

Eligibility, Selection Criteria, Terms & Conditions

The competition

The pitch competition aims to identify and recognize initiatives that enable countries, societies, communities, institutions and individuals to develop a thriving digital entrepreneurship ecosystem. The competition provides entrepreneurs, SMEs, policymakers and ecosystem builders with the opportunity to pitch their projects, receive feedback, and network with the audience. An expert jury will assess the impact of your initiative and give you the chance to present in front of the official GIF jury to be recognized at a global stage with a non-monetary award.

Categories

We are looking for initiatives in the following three categories:

Digital Changemaker:

- For innovators using digital innovation as a tool to address local challenges, whether solving community problems or closing the digital divide to ensure inclusivity.
- The initiative should demonstrate a clear understanding of local needs and offer innovative approaches that leverage digital tools to create socio-economic, educational, or well-being improvements.
- Initiatives must focus on creating tangible impact, offering opportunities for growth, development, or connectivity to underserved populations.

Ecosystem Practice:

- For ecosystem builders with proven initiatives that foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and the development of ICT-centric solutions across various sectors.
- Initiatives should provide an enabling environment, such as policy frameworks, incubation programs, or capacity-building efforts that empower both innovators and stakeholders.
- Initiatives must demonstrate measurable impact, offering replicable best practices that can be adapted to other communities or countries.

OpenTech4Impact:

- For open-source or technology-driven initiatives that leverage open innovation to address social, environmental, or economic challenges.
- Initiatives should emphasize collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity, creating tools or platforms that benefit multiple stakeholders or industries.
- Initiatives should demonstrate how open technologies can be applied to solve pressing global issues, with the potential for scaling to achieve broader impact.

Deadline for submissions: 18 October 2024

Feedback on participation and pitch slot will be given within approx. 5 days.

Process

First you will submit your project; if you are accepted, you will be invited to present your project in during the Global Innovation Forum 2024 to our audience. At GIF-24 you will get the opportunity to pitch your project, receive feedback, and network with the audience. The impact of your initiative will be assessed by an expert jury and leading projects will be given the chance to deliver a pitch in front of the official GIF jury to win an award.

Please note that:

- Submitting a project does not guarantee participation in the pitch competition.
- Pitches can be held either physically or virtually - with preference for on-location participation.
- ITU will not provide funding support for travel or participation at GIF.
- The prize is a symbolic, non-monetary award / recognition.

Eligibility

- The pitch competition is open to governments, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, private sector and start-ups, research institutions, academia and civil society organizations (CSOs) ("the Participants").
- Only one entry per participant is permitted at this pitch competition. Submissions containing participants who submit multiple entries will be disqualified.
- The initiative 1. promotes and supports digital innovation ecosystems 2. demonstrates a new innovative project/prototype, outlining its potential for scaling up.

Selection Criteria

Each criterion has been assigned a percentage weight for scoring.

- 15% for Relevance: The proposal should demonstrate how it will fulfill the achievement of at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 15% for Adaptability: Should demonstrate its adaptability and replicability to the local context and global
- 20% for Sustainability: Demonstrate a business model that promotes sustainable and continuous impact in the short or long term.
- 15% for Viability: Demonstrate the viability of the solution in terms of its effectiveness and feasibility
- 15% for Partnership: Engagement with local and global partners in other countries to assure viability in local conditions, and to promote sustainability and scalability of the solution.
- 20% for Impact: The proposal must showcase how it has the potential and has already impacted lives and driven socio-economic benefit, especially among vulnerable and excluded populations.

Selection Process

The selection will be done in three stages:

- Before GIF, experts from ITU will use the evaluation criteria above for the shortlisting of 20 - 25 best submissions, to be offered a pitching slot at GIF.
- During GIF, a committee of experts from attendees of the forum will select up to ten finalists from the pitching sessions using the same criteria as above.
- These finalists will be invited to pitch again in front of an official GIF Jury. Up to 5 winners will be selected using the same criteria above and announced during the closing of the event.

