Third Meeting of the WSIS Forum 2023
Open Consultation Process

13 February 2023, 14:00-15:00 CET

#WSIS
www.wsis.org
WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

WSIS FORUM 2023
13-17 March 2023
Virtual Workshops in April & May

www.wsis.org/forum
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, 10:00-11:15 CET/12:00-13:15 EAT: Open Forum on Implementation of WSIS Action Lines and WSIS Forum (during IGF 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

**Phase 3**
2nd Meeting and Special WSIS Forum 2022 Chairman
27 January 2023, 14:00-15:00 CET
Popov Room, ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland with remote participation

**Phase 4**
Deadline for Submissions
1 February 2023

**Phase 5**
3rd Meeting
13 February 2023 14:00-15:00 CET
Popov Room, ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland with remote participation
Registration OPEN!

- On-site Registration to the WSIS Forum 2023 is available online at the following link:

  Registration | WSIS Forum 2023 (itu.int)

- Virtual Registration will be made available soon.
WSIS Forum 2023 Venue

13 - 17 March 2023
- CICG - The International Conference Center Geneva / ITU Headquarters

April - May 2023
- Virtual Workshops
Badging

- Badging will be located at ITU Headquarters, Montbrillant building (2, rue de Varembé – CH-1220 GENEVA)
- **NO registration desk at CICG premises**; badges have to be collected at the ITU Montbrillant building
- Badges should be picked up personally as these are photo badges and picture is compulsory
## WSIS Forum 2023 Agenda & Programme

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<th>Monday, 13th March</th>
<th>Tuesday, 14th March</th>
<th>Wednesday 15th March</th>
<th>Thursday, 16 March</th>
<th>Friday 17, March</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exhibition Inauguration / Forum Track TW / AL / CW / Hackathon / Special Tracks</td>
<td>UNGIS Leaders High-Level Breakfast Meeting (UNGIS only)</td>
<td>High-Level Policy Sessions (HLPS)</td>
<td>Forum Track TW / AL / CW / Special Tracks</td>
<td>Forum Track TW / AL / CW / Special Tracks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forum Track TW / AL / CW / Hackathon / Special Tracks</td>
<td>Opening segment</td>
<td>Academia Round Table (Academia Only)</td>
<td>Forum Track TW / AL / CW / Special Tracks</td>
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<td>Knowledge café</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forum Track TW / AL / CW / Hackathon / Special Tracks</td>
<td>Global Digital Compact</td>
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<td>Global Digital Compact</td>
<td>Forum Track TW / AL / CW / Hackathon / Special Tracks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ambassadors High-Level Meeting (TBC) (Ambassadors Only)</td>
<td>High-Level policy Sessions (HLPS)</td>
<td>Ministerial Roundtable/High-Level Dialogue</td>
<td>Parlamentarians High-Level Meetings (TBC)</td>
<td>WSIS Action Lines Facilitators Meeting</td>
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<td>Mayors Round Table (Mayors Only)</td>
<td>WSIS Prizes 2023 Ceremony: Winners + Champions</td>
<td>Closing of the High-Level Policy Sessions</td>
<td>WSIS Regional Commission Meeting</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
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<td>Reception by Poland (TBC)</td>
<td>Official Reception Sponsored by Switzerland/ Certificates for ESIS Forum 2023 Partners</td>
<td>Gala Dinner</td>
<td>WSIS &amp; SDG TalkX followed by the Networking Cocktail</td>
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**Notes:**
- **TW:** Thematic Workshop
- **AL:** Action Lines
- **CW:** Country Workshop
- **HL:** High-level

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**Official Reception:** Sponsored by Switzerland
Results of the OCP

- Innovative and constructive submissions received during direct official submissions, online discussions and physical meetings.
- Agenda and program are crowdsourced and designed in collaboration with the multistakeholder community on the basis of the submissions received during the OCP.
- Highest number of submissions received from Government (23%), International Organizations (21%), Civil Society (20%), Academia (17%), Private Sector (15%) and Others (4%).
- Enhanced participation from the wider community, including parliamentarians, youth, women and older persons.
- Enrich the dialogue, networking and partnership
CONTRIBUTIONS BY REGION

- The Americas: 12%
- Africa: 22%
- Western Europe: 33%
- Eastern Europe and Northern Asia: 5%
- Asia and Australasia: 28%
Please note that the agenda of the WSIS Forum includes the engagement of more than 32 United Nations (UN) Agencies, including UN Regional Commissions.

