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| **Council Working Group on WSIS and SDG37th meeting – Virtual meeting, 22-23 September 2021** |  |
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| Contribution by the Secretariat |
| WSIS PRIZES 2021  |
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| **Summary**This document serves to inform the Group about the activities related to the WSIS Prizes, in particular: * Results of the WSIS Prizes 2021 contest

**Action required**Members are invited to note the document, participate in promotion of the WSIS Prizes 2021 Awardees.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**[Res. A/70/125](https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ares70d125_en.pdf); [Res. A/70/1](https://www.un.org/ga/search/viewm_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1); [PP-18 Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution-140-PP18.pdf); [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2019)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0137/en); [ECOSOC Res 2021/28](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2021/28) |

**WSIS PRIZES 2021**

This year marked the tenth-year anniversary of the WSIS Prizes contest with the record number of submitted ICT-related projects (1,260) from around the world. A new record of this global multi-stakeholder engagement in implementation of WSIS Action Lines for SDGs confirmed the relevance of this major global awards within the ICT for development community. This exercise provided stakeholders with a platform presenting an overall picture of and sharper insight into the latest WSIS activities undertaken toward achieving WSIS goals and advancing SDGs.

Following the announcement of the [360 WSIS Prizes 2021 Nominees](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/Prizes/2021/Nominated?jts=RKCUQ7#start) in March and the [90 WSIS Prizes 2021 Champions](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/Prizes/2021/Champions?jts=9TELQB#start) in April this year, awardees have been extensively promoted on WSIS and ITU online platforms. Numerous virtual sessions were organised for global promotion of their innovative projects, including those during the virtual WSIS TalkX from April till June, with more than 1,000 participants engaged in celebrating the best ICT practices for development. As part of the promotion of awardees, a special virtual exhibition dedicated to the WSIS Prizes 2020 has been inaugurated in June. To explore it in more details, visit the WSIS Forum 2021 online networking platform [ImeetyouatWSIS](https://wsisforum2020.pathable.co/).

The United Nations Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC Resolution 2020/12](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2020/12) on “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society” reiterates the importance of sharing best practices at the global level and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the WSIS goals, encourages all stakeholders to submit ICT-related projects and initiatives to the WSIS Stocktaking platform.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) remains committed to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes, and to implementation of the WSIS goals beyond 2021. ITU recognizes and highly appreciates the extremely valuable contributions made by stakeholders to enable the continuation of WSIS monitoring and reporting.

WSIS Prize winners represent the innovative and high-impact projects from around the world that demonstrate the vital role of ICTs in achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. The prizes are awarded across 18 categories, each directly linked to the [11 WSIS Action Lines](https://www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/facilitators.html) defined in the [Geneva Plan of Action](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs/geneva/official/poa.html).

Our winners and champions amazing efforts and impactful ICT solutions have brought us to celebrate together the power of ICT in making impact around the world. We look forward to further promoting their achievements in various formats in the future, and we also invite all to promote their success back home with your communities. We invite all to explore more about the winners and champions and their projects at the WSIS Prizes [website](http://www.wsis.org/prizes). We also invite all to continue contributing to the WSIS Prizes in the future and promote this important global annual award among networks and channels.

**Annex 1: Meet the WSIS Prizes 2021 Winners:**



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