WSIS Stocktaking+20 Report (zero draft)

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Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is provided by the multiple stakeholders that contributed to the WSIS Stocktaking database and does not engage ITU. Denominations and classifications employed in this publication do not imply any opinion on the part of the International Telecommunication Union concerning the legal or other status of any territory or any endorsement or acceptance of any boundary. Where the designation "country" appears in this publication, it covers countries and territories. The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of ITU or its membership.

Introduction

ITU tracks tech initiatives worldwide and recognizes those making breakthroughs for sustainable development. In accordance with the Tunis Agenda, ITU maintains the WSIS Stocktaking database, which compiles information on ICT-related initiatives and projects. The WSIS Stocktaking process has grown into an international repository of over 15,000 entries, providing valuable insights into ICT development trends and best practices. The database documents a wide range of projects in various sectors, including education, healthcare, agriculture, and governance. Complementing the database, the annual WSIS Prizes contest, launched in 2012, recognizes excellence in the implementation of ICT projects that further the goals of the WSIS process. WSIS Stocktaking database is a resourceful tool and reference when reviewing the achievements of the WSIS process in the second overall review by the UNGA on 16-17 December 2025 (WSIS+20 Review).

About the WSIS Stocktaking Database

WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles declares the common desire and commitment of WSIS as "to build a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities, and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." Based on the vision, the WSIS Executive Secretariat launched the WSIS Stocktaking process in October 2004, and in the years since has come to comprise the database of:

- exchanges of information on projects
- sharing of best practices of certain regions
- initiatives related to the implementation of the 11 WSIS action lines.
- linkage between the 11 action lines and the SDGs a linkage that has become more and more important over the years.

The principal role of the WSIS Stocktaking exercise is to leverage the activities of stakeholders working on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and share knowledge and experience of projects by replicating successful models designed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The WSIS Stocktaking process provides a register of activities – including projects, programs, training initiatives, conferences, websites, guidelines, toolkits, etc. – carried out by governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and other entities. To that end, in accordance with paragraph 120 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by WSIS, ITU has been maintaining the WSIS Stocktaking Database as a publicly accessible system providing information on information and communication technology (ICT)-related initiatives and projects with reference to the 11 WSIS action lines (Geneva Plan of Action) and 17 SDGs.

The WSIS Stocktaking Platform was launched in February 2010 and was redesigned in October 2015, transforming the previous static database into a unique portal to highlight ICT-related projects and initiatives in line with WSIS implementation. The new stocktaking platform features a new questionnaire that reflects the transition from millennium development goals (MDGs) to SDGs, mirroring the impact of freshly submitted ICT projects on SDGs. With the year-round ongoing call for updates and new entries, all stakeholders are invited to continue sharing best practices on the WSIS Stocktaking Platform and emphasize how ICT-related initiatives and projects enable SDGs.

As the platform continues to evolve, it remains essential for all stakeholders to engage actively, ensuring that ICT serves as a powerful tool for sustainable development. Through such collaborative efforts, the WSIS Stocktaking process will continue to enhance digital inclusivity and propel us towards a future where ICTs benefit all.

Key Features of the WSIS Stocktaking Database

- Comprehensive coverage with a diverse array of projects, from large-scale national initiatives to community-based efforts, ensuring a broad representation of tech activities globally.
- Categorization by WSIS Action Lines, global goals, target groups, stakeholder types, regional representation – highlighting project alignment with specific goals and priorities, covering different regions, target groups and stakeholder types.
- Accessibility and emerging technology with publicly accessible data encouraging the replication of successful initiatives and helping to promote global knowledge sharing.
- Reporting annual global and regional reports are being prepared and published, including special reports on AI, Covid-19, e-Health, e-Agriculture, and other initiatives.
- Visualization the WSIS Photo Contest collects the photos of making impact on the ground and showcasing them through WSIS related events and virtual platforms, with many organizations benefiting from this visualization.

