



World Summit
on the Information Society
Turning targets into action
Geneva 2003 | Tunis 2005 | New York 2015

WSIS Forum 2021: ICTs for Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Societies and Economies (WSIS Action Lines for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals)

Highlights & Outcomes



WSIS FORUM 2021

Starting from January
Final Week 17-21 May 2021

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY



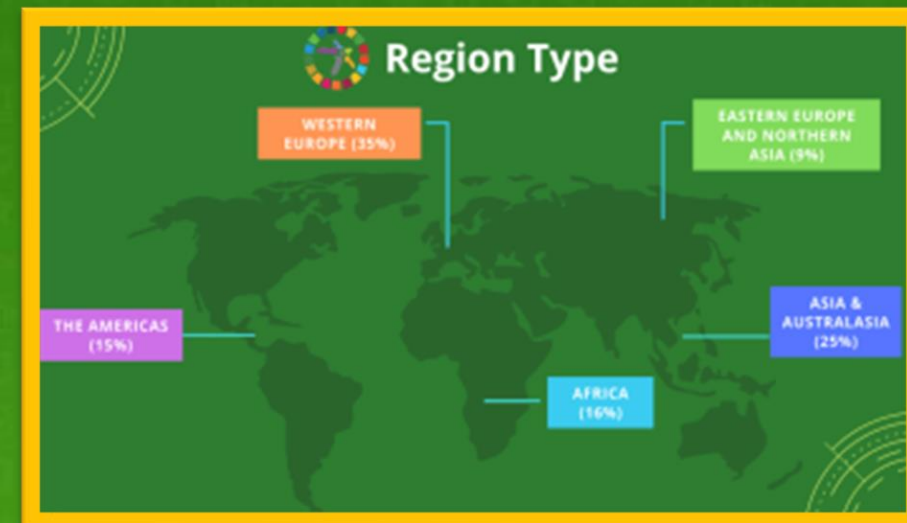
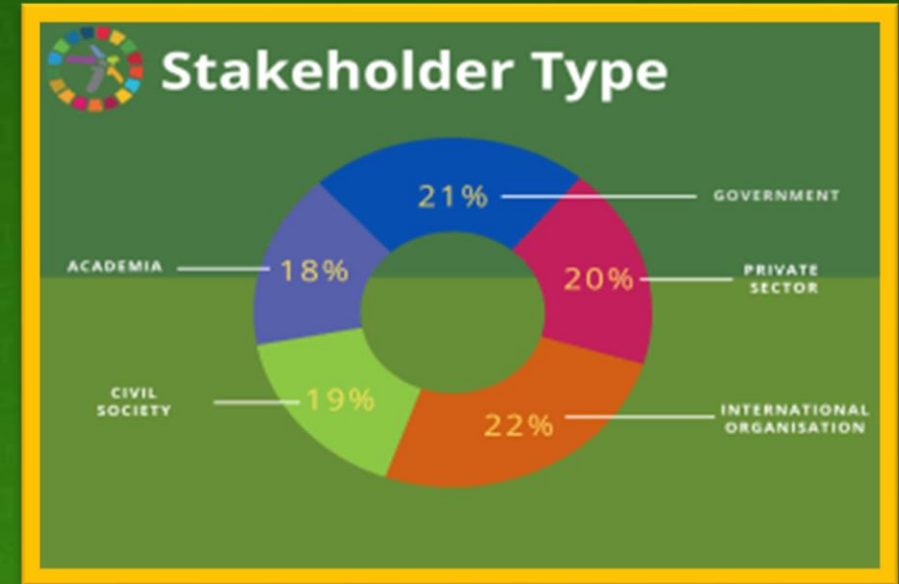
The WSIS Forum 2021 took place virtually for seventeen weeks, which started on 26 January onwards and concluded in a final week from 17 to 21 May 2021 to provide an open and inclusive space for all, harnessing the potential of ICTs and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs through the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines.





