**WSIS Forum 2018**

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| **Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society**  **31st meeting – Geneva, 19-20 September 2017** |  |
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|  | **Document WG-WSIS-31/15-E** |
| **14 August 2017** |
| **English only** |

The WSIS Forum builds upon the outcomes of the UN General Assembly Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (UNGA Resolution A/70/125) that recognized the necessity of holding this Forum on an annual basis and called for a close alignment between WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, the WSIS Forum leverages on the WSIS-SDG Matrix and serves as a key forum for discussing the role of ICTs as a means of implementation of SDGs, with due regard to the global mechanism for follow up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (UNGA Resolution A/70/1). The WSIS Forum is coordinated by ITU and has been co-organized since 2006 by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD with the engagement of other United Nations Agencies, including WIPO, UNDESA, FAO, ILO, UNIDO, ITC, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNEP, UPU, WMO, WHO, WFP, UN Women, UN Regional Commissions.

The WSIS Forum is the only event of its kind where the programme and agenda are completely crowdsourced. Therefore, as organizers, ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, are pleased to announce the Open Consultation Process on thematic aspects and innovations on the format of the WSIS Forum 2018.

The process aims at ensuring a participatory and inclusive spirit of the Forum, scheduled to be held from (Dates: To be Confirmed) at ITU in Geneva. This process actively engages governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, the technical community and intergovernmental organizations in the preparatory process to ensure broad ownership and further improvements of the Forum. The Open Consultation Process will include a collection of inputs from regional and national WSIS related events. The physical meetings of the Open Consultation Process will benefit from remote participation.

The Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2018 is structured in six phases as follows:

* **Phase I: 19 September 2017**: 17:00 – 18:00: **Launch** of the Open Consultations (Face-to-face meeting during the WG-WSIS)
  + Launch of the WSIS Forum 2018 Website for the Official Submissions
  + Online discussions at Online Knowledge Societies Platform
  + Official submissions to the WSIS Secretariat on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format to be made via [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)
  + Open call for nominations for WSIS Forum 2018 Multi‐stakeholder High‐Level Track Facilitators
* **Phase II: 20 December 2017** (time to be determined): **1st Physical Meet**ing: Open Forum on Implementation of WSIS Action Lines and WSIS Forum (during IGF)
* **Phase III: 24 January 2018**: 16:30 – 18:00: **2nd Physical Meeting** (ITU Headquarters, Geneva)
* **Phase IV: Date TBC: Deadline for Submissions** of Official Contributions and   Binding Requests for Workshops
* **Phase V**:  2-3 Months before: **Final Review** **Meeting** of the Open Consultation Process (ITU Headquarters, Geneva)
* **Phase VI**: 1 Month before: **Final Brief** on the WSIS Forum 2018 (ITU Headquarters, Geneva)

*Please note that remote participation facilities will be made available for all physical meetings.*