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| Report by the secretariat | |
| OUTCOMES OF THE WSIS+20 FORUM HIGH-LEVEL EVENT 2024 | |
| Purpose  This document presents the highlights and outcomes of the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024.  Action required  The Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs is invited to **note** the document.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*CWG-WSIS&SDG website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*;* [*WSIS Forum website*](http://www.wsis.org/forum) | |

The WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 was co-hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Swiss Confederation, and co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD. The Event took place from 27 to 31 May 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. The WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2024 was chaired by H.E. Mr Albert Rösti, Federal Councillor, Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy, and Communications (DETEC), Switzerland.

Ahead of the United Nations General Assembly’s twenty-year review of WSIS, the Event served as a platform for multistakeholder exchanges and a catalyst for action. The Event covered a wide range of topics, including emerging technologies, WSIS+20, digital inclusion, digital governance processes, the Global Digital Compact, the Summit of the Future, digital health, universal connectivity, sustainable digital transformation, cybersecurity, digital public infrastructure, and many more.

Participation

The Event gathered over 4 000 participants onsite and online, including 80 ministers, deputies, and heads of regulatory authorities. The five-day event brought together multi-stakeholder participants, including government, the private sector, academia, the technical community, and civil society.

More than 40 **UN Agencies** participated and contributed to the programme of the Event. UN Secretary-General Mr António Guterres shared a video message on the occasion, [available here](https://youtu.be/-jXxJOMgL-k). UN Leaders Spotlight on WSIS: Contributions in a video format by the Heads of UN Agencies: [UN Leaders Spotlight on WSIS - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh5wUIxznUUWCQscg4DcIhNZ6WxkZQW6f)

The [**Ministerial Roundtable**](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/427) benefited from the presence and contributions of 40 Ministers/Deputies. Ministers underscored a collective commitment to harnessing ICT for socio-economic advancement, increasing inclusivity, and ensuring that the digital transformation benefits everyone and highlighted that the WSIS Principles and Action Lines continue to serve as a time-tested reference for global digital discussions. Ministers concluded that the WSIS Forum has been the time-tested multistakeholder platform for deliberations on digital development policies, exchanging best practices, and fostering partnerships and that the WSIS Process should be leveraged for the follow-up and implementation of the Global Digital Compact (GDC). Explore the [Ministerial Roundtable Summary](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Files/View/DOC/c10ba7128022ef11968900155d80912d/ministerial_roundtable_summary.pdf) for full details.

The event also featured 45 **Exhibition** spaces showcasing innovative digital projects and initiatives aimed at sustainable development. This year's event included the debut of the UN SG Zone, with 10 UN agencies highlighting their digital efforts towards the 2030 Agenda. The exhibition also included booths from event's partners and special showcases of cutting-edge technologies such as virtual reality and artificial intelligence.

The Event hosted [Network of Women Ministers and Leaders in ICT](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/416), joined by over 100 participants sharing views on closing the gender digital divide and empowering more women to lead, innovate, and inspire. The Academic Roundtable gathered over 20 technology and policy academic experts to strengthen collaboration on emerging trends. Permanent Mission of India organized yoga and mindfulness sessions for participants.

Key figures

– Featured nearly 200 sessions, including high-level plenary sessions, interactive sessions, knowledge cafes, WSIS Prizes and Special Prizes ceremonies, and a ministerial roundtable

– Brought together 4 000+ participants (3 000 onsite and 1 000 remote) from 160 countries

– 500 High-Levels, including CEOs, Ministers, Deputies, Heads of Organisations, Ambassadors, etc.

– 80+ Ministers and Deputies, Heads of Regulatory Authorities

– Gender participation: 57 per cent male, 43 per cent female

– 650+ participants on LinkedIn networking tool.

Key Outcomes

The WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 served as a multistakeholder platform for reflecting on the pressing need for global collaboration, digital inclusion, and leveraging technology for development. The Swiss Confederation presented a [**Chair's Summary**](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/Outcomes), which encapsulated the discussions from nearly 200 sessions, including high-level talks and a Ministerial Roundtable, summarizing the discussions as objectively as possible from the Chair’s perspective. The Chair's Summary emphasized that the time has come to think boldly and widely about a “**WSIS Plus**”, a strengthened and further developed inclusive framework for digital governance and cooperation which will be fit-for-purpose and serve us well as we enter an era of fast and uncertain AI and digital developments.

The [**United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)**](https://www.ungis.org/)reiterated its commitment to the WSIS process and the implementation of WSIS Action Lines, emphasizing the importance of aligning the WSIS and SDG processes. For the term 2024-2025, UNESCO has assumed the Chair of UNGIS, taking over from ITU and UNDP as co-chairs (2023-2024). The Vice-Chairs for this term are ITU, UNDP, UNCTAD, and ECLAC.

The announcement of the [**WSIS Prizes 2024**](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/Prizes/2024), celebrated **18 winners and 72 champions**, recognized for their efforts in implementing WSIS Action Lines and advancing the SDGs. The full list of winners and champions, is available [here](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/Prizes/2024/Winners). WSIS special prizes [WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize 2024](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/HealthyAgeing) and [WSIS Digital Service Design Prize 2024](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/DigitalServiceDesign) were also awarded.

A compilation of the outcomes of the sessions held during the event is available in the [**Outcome Document**](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/Outcomes). Additional outcomes and reports are listed below:

– [WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024: High-Level Outcomes and Executive Brief](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Files/outcomes/draft/WSIS20ForumHighLevelEvent2024-OutcomesAndExecutiveBrief_DRAFT.pdf)

– [WSIS Stocktaking Report 2024](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Files/outcomes/draft/WSISStocktakingReport2024_Draft.pdf)

– [WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2024](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Files/outcomes/draft/WSISStocktakingSuccessStories2024_Draft.pdf)

– [WSIS Stocktaking Success Special Report — The Republic of Korea’s ICT Journey](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Files/outcomes/draft/WSISStocktakingSpecialReport_ROKTimeline.pdf).

WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 Partners

WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 was made possible through the generous support of its partners:

– Platinum Partner: United Arab Emirates

– Gold Plus Partner: Saudi Arabia

– Gold Partner: Digital Cooperation Organisation

– Partners for Specific Activities: Japan, Huawei, IEEE

– Contributing Partners: Rwanda, United Kingdom, EY, ICANN, Internet Society, WHO

– Supporting Partners: Wallonia-Brussels in Geneva, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the UN, Global Coalition on Aging, IFIP.

Further details about the highlights and outcomes of the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 are accessible at: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/Outcomes>.

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