

Part of Round Table Discussion: Connecting the Unconnected via Satellite – Focus on Caspian Sea and Central Asia Region

Questions for the representative of Uzbekistan

Sirojiddin Usmanov, Senior specialist, Division of mobile communications and broadcasting networks, Department of telecommunications infrastructure development, The Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Question 1. Please tell us how things stand today with the development of satellite communications and broadcasting in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Answer 1. Thank you for your question. Today, satellite communications technology is used in the Republic of Uzbekistan in the following areas:

for transmitting national television and radio channels to remote and hard-to-reach areas of the Republic, as well as to neighboring states, the capacity of the NSS-12 satellite is used;

The National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan uses satellite channels for live broadcasts of television programs from the site of sports and social events; national telecommunications operators use satellite channels for partial reservation of international channels of access to the Internet, as well as for large oil and gas companies; several VSAT stations are also used by some embassies and international organizations.

Question 2. This year, the Caspian Sea region and Central Asia are in the spotlight. From 17th to 28th of November, Baku will host a landmark event for the global digital community – the World Telecommunication Development Conference.

The entire ecosystem of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will gather to discuss key challenges and prospects for digital connectivity in the world.

The overall goal of its participants is not only to ensure the availability, reliability and security of connectivity in their countries, but also to make it truly meaningful so that the Internet brings real benefits to people.

What are the plans of the Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan in this area and how, in your opinion, will the satellite help solve these problems?

Answer 2. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the Strategy "Uzbekistan - 2030". Currently, within the framework of the strategy "Uzbekistan 2030", a number of projects for the development of telecommunication networks are being implemented, as a result of which the length of fiber-optic communication lines has exceeded 294 thousand kilometers, the number of base stations has exceeded 85 thousand.

As a result, today almost all (more than 99.8%) populated areas of the Republic are covered by terrestrial telecommunication networks.

At the same time, the population of Uzbekistan is increasing by about a million people per year. Therefore, a number of new rural settlements appear annually, existing villages and cities are expanding.

The pace of industrial development is accelerating, as new industrial, mining, geological exploration sites are appearing.

Also, if you look at the map, you will see that most of Uzbekistan is uninhabited desert, steppe, mountainous territories, through which international, state highways and railways pass.

For the prompt coverage of newly created settlements, remote industrial facilities, as well as highways and railways, as well as for the geographical coverage of the country's territory, the possibilities of using satellite communications, especially low-orbit satellite systems, are being considered.

For this purpose, negotiations are being held with a number of companies from Europe, America, and Asia.