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AÍMF



WSIS WORKSHOP

# Inclusive & Responsible Digitalisation in the City



Online Event

May 4, 2021

13:00 - 14:00

CET Time

## Description

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The Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF) and the Geneva Cities Hub invite you to virtual workshop on "Inclusive and Responsible Digitalization in the City", in the framework of the 2021 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

Digital tools have been part of our daily lives for years in relation to work, housing, transportation, health, education or culture. They now cover all areas of human development. The current health crisis has further accelerated their spread and usage. Digital technologies have become major pillars of resilience in our cities, enabling local authorities to continue to deliver essential services to urban dwellers, provide them with information or develop the local economy.

While the positive impact of digital technologies is undeniable, their exponential development raises the question as to what constitutes public interest and what is the role of local authorities in this respect. Beyond the immediate benefit they provide, one might question to what extent these technologies are inclusive and what is their environmental footprint.

**Inclusion:** the health crisis has shown that the most vulnerable groups were also those who faced difficulties in accessing the resources offered by Internet (online teaching, administrative procedures, etc.). In those cases, digital technologies have amplified existing social inequalities. Yet, these technologies have the potential to offer many opportunities for inclusion. It can provide more learning tools, democratize access to knowledge and support innovation.

**Environment:** while the health crisis has promoted digital technologies as a way to limit human mobility and the resulting pollution, resorting to these technologies has also led to increased energy consumption. The environmental footprint of digital technologies is now equal to that of air transportation and will undoubtedly continue to grow. Therefore, cities have to question their digital choices and balance digital technologies vs. non-digital solutions.

Digital technologies provide many solutions in relation to the delivery of services to the population, but they have to be examined through the lenses of inclusion and the preservation of the environment. It is a balancing act that has to be rooted in dialogue involving all levels of government, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. The proximity of local authorities and their capacity to directly interact with their population position them as a privileged vector of dialogue between States, civil society and others to collectively work on solutions to strengthen digital inclusion and sobriety.

## Opening remarks & moderation

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- M. Sami Kanaan, Mayor of Geneva, Member of AIMF Bureau, President of GCH
- Ms. Kamelia Kemileva, Executive Manager, Geneva Cities Hub

## Speakers

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- M. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary General, ITU
- Ms. Souad Abderrahim, Mayor of Tunis, Tunisia
- M. Pudence Rubingisa, Mayor of Kigali, Rwanda
- M. Bertrand Maes, Deputy Mayor of Lyon, France
- M. Guiako Obin, Executive Director, Babylab, Abijan, Côte d'Ivoire

## Registration

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Our event will be held online, please [register here](#).