Results of the Open Consultation Process (OCP)

- More than 500 innovative and constructive submissions received during direct official submissions and virtual discussions
- Agenda and program of the WSIS Forum 2021 were designed in collaboration with the multistakeholder community on the basis of the submissions received during the OCP
- Balanced multistakeholder contributions across regions and stakeholder type
- Enhanced stakeholders' participation from the wider community including women, older persons, youth and persons with disabilities
- Stakeholders emphasised the global impact of the COVID-19 crisis around the world
- Enrich the dialogue, networking and partnership



WSIS Forum 2021 Participation

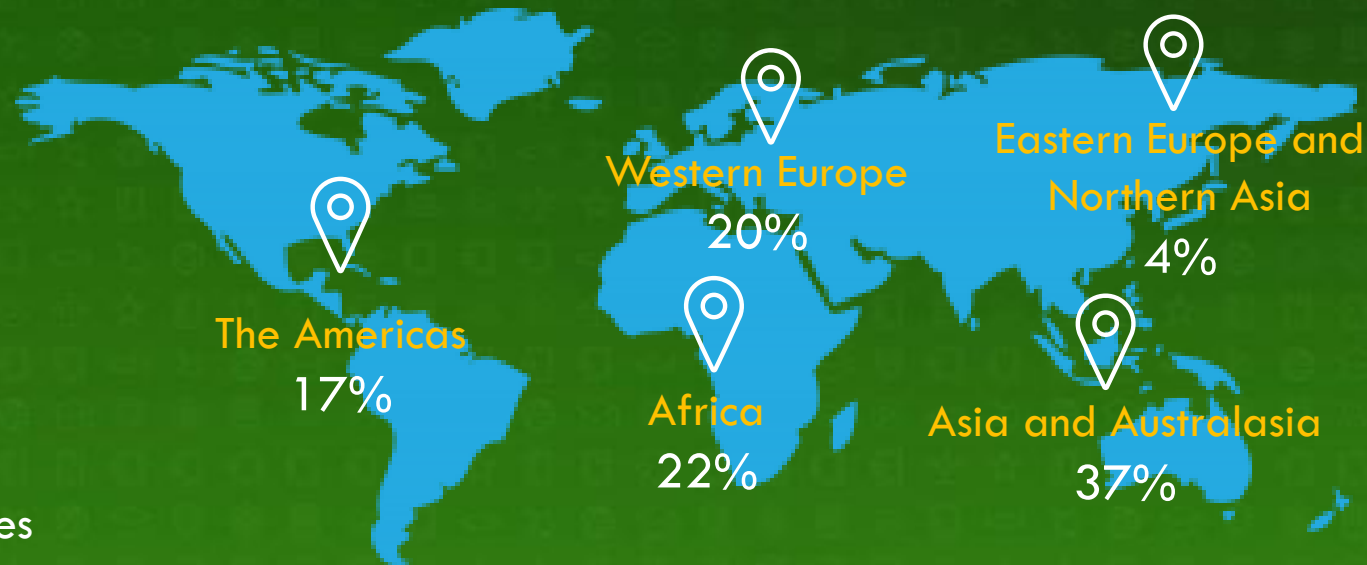


a cumulative attendance of over 50,000 attendees
(Zoom room, Zoom recording, Facebook Live videos,
YouTube, and other format) over
185 countries

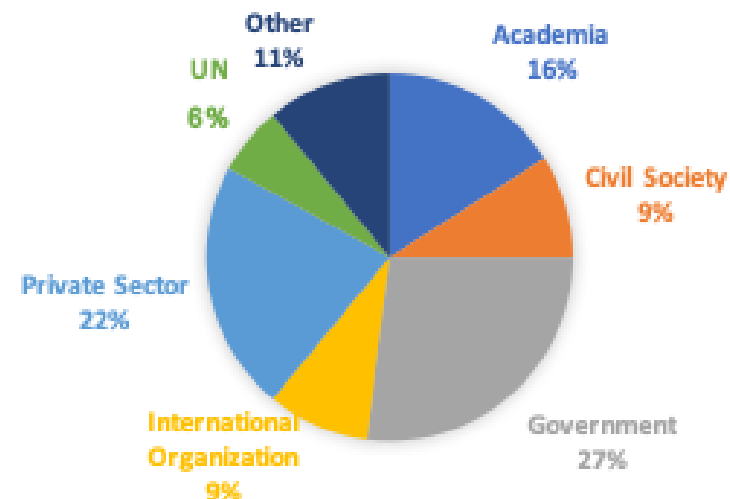
Men
57%



Women
43%



STAKEHOLDER TYPE DISTRIBUTION OVERALL WSIS FORUM 2021 [-20.05]





