

PRESS STATEMENT



On 11 December 2003 a meeting of heads of regional organizations and signing of the Interregional and International Cooperation Programme in the field of communications and informatization for 2004-2006 took place in Geneva.

The heads of the following regional telecommunication and postal organizations participated in the meeting of the regional organizations: Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), African Telecommunications Union (ATU), European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU), Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC), International telecommunication Union (ITU), Universal Postal Union (UPU) and other persons invited.

Welcoming speeches and reports were delivered by - Chairman of the Board of the RCC Communications Administrations (CAs) Heads, Minister for Communications and Informatization of the Russian Federation Mr. L. D. Reiman, President of European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations, Director of Swiss Federal Office of Communications Mr. M. Furrer, Deputy Secretary-General of International Telecommunication Union Mr. R. Blois, Director of the International Bureau of Universal Postal Union Mr. T. Leavey Secretary General of Pan-African Postal Union Mr. J. Ben Haddada, Secretary General (elect) of African Telecommunications Union Mr. A. Akossi, Secretary-General of Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Mr. A. Narayan, Executive Secretary of Inter-American Telecommunication Commission Mr. C. Baptista, and others.

In the course of the-meeting participants shared their opinions on the methods and forms of cooperation in the field of communications and confirmed that regular information exchange on the activities of the unions would promote establishment of information society, fuller use of new opportunities provided by the modern information and communication technologies (ICTs). Each individual, regardless of its location, should have the possibility to use the benefits of the information society. ICTs capability to reduce impact of many of traditional barriers, especially those related to time and distance, gives millions of people all over the world the possibility to use enormous potential of the technologies for their welfare.

Striving for creation of the global information society open for all people the participants agreed to rely on international cooperation in their quest for specific approaches to bridging digital divide and promotion of universal access.

At the completion of the meeting, according to decision adopted at the Roundtable meeting of 29 June 2003 in Saint-Petersburg (Russia), heads of ATU, CEPT, PAPU, RCC signed the Interregional and International Cooperation Programme in the field of communications and informatization for 2004-2006.

The adoption of this Programme is aimed at development of information and communication technologies in all the regions of the world, coordination of positions at consideration of main matters of communications development within ITU and UPU, implementation of bilateral and multilateral projects in the interests of all regional unions, as well as human resource development.

Relations between all regional organizations will be realized by way of regular contacts, bilateral and multilateral information and experience sharing with regard to the results of the unions' activities, as well as mutual invitation of the representatives to the meetings of regional organizations as observers, in particular in the course of preparations for the forums, congresses and conferences held by ITU and UPU.

All regional organizations underlined the necessity to continue strengthening of interregional dialogue and cooperation.

Done in Nairobi on 15th December 2003

J. K. MUTAI
Secretary General