First Meeting of the WSIS Forum 2023
Open Consultation Process

30 November 2022 | 10.00-11.15 EAT | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Gitanjali Sah, ITU

#WSIS
www.wsis.org
WSIS Process timeline

1998
2000-2015
2001
2003 & 2005
2006-2008
2009-2013
2014
2015
2016-2021
2019
2022-2023
2024
2025
2030

ITU Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution on proposing to hold a WSIS

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

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

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

WSIS Forum – 10th Year Anniversary of the WSIS Forum

WSIS Forum

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

WSIS+20 Forum
High-level Event

WSIS +20 Review: WSIS Process Beyond 2025

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

Cluster of WSIS related events

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

HLPF Themes (2016-2023)

- 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”
- 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

WSIS Forum
– 10th Year Anniversary of the WSIS Forum

SDG Review

2000 - 2015

WSIS+20 Review: WSIS Process Beyond 2025

WSIS Forum – 10th Year Anniversary of the WSIS Forum

WSIS+20 Review: WSIS Process Beyond 2025

Multistakeholder discussions on WSIS+20

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 30 May – 3 June
2022: March Onwards – final week 30 May – 3 June
2023: 13-17 March – virtual sessions (April – May)
2024: 27-31 May
2025: 26-30 May

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 – virtual sessions (April – May)
2024: 27-31 May
2025: 26-30 May

The WSIS Process timeline includes key events and resolutions:

- ITU Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution on proposing to hold a WSIS
- The UN Millennium Declaration: A/RES/55/2
- WSIS Phase I: Geneva Phase (10-12 December 2003)
- WSIS Phase II: Tunisia Phase (16-18 November 2005)
- WSIS Forum 2013: Review Event “Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development”
- WSIS Forum – 10th Year Anniversary of the WSIS Forum
- UNGA WSIS Overall Review
- UNGA Resolution A/70/125
- SDG Summit UNGA Resolution A/70/1
- WSIS Forum
- UNGA Resolution 56/183 endorsed holding of the Summit in two phases
- Cluster of WSIS related events
- WSIS+10 High-Level Event, Extended version of the WSIS Forum
- HLPF Themes (2016-2023)
- Multistakeholder discussions on WSIS+20
- SDG Review
- IS HELD EVERY YEAR
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’

WSIS Action Lines

1. Leave No One Behind
2. Protect Our Planet
3. Promote Peace & Prevent Conflicts
4. Abide by International Law & Ensure Justice
5. Place Women & Girls at the Center
6. Build Trust

Improving Digital Cooperation
Ensure Sustainable Financing
Boost Partnerships
Listen to & Work with Youth
Be Prepared

WSIS Action Line 1: Promotion of ICTs for Development
WSIS Action Line 2: Information and Knowledge Society
WSIS Action Line 3: Access to Information and Knowledge
WSIS Action Line 4: Capacity Building
WSIS Action Line 5: Building Capacities in the ISSA of ICTs
WSIS Action Line 6: Digital Environment
WSIS Action Line 7: E-Health
WSIS Action Line 8: E-Education
WSIS Action Line 9: E-Trade
WSIS Action Line 10: Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society
WSIS Action Line 11: International Information Cooperation
WSIS Action Line 12: E-Environment
WSIS Action Line 13: E-Agriculture
WSIS Action Line 14: E-Government
WSIS Action Line 15: E-Science
H.E. Prof Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami), Minister, Communications and Digital Economy, Nigeria, and Chairman of the WSIS Forum 2022, organised a side event titled *WSIS Process: WSIS Beyond 2025* at the ITU PP-22, which highlighted the role of the WSIS Action Lines in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs, raised challenges, and concluded with reflections on the emerging trends and the learning experience towards the digital future.
Theme: WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs
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:
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](mailto: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**

- **The first phase: Submission phase**
  7 September 2022 – 7 December 2022 (Deadline for last submission: 23:00 Geneva time)

- **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

- **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

- **The fourth phase: Selection of winning projects by the ITU Expert Group**
  that will result with a list of winning projects
  25 January 2023 – 10 February 2023

- **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
ICTs and Gender Mainstreaming

WSIS Stocktaking Repository of Women in Technology

WSIS Gender Trendsetters

ICTs and Older Persons

WSIS Forum Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize

WSIS Multistakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons

ICTs and Youth

WSIS Youth Campaigners
...And many more partnerships and activities!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEMATIC WORKSHOPS</th>
<th>TRAININGS</th>
<th>SPECIAL TRACKS</th>
<th>SPECIAL PRIZES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Misinformation: Digital Marketing of Harmful Products to Children</strong>&lt;br&gt;In collaboration with WHO, ITU and UNESCO launch of • In collaboration with the UN Technology Bank for LDC, ITU and WHO: safe listening</td>
<td><strong>Qatar trainings on Digital Accessibility</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>WSIS Gender Repository Trainings</strong>: 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)</td>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
<td><strong>WSIS-SDG Metaverse Global Prize &amp; VR competition 2023</strong>: in collaboration with Exponential Destiny</td>
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ITU, Digital Government Authority (DGA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and relevant stakeholders are jointly organizing a WSIS Forum 2023 Hackathon on DigitalGov Hack: Advancing the Digital Economy by leveraging Emerging Technologies.

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

4 Themes:

- Immersive public services
- Empowering young talent
- Productivity in public workplace
- Financial sustainability

Prizes

- 4 winners, one per theme will win each 5000 $ cash prize
- Have access to up to 6 months of mentoring from international experts on GovTech
The WSIS&SDG 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.