WSIS Stocktaking Database: Submissions (2004–2025)

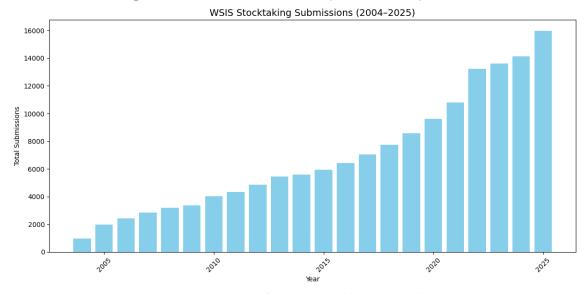


Figure 1: Total number of submissions (2004–2025): 15,963

WSIS Stocktaking Reports

The WSIS Stocktaking Reports serve as a strategic lens through which the global community can observe, analyze, and learn from the evolving landscape of digital development. More than a record of activities, these reports reflect the collective momentum of stakeholders working to harness ICTs for inclusive and sustainable progress.

Each edition of the report captures the pulse of innovation and collaboration across regions and sectors. It highlights how digital solutions are being localized, scaled, and adapted to meet diverse development needs—from bridging connectivity gaps in rural areas to deploying AI for public health, from empowering youth and women to enabling accessible digital services for older persons and persons with disabilities.

The reports also provide a structured narrative that links grassroots innovation with global frameworks such as the WSIS Action Lines, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and, more recently, the Global Digital Compact (GDC). They offer a unique vantage point for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to identify trends, replicate successful models, and align digital strategies with broader development agendas.

As the world prepares for the WSIS+20 Review in December 2025, the WSIS Stocktaking Reports stand as a testament to two decades of digital cooperation— a testimony of the past and a roadmap for the future.

Global Reports

| 2025 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2025WSIS Stocktaking+20 Report |
|------|---|
| 2024 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2024 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2024 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Special Report — The Republic of Korea's ICT Journey |
| 2023 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2023 (Draft) |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2023 (Draft) |
| 2022 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2022 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2022 |
| 2021 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2021 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2021 |
| 2020 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2020 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2020 |
| 2019 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2019 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2019 |
| 2018 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2018 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2018 |
| 2017 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2017 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2017 |
| 2016 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2016 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2016 |
| 2015 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2015 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2015 |

| 2014 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2014 |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2014 |
| 2013 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2013 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2013 |
| 2012 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2012 |
| | WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2012 |
| 2010 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2010 |
| 2008 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2008 |
| 2005 | WSIS Stocktaking Report 2005 |

Regional reports:

2021-2022

- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in Africa 2021-2022
- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in the Americas 2021-2022
- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in Arab States 2021-2022
- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in Asia and Pacific 2021-2022
- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in Commonwealth of Independent States 2021-2022
- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in Europe 2021-2022

2014-2016

- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in Africa 2014-2016
- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in the Americas 2014-2016
- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in Arab States 2014-2016
- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in Asia and Pacific 2014-2016
- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in Commonwealth of Independent States 2014-2016
- WSIS Regional Stocktaking Report in Europe 2014-2016

WSIS Prizes – recognizing and celebrating best practices

The <u>WSIS Prizes</u> contest, launched in 2012, is an integral part of the WSIS stocktaking process, recognizing excellence in implementing exemplary tech projects and initiatives. The annual prizes, with over 6,000 projects and initiatives submitted for consideration to date, engaged hundreds of thousands of stakeholders through online voting and helped advance projects reaching millions of people.

By recognizing and celebrating best practices, the contest encourages stakeholders to learn from successful projects and replicate their models. The chance to showcase transformative tech solutions makes the WSIS Prizes a vital component to further technology for sustainable development.

WSIS Prizes contests year by year:

