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| **Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG 35th meeting – Geneva, 6-7 February 2020** |  |
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|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-35/2-E** |
| **10 December 2019** |
| **English only** |
| **WSIS Forum 2020** | |

Upon request of the WSIS stakeholders and in follow-up to the 34th meeting of CWG-WSIS&SDG, the WSIS Forum 2020 date has changed to 6-9 April 2020 with a Hackathon that will be held on 5-6 April 2020. The theme of the WSIS Forum 2020 is “*Fostering digital transformation and global partnerships: WSIS Action Lines for achieving SDGs”*.

The WSIS Forum 2020 will mark 15 years since the launch of the WSIS Process and will serve as a platform to track the achievements of WSIS Action Lines in collaboration with the UN Agencies involved and provide information and analyses of the implementation of WSIS Action Lines since 2005.

The WSIS Forum 2020 provides a multistakeholder platform to discuss, share experiences, showcase innovation, and foster partnerships in strengthening the impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on sustainable development. The agenda and outcome of the WSIS Forum will be aligned with the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs, highlighting the contribution and impact of ICTs in achieving the SDGs.

The WSIS Forum 2020 is co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line co-/facilitators and other UN organizations (UNDESA, FAO, UNEP, WHO, UN Women, WIPO, WFP, ILO, WMO, ITC, UPU, UNODC, UNITAR, UNICEF and UN Regional Commissions).

In follow up to the outcomes of the UN General Assembly Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes ([Res. A/70/125](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125)) and with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([Res. A/70/1](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1)), the WSIS Forum is constantly evolving and strengthening the alignment between the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs.

**Dates:** 6-9 April 2020 (Hackathon, 5 April 2020)

**Location:** ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

**Website:** [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)

**WSIS Forum 2020: Open Consultation Process**

The WSIS Forum is the only event of its kind where the programme and agenda are completely crowdsourced during the Open Consultation Process. The process aims at ensuring a participatory and inclusive spirit of the Forum and 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 includes inputs from regional and national WSIS related events and the physical meetings of the Open Consultation Process benefit from remote participation in order to include the voice of all stakeholders.

The Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2020 is structured in six phases as follows:

* **Phase I: Tuesday, 4 June 2019, 16:00-17:00:** **Launch of the Open Consultations** - The virtual launch of the open consultations took place at ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. Stakeholders were invited to participate remotely through the remote participation facilities. The remote participation recording is available at the following link: <https://connect.itu.int/pqj6b03uxfi7/>
* **Phase II: Thursday, 20 June 2019, 17:00-18:00: 1st Physical Meeting** - The First Physical Meeting of the open consultations took place at ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland.
* **Phase III: Wednesday, 27 November 2019, 15:00-16:00: 2nd Physical meeting** - The Second Physical Meeting of the open consultations took place during the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2019. The remote participation recording is available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVqTFLHI5F0>

*(Upcoming Meetings)*

* **Phase IV: Friday, 7 February 2020: 3rd Physical Meeting -** The Third Physical Meeting of the open consultations will take place at ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland.
* **Phase V: Monday, 3 February 2020: Deadline for Submissions of Official Contributions and Binding Requests for Workshops.**
* **Phase VI:** **Friday, 28 February 2020: Final Brief on the WSIS Forum 2020** - The final brief on the WSIS Forum 2020 will take place at ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland.

**Updates on preparation for the WSIS Forum 2020:**

1. **WSIS Forum 2020 Hackathon**

The WSIS Forum 2020 Hackathon will take place on 5-6 April 2020. The 2020 Hackathon will be organized by the ITU, University of Geneva – Geneva Tsinghua Initiative (GTI) and will be facilitated by Open Geneva. The theme of the Hackathon for 2020 is **Smart Sustainable Cities**. The hackathon will focus on hacking Smart and Sustainable solutions for cities around the globe.

#Hack4SmartSustainableCities will identify and support innovative solutions to address cities challenges globally. All interested participants who are passionate about technology and innovation for positive social-environmental impact are invited to participate in the WSIS Hackathon. Registration for Hackathon participants is available on the WSIS Forum website [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum).