WSIS Forum 2021 Publications

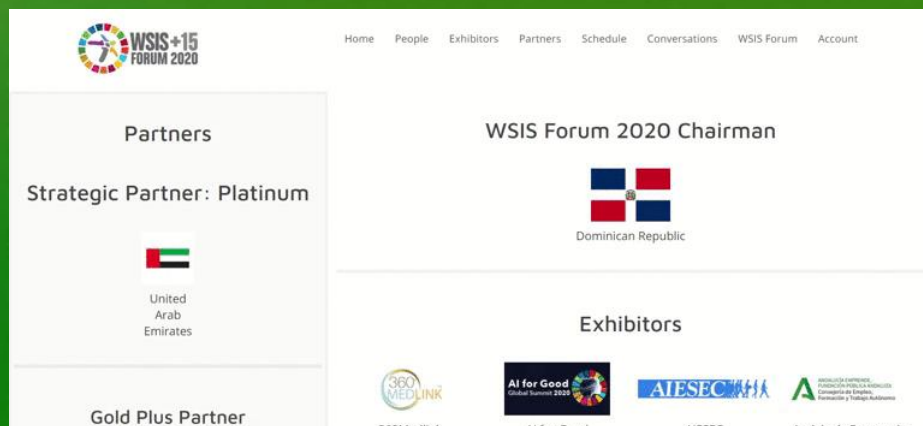
- WSIS Forum 2021: Outcome Document
- WSIS Forum 2021 High Level Track Outcomes and Executive Brief
- WSIS Stocktaking Report 2021
- WSIS Forum 2021 and SDG Matrix
- WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2021
- WSIS Forum 2021: Report - WSIS Action Lines - "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".
- WSIS Stocktaking ICT Case Repository: The Coronavirus Response Special Report

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2021/Home/Outcomes>



WSIS Forum 2021 Exhibition Spaces

- The virtual exhibition allowed a wide array of stakeholders to showcase their innovative projects and the technology behind it. It provided an opportunity to share their initiatives and solutions that harness the power of ICT-enabled development to advance the achievement of the SDGs.
- An inauguration of the WSIS Forum 2021 virtual exhibition took place on **15 March 2021 at 13:00-14:00 CET**.
- More than **450 exhibitors**, including Partners, the WSIS Prizes Champions, and other stakeholders.



Networking at the WSIS Forum 2021: Imeetyou@WSIS

Social and networking elements of the WSIS Forum 2021 enjoyed by participants through a dedicated online networking platform that provided opportunities to meet other attendees, start conversations, and engage with stakeholders all over the world.





WSIS FORUM 2021 Special Tracks

200+ Workshops and
WSIS TalkX interviews



ICTs and Youth



ICTs and Gender
Mainstreaming



ICTs and Emerging Technologies for
sustainable development



ICTs for Well-being and Happiness



ICTs and Accessibility for
Persons with Disabilities and
Specific Needs



ICTs and Older
Persons



Cybersecurity



WSIS TalkX

The WSIS TalkX is a platform, both virtual and physical, dedicated to sharing experiences and inspirational stories about ICTs for development (implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for Development) by stakeholders all over the world.

- UN World Wildlife Day ICTs for wildlife conservation: Stories on the ground
- Improving connectivity by using (satellite and terrestrial) radiocommunications in small island states and developing countries
- ICTs for Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Societies and Economies (WSIS Action Lines for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals) (Ambassadors)

Upcoming event: **New Technologies and Innovations for Ocean Conservation**
7 June 2021, 15:00 – 16:00 (UTC+02:00)

Visit our page:

www.itu.int/go/WSISTalk



Listen to our Podcasts

<https://wsistalkx.buzzsprout.com>



WSIS FORUM 2021 High-Level Track

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WSIS FORUM 2021 CHAIRMAN



H.E. MR. MAXIM PARSHIN

DEPUTY MINISTER

MINISTRY OF DIGITAL
DEVELOPMENT,
COMMUNICATIONS AND
MASS MEDIA,
RUSSIAN FEDERATION



HIGH-LEVEL TRACK FACILITATORS

The 11 High-Level Policy Sessions were moderated by the High-Level Track Facilitators nominated by the organisations representing different stakeholder types.