- WSIS Prizes 2025: The submission phase ran from 3 October to 14 March 2025, collecting 973 projects implementing WSIS Action Lines. The contest continues to attract a diverse array of participants, including governments, private sector entities, civil society, and academia.
- WSIS Prizes 2024: Surpassing 1 000 submissions, the 2024 edition reflected sustained global interest in leveraging ICTs for development. The WSIS Stocktaking database, introduced in 2004, surpassed 15 000 entries, acting as a key reference for data-driven policies and replicable digital innovation. WSIS Prizes 2023: Receiving 966 submissions across 18 categories, the 2023 edition showcased a wide array of ICT projects. The contest highlighted the importance of digital solutions in addressing global challenges and advancing sustainable development.
- WSIS Prizes 2022: With 1082 received submissions, the contest emphasized the role of emerging technologies, including AI, in advancing the digital economy.
- WSIS Prizes 2021: Achieving a record with 1,260 submissions, the 2021 contest demonstrated significant global participation. The WSIS Stocktaking database, introduced in 2004, surpassed 12 000 entries, serving as a valuable resource for evidence-based policy and replicable ICT solutions.
- WSIS Prizes 2020: With 1 140 submissions, the 2020 contest reflected sustained interest in the programme. This growth underscored the expanding reach and impact of the WSIS Prizes in promoting ICTs for development.
- WSIS Prizes 2019: Garnering 1 062 submissions, the 2019 edition marked a 55% increase since 2018. The awards continued to recognize outstanding ICT projects contributing to progress towards the SDGs.
- WSIS Prizes 2018: Collecting 685 submissions with 492 projects nominated, the 2018 edition indicated growing recognition of the awards. The contest maintained its commitment to inclusivity, encouraging participation from diverse regions and stakeholder groups. Regionally, submissions came from Africa (14.1%), the Americas (12.9%), the Arab region (22.4%), Asia and the Pacific (25.3%), the CIS (11.8%), Europe (12.1%), and international projects (1.4%).

- WSIS Prizes 2017: Nearly 500 projects were submitted, the highest number since the initiative's inception, with over 1.1 million votes cast. The 345 nominated projects represented a wide range of stakeholders, including governments (41.7%), businesses (22.4%), civil society (16.1%), international organizations (6.3%), and others (13.5%).
- WSIS Prizes 2016: With the newly proposed process, including community engagement through the online voting, 311 projects were nominated and over 245 000 stakeholders participated in the online voting process, reflecting the growing importance of ICTs in national development strategies.
- WSIS Prizes 2015: With 300 submissions received, the contest doubled in size compared to the previous year, marking a significant step forward in global recognition and importance.
- WSIS Prizes 2014: With 152 received submissions, the contest continued to grow and maintained its role in promoting ICT solutions for development. The contest continued to encourage participation from various regions and stakeholder groups, with the significant increase of submissions coming from non-government entities.
- WSIS Prizes 2013: With more than 100 submissions received, the contest continued to highlight innovative ICT initiatives and help promote the need to share good ICT practices and promote the best practices worldwide. The award recognized projects that demonstrated excellence in leveraging ICTs for sustainable development.
- WSIS Prizes 2012: Eighteen winners were announced, recognizing excellence in ICT projects aligned with WSIS goals. The inaugural edition set the foundation for the annual recognition of impactful ICT initiatives worldwide.

WSIS Special Prizes recognize outstanding digital solutions aligned with emerging global priorities. The WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize, launched in 2021 in support of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, highlights impactful ICT solutions that enhance the lives and well-being of older persons, promoting inclusion and accessibility in the digital age. The WSIS Digital Service Design Prize, introduced in 2023 in collaboration with the GovStack alliance, celebrates innovative, user-centred digital public services that demonstrate excellence in design, delivery, and scalability—contributing to more inclusive and effective digital governance worldwide.

Global Stakeholders Participation

The WSIS Action Lines calls upon diverse stakeholders to engage in concerted efforts toward realizing a shared vision. Over the past two decades, various actors including governments, private sectors, civil society, international organizations, and academic institutions have actively participated in the WSIS process, contributing to the implementation of WSIS Action Lines.

Through the statistical analysis, it is evident that over the past decade, the number of projects submitted by governmental departments has accounted for nearly half of the total submissions. This underscores the indispensable role played by governments worldwide in implementing WSIS Action Lines, thereby promoting ICT advancement towards achieving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Projects from the private sector and civil society also represent a significant proportion of the total submissions. The unique advantages of flexibility and efficiency make both the private sector and civil society pivotal in advancing the implementation of WSIS Action Lines. The private sector plays a distinctive role in driving technological iteration and innovating business models. Meanwhile, civil society leverages its capacity for grassroots organizations to address issues that governments and the private sector may overlook. Hence, the aforementioned contributions from both sectors enrich the best practices of WSIS Action Lines, thereby creating more possibilities for the implementation of WSIS Action Lines.

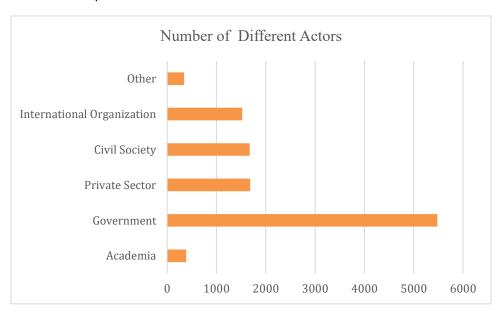


Figure 2 Overview of submission numbers break down by different actors

WSIS Action Lines

WSIS Geneva Plan of Action proposes the WSIS Action Lines to guide the international community in using ICTs to achieve development goals. These action lines were established to address various aspects of the information society and are meant to facilitate the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For 20 years, WSIS Action Lines have been serving as the guideline for global stakeholders to utilize ICTs to handle global challenges and promote economic and social development. Over the past two decades, within the WSIS Stocktaking database, each Action Line has amassed hundreds to thousands of projects. These projects revolve around various objectives, ranging from infrastructure and information environment development to cybersecurity and global cooperation. They represent the exploration and implementation efforts of diverse stakeholders from around the world. Among all the Action Lines, most projects tackle AL C3(Access to Information and Knowledge), AL C1(Promotion of ICTs for Development), AL C4 (Capacity building), while AL C9 (Media) has the fewest projects. Certainly, the quantity of projects in the database does not solely correlate with the progress of achieving the respective Action Line. Over the past 20 years, WSIS Stocktaking has significantly propelled the dissemination of various WSIS Actions and the overarching values of WSIS as a whole.



Figure 3 WSIS Action Lines

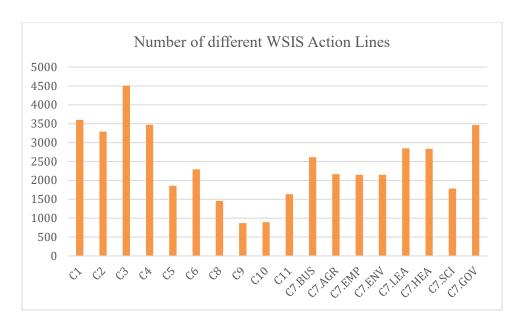


Figure 4 Overview of submission numbers broken down by different WSIS Action Lines

WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, all United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, providing a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all developed and developing countries in a global partnership. Also in 2015, The UNGA overall review of the implementation of WSIS resulted in a UNGA Resolution A/70/125. The resolution guides the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes till 2025. It calls for close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, requests all stakeholders to integrate ICTs into their approaches to implementing the SDGs, and requests UN entities facilitating WSIS Action Lines to review their reporting and work plans to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. ICTs are identified as targets in the SDGs for education, gender equality, infrastructure (universal and affordable access to the internet), and in the implementation goal as a cross-cutting tool to be utilized for the achievement of all of the SDGs. The effective implementation of the WSIS Action Lines can help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. To that end, the WSIS SDGs Matrix, developed by the UN Action line Facilitators, clearly shows the linkage between each Action line and the 17 SDGs and provides a rationale for each.

WSIS Stocktaking has been encouraging all the stakeholders leveraging ICT to contribute to SDG-related issues. After 2015, 4616 activities were submitted by WSIS value promoters to tackle different SDGs. Among 17 SDGs, SDG4 (quality education), SDG3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG8 (decent work), and SDG9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure) are the top targets WSIS projects are tackling, which are aligned with the spirit of the WSIS SDGs Matrix.

Improving the accessibility of ICT and striving to reduce the digital divide are vital foundational prerequisites for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Meanwhile, as ICT continues to evolve and new technologies emerge, its role in advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will become increasingly crucial and unique. Today, the

progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has experienced significant setbacks due to the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the international political and economic situation. Addressing global challenges requires even closer collaboration among stakeholders worldwide. Stakeholders from all sectors should prioritize the principles, values, and practices of WSIS in advancing global sustainable development. They should engage in more proactive and practical collaboration around WSIS Action Lines to promote the development and accessibility of ICT, ensuring the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS \ WSIS ACTION LINES LINKAGES

| | C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 | C5 | C6 | e-gov | e-bus | e-lea | e-hea | e-emp | e-env | e-agr | e-sci | C8 | C9 | C10 | C11 |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|----|-----|-----|
| SDG 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDG 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| WSIS ACTION LINES AND SDGS MATRIX | | ACTING UNE ICT Applications: e-business 1.4, 2.3, 5.5, 8.3, 8.5, 8.10, 9.3, 17.11 |
|---|--|--|
| | ACTION LINE Enabling environment 2.a, 4.4, 5.b, 8.2, 8.3, 8.1, 8.c, 10.3, 11.3, 11.3, 11.3, 18.6, 16.7, 18.8, 17.6, 17.14, 17.18 | ACTION LINE ICT Applications: e-learning Goal 4 |
| WSIS Action Lines SDGs | ACTION INC ACTION INC - government 9.c, 16.5, 16.7, 16.10, 17.8 | ACTION LINE IET Applications: e-health 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, Soal 3, 3.3, 3.8, 5.6, 5.6, 17.8, 17.19 |
| ACTION LINE The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development clients. 16.5, 16.6, 16.10, 17.16 | ACTION LINE LET Applications: 0-employment 4.5, 8.5, 10.2, 12.6, 17.9 | Coltoral diversity and identity, inspirits diversity and local content 2.5, 4.7, 6.5, 8.3, 8.9, 11.4, 12.6 |
| Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for the information Society 1.4, 8.2, 9.1, 9.a, 9.c, 11.5, 11.b | ACTION INC ACTION INC 0-environment 5.4. 11.6, 11.b, 12.1, 13.2, 13.b, Coal 14, Coal 15 | ACTION Libre Media 5.b, S.c, 12.8, 16.10 |
| ACTION LINE Access to information knowledge ACTION LINE C3 ACCESS to information knowledge C3 C4 C5 C5 C6 C6 C6 C7 C6 C7 C6 C7 C7 C7 | ACTION INC e-agriculture 1.5, 2.3, 2.4, 2.a, 3.4, 6cal 4, 5.5, 8.2, 9.1, 9.1, 12. 8, 13.1, 13.3, 17.18, 17.17 | Ethical dimensions of the Information Society 1.5, 2.3, 3.8, 4.7, 5.1, 8.8, 9.1, 10.2, 10.3, 11.3, 12.0, 12.3, |
| ACTION LINE Capacity building 1.b, 2.3, 2.7, 3.b, 3.d, 4.4, 4.7, 5.5, 5.b, 6.a, 12.7, 12.a, 12.a, 12.b, 13.2, 13.3, 13.b, 14.a, 18.a, 17.9, 17.18 | ACTION LINE IET Applications: 1.5, 4.7, 6.1, 6.2, 7.2, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 14.2, 15.8, 17.6, 17.7 | ACTION LINE International and regional 17.9, 17.16, 17.17 |

| | ODO AND | | | | | | | |
|--------|--|--|---------|---|--|---------|--|--|
| 7 | SDGS AND WSIS ACTION | LINES MATRIX | GOAL 4 | Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7) | C3, C4, C5, C8, C7 E-learning, C7 E-employment, C7 E-agriculture, C7 E-science, C8, C10 | GOAL 11 | Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.b) | C2, C3, C5, C8, C7 F-environment, C8, C10 |
| | | | GOAL 5 | Achieve gender equality and smoother all women and girls (5.5, 5.6, 5.8) Cf. Excises, Cf. Exercises, Cf. Chapte, Cf. Co. Cf. Cf. Cf. Cf. Cf. Cf. Cf. Cf. Cf. Cf | | GOAL 12 | Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (12.6, 12.7, 12.8, 12.a, 12.b) | C3, C4, C7 E-employment, C7 E-agriculture, C8, C3, C10 |
| | | | GOAL 6 | Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (6.A, 6.B) | | GOAL 13 | Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.b) | C3, C4, C7 E-environment, C7 E-agriculture, C7 E-science, C10 |
| | Sustainable Development Goal | Relevant WSIS Action Line | GOAL 7 | Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (7.1, 7.4, 7.8) | C3, C5, C7 E-science | GOAL 14 | Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (14.a) | C3, C4, C7 E-environment, C7 E-science |
| GOAL 1 | End poverty in all its forms everywhere (1.4, 1.5, 1.8) | C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, CT E-business, CT E-health, CT E-agriculture, CT E-science, C 10 | GOAL 8 | Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.9, 8.10) | d C2, C3, C5, C6, C7 E-business C7 E-employment, C7 E-agriculture, C8, C10 | GOAL 15 | Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage for combat desertification, and halt and reverse la degradation and halt biodiversity loss | of C3, C7 E-environment, C7 E-science |
| GOAL 2 | End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.A) | C2, C4, C6, C7 E-business, C7 E-health, C7 E-agriculture, C8, C10 | GOAL 9 | Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (9.1, 9.3, 9.4, 9.a, 9.c) | C2, C3, C5, C6, C7 E-government, C7 E-business, C7 E-environment, C7 E-agriculture, C9, C10 | GOAL 16 | Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to ju all and build effective, accountable and inclusi institutions at all levels (16.2, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.a, 16.b) | |
| GOAL 3 | Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (3.3, 3.7, 3.8, 3.8, 3.0) | C1, C3, C4, C7 E-health, C7 E-agriculture, C10 | GOAL 10 | Reduce inequality within and among countries (10.2, 10.3, 10.c) | C1, C3, C6, C7 E-employment, C10 | GOAL 17 | Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (17.6, 17.8, 17.9, 17.11, 17.14, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19 | Cr E-nearth, Cr E-employment, |

