WSIS Forum 2023
Launch of the Open Consultation Process

7 September 2022
13:00- 14:00 CEST
The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was a unique two-phase United Nations summit that began with the goal of achieving a shared commitment to building a people-centric, inclusive and development-oriented Information and knowledge society where everyone can create and share information. The first phase took place in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 and the second phase took place in Tunis, from 16 to 18 November 2005. Since 2015 the WSIS Process has been aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the key role of the WSIS Action Lines in advancing the achievement of SDGs.

WHAT IS WSIS FORUM?

The WSIS Forum represents the world's largest annual gathering of the ‘ICT for development’ community. The Forum is co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/co-facilitators. The WSIS Forum has proven to be an efficient medium for coordination of multistakeholder implementation activities, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices and continues to provide assistance in developing multistakeholder and public/private partnerships to advance development goals.
What is WSIS?

ITU Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution on Proposing to hold a WSIS

WSIS Phase I: Geneva Phase (10-12 December 2003)
Phase II: Tunisia Phase (16-18 November 2005)

WSIS Forum
2013: Review Event “Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development”

Cluster of WSIS related events

WSIS+10 High-Level Event, Extended version of the WSIS Forum

UNGA Resolution 56/183 endorsed holding of the Summit in two phases

1998
2000-2015
2001
2003 & 2005
2006-2008
2009-2013
2014
2015
2016 - 2021
2019
2025
2030

SDG Review

WSIS Forum – 10th Year Anniversary of the WSIS Forum

2016: “Ensuring that no one is left behind”
2017: “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”
2018: “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”
2019: “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”
2020: “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”
2021: “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”
2022: “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”
2023: Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels

IS HELD EVERY YEAR

2017: 12-16 June
2018: 21-25 May
2019: 8-12 April
2020: 22 June - final week (7-10 September)
2021: January onwards - final week (17-21 May)
2022: March Onwards – final week 30 May – 3 June
2023: 13-17 March

WSIS Forum
2013: Review Event
2015: High-Level Event, Extended version of the WSIS Forum

WSIS+10

UNGA WSIS Overall Review
UNGA Resolution A/70/125
SDG Summit UNGA Resolution A/70/1

HLPF Themes (2016-2023)

The UN Millennium Declaration: A/RES/55/2

What is WSIS?
The WSIS implementation mechanism at the international level is organised taking into account the themes and action lines in the Geneva Plan of Action, and moderated or facilitated by UN agencies when appropriate.
WSIS Action Lines and UN Secretary-General ‘OUR COMMON AGENDA’
The WSIS Forum 2022 final week welcomed more than 1,000 physical participants, with more than 30,000 remote participants since 15 March.

Increased participation of women at the WSIS Forum.
WSIS Forum 2022: Outcomes (2/2)

250 sessions, including thematic workshops, country workshops, WSIS Action Line Facilitation meetings, high-level dialogues, high-level policy sessions, knowledge cafes and open-space talks enabled on-site as well as virtual participants from over 150 countries.

500 high-level representatives of the wider WSIS Stakeholder community, including Ministers and Deputies, Ambassadors; and Leaders from the Private Sector, Academia, and Civil Society.

Final Week:
Ambassadors session
Mayors session
Workshop with Parliamentarians
WSIS FORUM 2023

WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.

13-17 March 2023

ITU Headquarters, Geneva, with remote participation

WSIS Forum 2023 components: Forum Track, High-Level Track, Special Tracks, Hackathon, Exhibition Space, WSIS TalkX, etc.
The **Open Consultation process (OCP)** aims at ensuring a participatory and inclusive spirit of the **Forum**. This process actively engages multistakeholders in the preparatory process to ensure broad ownership and further improvements of the Forum. The Open Consultation Process will include a collection of inputs from regional and national WSIS related events.

The Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2023 is structured in five phases as follows:

**Phase 1**
Launch of the OCP
7 September 2022

**Phase 2**
1st Meeting
30 November 2022, 11:00-12:00 CET/12:00-13:00 EAT: Open Forum on Implementation of WSIS Action Lines and WSIS Forum (during IGF 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

**Phase 3**
2nd Meeting
13 January 2023, 14:00-15:00 CET

**Phase 4**
Special WSIS Forum 2022 Chairman Session (WSIS+20: Highlighting the achievements and challenges of the WSIS Action Lines for achieving the SDGs)& Deadline for Submissions
1 February 2023, 13:00-14:00 CET

**Phase 5**
3rd Meeting
13 February 2023, 14:00-15:00 CEST
Open Consultation Process

Official submissions to the WSIS Secretariat on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format

1) Login with your existing account or Sign up as a new user
2) Fill out the OCP Form

www.wsis.org/forum

Deadline: 1 February 2023
High-Level Track

- High-level Policy Sessions
- Ministerial Round Table
- High-level Dialogues
- Ambassadors Briefing
- Mayors Round Table
- High-Level Meeting with Parliamentarians

Chairman

H.E. Professor Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami)
Minister
Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy
Nigeria

Current Chairman until the Final Week of the WSIS Forum 2023
Call to Action
WSIS Forum 2023 High-Level Track Facilitators

• Open Call for Major Stakeholder Coordination Mechanisms following the WSIS Process to Identify and Nominate High-Level Track Facilitators (HLTF) for the WSIS Forum 2023.

• The main task of the HLTF is to **capture the vision, Identify emerging trends, opportunities and challenges shared by the leaders of their session.**

• The High-Level Policy Sessions will be moderated by the High-Level Track Facilitators nominated and identified by each stakeholder type i.e Private Sector, Civil Society, Technical/Academic community and International Organization.

• Each stakeholder type is invited to launch an Open Call to identify HLTF to represent their respective communities.

at wsis-info@itu.int by 1 February 2023
Submit your ICTs projects to the most globally recognised ICT for Development international annual award.

**FIVE PHASES OF THE CONTEST**

1. **The first phase: Submission phase**
   - 7 September 2022 – 7 December 2022 (Deadline for last submission: 23:00 Geneva time)
2. **The second phase: Nomination Phase**
   - 13-23 December 2022.
     - Revision of submitted projects that will result with a list of 360 nominated projects, twenty (20) projects per Action Line Category (18) - twenty projects per each category will be nominated
3. **The third phase: Public online voting**
   - 25 December 2022 – 25 January 2023 (Deadline for casting last vote: 23:00 Geneva time)
   - Identification of five projects per category with the highest number of votes
4. **The fourth phase: Selection of winning projects by the ITU Expert Group**
   - 25 January 2023 – 10 February 2023
   - That will result with a list of winning projects
5. **The fifth phase: Announcement of winners to the public during WSIS Prize 2023 Ceremony at WSIS Forum 2023**, and the release of publication “WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2023”, which is a compilation of extended descriptions of the 18 winning projects and 72 champion projects.

**Deadline for Submissions :** 7 December 2022  [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes)
Publicly accessible WSIS Stocktaking database [www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking) currently with 15,000+ submitted projects and initiatives from 350,000+ registered stakeholders has been vigilant and started collecting projects and activities on how ICTs are assisting stakeholders in their everyday life, work, and combating challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

UN General Assembly called for a close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: WSIS Stocktaking is highlighting the contribution of 11 WSIS Action Lines to the achievement 17 SDGs;

ECOSOC resolution 2022/15 reiterates the importance of sharing best practices at the global level and encourages all stakeholders to submit ICT-related projects and initiatives to the WSIS Stocktaking platform.

**NEW Call for Submission:**
[www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)
Call to Action: WSIS Photo Contest 2023

Following the successful of previous Photo Contests editions, WSIS Forum continues to exercise the Photo Contest in 2023 and invites the community to picture how Information and Communication Technologies are playing an enabling role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Participate 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 will be awarded and presented at the WSIS Forum 2023.

**Deadline: 1 February 2023**
...And many more partnerships and activities!

### THEMATIC WORKSHOPS
- **Misinformation: Digital Marketing of Harmful Products to Children**
  - In collaboration with WHO, ITU and UNESCO launch of
  - In collaboration with the UN Technology Bank for LDC, ITU and WHO: safe listening
- **WSIS Multistakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older persons:**
  - Awareness building on the opportunities and challenges of ICTs for Older Persons
  - Intergenerational working groups with enterprises, in collaboration with CSEND

### TRAININGS
- **Qatar trainings on Digital Accessibility**
- **WSIS Gender Repository Trainings:** In collaboration with Vision Empower, trainings will be organised for the following:
  - Sensitization programme for women and girls to raise awareness about the crucial role of Technology in the lives of visually-impaired people (4 quarterly workshops)
  - Training workshops for educators/caregivers working and/or willing to work with visually-impaired people (2 half-yearly programme)

### SPECIAL TRACKS
- 1st ever Academic Round Table was organized that resulted in the creation of a **WSIS Special track focused on Academia, Research Exchange**, involving Academic community in digital cross sectoral projects.

