (21 April 2021). It was proposed to hold the session within the framework of the RCC working bodies concerned.

• [Special session: International Girls in ICT Day and Network of Women (NoW4WTDC21)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/NoW/Pages/Events/Regional/CIS/2021_04.aspx) (22 April 2021).

# 11 Closing ceremony

Closing the meeting, the Chairman expressed his gratitude to all the ITU members which had participated in the work of RPM-CIS, especially those which had contributed to that work. Last but not least, he thanked the ITU staff for their assistance in the organization and running of the meeting.

BDT Director, Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin thanked the RPM-CIS Chairman and Vice-Chairman and all participants, as well as the BDT secretariat, for their productive work and support.

The RPM-CIS participants thanked the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their effective leadership and the BDT secretariat for the excellent organization of the meeting and technical support.

Mr Rashid Ismailov   
Chairman  
22 April 2021

Annex  
  
DRAFT CIS REGIONAL INITIATIVES (2022-2025)

| **(Draft) CIS Regional initiatives (2022-2025)** |
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| **CIS1**: Infrastructure development to foster innovation and partnerships in the implementation of new technologies – the Internet of Things, including the Industrial Internet, 5G/IMT-2020 and NET-2030 next-generation networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, digital health, digital education, environmental protection, smart cities, digital skills, etc.  **Objective:** Assist ITU Member States of the region in telecommunication operators’ adoption of innovative technologies (in their introduction as new services), while ensuring the stability and enhanced performance of telecommunication networks, including 5G/IMT-2020 and NET-2030 next-generation networks, within the context of ubiquitous implementation of the concept and technologies of Internet of Things, Industrial Internet, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, digital health, digital education, environmental protection, smart cities, digital skills, etc.  **Expected results:**   1. Development of recommendations on new technologies; 2. Creation of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure to foster innovation and partnerships in the implementation of new technologies; 3. Raising of the technological level of organizations developing solutions and the general level of well-being of the region’s population; 4. Development of recommendations for the measurement of parameters for digital data transmission via telecommunication channels, the Internet and telephony in modern and future communication systems, ensuring that monitoring results are reproducible and traceable; 5. Bridging of the digital divide in the countries of the CIS region. |
| **CIS2:** Cybersecurity and personal data protection.  **Objective:** Provide assistance to ITU Member States of the region in developing and maintaining secured, reliable and stable digital networks and services and in solving problems related to personal data protection.  **Expected results:**   1. Establishment and enhancement of national cybersecurity incident response teams (CIRTs); 2. Building of capacity and enhancing communication and incident response capabilities and ensuring of a continued collective effort among the regions’ national computer incident response teams (CIRTs) to combat cyberthreats through global, interregional, regional and national cybersecurity drills; 3. Training and retraining of specialists with technical and management profiles through targeted regional and national training programmes; 4. Coordination of the gathering and sharing of best practices in the development of national strategies and cybersecurity and measurement of countries’ commitment to cybersecurity. |
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| **CIS3**: Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation.  **Objective**: Provide assistance to ITU Member States of the region in developing related laws and regulations and digital services in various economic sectors, fostering innovation, increasing information sharing and strengthening cooperation in regulation, thereby contributing to the creation of an enabling regulatory environment for all stakeholders.  **Expected results**:   1. Creation of an interconnected innovation ecosystem for start-up development and digital transformation in the countries of the region; 2. Expert assistance in the creation of digital public services based on open innovation; 3. Expert assistance in the creation of regulatory and legal frameworks and coordination mechanisms for the fostering of innovation in the finance and education sectors (Fintech and Edtech); 4. Sharing of information on changes in the legal and regulatory framework and market developments in the ICT sector and digital economy; 5. Building of institutional, human and technical capacity in relevant issues of sector legislation, regulatory matters, economic and financial issues and market developments. |
| **СIS4**: Digital skills and ICT accessibility for the population, in particular for persons with disabilities.  **Objective:** Provide assistance to ITU Member States of the region in formulating recommendations for the development of citizens’ digital skills, paying particular attention to persons with disabilities.  **Expected results:**   1. A detailed study of the needs of persons with disabilities in terms of digital-skill training methodology; 2. Recommendations on the development and improvement of digital literacy for persons with disabilities; 3. Creation of a network of training centres for persons with disabilities, including in remote areas of countries; 4. Methodological guidance and training for teachers of training centres for persons with disabilities; 5. Recommendations on the development of citizens’ digital skills in art and culture and the reduction of barriers in public access to museum collections; 6. Cooperation with museums for the development of special programmes for public access to museum exhibits; 7. Professional development courses, forums, training and seminars on matters related to the development of the public’s digital skills in art and culture. |
| **CIS5**: Development of smart cities and communities  **Objective**: Assist ITU Member States of the region in developing legal and regulatory frameworks, creating necessary infrastructure, introducing modern services and applications in different aspects of smart cities and communities (education, healthcare, tourism, transport, energy, security, the environment, etc.) and raising the digital literacy of the population, business and authorities.  **Expected results**:   1. Recommendations on the development of a legal and regulatory framework for smart city and community development at all architectural levels, as well as the organizational aspect of smart city and community development; 2. Recommendations on the development of necessary infrastructure, including the use of telecommunications and other connective media to support and facilitate sustainable smart city and community development in developing countries; 3. Pilot projects for different aspects of smart city and community development (education, healthcare, tourism, transport, energy, security, the environment, etc.); 4. Rating and key performance indicator system for the smart city and community domain; 5. Further training courses, training sessions and seminars on issues relating to smart city and community development and raising the digital literacy of the population, business and authorities. |

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