The statistics represent the submissions and suggestions received through the Open Consultation Process of the WSIS Forum 2023.
• **Workshops:**
  • no panel discussion
  • aim to enhance dialogue, Q&A sessions, audience interaction, collaborative format
  • dynamic & interactive

• **Types:** fishbowls, knowledge cafés, thinktanks, round table & expert sessions

• **Regional sessions**

• **Participation:** increase the participation of the youth, experts, women, Ministers and Parliamentarians, influential stakeholders

• **Surveys & Interviews**

• **Open spaces:** increases organic dialogues

• **Formats linked with the SDGs process**
Suggested Topics

- Cybersecurity
- Gender Mainstreaming
- Digital infrastructure in LDCs
- Connectivity
- Digital Inclusion
- ICTs and Older Persons
- Ethics of AI
- ICTs and Youth
- Impact of emerging technologies on the SDGs
- Intergenerational exchanges
- The role of universities in shaping the future
- E-Environment and Climate Change
- ICTs and Clean Technology
- IP in a Brave New Virtual World
- E-employment

- Digital harassment prevention
- Metaverse in cities
- Accessibility
- Disaster risk reduction
- Digital finance
- Standards in broadband infrastructure
- Cyberlaw and cybercrime
- 5G & 6G technologies
- Data protection
- ICT Success Stories
- WSIS Review
- Global Digital Compat
Suggestions on strengthening the outcomes

• Each annual Forum should continue producing a consolidated document containing the outcomes of each session to provide a summary of the discussions.

• Result-focused approach for each session should be applied. All sessions should be explicitly linked to the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs.

• WSIS Action Lines should present a concise annual progress report consisting of emerging trends, statistics and supplemented by case studies, if necessary, to be presented during the WSIS Action Line Facilitation Meetings and forwarded to the UN follow ups of WSIS and SDG processes.

• Annual report and sharing of examples of global best practices through the WSIS Stocktaking.

• Annual review by Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development might enrich monitoring of implementation of the WSIS outcomes.

• Pre-WSIS Forum national and regional meetings that then feed into the annual WSIS Forum in Geneva.

• Further collaboration and implementation of the WSIS Action lines and SDGs Matrix.
Suggestions on strengthening the WSIS Forum for the SDGs implementation and the 2030 Agenda

• The WSIS Forum is an annual opportunity to benchmark progress, share success stories and learning experiences and incentivize further action on ICTs for sustainable development.

• The WSIS Forum can provide a space for stakeholders to exchange and nurture collaboration in the implementation of SDGs, in line with the UN SG Our Common Agenda, the Roadmap on Digital Cooperation and in support and complement to the Global Digital Compact.

• Content creation and the maintenance of interactive, accessible-to-all and multilingual content relating to the ICTs as well as aspirations and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable on the dedicated WSIS webpage.

• To develop a methodology and a reporting framework to monitor the implementation of the concrete actions taken by stakeholders. This would enable stakeholders to measure their impact and provide a clear and transparent communication on the contributions of the WSIS Forum to the SDG.

• Increase involvement with all stakeholders, including civil society, policymakers, entrepreneurs and startups that are visioning, designing and implementing approaches and solutions that assist with achieving the 2030 agenda, as well as technical standards development bodies.

• Increase the focus on action and progress. Enhance the monitoring and measuring of the SDGs and the WSIS Action Lines.
High-Level Policy Sessions (HLPS) Date and Time

- Tuesday, 14 March from 14:00 – 17:00 CET
- Wednesday, 15 March from 9:00 – 12:00 CET

High-Level Policy Sessions confirmed speakers available here
https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/HighLevel

Interpretation Services

provided for French and Arabic.