### SPECIAL PRIZES
- **WSIS-SDG Metaverse Global Prize & VR competition 2023**: in collaboration with Exponential Destiny
- **WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Special Prize 2023** in collaboration with ITU, WHO, UNDESA and Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA)
- **WSIS Special Prize on Indigenous Languages 2023**
- **Special WSIS Prize 2023 for Best Digital Service Design** in collaboration with GovStack Global - ITU, GIZ, EE, DIAL
ITU, Digital Government Authority (DGA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and relevant stakeholders will jointly organize a WSIS Forum 2023 Hackathon on ICTs and Emerging Technologies for Advancing Digital Economy.

The Hackathon will call on stakeholders to form teams to explore the use of ICTs in answering to the next calling challenges leveraging emerging technologies.

Linked with the WSIS Action Lines, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Stay tuned for the Launch of the Hackathon on 1 November 2022

www.wsis.org/forum
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.

Upcoming TalkX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Day for Universal Access to Information (In collab with UNESCO)</td>
<td>28 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Day of Older Persons</td>
<td>30 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Mental Health Day (supported by WHO)</td>
<td>10 October 2022, 15:30 – 16:30 CEST</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
<td>13 October 2022, 14:00 – 15:00 CEST</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Cities Day (In collab with Geneva Cities Hub)</td>
<td>31 October 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSIS TalkX with WSIS Prize Winners &amp; Champions</td>
<td>15 &amp; 17 November, 6 &amp; 8 December</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Day of Persons With Disabilities</td>
<td>3 December 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Wildlife Conservation Day</td>
<td>4 December 2022</td>
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Visit our page and Register for the upcoming TalkX

www.itu.int/go/WSISTalkX

Listen to our Podcasts

https://wsistalkx.buzzsprout.com
WSIS @UN Events

UNGIS Side Event at High-Level Political Forum 2022
ICTS FOR WELL-BEING, INCLUSION AND RESILIENCE: WSIS COOPERATION FOR ACCELERATING PROGRESS ON THE SDGS

Meeting Recording and Additional Information available here: https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/Articles/View/1206

UNGIS Side Event at UNGIS Side Event at Africa IGF 2022
WSIS ACTION LINES FOR ACHIEVING THE SDGS

Meeting Recording and Additional Information available here: https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/Articles/View/1208

6th Session of Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Steering Committee in Bangkok, Thailand
Organized by: UNECA

- Coordination of regional approaches and harmonization
- Engagement of stakeholders into the regional implementation
- Strengthening of the regional perspective at the global level of the WSIS Process
WSIS Special Initiatives
The WSIS Process affirms the **importance of promoting and maintaining gender equality and women empowerment**, guaranteeing the inclusion of women in the emerging global ICT society, and emphasizes the need to fully integrate gender equality perspectives in WSIS related strategies and facilitate their implementation to ensure that the Information Society enables women’s empowerment and full participation based on equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes.

Launch of the Repository: 4 August 2021

**Repository of Women in Tech**

At the request of and in collaboration with WSIS Stakeholders a repository of Women in Tech has been launched. The goal is to identify and connect women leaders and practitioners in all sectors of the ICT industry from all regions and engage them in events, forums and activities.

**Nominate WSIS Gender Trendsetter**
- https://forms.gle/WnzqX59xXYdf1uqx6

**50/50 Gender Balance Participation**

The WSIS Forum launched a 50/50 gender balance challenge in the wake of a call to realise equal participation at the WSIS Forum. This collaborative effort is also addressing the gender gap in ICTs that aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. The cross-cutting commitments on gender equality are further echoed across all WSIS Action Lines.