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More than **500 High-Level Speakers**

joined #WSIS Forum 2021 including Ministers, Ambassadors, Mayors, CEOs from the Private Sector, International Organizations, Technical Community, Academia and Civil society. They shared their views on how WSIS Action Lines are advancing the SDGs



Regulators Academia
Private Sector
Ministers Ministers Private Sector
Ambassadors Ambassadors
Ministers
Mayors Mayors
Civil Society
Mayors Civil Society
Cross-Sectoral
Civil Society
Academia
Private Sector
Regulators
Ministers
Cross-Sectoral
Mayors



WSIS Forum 2021 Hackathon: Ageing Better with ICTs

ITU, Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA), and other stakeholders like WHO, UN DESA, etc. successfully organized the virtual hackathon on ICTs and Older Persons gathering more than 1,100 participants joining from 48 countries. The hackathon ideated ICT solutions addressing the areas of Alzheimer's disease and cognitive decline, frailty, transportation and mobility, and financial tools for longevity. Four winners from each challenge areas were awarded during a High-Level Dialogue gathering expert judges in field of technology and ageing. One winning team in each challenge area received a 6-month mentorship with the Global Coalition on Aging and their member companies as well as a \$1,000 cash prize.

Learn more about the winners:
<https://www.hackerearth.com/challenges/hackathon/ageing-better-with-icts/>

Watch our hackathon video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBQ2INBeGsY>





Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize

WSIS Forum Special Track on ICTs and Older Persons initiated a special prize this year entitled, the WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize, focused on ICTs that specifically address the needs of people 60+ to achieve and sustain an active and engaged life as they age. 12 finalists were shortlisted and the winner was Age Care Technologies (United Kingdom).

More info is available at: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2021/Home/ICTsOlderPersons>



WSIS Stocktaking 2021

- WSIS Stocktaking Report 2021
- WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2021
- WSIS Stocktaking: The Coronavirus Response - ICT Case Repository
- WSIS Stocktaking Interview Series: COVID-19 Response





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WSIS Forum 2021 Photo Contest

Following the successful of previous Photo Contests editions, WSIS Forum continues to exercise the Photo Contest in 2021 and invited the community to picture how Information and Communication Technologies are playing an enabling role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

More than 80 submissions participated this year in building a collage of ICT for Sustainable Development photographs from around the world by promoting the Photo Contest within your networks and communities.

The three winning entries in the WSIS photo contest were awarded and presented during the final week of the WSIS Forum 2021.



[WSIS Forum 2021 Photo Contest Winners](#)



WSIS PRIZES 2021

The 10th jubilee edition of the **WSIS Prizes 2021** has received a record number of submissions this year, with over **1270 ICT projects submitted**. Following the results of the online voting with **1,3 million votes cast**, 90 WSIS Prizes Champions have been announced online, while 18 WSIS Prizes Winners were awarded on 18 May 2021.



