|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/INF/7** |
| **7 February 2025** |
| **English only** |
|  |  |
| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| WSIS SESSIONS AT THE IGF 2024 | |
| **Purpose**  This document lists the WSIS sessions organized at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2024.  **Action required**  This report is transmitted to the Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs **for information**.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*CWG-WSIS&SDG website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*;* [*WSIS website*](http://www.wsis.org/forum)*;* [*UNGIS website*](http://www.ungis.org) | |

**A colorful circular logo with a black background

Description automatically generated**A purple and white logo

Description automatically generated

**Governance Forum (IGF) 2024**

**15-19 December 2024**

**Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

**WSIS Sessions**

**17 December**

1. **Digital for Development: UN in Action (Open Forum #76)**

**17 December 2024, 11:00-12:00 (UTC+3) / 09:00-10:00 (CET/UTC+1)**

**Organiser: UNGIS**

**Session pages:**

* **(WSIS website)** [**https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/109**](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/109)
* **(IGF website)** [**https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-open-forum-76-digital-for-development-un-in-action**](https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-open-forum-76-digital-for-development-un-in-action)

**Venue: Workshop Room 7, King Abdulaziz International Conference Center (KAICC)**

This side event, organized by the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), will showcase how the UN system is advancing digital development to drive progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through collaborative efforts and innovative initiatives, the session will highlight initiatives and strategies that harness digital solutions to address global challenges, promote inclusivity, and foster sustainable growth.

Speakers:

* Mr. Cedric Wachholz, Chief of Digital Policies and Digital Transformation Section, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
* Ms. Gitanjali Sah, Strategy and Policy Coordinator, ITU
* Mr. Robert Opp, Chief Digital Officer, UNDP
* Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson, Head, E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, UNCTAD *(remote)*
* Ms. Samia Melhem, Lead Digital Policy Specialist, World Bank
* Mr. Ryszard Frelek, Counsellor | External Relations Division, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
* Mr. Mactar Seck, Chief of Technology and Innovation Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
* Ms. Helene Molinier, Senior Advisor on Digital Cooperation and the Thematic Lead for the GEF Action Coalition on Innovation and Technology, UN Women

**18 December**

1. **Second Meeting of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 Open Consultation Process (Open Forum #33)**

**18 December 2024, 09:45 to 10:45 (UTC+3) / 07:45 to 08:45 (CET/UTC+1)**

**Co-Organisers: ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD**

**Session pages:**

* **(WSIS website)** [**https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/105**](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/105)
* **(IGF website)** [**https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-open-forum-33-open-consultation-process-meeting-for-wsis-forum-2025**](https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-open-forum-33-open-consultation-process-meeting-for-wsis-forum-2025)

**Venue: Workshop Room 10, King Abdulaziz International Conference Center (KAICC)**

The Open Consultation Process (OCP) lays the groundwork for shaping the WSIS Forum’s agenda and program, fostering a participatory and inclusive approach. This process invites contributions from various stakeholders—governments, private sector, civil society, technical community, academia, and international organizations—to ensure broad ownership and continuous improvements. Through consultative meetings and online submissions, the OCP collects input to shape the development of the WSIS Forum.

The Second Meeting of the Open Consultation Process will build on previous discussions, continuing to gather input from stakeholders to shape the agenda, program, and format of the WSIS Forum 2025, branded as the WSIS+20 High-Level Event in context of the 20th Anniversary of the WSIS Process, scheduled for 7–11 July 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. The session will provide an open platform for all stakeholders to engage in discussions, share ideas, and contribute to the Event’s preparations. Participants will also have the opportunity to receive updates on the latest activities related to the WSIS Process and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 will be co-hosted by ITU and the Swiss Confederation. It will serve as a platform for discussion of the WSIS+20 review and the WSIS Action Lines and to take stock of the achievements and key trends, challenges and opportunities since the Geneva Plan of Action. The Event will highlight the way forward in preparation for the second review by the UN General Assembly, ensuring the continued relevance of the WSIS framework in digital governance. It will provide an opportunity to celebrate the 20 years of implementation of the WSIS Process and to brainstorm on the vision of WSIS.

**Programme**

1. Welcome and Introduction by Gitanjali Sah, Strategy and Policy Coordinator, ITU
2. Opening remarks by co-host, Swiss Confederation: Amb. Thomas Schneider, Ambassador and Director of International Affairs, Switzerland
3. Brief remarks by co-organizers:
   * Dr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO
   * Mr. Robert Opp, Chief Digital Officer, UNDP
   * Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson, Head, E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, UNCTAD *(remote)*
4. WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 Updates by Ms. Gitanjali Sah, Strategy and Policy Coordinator, ITU
5. Open floor for contributions and inputs/Q&A with all stakeholders
6. **20 Years of implementation of WSIS and the vision beyond 2025**

**18 December 2024, 11:30 to 13:00 (UTC+3) / 09:30 to 11:00 (CET/UTC+1)**

**Co-Organisers: South Africa, ITU**

**Session pages:**

* **(WSIS website)** [**https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/107**](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/107)
* **(IGF website)** [**https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/20-years-of-implementation-of-wsis-and-the-vision-beyond-2025**](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/20-years-of-implementation-of-wsis-and-the-vision-beyond-2025)

**Venue: Workshop Room 10, King Abdulaziz International Conference Center (KAICC)**

This session, organized by the Government of South Africa as Chair of the ITU Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG, invites stakeholders to contribute to the [Call for Inputs on the WSIS+20 Review](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=12TkI-YEh0uRPCS9iSGf06qtDlMBPuBNoa2AwRocnE1UOUYxTDI4N0FPVzZYRzJZV1VQSDJTVjEyMS4u&route=shorturl)​, by sharing their views on the work of the ITU in the WSIS+20 review. Participants will explore key topics, including achievements and challenges since the Geneva Plan of Action, the alignment of the WSIS Process with the 2030 Agenda, and the future direction of WSIS beyond 2025. The session will highlight ITU's significant contributions over the past two decades and emphasize the importance of diverse stakeholder engagement to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive review of the WSIS Process.

**Program**

1. Opening by ITU CWG-WSIS&SDG Chair, presenting the call for input
   * Ms. Cynthia Lesufi, Chair of ITU Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG, South Africa
2. Vice-Chairs to present their view on ITU’s contribution to WSIS and invite everyone to contribute to the Call
   * Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun, Vice-Chair of ITU Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG, South Korea
   * Ms. Renata Santoyo, Vice-Chair of ITU Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG, Brazil
3. ITU to present the PPT on ITU’s 20-year contribution to WSIS process
   * Gitanjali Sah, Strategy and Policy Coordinator, ITU
4. Contributors to the Call to briefly announce their contribution
5. Questions from the floor

**Speakers:**

* Mr. Thomas Schneider, Ambassador and Director of International Affairs, Office Fédéral de la Communication (OFCOM), Switzerland
* Mr. Ian Sheldon, Director, Internet Governance, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia
* Mr. Paul Blaker, Head of ITU and Internet Governance, Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, United Kingdom
* Ms. Maria Fernanda Garza, Chair, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
* Mr. Osama Manzar, Founder-Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation