WSIS+20 FORUM
HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

27-31 May 2024
Geneva, Switzerland

Special Session, 26 March 2024, 14:00-15:00 CET
WSIS is a **UN process** that involves more than 40 UN Partners and is built on the framework of the 11 WSIS Action Lines. It encompasses **multistakeholder digital cooperation** within UN Agencies including the Governments, Private Sector, Civil Society, Academia and the Technical Community.

The goal of WSIS is to achieve a common vision, desire and commitment to **build a people-centric, inclusive and development-oriented information and knowledge societies** where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information.
Existing multistakeholder digital cooperation within UN Agencies including the Governments, Private Sector, Civil Society, Academia and the Technical Community. The goal of WSIS is to achieve a common vision, desire and commitment to build a people-centric, inclusive and development-oriented information and knowledge societies where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information.

2003: WSIS – Geneva Phase (first phase)

Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action – reflected the common vision and key principles to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society.

The WSIS process is guided by the WSIS Action Lines framework that serve as a comprehensive framework for building an inclusive information and knowledge societies. These WSIS Action Lines play a significant role in advancing progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

2005: WSIS – Tunis Phase (second phase)

Tunis Agenda for the Information Society – focused on financial mechanisms for bridging the digital divide, on Internet governance and related issues, as well as on implementation and follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis decisions.

2015: WSIS+10 Review

UNGA Resolution A/70/125 – called for close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the crosscutting contribution of ICTs to the SDGs.

2024-2025: WSIS+20 Review

Mandate of WSIS until 2025

WSIS+20 review to provide multistakeholder discussions and to take stock of the achievements and key trends, challenges and opportunities since the Geneva Plan of Action.
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”

WSIS Forum – 10th Year Anniversary of the WSIS Forum

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

WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event

WSIS Process Timeline

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

WSIS+20 Review: WSIS Process Beyond 2025

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

WSIS Process Timeline

ISO 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

ITEGA 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

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

WSIS Forum

UNGA Overall Review

Multistakeholder discussions on WSIS+20

SDG Review
I reiterate the importance of supporting the World Summit on the Information Society.

The International Telecommunication Union has a vital role to play in accelerating global connectivity for all by 2030.

H.E. Mr António GUTERRES, Secretary-General, United Nations

What we’ve learned over the last 20 years must serve to help us to accelerate the progress to achieve the SDGs. The WSIS Action Lines and SDGs are inextricably linked, and we are in a race against time.

Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, ITU

…and we call for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the cross-cutting contributions of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication, and noting that access to information and communications technologies has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself.

H.E. Mr António GUTERRES, Secretary-General, United Nations

We also call for a close correspondence of the World Summit on the Information Society process with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other outcomes of relevant intergovernmental processes, including the Global Digital Compact and the Summit of the Future. We agree to work towards a strong and concerted position of the G-77 and China to ensure that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) General Review process, the Global Digital Compact and the Summit of the Future contribute to, inter alia, the achievement of sustainable development and closing the digital divide between developed and developing countries.
WSIS+20 Forum
High-Level Event
Updates on Preparations
Registration

Registration to the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event is free of charge and open to all stakeholders interested in information and communication technologies.

Registration is mandatory for all participants to attend the Event. Please register here: https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/Registration. Remote participation will also be made available. **We encourage you to book your accommodation early.**

Accreditation and Visa

- Accreditation is required in order to participate on-site to attend the Event.
- Accreditation requests should be submitted as soon as possible and no later than 23 April 2024 to ensure timely administrative processing of the requests.
- A registration confirmation (e-confirmation) will be the sole document provided for visa support.

All registered participants are invited to join the LinkedIn Group for on-site networking and collaborations during the event. https://www.linkedin.com/events/7143538407632257024/
Badging Information

Badging location
CCV Building, facing CICG, Rue de Varembé 9, 1202 Genève

Opening Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Friday 24 May</th>
<th>Sunday 26 May</th>
<th>Monday 27 May</th>
<th>Tuesday 28 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 29 May</th>
<th>Thursday 30 May</th>
<th>Friday 31 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>13:30-17:30</td>
<td>13:30-17:30</td>
<td>07:30-12:00</td>
<td>07:30-12:00</td>
<td>08:30-12:00</td>
<td>08:30-12:00</td>
<td>08:30-12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hours</td>
<td>hours</td>
<td>hours</td>
<td>hours</td>
<td>hours</td>
<td>hours</td>
<td>hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13:30-17:00</td>
<td>13:30-17:30</td>
<td>13:30-17:00</td>
<td>13:30-17:00</td>
<td>13:30-17:00</td>
<td>13:30-16:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hours</td>
<td>hours</td>
<td>hours</td>
<td>hours</td>
<td>hours</td>
<td>hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants must present a valid photo ID card or passport, and must show their e-confirmation of registration, so to receive their badges.
Venues