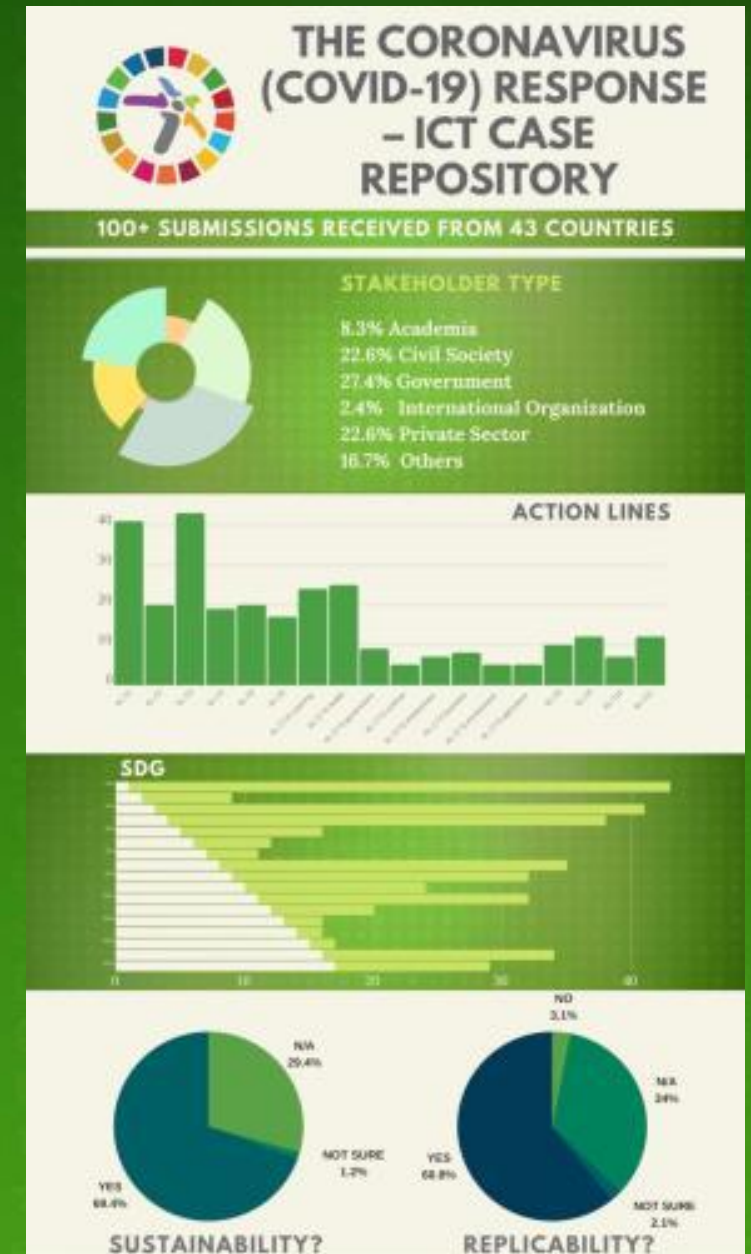


The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response – ICT Case Repository

The repository was initiated for collecting projects and activities on how ICTs are assisting stakeholders in their everyday life, work, and combating challenges caused by this extraordinary pandemic. Several interviews were conducted with stakeholders and A Global WSIS Response - Amid the Pandemic documentary has been produced.

Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOSw0VydvpE&list=PLh5wUlXznUUUlC57A7IZWBwuzfC7I-81m&index=11>





United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)

31 Members of UNGIS reiterated commitment to the WSIS Action Lines implementation and alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes.

Chair: UNESCO (2021-2022), Vice-Chairs: ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP and UN ESCWA, Permanent Secretariat: WSIS Team - ITU



Digital Transformation Repository

The repository of projects by UNGIS members on digital transformation will be used as a reference guide and repository for UN Agencies on different implemented initiatives/activities showing the direct impact of the WSIS Action Lines on SDGs. (<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/Repository>)

Dialogue on the Role of Digitalization in the Decade of Action

Accelerating the achievement of the SDGs through better collaboration in the UN System

(<https://unctad.org/topic/ecommerce-and-digital-economy/ungis-dialogue>)

UNGIS/WSIS Side Event at STI Forum

ICTs for Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Societies and Economies (WSIS Action Lines for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals)

3 May 2021, 17:00-18:00 CEST

www.ungis.org





Regional Implementation of WSIS

WSIS Regional Commissions workshops – WSIS Forum 2021
Current Chair: ESCWA, Permanent Secretariat: WSIS Team - ITU

- Monday, 19 April 2021, 16:00-17:00 CEST
Enabling Latin America and the Caribbean to Better Harness E-commerce and Digital Trade in Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC)
<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2021/Agenda/Session/373>
- Friday, 23 April 2021, 16:00-17:00 CEST
Digital technologies as a driver of economic recovery (ECLAC & ITU)
<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2021/Agenda/Session/375>
- Monday, 26 April 2021, 12:00-13:00 CEST
Implementation of WSIS Action Lines at the Regional Level: Digital transformation in Europe and Central Asia (ITU and United Nations Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia - UNECE)
<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2021/Agenda/Session/308>
- Tuesday, 27 April 2021, 13:00-14:00 CEST
Third Regional Consultative Meeting on Arab Digital Cooperation and Development - Consolidated Regional Policy Dialogue Platforms (The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia & the League of Arab States -ESCWA)
<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2021/Agenda/Session/369>
- Thursday, 20 May 2021, 14:00-15:00 CEST
WSIS UN Regional Commissions Meeting Round Table (ECLAC & ITU)
<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2021/Agenda/Session/351>





Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development



- Launched in 2004 to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries.
- The Partnership work is coordinated by a Steering Committee, which is elected every 3 years. The current Steering Committee is made up of ITU, UNCTAD, and UIS. ITU is the Chair of Steering Committee from January – June 2021.
- The Partnership helps developing countries collect ICT statistics, particularly through capacity-building and hands-on training for national statistical offices and collects and disseminates information society statistics. Its membership has grown from originally 11, to today 14 regional and international organisations.



