

Geneva, 16 August 2021

Ref: WSIS-FORUM-2022
Contact: Ms Gitanjali Sah
Tel: +41 22 730 6240
Fax: +41 22 730 64 53
E-mail: wsis-info@itu.int

To: All WSIS Stakeholders

- Governments
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Academia/ Technical Community
- International Organizations

**WSIS Forum 2022, Starting 15 March 2022 with Final Week: 30 May – 3 June 2022:
Invitation to Contribute to the Open Consultation Process on Shaping the Themes and Format**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the co-organizers of WSIS Forum (ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP) I am pleased to invite you to contribute to the Open Consultation Process on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format of the WSIS Forum 2022.

The annual WSIS Forum is a global multi-stakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development, organized in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line co-/facilitators and other UN organizations (FAO, ILO, ITC, UNDESA, UNEP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNODC, UPU, UNU, UN Women, WFP, WHO, WIPO, WMO and UN Regional Commissions). It provides an opportunity for information exchange, knowledge creation and sharing of best practices, while identifying emerging trends and fostering partnerships, taking into account the evolving Information and Knowledge Societies.

In follow up to the outcomes of the UN General Assembly Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes ([Res. A/70/125](#)) and with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([Res. A/70/1](#)) the WSIS Forum is constantly evolving and strengthening the alignment between the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The WSIS Forum 2022 is scheduled to be held starting on 15 March with the final week that will be held on 30 May – 3 June 2022 at ITU Headquarters premises in Geneva, with the fallback option of a fully virtual event along the lines of WSIS Forum 2021, or a hybrid event with physical and virtual components, depending on the evolving COVID-19 pandemic situation. The theme of the WSIS Forum 2022 is *ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs*.

The WSIS Forum is the only event of its kind where the programme and agenda are completely crowdsourced. Therefore, we are pleased to announce the start of the Open Consultation Process on thematic aspects and innovations on the format of WSIS Forum 2022. The process actively engages governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, the technical community and regional and international organizations in the preparatory process to ensure broad ownership and further improvements to the Forum.

The Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2022 is structured in five phases as follows:

- **Phase I: 19 August 2021, 14:00-15:00 CEST:** Launch of the Open Consultation (Virtual Launch, open to all Stakeholders)
 - Launch of the WSIS Forum 2022 website for the Official Submissions
 - Official Submissions to the WSIS Secretariat on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format to be made via www.wsis.org/forum
 - Open call for nominations for WSIS Forum 2022 multistakeholder High-Level Track Facilitators
 - Launch of the WSIS Photo Contest 2022
- **Phase II: 8 December 2021, 13:50-14:50 CET, Katowice, Poland (Virtual/Physical):** 1st Meeting: Open Forum on Implementation of WSIS Action Lines and WSIS Forum (during IGF 2021)
- **Phase III: 31 January 2022, 14:00-15:00 CET:** 2nd Virtual/Physical Meeting
- **Phase IV: 7 March 2022, 14:00-15:00 CET:** Deadline for Submissions of Official Contributions and Binding Requests for Workshops
- **Phase V: 2 May 2022, 14:00-15:00 CEST:** 3rd Virtual/Physical Meeting

Please refer to www.wsis.org/forum for updates. The Open Consultation Process will include a collection of inputs from regional and national WSIS related events and any physical meetings of the Open Consultation Process will provide for remote participation.

We look forward to your active participation and to seeing you at the WSIS Forum 2022.

Yours faithfully,



Houlin Zhao
ITU Secretary-General