Visit our page and Register for the upcoming TalkX

www.itu.int/go/WSISTalkX

Listen to our Podcasts

https://wsistalkx.buzzsprout.com
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
WSIS Gender Trendsetters

MEET THE WSIS GENDER TRENDSETTERS!

Mr. Vafa Afshar
Chief Digital Evangelist, Salesforce

Ms. Susana Arrechea
Digital Community Center Project Director, New Sun Project Foundation

Ms. Elena Estavillo Flores
CEO, Sociedad de la Futuro Think Tank

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

Ms. Gab-Hingonne Gbàfíbè
National Coord. Action for l’Education et la Promotion de la Femme, TCHAD

Ms. Mikaela Jade
CEO and Founder, Indigital EduTech

Ms. Kirthi Jayakumar
Coder and Creator at Saahas

Dr. Tawfiq Jelassi
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

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

Ms. Tatjana Kanzaveli
Founder and CEO, Open Health Network

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

Mr. 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 Lugariangia
Member of Parliament of Tanzania & Founder of NGO, Omuka Hub

Ms. Samantha Pauletti
Research and Business Dev. Manager, CSEM

Ms. Ari Qayumi
Founder and CEO, Mindful Venture Capital

Ms. Yvette Ramos
President, WomenVai

Ms. Natalja Rodionova
Founder, Sisters of Code & IT Academy STEP Cambodia

Ms. Magatte Wade
Entrepreneur, Magatte Wade

Ms. Vidhya Y.
Co-founder and Trustee, Vision Empower
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)
At the request of the Multistakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons, a series of interviews with older persons were conducted from different regions to highlight how ICTs are helping this segment of society in their daily life. The video is available online [here](#).
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.
WSIS+20: Review and WSIS Beyond 2025

Report of the UNESCO Director-General on the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes, 15 October 2021; elaborates UNESCO’s roadmap towards the WSIS+20 review

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20: WSIS Beyond 2025: WSIS+20 Roadmap; elaborates the ITU Secretary-General’s roadmap on the role of ITU in the WSIS+20 Review process and its preparations

WSIS Forum 2022: Multistakeholder Dialogues and discussions
- Knowledge Café: WSIS+20, 30 May 2022
- High-Level Strategic Dialogue: WSIS+20: Multistakeholder Digital Cooperation for Global Development (WSIS Action Lines to achieve the SDGs), 31 May 2022
- High-Level Dialogue: WSIS+20 – WSIS Beyond 2025, 2 June 2022

WSIS Forum 2024: WSIS+20 Forum High-level Event celebrating the achievements of the WSIS Process and identifying the opportunities and challenges in implementing the WSIS Action Lines.

WSIS+20 Stocktaking Report

CSTD Report on the implementation of WSIS

WSIS Action Lines advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
A comprehensive report on the ITU activities in context of WSIS carried out by the Union in 2022. The Report provides detailed information on the key WSIS related initiatives and activities carried out by the three sectors of the Union (Standardization, Radiocommunication and the Development Sector) and the General Secretariat.

The Report provides updates on the tasks carried out by the ITU at the operational and policy level, covering all assigned mandates with reference to the WSIS Process.

https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx

Established in 2006, approved by the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

UNGIS is the United Nations system’s inter-agency mechanism to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of WSIS, providing guidance on issues related to inclusive information and knowledge societies, helping maintain issues related to science and technology at the top of the UN Agenda, and mainstreaming ICT for Development in the mandate of CEB members.

### Comprised of

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<th><strong>2022-2023:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Current Chair: ITU</td>
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<td>Vice-Chairs: UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UN ECA</td>
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To date, UNGIS has organised 19 high-level meetings at the annual WSIS Forum.

UNGIS conducts annual high-level and working level meetings at the WSIS Forum.

**UNGIS report and its work**

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<th>UNGIS contributed to the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67)</th>
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<td>UNGIS contributed to the annual HLPF through a joint statement and organized a side-event during the HLPF</td>
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<td>Dialogue on the Role of Digitalization in the Decade of Action to raise awareness of both the importance of digitalization in achieving the SDGs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Transformation Repository that 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</td>
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[www.ungis.org](http://www.ungis.org)
In the outcomes of the UN General Assembly overall review on the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (GA Resolution A/70/125), Regional Commissions are invited to continue their work in implementation of WSIS and their contribution to the reviews thereof, including through regional reviews. Sharing practices at the regional level aiming at advancing WSIS implementation at the regional Level and strengthening alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes.

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
Launched in 2004 to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries. The initiative is a direct response to the request made by the WSIS to produce official statistics to monitor the information society.

The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development is made up of the 14 partner organisations.

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 UN DESA.

ITU is the chair of the Steering committee of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development in 2022.
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
WSIS Forum 2023 Partnership Opportunities

WSIS Forum 2023 - Visibility and Partnership Packages

- STRATEGIC PARTNER PLATINUM
- PARTNER FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES
- STRATEGIC PARTNER GOLD PLUS
- CONTRIBUTING PARTNER
- STRATEGIC PARTNER GOLD
- SUPPORTING PARTNER

Partner with us for the WSIS Forum 2023!

Contact us at:
wsis-info@itu.int
Follow #WSIS and stay up to date with our latest news across our different social media channels.
THANK YOU

www.wsis.org
www.wsis.org/sdg
www.wsis.org/forum
www.wsis.org/prizes
www.wsis.org/stocktaking
www.wsis.org/review

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