Centre International de Conférences
CICG Genève

ITU Headquarters, Montbrillant Building
Outcomes of Open Consultation Process & Draft Agenda

- 3 Open Consultations: hybrid meetings to collect contributions
- Analysis of all inputs

- Draft Agenda online
- Converted into an interactive Agenda
- Sorted by Action Lines, SDGs, Thematic areas

Regional distribution of contributions:
- Western Europe: 35%
- Africa: 20%
- Asia and Australasia: 23%
- Eastern Europe and Northern Asia: 16%
- The Americas: 6%

Stakeholder Type distribution:
- Academia / Technical Community: 15%
- Civil Society: 21%
- Governments: 26%
- International Organizations: 23%
- Private Sector: 14%
- Other: 1%

For more details, please visit www.wsis.org/forum
## Thematic Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic Area</th>
<th>Digital Governance Processes Track: WSIS, GDC/ Summit of the Future</th>
<th>Smart Sustainable Cities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WSIS Action Lines Facilitation Meetings</td>
<td>Digital Inclusion</td>
<td>ICTs and Older Persons Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and Intergenerational</td>
<td>ICTs and Sports</td>
<td>Universal Connectivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cybersecurity</td>
<td>Emerging Technologies</td>
<td>Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)</td>
<td>Clean Technologies for Climate Change</td>
<td>Country Success Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building and Digital Education</td>
<td>Digital Health</td>
<td>Gender Mainstreaming and ICTs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-science</td>
<td></td>
<td>20 Years of Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more details, please visit [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)
Key Elements

Leaders TalkX and Key Insights

Partners Insights and Showcasings

WSIS Prizes

Hackathon

Youth Day

Knowledge Café

Ministerial and Ambassadors Roundtables

WSIS Action Lines sessions

Exhibition Space

Private Sector, Civil Society and Technical Community Engagements

For more details, please visit www.wsis.org/forum
Different Formats

- Open Space Sessions
- Roundtable Discussions
- Knowledge Cafes
- Speed dating
- Main Stage

For more details, please visit [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, 26 May</th>
<th>Monday, 27 May</th>
<th>Tuesday, 28 May</th>
<th>Wednesday, 29 May</th>
<th>Thursday, 30 May</th>
<th>Friday, 31 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07:45-09:00 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:00-14:00 PM</td>
<td>12:00-14:00 PM</td>
<td>12:00-14:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network of Women Ministers and Leaders in ICT</td>
<td>*invitation only</td>
<td>High-Level Lunch (Platinum)</td>
<td>*invitation only</td>
<td>High-Level Lunch (Gold Plus)</td>
<td>*invitation only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:00-14:00 PM</td>
<td>Knowledge Café: WSIS+20 Visioning Challenge - 20 years of achievements, gaps, and opportunities</td>
<td>Knowledge Café</td>
<td>Knowledge Café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:15-21:00 PM</td>
<td>19:00-22:00 PM</td>
<td>18:00-21:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official Reception by Switzerland and ITU, including Partners Certificate Ceremony</td>
<td>Gala Dinner Hosted by Platinum Partner</td>
<td>WSIS&amp;SDG TalkX, followed by networking cocktail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:00 PM</td>
<td>18:15-21:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>19:00-22:00 PM</td>
<td>18:00-21:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception by Poland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*invitation only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:00-14:00 PM</td>
<td>12:00-14:00 PM</td>
<td>12:00-14:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gala Dinner Hosted by Platinum Partner</td>
<td>Knowledge Café</td>
<td>Knowledge Café</td>
<td>Knowledge Café</td>
<td>Knowledge Café</td>
<td>Knowledge Café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*invitation only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:15-21:00 PM</td>
<td>19:00-22:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>18:00-21:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official Reception by Switzerland and ITU, including Partners Certificate Ceremony</td>
<td>Gala Dinner Hosted by Platinum Partner</td>
<td>WSIS&amp;SDG TalkX, followed by networking cocktail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*invitation only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
High-Level Engagements

Participants
- Ministers and Deputies
- Heads of Regulatory Authorities
- Ambassadors
- Mayors
- Heads of International Organizations
- Heads of UN Agencies
- Parliamentarians
- Private Sector C-Level
- Civil Society Leaders

Leaders TalkX and Key Insights
- Monday & Tuesday, 27-28 May
- Submission of a speaking slot request (*shared in the circular invitation letter*)

Ministerial Roundtable
- Tuesday 28 May afternoon
- Restricted to Ministers and Deputy/Vice Ministers only, no other representation possible

