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Contact: J.K.Ponder
Tel: +41 22 730 60 65
Fax: +41 22 730 64 53
Email: wsis-stocktaking@itu.int

To: All WSIS Stakeholders
    - Governments
    - Private Sector
    - Civil Society
    - Academia
    - International Organizations

Subject: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2017 - Call for Submissions

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the 6th edition of the contest of the WSIS Prizes and call for submissions through the website (www.wsis.org/prizes) by 15 February 2017. WSIS Prizes are the unique global recognition of WSIS Stakeholders as Winners and Champions for their excellence in supporting the implementation of WSIS outcomes, in particular WSIS Action Lines supporting achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The WSIS Prizes 2017 contest was developed in response to requests from the WSIS stakeholders to create an effective mechanism to evaluate projects and activities that leverage the power of information and communication technology (ICT) to advance sustainable development. Since inception, the contest of WSIS Prizes has attracted more than 200.000 stakeholders.

Following the outcomes of the United Nations General Assembly Overall Review on WSIS (Res. A/70/125) that called for a close alignment between the WSIS Process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Res. A/70/1), the WSIS Prizes is the unique global platform to identify and showcase success stories in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.

The 2016 ECOSOC Resolution on *Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society* reiterates the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit project prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process (www.wsis.org/stocktaking), while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories.

Therefore, I invite all WSIS Stakeholders to participate in the contest of WSIS Prizes 2017 that is organized in five phases (see Annex One). The eighteen Winners and Champions will be recognized at the WSIS Forum 2017, to be held from 12 to 16 June 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. The winning projects will be showcased in the Success Stories 2017 publication, while all submitted descriptions of projects and activities will be reflected in the WSIS Stocktaking Report 2017.

Should you have any questions or need for assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the WSIS Team at wsis-stocktaking@itu.int.

Yours faithfully,

Houlin Zhao

Annex One: The Contest of WSIS Prize 2017

FIVE PHASES OF THE CONTEST

1. <u>The first phase</u>: Submission phase
   5 September 2016 – 15 February 2017 (Deadline for last submission: 23:00 CEST)
2. <u>The second phase</u>: Nomination Phase (review of submitted projects by the Expert Group that will result with a list of nominated projects)
   16 February – 15 March 2017
3. <u>The third phase</u>: Public Online Voting of Nominated Projects (identification of five projects per category with the highest number of votes)
   16 March – 15 April 2017 (Deadline for casting last vote: 23:00 CEST)
4. <u>The fourth phase</u>: Selection of Winning Projects by the Expert Group (list of winning projects)
   16 April – 25 April 2017
5. <u>The fifth phase</u>: Public announcement of winners during WSIS Prize 2017 Ceremony at WSIS Forum 2017, and the release of publication "WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2017", which is a compilation of extended descriptions of the 18 projects and 72 champion projects.

THE FIRST PHASE: Submission phase

Phase one will open the call for submissions to the contest of the WSIS Prize 2017 at www.wsis.org/prizes. During the period from **5 September 2016 until 15 February 2017**, all stakeholders are invited to submit WSIS related projects to the WSIS Prize 2017 contest. In order to process the submission, stakeholders are requested to complete the submission form for WSIS Prize 2017 online that contains two parts:

- Part one: executive summary (100 words) and
- Part two: project information (1500-2000 words and 1 photo)

The submission form is available at www.wsis.org/prizes.

The contest is open to all stakeholders, entities representing governments, private sector, international and regional institutions, civil society and academia. Each entity is allowed to submit one project per category. Stakeholders are invited to consult <u>the rules for project submission</u> and <u>nomination criteria</u> at www.wsis.org/prizes.

THE SECOND PHASE: Nomination phase. Review of Submitted Projects by the Expert Group

During phase two, the Expert Group revises the projects referring to the rules for project submission and nomination criteria. The outcome of the Expert Group's work will be a list of nominated projects that will be announced to the public on **16 March 2017**. The Expert Group will consist of professionals working on the implementation of WSIS outcomes. The decisions of the Expert Group are final and without appeal.

All nominated projects will also be part of the WSIS Stocktaking Report 2017. Please see the WSIS Stocktaking Report series at ITU Bookshop.

THE THIRD PHASE: Public Online Voting

Phase three will provide an online mechanism for all WSIS stakeholders to participate in the contest of WSIS Prize 2017. The list of nominated projects will be publicly announced on 16 March 2017 and WSIS multi-stakeholder community will be invited to participate and cast its vote for one project in each of 18 categories at www.wsis.org/prizes.

The deadline for voting is **16 April 2017** (Deadline for casting last vote: 23:00 CEST). Voting process will result in identifying five projects with the highest number of appreciations/votes given for project descriptions by WSIS stakeholders. <u>The rules for voting should be strictly respected.</u> They are available online at www.wsis.org/prizes.

THE FOURTH PHASE: Selection of Winning Projects

During phase four (**16-25 April 2017**), the Expert Group will make in-depth analyses of three most voted projects per category and will select one winning project per category, taking into account scale and impact of the project on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and its contribution to the sustainable development. The outcome of the Expert Group's work will be the list of winning projects that will be publicly announced during the WSIS Forum 2017 only. Decisions of the Expert Group are final and without appeal. Focal points of the winning projects will be contacted by 26 April 2017 at the latest.

THE FIFTH PHASE: Public Announcement of the Winners during WSIS Prize 2017 Ceremony at WSIS Forum 2017

During the phase five the <u>winning projects</u> will be announced officially during the Prize Ceremony, which will be held at the **WSIS Forum 2017 (12-16 June 2017)**. Extended descriptions of the winning projects will constitute the basis for the ITU e-publication entitled "WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2017" (please see the WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories series at [ITU Bookshop).](ITU Bookshop)

THE 18 WSIS PRIZES CATEGORIES

The contest comprises 18 categories which are linked to the 11 WSIS Action Lines outlined in the Geneva Plan of Action, supporting the achievement of SDGs.

1) WSIS AL C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
2) WSIS AL C2: Information and communication infrastructure
3) WSIS AL C3: Access to knowledge and information
4) WSIS AL C4: Capacity building
5) WSIS AL C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
6) WSIS AL C6: Enabling environment
7) WSIS AL C7: E-government
8) WSIS AL C7: E-business
9) WSIS AL C7: E-learning
10) WSIS AL C7: E-health
11) WSIS AL C7: E-employment
12) WSIS AL C7: E-environment
13) WSIS AL C7: E-agriculture
14) WSIS AL C7: E-science
15) WSIS AL C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
16) WSIS AL C9: Media
17) WSIS AL C10: Ethical dimension of the information society

18) WSIS AL C11: International and regional cooperation

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10.Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11.Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12.Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13.Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15.Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16.Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17.Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

For more information regarding previous contest of WSIS Project Prizes, you are kindly invited to visit WSIS Prizes 2012, WSIS Prizes 2013, WSIS Prizes 2014, WSIS Prizes 2015 and WSIS Prizes 2016 portals. Please, contact the WSIS Team at wsis-prizes@itu.int for any further questions or need for assistance.