Additional Terms and Conditions for Participation

By submitting your application form for participation in the pitch competition you accept the present terms and conditions on behalf of your institution/entity.

1. The GIF-24 Pitch Competition (the "Challenge") is organized by the International Telecommunication Union ("ITU") (the "Organizer"). By submitting your application form for participation in the Challenge, you accept the present terms and conditions on behalf of your institution/organization.
2. You hereby warrant that all information submitted is true, complete, and up-to-date and that you are authorized to participate on behalf of your institution/entity. The Organizer reserves the right to verify your eligibility for participation in the pitch competition as well as the accuracy of your submitted

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information. You represent that you are not related to any of the members of the selection committee, and that none of your relatives (up to the third degree) is employed by the Organizer.

3. You/your institution/entity (as the case may be) will retain all intellectual property rights on the content of your submissions. However, by participating in the pitch competition you grant the Organizer a limited three-year, non-exclusive, global, royalty-free right and license to use, reproduce, communicate, demonstrate, make available for public, display, and distribute the content of your submission for the Organizer' informational, educational or awareness-raising purposes, via printed or digital or online media, including the Organizer' websites and the GIF website. You represent that you (and/or your institution/entity, as the case may be) have the legal right to grant such license to the Organizer. You also permit the Organizer to use your name, likeness, video and/or photograph in connection with the pitch competition, in any media, worldwide, at no remuneration.
4. The Organizer reserves the right to disqualify you if they reasonably consider that the information you have provided and/or your submissions do not comply with the terms, instructions and guidelines provided in the pitch competition website, the pitch competition application form, as well as the present terms and conditions. By way of example, submissions which are not in English or that the Organizer considers to be off-topic, advertisements for unrelated projects or otherwise not in accordance with the nature of the pitch competition or the mission of the Organizer are subject to disqualification.
5. If your submission is among those finally selected by the selection committee, notwithstanding the terms of such agreement, you will be required to provide updates on the progress of your implementation of your proposal over the course of the year up to three years. These updates may consist of responses to emails or telephone interviews. You understand and agree that the Organizer may create content based on your updates, such as success stories, blog posts, photos or social media postings which may be published on the Organizer's websites, the pitch competition website, as well as other communication channels and made available to the public, at the Organizer' discretion.
6. You are not allowed to use the Organizer emblems or the logos of any their events in any online or offline communication, without the prior written permission of the respective Organizer.
7. All submissions must not: a. violate the intellectual property rights of third parties; b. be illegal under applicable national laws and international law; c. depict or incite hatred, defame, abuse, harass, stalk, threaten a specific person or social group, incite violence or conflict or otherwise violate the legal rights of third parties (including those of privacy and publicity) and d. violate the terms of use of any social media service, website, mobile application or any other platform used in connection with your submission. You agree to release and hold harmless the Organizer from and against any and all claims, expenses, and liability arising out of or relating to your (and your institution's/entity's) participation in the pitch competition and the content of your submissions.
8. You acknowledge and agree that your participation is free of charge but does not entail any right to compensation of any kind or to reimbursement of any expenses incurred from such participation.
9. The Organizer is not responsible for any lost, late, corrupted, mutilated, or misdirected submissions, or submissions not received within the established deadlines.
10. You acknowledge and agree that the Organizer is entitled to modify the content of the pitch competition and GIF website and/or the present terms and conditions and to abbreviate, modify, suspend, cancel or terminate the pitch competition (partially or in its entirety) without any obligation (present or future), by notifying you via an announcement at the GIF website.
11. The Organizer reserves the right to make all final decisions regarding the pitch competition. Nothing herein shall be considered to be a limitation or a waiver of the privileges and immunities of the Organizer, which are specifically reserved.



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12. The participants in the pitch competition commit to comply with the “Code of Conduct to Prevent Harassment, Including Sexual Harassment, at United Nations System Events”, which is applicable to all ITU meetings, conferences and events wherever they take place.