**Activities**

- Identify women speakers
- Networking events
- Interview series
- Mentorship sessions for women and girls in STEM, for young graduates
- Documentation of best practices

**More information**
http://www.itu.int/go/WSISGender
MEET THE WSIS GENDER TRENDSETTERS!

Mr. Valsa Afchar
Chief Digital Evangelist, Salesforce

Ms. Susan Arrechea
Digital Community Center Project Director, New Sun Road for-profit public benefit company

Ms. Elena Estavillo Flores
CEO, Centro para la Sociedad del Futuro Think Tank

Ms. Mei Lin Fung
Chair and Co-founder, People Centered Internet

Ms. Gaz-Hingonnie Ggabide
National Coord. Action pour l’Education & la Promotion de la Femme, TCHAD

Ms. Mia Kade
CEO and founder, Indigital EduTech

Ms. Kirshni Jayakumar
Coder and Creator at Saahas

Dr. Tawfiq Jelassi
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

Mr. Malcolm Johnson
Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union

Ms. Tatiana Kanzeve
Founder and CEO, Open Health Network

H.E. Ms. Lotte Knutsen
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, European Union

Ms. Fang Li
Deputy Director Research Institute of Technology and Standard, CAICT

Mr. Benoit Louvel
Service Design Front Office Director, Customer Service & Operations, Orange Business Services

H.E. Ms. Neema Lugangira
Member of Parliament of Tanzania & Founder of NGO, Omuka Hub

Ms. Samantha Paoletti
Research and Business Dev. Manager CSEM

Ms. Arif Qari
Founder and CEO, Mindful Venture Capital

Ms. Yvette Ramos
President, WomenVai

Ms. Nataliia Radionova
Founder, Sisters of Code & IT Academy

Ms. Magatte Wade
Entrepreneur, Magatte Wade

Ms. Vidhya Y. Choi
Cofounder and Trustee, Vision Empower

wsis.org/forum

#WSIS
WSIS Special Initiative:

WSIS Multistakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons

The WSIS Multistakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons has been created at the request of stakeholders. It has 5 sub-groups at present led by Chairs and Co-Chairs:

1. **Design and Accessibility** (Mr. Alfredo Ronchi, EC MEDICI Framework; Mr. Raymond Saner, CSEND; Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu, CSEND)
2. **Capacity Building and Education** (Mr. Ian Philp, Age Care Technologies; Dr. Rakesh L., Ada Lovelace Software Private Limited)
3. **Cybersecurity issues** (Dr. Pavan Duggal, International Commission on Cyber Security Law)
4. **Innovation** (Ms. Heba Al Heraki, Bevol International Platform; Ms. Tafadzwa Muusha, University of Zimbabwe Innovation Hub)
5. **Healthy Ageing** (Global Coalition on Aging)
WSIS Youth Campaigns

Awareness Building

Partnerships and Collaboration

Youth Empowerment

ICTs & CLIMATE ACTION

ICTs & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

ICTs & BUSINESS

Join us in scaling up the ICTs and Youth special track at the WSIS Forum

Karen Tatian
Nala Amira
Lara Rudar
Raymond Liang
Roelto von Heijningen
Dušan Stojković
Mr. Zhipeng Dai
Joanna Ruan
Nadine Hakizimana
Asiwaju Samuel
Daniela Ovalles Marko
Luis Guillermo López Ahumada
Dhwani Trivedi
The redesign of WSIS Websites and development of one WSIS Gateway will include new information architecture; content migration to and implementation of a new design system.

It will also include new user experience features, improved data visualization and community engagement, among others.
Reminder of Open Calls

**WSIS Prizes 2023**
Submit your outstanding project that leverage the power of ICTs

**Deadline:**
7 December 2022

**Open Consultation Process**
Request workshops/exhibition space/speakers and provide inputs on the format and themes

**Deadline:**
1 February 2023

**WSIS Photo Contest 2023**
Submit your photo that shows how ICTs are playing an enabling role in achieving the SDGs

**Deadline:**
1 February 2023

**High-Level Track Facilitators (HLTF)**
Nominate your representative for the HLTF

**Deadline:**
1 February 2023
Thank you to the WSIS Forum 2022 Partners
Follow #WSIS and stay up to date with our latest news across our different social media channels.
THANK YOU

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www.wsis.org/review

wsis-info@itu.int