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| **Council Working Group on WSIS and SDG 37th meeting – Virtual meeting, 22-23 September 2021** |  |
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| WSIS FORUM 2022 (PREPARATIONS) | |
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| **Summary**  This document highlights the preparations towards the WSIS Forum 2022, including the open consultation process and other calls for action.  **Action required**  Members are requested to note the information and contribute actively towards the WSIS Forum 2022 preparatory process and all calls for action.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/125](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125); UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/1; [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum); UNGA Resolution [A/RES/73/218](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/218); [UNGA Resolution A/RES/75/202](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/379/41/PDF/N2037941.pdf?OpenElement); [PP-18 Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution-140-PP18.pdf); [ECOSOC Res 2021/28](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2021/28); [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf); [PP-10 Resolution 172 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution172-PP10.pdf); [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2019)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0137/en); |

**WSIS FORUM 2022 (PREPARATIONS)**

The WSIS Forum is the global multistakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. The WSIS Forum 2022 is scheduled to be held starting from 15 March with the final week that will be held on 30 May – 3 June 2022 at ITU Headquarters premises in Geneva, with the fallback option of a fully virtual event along the lines of WSIS Forum 2021, or a combined event with physical and virtual components, depending on the evolving COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The overall theme of the WSIS Forum 2022 is ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs. The agenda and programme of the WSIS Forum 2022 will be aligned with the WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting the contributions and impact of ICTs to achieve the SDGs by 2030, particularly efforts and initiatives of digital cooperation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**WSIS Forum 2022 Open Consultation Process (OCP):** The WSIS Forum is the only event of its kind where the programme and agenda are 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 for the WSIS Forum 2022 is structured in five phases, all information including the invitation letters to contribute to the OCP are available here: [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)

**WSIS Forum 2022 Open Calls to Action:**

1. **Request workshops/exhibition spaces/speakers** and provide inputs on the format and themes of the WSIS Forum 2022: Deadline for Submission: 7 March 2022
2. **WSIS Prizes 2022:** Details on the phases are available on the WSIS Prizes 2022 website ([www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes)). Deadline for Submission: 21 January 2022
3. **WSIS Photo Contest 2022:** Submit photos that show how ICTs are playing an enabling role in achieving the SDGs. More information please visit [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)**.** Deadline: 7 March 2022
4. **High-Level Track Facilitator (HLTF):** Nominate a representative for the HLTF that will facilitate the High-level Policy Session. Please submit the nominee to [wsis-info@itu.int](mailto:wsis-info@itu.int). Deadline: 7 March 2022

**WSIS Forum 2022 - updates on the preparations:**

1. **WSIS Forum 2022 Hackathon:** In collaboration with UNESCO and other stakeholders WSIS Forum 2022 will organize a Hackathon and WSIS Special Prize in 2022 on ICTs and Indigenous Languages. The theme will be in line with the preparation for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2023).
2. **Exhibition Spaces**The virtual exhibition will allow stakeholders to showcase their innovative projects and the technology behind it. It provides an opportunity to share their initiatives and solutions that harness the power of ICT-enabled development to advance the achievement of the SDGs.
3. **Special Tracks – WSIS Forum 2022**Upon request of the WSIS stakeholders, special tracks in various topics will also be organised throughout the WSIS Forum 2022. Please see below special tracks that have been confirmed till date while we await the conclusion of the OCP:

* ICTs and Youth
* ICTs and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and Specific Needs
* ICTs and Older Persons
* ICTs and Gender Mainstreaming

1. **WSIS TalkX**The [WSIS TalkX](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Home/WSISTalkX) is a platform, both virtual and physical, dedicated to sharing experiences and inspirational stories about ICTs for development (implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for Development) by stakeholders all over the world. More than 30 physical and virtual sessions have been conducted, which have all been adapted to podcasts and are available to listen and download at [WSIS TalkX Podcast](https://wsistalkx.buzzsprout.com/861820).
2. **Networking**Social and networking elements of the WSIS Forum 2022 can be enjoyed by participants through a dedicated online networking platform (imeetyouatWSIS) that provides opportunities to meet other attendees, start conversations, and engage with participants all over the world.
3. **Regional Engagement and Outreach**Each year, the United Nations Regional Commissions report on their actions and WSIS work plans at the WSIS Regional Commissions Meetings held at the WSIS Forum. The Regional Commissions are also encouraged to organise regional sessions in the appropriate UN language for the region at a convenient time during WSIS Forum 2022. UN ESCWA was appointed as the Chair of the WSIS Regional Commission Group for 2021-2022.
4. **WSIS Forum 2022: Partnership Packages**ITU Membership and other WSIS stakeholders are encouraged to become partners of the WSIS Forum 2022. WSIS Forum 2022 partnership packages will be available in all the six UN languages here: <https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/WSIS-Fund-in-Trust.aspx>

Relevant documentation, the format and timeline, agenda and registration can be accessed at [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum).

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