Contact us for sponsorship opportunities for Chinese, Spanish, and Russian

High-Level Policy Sessions (HLPS) Format

- Duration of each session: 1-hour
- Length of intervention for each High-Level Speaker: 4-5 minutes
- Outcome of each session to be reported by the High-Level Track Facilitator

Topics

- WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 agenda
- Bridging digital divides
- Enabling environment
- Capacity building
- Financing for development and role of ICT
- Digital economy and trade
- Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
- Inclusiveness - access to information and knowledge for all
- Gender Mainstreaming
- ICT applications and services
- Climate Change
- Ethical dimensions of Information Society
Ministerial Roundtable

**Participation**
RESTRICTED to the Ministers and Deputy Ministers
(no replacements / no observers)

**Date & Time**
The Ministerial Round Table meeting will be scheduled on *15 March from 13:30 – 15:30 CET*

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**Gala Dinner**

High-Level Gala dinner is scheduled on **Wednesday 15 March evening**

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**Golden Pin**

All High-Level participants will receive a **Golden PIN** to be able to access Special High-Level Events
Following the appreciation of WSIS Stakeholders to the first Mayors’ High-Level Dialogue at the WSIS Forum 2022, allowing Mayors and city stakeholders to share their progress in driving smart innovation in the city environment, the WSIS Forum 2023 is organizing a Mayors’ High-level events at the WSIS Forum 2023, on Monday 13 March.

- A Mayors’ presentations on scalable best practices and challenges of digital solutions for climate change adaptation and energy transition
- A Mayors High-Level Networking Lunch hosted by Geneva Cities Hub
- An Interactive High-Level Dialogue with other stakeholders (States and International Organizations) on building resilient cities for better climate change adaptation and achieving the SDGs.

This engagement of Mayors provides a unique opportunity to discuss local and national experiences and best practices to identify and scale up technology and innovative solutions in the ICT sector for urban development in a post COVID19 world.
ITU, Digital Government Authority (DGA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and relevant stakeholders organized jointly the WSIS Forum 2023 Hackathon on DigitalGov Hack: Advancing the Digital Economy by leveraging Emerging Technologies.

Award Ceremony
The winners were announced and awarded during the LEAP event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 7 February 2023, with the presence of DGA Governor H.E. Eng. Ahmed Alsuwaiyan and ITU Deputy SG Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas.

Congratulations to the 4 winners!
- Track 1: Immersive Public Services >> Peranto Ci.Go | Citizen & Gov Ecosystem (Mexico)
- Track 2: Empowering Young Talent >> Learn ‘o’ Sys (India)
- Track 3: Productivity in Public Workplace >> KlinterAI (United Kingdom)
- Track 4: Financial Sustainability >> Nabtah (Egypt)
United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)

More than 30 members of UNGIS reiterated commitment to the WSIS Action Lines implementation and alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes.

Current Chair: ITU
Vice-Chairs: UNDP, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UN ECA

- Invitation Letter to Heads of UN Agencies has been dispatched to UN Focal Points

- Confirmed participation to date:
  - On-site: UNESCO, UPU, World Bank, UNCTAD, WIPO
  - Virtual: FAO
  - Video message: ITC, UNDESA, UN Women, UN ESCAP, UNICEF, UNITAR, UN ECE

- UNGIS Leaders High-Level Breakfast Meeting, 14 March 2023, 08:00-09:00 CET
- UNGIS Working-level meeting, 17 March 2023, 09:00-10:45 CET
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)
More than **900** submissions received to the WSIS Prizes 2023

18 winning projects and **72** champion projects will be awarded during the WSIS Forum 2023 (13-17 March 2023)

[Logo of WSIS Prizes 2023]

www.wsis.org/prizes
WSIS Forum 2023: Special Prizes

WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize: Third Edition

WSIS Digital Service Design Prize 2023
WSIS Forum 2023: Special Tracks

- ICTs and Youth
- ICTs and Gender Mainstreaming
- ICTs and Emerging Technologies for sustainable development and ICTs for Industry 4.0
- ICTs for Well-being and Happiness
- ICTs and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and Specific Needs
- ICTs and Older Persons
- Cybersecurity
- ICTs and Indigenous Peoples and Cultures
- ICTs for Developing Countries (and LDCs)
- ICTs and Clean Technologies for Climate Change
- Digital Citizenship and Public Services
MEET THE WSIS GENDER TRENDSETTERS!