WSIS Activities Related to COVID-19 Response

1. WSIS TalkX

In April 2020, at the request of WSIS stakeholders, the WSIS Team hosted regular weekly virtual WSIS TalkX for the WSIS Stakeholders to interact, connect and collaborate. The virtual WSIS TalkX sessions explore an aspect of the global response to COVID-19, providing WSIS Stakeholders with a platform to create partnerships for on-the-ground action. The sessions have been adapted to podcasts and are available to listen and download at [WSIS TalkX Podcast](#).

2. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response – ICT Case Repository

As part of the WSIS Stocktaking ongoing efforts to promote the good use of ICTs in making social impact, and in order to provide useful, replicable and actionable information to all WSIS community and beyond, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response – ICT Case Repository was initiated for collecting projects and activities on how ICTs are assisting stakeholders in their everyday life, work, and combating challenges caused by this extraordinary pandemic. The Coronavirus Response is now available here: <http://www.itu.int/go/wsis2020outcomes>

3. Workshops at WSIS Forum 2021

More than 70 workshops organised by various stakeholders highlighted issues and efforts related to the topic of COVID-19 at the WSIS Forum 2021. Many emphasised the importance of ICTs, in particular internet access and connectivity for all during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Continuous activities: Announcements for WSIS Forum 2022 (30 May – 3 June 2022)

- GCOA announced the continuation of the **ICTs and Older Persons track and WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize**, including strengthening linkages of the WSIS Forum with the Silver Economy Forum.
- UNESCO and ITU WSIS team will be jointly organizing a **Hackathon and Special Prize in 2022 on ICTs and Indigenous Peoples and Cultures**.
- UNESCO announced a special track on **ICTs and Indigenous people** to be launched at WSIS Forum 2022.
- Geneva Cities Hub expressed appreciation for the Mayor's session at the WSIS Forum 2021 and announced strengthened **partnership with a Mayors round table in 2022 focussing on Smart Cities for achieving the SDGs**.
- WSIS Forum 2022 will enhance **cross-sectoral participation of Ministers, Private Sector, Academia and Civil Society** in areas such as health, education, trade, culture and so on.



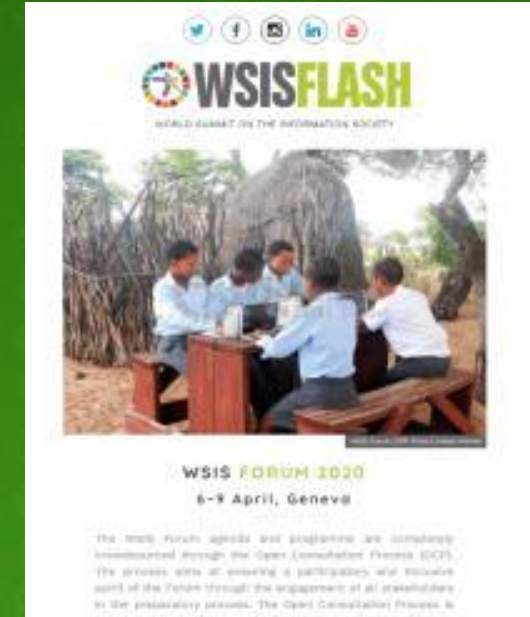
Continuous activities: Announcements for WSIS Forum 2022 (30 May – 3 June 2022)

- **Facebook Live interviews** with WSIS stakeholders
- Country and region specific **WSIS Stocktaking Reports**
- Strengthening of the **equal gender participation** at the WSIS Forum and the WSIS process
- **Strengthening visibility in global processes**, particularly in New York
- Working in collaboration with ESCWA and UN ITU Regional Office toward the **WSIS Regional Arab Forum**
- Strengthening the **WSIS Accessibility group** and identifying main opportunity and challenges
- Engaging with the **WSIS Youth Campaigner** to strengthen the implementation of the WSIS and SDGs processes.



Social Media channels

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WSIS Forum 2021 - Partners

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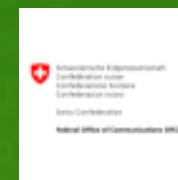
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GOLD PLUS



CONTRIBUTING
PARTNER



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SUPPORTING
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THANK YOU

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