1. **Amplify Youth voices at the WSIS Forum 2020**

Young can play an important role in leveraging ICTs to help achieve the SDGs and they will be leading the future that this digital world is creating. At the request of the WSIS stakeholders, the WSIS secretariat is working closely with partners, such as UN Agencies and Universities to strengthen the engagement and participation of the youth at the WSIS Forum.

The ICTs and Youth Track is a continuation track that has been designed to facilitate youth participation in the WSIS Process as solution makers, which include students and young professional participants. The track will cover interactive discussions on themes centered on youth development aspects, taking into account ICT as an enabler in innovation and development. Besides the Hackathon, several activities are currently being planned on integrating the voice of the youth, including skills-building workshops, pitching sessions, and Youth Speak Forum. Furthermore, the creation of a WSIS Youth group is being developed to put ICTs at the heart of sustainable development and development at large.

The WSIS Forum 2020 aims to include youth perspectives and engage young people in discussions about how technology can provide opportunities to address some of the world’s most pressing issues and provide a platform where youth can offer their insights and understanding of information and knowledge societies, its challenges and opportunities, and where they can not only raise questions but also propose solutions to harvesting the power of ICTs towards a better future.

1. **Special Tracks at the WSIS Forum 2020**

At the end of the WSIS Forum 2019, stakeholders requested the creation of multistakeholder thematic groups addressing topics of interest for the next WSIS Forum, including Gender, Youth, Ageing, Sports, Accessibility and Innovation.

As a follow up, the WSIS Forum 2020 will feature some special tracks to highlight these topics:

* **ICTs and Sports** track: discover how technology is taking sports to new heights. The track will focus on two angles: i) Sports as an enabler of peace and sustainable development; and (ii) ICTs and Sports in gaming;
* **ICTs and Youth** track: youth will be offering their insights and proposing solutions to harvest the power of ICTs for the benefit for all.
* **Extended Reality for SDGs** track: showcase innovative applications of Extended Reality on sustainable development.
* **ICTs and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and Specific Needs** track: empowering people living with disabilities and people with specific needs with ICTs and promote equal participation for everyone in society.
* **ICTs and Older Persons** track: highlight the ICT dimension of the silver economy opportunities and the use of ICTs for the aging society. The track will focus on several areas, including healthy aging through remote care and artificial intelligence, age-friendly environments, digital skills of older persons, and many more.
* **ICTs and Gender mainstreaming**: address issues related to gender and ICTs, in particular on the digital gender divide.
* **Innovation for SDG** track: aims at providing a platform for all stakeholders to present success stories and good practices as well as discuss systemic approaches towards building ICT-centric innovation ecosystems accelerating digital transformation and facilitating achievement of SDGs;
* **Space and SDGs** track: will provide an opportunity to discuss concepts around space and SDGs.

1. **WSIS TalkX**

After pioneering the successful WSIS TalkX for the first time at WSIS Forum 2019, the WSIS TalkX is back to bring inspiring stories from drivers of social change in the ICT Ecosystem.

1. **Regional Engagement and Outreach**

Each year, the United Nations Regional Commissions report on their actions and WSIS work plans at the *WSIS Forum Regional Commissions Meetings* held at the WSIS Forum.

1. **New Services & Tools for Stakeholders Engagement**

* Website in 6 UN Languages
* Sign language interpretation
* Machine Captioning

**Reminder of Call for Actions – WSIS Forum 2020:**

* **Open Consultation Process (OCP)**

[**SUBMIT**](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2020/Account/Register?ReturnUrl=%2Fnet4%2Fwsis%2Fforum%2F2020%2FOfficialSubmissions%2FForm)**-**Request workshops/exhibition space/speakers and provide inputs on the format and themes

***Deadline: 3 February 2020***

* **WSIS Photo Contest 2020**

[**SUBMIT**](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2020/PhotoContest) your photo that shows how ICTs are playing an enabling role in achieving the SDGs

***Deadline: 3 February 2020***

* **High-Level Track Facilitators (HLTF)**

[**NOMINATE**](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2020/Home/Consultations#hltfs) your representative for the HLTF

***Deadline: 3 February 2020***

**Call for Financial Support for the WSIS Forum 2020**

WSIS Forum is organized on an extra budgetary basis. ITU membership and other WSIS stakeholders are encouraged to partner with the WSIS Forum 2020. WSIS Forum 2020 [Partnership Packages](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2020/#sponsor) are available in all the six UN Languages.

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