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| Contribution by the secretariat | |
| WSIS FORUM 2023 (HIGHLIGHTS AND OUTCOMES) | |
| **Purpose**  This document presents the highlights and outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2023.  **Action required**  Members are requested to **note** the document.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  WSIS Forum website: [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum). | |

The WSIS Forum 2023 hybrid week was held from 13 to 17 March in Geneva, Switzerland, and continued with virtual workshops in April-May 2023. This year, the Forum addressed the theme of ‘’WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs’’.

The WSIS Forum 2023 hybrid week encompassed a series of thematic workshops, high-level dialogues, action lines facilitation meetings, WSIS+20 multistakeholder discussions, a WSIS Prize ceremony, UNGIS sessions, knowledge cafes, exhibitions, open space sessions, a ministerial round table, and a closing ceremony.

**Participation**

More than 2,700 participants from 150 countries worldwide engaged in the WSIS Forum 2023 hybrid week, joining both on-site and remotely. The Forum gathered over 150 high-level representatives from the broader WSIS stakeholder community, including Ministers, Deputies, Ambassadors, as well as leaders from the private sector, academia, and civil society.

Over the course of nine weeks, the virtual workshops brought together a cumulative total of 5,000 participants (*via livestreams and session recordings on Zoom and Facebook*). The event featured 50 virtual workshops and showcased the expertise of over 200 speakers.

In its second edition, the Mayors track at the WSIS Forum 2023, a collaborative effort between ITU and Geneva Cities Hub, brought together 15 Mayors from different cities worldwide. The Mayors presented concrete projects and local achievements on scalable and replicable good practices of digital solutions for climate change adaptation and energy transition.

The WSIS Forum 2023 Ambassadors roundtable discussion featured around 50 Ambassadors to the UN in Geneva, engaging in deliberations on the following topics:

* Leveraging the power of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the need to bring about an inclusive, prosperous, sustainable, safe and trusted digital future for all;
* Meaningful communication and Geneva community’s role in effective implementation of UN processes;
* WSIS+20 review process and the future of WSIS beyond 2025 – identifying emerging trends, challenges and opportunities for implementing the WSIS Action Lines;
* WSIS+20 review and the Global Digital Compact (GDC).

The Ministerial roundtable at the WSIS Forum 2023 benefited from the presence and contributions of 40 Ministers/Deputies. In an innovative format with 3 breakout rooms chaired by Ministers (Gambia, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates), three topics were discussed:

* ICTs rescuing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs
* World Summit Information Society Ministerial Contribution to the Global Digital Compact Consultations
* Exploring the Potential of Space for all as a Driver of Sustainable Development

**Chairperson**

The WSIS Forum 2023 saw a significant milestone, as the first female Chairperson, H.E. Dr. Emilija Stojmenova Duh, Minister of Digital Transformation, Republic of Slovenia, chairing the WSIS Forum 2023.

**Outcome Documents of the WSIS Forum 2023**

The full list of Official WSIS Forum 2023 Outcomes is available on the website: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Home/Outcomes>

**WSIS Forum 2023 partners**

WSIS Forum 2023 was made possible through the generous support of its strategic partners:

* Platinum partner: United Arab Emirates
* Gold Plus Partner: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
* Partners for Specific Activities: Japan, Huawei, IEEE
* Contributing Partners: Kingdom of Bahrain, Republic of Rwanda, Swiss Confederation, United Kingdom, ICANN and ISOC
* Supporting Partners: The General Delegation of Wallonia-Brussels (Belgium), GCOA, IFIP, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

Further details about the highlights and outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2023 are accessible at: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Home/Outcomes>.

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