Figure 5 WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals Matrix www.wsis.org/sdg

PHOTO CONTEST

The WSIS Photo Contest was launched in 2017, it invites participants from around the world to submit photographs regarding how ICTs are facilitating the achievement of WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. The contest showcases a diverse range of entries that highlight the impact of ICT on various aspects of life and development. For 9 years, the WSIS Photo has provided a new platform to promote WSIS value and inspire more stakeholders to dedicate themselves to WSIS actions. During the past 9 years, there have been 1637 submissions from all over the world. Among these submissions, 516 were chosen as finalists, and 41 were chosen as winners.

Photos have unique visual impact that can communicate powerful messages and inspire action more effectively than words alone. WSIS Photo Contest was initiated to leverage this unique advantage to promote the WSIS value, increase the visibility of ICT-related development initiatives, and provide concrete examples of how technology can bridge gaps and create opportunities. Since the contest was launched, it has been raising awareness about the role of ICTs in promoting development and addressing global challenges, showcasing real-life examples of how technology can be used to improve lives and communities. It also fosters a sense of community and collective responsibility by inviting global participants, which encourages individuals to share their stories and experiences, highlighting the universal relevance of WSIS values.

WSIS Photo Contest 2025 Winners:







WSIS Photo Contest Winners 2017-2020



WSIS Photo Contest Winners 2021-2024





Conclusion

Since the WSIS Geneva phase in 2003, there has been a continuous emergence of new digital technologies, fundamentally altering human society. How can ever-evolving digital technologies better serve human development? This has been the question global stakeholders have been dedicated to answering over the past 20 years. During this time, the WSIS Stocktaking database has been committed to providing an inclusive platform for stakeholders to summarize experiences, exchange practices, inspire one another, and collectively establish a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable digital society. The 15,963 projects globally reflect stakeholders' efforts to practice the values and spirit of WSIS, exploring the construction of a more sustainable digital society.

WSIS Stocktaking database, maintained by ITU, continues to evolve as a dynamic platform that adapts to new global priorities, collects data with added focus, and supports reporting on how ICTs are supporting different target groups (youth, gender, accessibility, rural, older persons, persons with disabilities), using different technologies including emerging ones such as artificial intelligence, and addressing urgent issues such as COVID-19. It produces special databases and reports, collects visual evidence through the WSIS Photo Contest, and invites stakeholders to partner in expanding its scope and relevance. This report and the entire WSIS Stocktaking database serve as a valuable resource for policy making, promoting the use of technology for development, and reviewing the achievements of the WSIS process.

Today, the realization of the United Nations global goals faces unprecedented challenges. The ongoing development of digital technologies presents new and greater opportunities. Governments, private sectors, academic institutions, technical organizations, civil society, and international organizations worldwide must pay greater attention to the role of digital technologies in achieving sustainable development. The WSIS Process is poised to play a more crucial role in this regard. Looking ahead, we call for more global stakeholders to engage with the WSIS Stocktaking, contributing to the realization of WSIS values, building a more inclusive information society, and making greater contributions to the achievement of global sustainable development goals.