Ambassadors Roundtable
- Invitation letter to be issued shortly to Geneva based Ambassadors
- Connecting the gap with New-York based Ambassadors
WSIS Contributions to the Global Digital Compact

WSIS Forum 2023 Informal Roundtable discussions with GDC Co-Facilitators

GDC online consultations:
- WSIS Forum input
- UNGIS input

Informal Consultations and Subsequent Intergovernmental Negotiations on a Global Digital Compact
- 12 February 2024: UNGIS statement
- 1 March 2024: UNGIS statement

WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event: Digital Governance Processes Track: WSIS, Summit of the Future/ GDC and their interplay with more than 20 sessions running across 5 days organized by Governments, Private Sector, Technical Community, Civil Society and others
- Leaders TalkX
- Knowledge Café
- Key insights and sessions
- WSIS Action Line meetings
Outcomes

WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event Chair’s Summary

WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event Outcomes Document
- High-Level Track Outcomes and Executive Brief
- WSIS Action Lines 20 years of achievements, challenges, and emerging trends
- WSIS+20 Forum HLE Stocktaking Success Stories
- WSIS+20 Forum HLE Stocktaking Report
WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event Chair’s Summary

**KEY ELEMENTS**

1. Achievements in the 20 Years of Implementation of WSIS Outcomes
2. Key Challenges
3. Way forward
4. Emerging trends

**Focus on the process and its elements like the WSIS Forum, WSIS Stocktaking, IGF, UNGIS and the CSTD etc.**

**1.** A summary* 3-5 pages is prepared by the Chair based on the outcomes of the High-Level and Forum tracks.

**2.** Summary shared during the closing of the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event on 31 May

**3.** Summary submitted to the Summit of the Future and UNGA WSIS+20 Overall Review

*Stakeholders ideas for WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 taken from the OCP and Outcomes from Session Organizers.
WSIS Prizes 2024

WSIS PRIZES 2024
RECEIVED
1000+
PROJECTS

IN INVOLVING
MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS

PRIVATE SECTOR 24.6%
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS 2.8%
GOVERNMENT 47.7%
CIVIL SOCIETY 15.1%
ACADEMIA 9.9%

ACROSS ALL REGIONS

- Asia & Pacific: 57.8%
- Africa: 16.6%
- Western Europe & North America: 12.6%
- Latin America & the Caribbean: 5.8%
- Eastern Europe: 7.2%

PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY
100+ COUNTRIES
WSIS Prizes 2024

Deadline for casting votes:
31 March 2024 23:00 UTC+02:00

VOTE NOW!
for your favourite digital projects out of 360 Nominees!

www.wsis.org/prizes

Digital projects that make a difference
WSIS Special Prizes and Contests

WSIS Photo Contest 2024
More than 170 submissions received!
Finalists will be announced soon!
www.wsis.org/forum

WSIS Digital Service Design Special Prize 2024
Recognizing and spotlighting impactful digital government services that are designed based on user needs and a building block approach using open-source components, optimized for scalability, interoperability, and adaptability, in collaboration with GovStack Global.

Deadline for Submissions: 20 April
www.wsis.org/forum

WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Special Prize 2024
An exceptional international recognition of WSIS Stakeholders as leaders in supporting innovation that brings sustainable solutions for the ever-increasing global population of older people, in collaboration with ITU, WHO, UNDESA and Global Coalition on Aging.

Deadline for Submissions: 15 April
www.wsis.org/forum
Partner with us for the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event!
Contact us at wsis-info@itu.int
WSIS, as a multistakeholder process, has stood the test of time and the WSIS+20 Review Process would provide a guidance framework for all stakeholders, based on the WSIS Outcome Documents, on addressing opportunities and challenges posed by the current digital landscape, including on universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.

**Multistakeholder Process**

WSIS+20 Review Process

**20 Years of implementation of WSIS**

- Take stock of the key trends, challenges and opportunities posed by the current digital landscape.
- Analysis of the achievement of WSIS in 20 years including WSIS+20 Country reports, WSIS+20 Action Line reports and WSIS+20 Stakeholder reports
- Assessment of the WSIS Action Lines and their framework in close collaboration with the UN Agencies involved
- WSIS Targets

**Strengthened Digital Collaboration**

- Close collaboration with ITU, UNESCO, UN CSTD, UN DESA, WSIS Action Lines Facilitators and other UN Agencies involved.

**Multistakeholder Outcome**

- Multistakeholder outcome on 20 years of implementation of WSIS and a vision of WSIS beyond 2025 to be submitted to UNGA in 2025.
Multistakeholder outcome on 20 years of implementation of WSIS and a vision of WSIS beyond 2025 to be submitted to the Summit of the Future in 2024 and endorsed during the high-level meeting at UNGA in 2025.