Mr. Vala Afsar
Chief Digital Evangelist, Salesforce

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

Ms. Elena Estavillo Flores
CEO, Centro-1 para la Sociedad del Futuro Think Tank

Ms. Mei Lin Fung
Chair and Cofounder, People Centered Internet

Ms. Gab-Hinganne Gabbide
National Coord. Action pour l'Education & la Promotion de la Femme, TCHAD

Ms. Miikaela Jade
CEO and Founder, Indigital EduTech

Ms. Kirthi Jayakumar
Coder and Creator at Saahas

Dr. Tawfik Jelassi
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Secretary-General, ITU

Ms. Tatiana Kanuveli
Founder and CEO, Open Health Network

H.E. Ms. Lotte Knudsen
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

Hon. Neema Lugangira
Member of Parliament of Tanzania & Founder of NGO, Omuka Hub

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

Ms. Asli Qayumi
Founder and CEO, Mindful Venture Capital

Ms. Yvette Ramos
President, WomenVai

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

Ms. Magatte Wade
Entrepreneur, Magatte Wade

Ms. Vidhy Y. Cofounder and Trustee, Vision Empower
WSIS: Global Digital Compact

- The Co-facilitators of the intergovernmental process on the Global Digital Compact, the Permanent Representatives of Rwanda and Sweden, have confirmed participation in the WSIS in mid-March 2023 and will hold two round tables 1) Civil Society 2) Private Sector at the WSIS Forum.

- UN Tech Envoy is confirmed to attend the WSIS Forum 2023.

  - ITU, SG
  - Tech Envoy
  - 1 Co-facilitator – TBC
  - Cyber Ambassador, Regine Grienberger, Germany
  - Kenya or Mexico
  - Private Sector/ Civil Society
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<th>SIDE EVENT</th>
<th>WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs</th>
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<td><strong>ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2023</strong></td>
<td>31 January 2023, 14:30-15:45 PM CET, Virtual</td>
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<th>SIDE EVENT</th>
<th>Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Older Persons: Healthy Ageing in a Digital World</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>61st Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD61)</strong></td>
<td>9 February 2023, 15:45-17:00 PM CET, Virtual</td>
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<tr>
<th>SIDE EVENT</th>
<th>Side Event - CSocD61: Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), Innovation and Accessibility: Towards Building Inclusive Communities</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>61st Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD61)</strong></td>
<td>10 February 2023, 15:45-17:00 PM CET, Virtual</td>
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<th>SIDE EVENT</th>
<th>WSIS Action Lines and ICTs for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs in LDCs</th>
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<td><strong>5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)</strong></td>
<td>5 March 2023, 17:15-18:45pm (Doha time) Exhibition Hall 2, Doha, Qatar</td>
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<th>SIDE EVENT</th>
<th>WSIS Gender Trendsetters: ICTs for Gender Inclusion</th>
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<td><strong>67th Commission on the Status of Women</strong></td>
<td>16 March 2023, 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM New York time /17:30 - 18:45 PM, CET</td>
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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 2023: Multistakeholder Dialogues and discussions
• Knowledge Café: WSIS+20 Multistakeholder Preparatory Visioning Challenge – WSIS Beyond 2025
• High-Level Strategic Dialogue: WSIS+20 Vision Beyond 2025 Multistakeholder Digital Cooperation for Global Development (WSIS Action Lines to achieve the SDGs)
• High-Level Dialogue: WSIS+20 – WSIS Beyond 2025

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
WSIS Forum 2023 Fund in Trust

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