UNGIS Task Force on Strengthening Financial Mechanisms for Digital Development

1st Open Consultation with Stakeholders

Thursday, 29 October 2026
14:00–15:15 CET · Virtual, Zoom

UNGIS Permanent Secretariat, ITU · contact.ungis@itu.int

WSIS+20 implementation towards 2035

Updates since the adoption of UNGA resolution A/RES/80/173

1

WSIS Action Line Road Maps

- 18 Action Lines linked with SDGs and GDC
- Includes human rights, emerging technologies, and women and girls
- Target and achieved results, indicators and metrics
- 24,000+ projects and activities

2

UNGIS

- 52 members and observers
- Permanent Secretariat: ITU
- 2026–2027: Chair ITU, Vice-Chairs UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNECE
  - Task Force on Strengthening Financial Mechanisms for Digital Development: 30 members from 25 UN entities
  - UNGIS Joint Implementation Road Map for WSIS–GDC Coherence
  - UNGIS Multistakeholder Consultation Group: 92 members, with 113 nominations received

3

WSIS Stocktaking

- Users: 2.2 million active participants
- 24,500+ total submissions
- Linked to WSIS Action Lines and SDGs, and GDC Objectives

4

Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development

- Steering Committee: ITU, UNCTAD, DESA
- Survey: Systematic Review of ICT indicators, open until 30 November 2026

5

WSIS Forum

- Save the date: 21–25 June 2027
- Registration and open calls launching soon
- Participate in building the agenda and the programme

The mandate

ITU, as the secretariat of UNGIS, is invited to establish an internal task force

“to conduct an assessment of gaps and challenges and to submit concrete recommendations on strengthening financial mechanisms for digital development for developing countries, building on and complementing existing best practices, including those of multilateral financial institutions, development partners and other relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector”

General Assembly resolution 80/173, paragraph 67

Report

Outcomes to be reported to the CSTD at its thirtieth session, in 2027, for consideration by Member States

Monitor

The Task Force is also invited to monitor financial commitments for the implementation of these outcomes

Members of the UNGIS Task Force

30

Experts from

25

UNGIS Member and Observer organizations

As listed on the UNGIS Task Force webpage, October 2026

WSIS UNGIS

Timeline and implementation

TODAY

29 October 2026

1st Open Consultation with stakeholders

DEADLINE

9 November 2026

Call for Submissions on Best Practices

NEXT

Nov–Dec 2026

Consolidation of the mapping; members' contributions on gaps, challenges and recommendations

NEXT

21 January 2027

2nd Open Consultation with stakeholders

OUTCOME

April 2027

Outcome to be reported to the CSTD 30th annual session

Call for Submissions

Best practices on strengthening financial mechanisms for digital development: financing models, instruments and partnerships that have delivered results in developing countries.

The form asks about

- the type of financial mechanism used
- the gaps and challenges it addresses
- who benefits, and how success is measured
- up to five concrete recommendations

40+ submissions received so far

DEADLINE

9 November 2026

23:59, New York time

Scan, or go to the UNGIS Task Force webpage

Strengthening Financial Mechanisms for Digital Development for Developing Countries: Gaps and Challenges and Concrete Recommendations

UN system

Mr Tomás Manuel González Álvarez

Senior Programme Management Officer

(LLDC Team Lead)

Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Private Sector

Ms Akua Gyekye

Head of Government Affairs, Africa

Microsoft

Open discussion

Guiding questions

Gaps and challenges

- What gaps and challenges in financial mechanisms for digital development for developing countries has your organization identified, within its own initiatives and beyond them?
- Who is most affected by these gaps (e.g., rural communities, start-ups and SMEs, women and girls, persons with disabilities)?

What works and what should change

- Which types of financial mechanisms have worked for digital development in developing countries (e.g., foreign direct investment, PPPs, blended finance, government budgets and universal service funds, grants), and what results did they achieve?
- What concrete recommendations would you make on strengthening financial mechanisms for digital development for developing countries?

3 minutes per intervention · raise your hand or write in the chat

Next steps

9 November 2026

Submit your best practices through the Call for Submissions

Scan to open the submission form

Nov–Dec 2026

Your input feeds the UNGIS Task Force's assessment of gaps and challenges

21 January 2027

2nd open consultation with stakeholders

Scan to register on Zoom

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Closing remarks

Ms Nur Sulyna Abdullah

Chief, Strategic Planning and Membership Department, and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Thank You

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