



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

**WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT
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For information

**Speech of Mr. Ahmed Laouyane,
Director of the BDT
at the
BDT reception celebrating GMPCS**

Thursday, 26 March 1998

Seventeen months ago in Geneva, representatives from 128 Member States and 70 Sector Members met together at the first ITU World Telecommunication Policy Forum to discuss and exchange views and information on policy and regulatory issues raised by the introduction of global mobile personal communications by satellite - GMPCS. In particular, the Policy Forum focused on the following issues:

- the globalization of telecommunication services and the scope for international cooperation;
- the role of GMPCS systems in the provision of basic telecommunication services in developing countries, LDCs, and in rural and remote areas;
- measures necessary to achieve transborder use of such mobile terminals; and
- policy and regulatory issues relevant to such systems and services, in particular those relating to interconnection, with a view to achieving equitable and standard conditions of access.

The Policy Forum itself was a historic occasion. It marked the beginning of a unique partnership of governments and industry, working together through the ITU, to develop and deliver new satellite telecommunication services to all areas of the world, including those without access to even the most basic telecommunication services. The accomplishments of the Policy Forum - five Opinions through which governments and industry agreed to principles and activities necessary to prepare for the introduction of GMPCS - were truly remarkable.

Today we are gathered to celebrate and recognize the work that has been accomplished since the first Policy Forum, as originally proposed in Opinions 4 and 5, and carried out by the ITU Secretariat and the ITU/BDT.

Opinion 4

As you may recall, the Opinion 4 Committee, under the efficient chairmanship of our friend Emmanuel Olekambainei from Tanzania, adopted a draft Memorandum of Understanding - the GMPCS MoU - to facilitate the transborder circulation of GMPCS user terminals. Through the GMPCS MoU, administrations and the industry agree to cooperate on the issues of:

- type approval, licensing, and marking of terminals;
- recommendations on customs matters; and
- access to traffic data.

The GMPCS MoU was finalized in February 1997. Since that time, representatives of administrations and the GMPCS industry have worked together to prepare Arrangements that include the terms and conditions under which GMPCS terminals may easily roam across national borders. The Arrangements were completed in October 1997, and the final remaining issues that needed to be addressed for implementation of the Arrangements were resolved two weeks ago in Geneva.

The GMPCS MoU and Arrangements benefit everyone - the populations intended to be served by GMPCS, as well as the Administrations, GMPCS system operators, terminal manufacturers, and service providers that have chosen to be a party to this historic agreement. I encourage all of you who have not yet done so to take advantage of the opportunity to sign the GMPCS MoU while you are here in Malta. Now is an excellent time to add your country to the growing list of countries and other entities that are parties to the GMPCS MoU.

Opinion 5

I am especially pleased to report to you about the completion of the work that has been done through the BDT as a result of Opinion 5 of the Policy Forum, which addressed the "Implementation of GMPCS in Developing Countries". In the short period of time since the Policy Forum was held:

- the BDT has raised over 300 000 Swiss francs from the GMPCS industry to fund the work of Opinion 5;
 - the BDT has conducted five regional workshops within four months, involving:
 - 500 participants from 105 administrations;
 - 10 regional organizations; and
 - 18 GMPCS system operators;
- to advise and assist in response to the concerns and needs of the developing countries on the technical and regulatory issues associated with the introduction of GMPCS on a global or regional basis. These workshops offered regulators, policy makers, GMPCS operators, and GMPCS service providers an open, interactive forum where they could exchange ideas and viewpoints and gain a better understanding and appreciation of the issues, concerns, and benefits presented by the introduction of GMPCS;
- the BDT has conducted a Seminar on Technical and Operational Aspects of the GMPCS Systems for the African English-speaking countries in Kampala, Uganda;
 - the BDT has assembled and supported the Group of Experts, which under the efficient chairmanship of our friend Nabil Kisrawi:
 - prepared and disseminated a checklist of factors that developing countries may take into account in the process of introducing GMPCS services; and

- studied the policy and socio-economic impacts of GMPCS services;
- the BDT has prepared a report to this conference based on the studies carried out by the Group of Experts; and
- the BDT is in the process of preparing a "GMPCS Reference Book", to assist you by compiling all of the materials about GMPCS in one volume.

These activities have been possible only through the combined efforts of Administrations and the GMPCS industry working together through the ITU.

I would like particularly to recognize the support, cooperation, and contributions of the:

- Administrations of the countries that hosted the very successful GMPCS workshops:
 - Syria (Arab regions workshop)
 - The Philippines (Asia Pacific region workshop)
 - Tanzania (Africa region workshop)
 - Mexico (Americas region workshop)
 - The Ukraine (Eastern Europe/CIS regions workshop)
- The sponsoring GMPCS operators:
 - Aces
 - Thuraya
 - Eutelsat
 - Globalstar
 - Ico
 - Inmarsat
 - INTELSAT
 - Iridium
 - Lockheed Martin
 - Matra Marconi Space
 - M-Cell (South Africa)
 - Motorola
 - Odyssey
 - Orbcomm
 - Satphone
 - Teledesic
 - SkyBridge
 - Sila (Canada)
- And the hard work and commitment of the BDT staff, especially Abdel Bairi, who made sure that a tremendous amount of work was accomplished in a very short period of time.

What has been accomplished is truly amazing and hopefully marks the beginning - not only of a new era of services available to all areas and populations - but also a new era of cooperation between industry and government to the benefit of both.

I am personally proud of the role the BDT has played in the development of GMPCS and the work the BDT has accomplished, as you directed at the Policy Forum. I look forward to continuing this important work.

It is now your role to use the information and materials that have been developed to license these new services, sign the GMPCS MoU, and implement the Arrangements so that the benefits of GMPCS can be available to all areas and populations.
