



## The Secretary-General

Geneva, 2 July 2018

Ref: WSIS Prizes 2019  
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To: All WSIS Stakeholders  
- Governments  
- Private Sector  
- Civil Society  
- Academia / Technical Community  
- International Organizations

### **Subject: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2019 - Call for Submissions**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the contest of the WSIS Prizes and call for submissions through the website ([www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes)) by 30 November 2018. WSIS Prizes 2019 are the exceptional international recognition of WSIS Stakeholders as Winners and Champions for their excellence in supporting the implementation of WSIS outcomes, in particular WSIS Action Lines supporting achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The WSIS Prizes contest was developed in response to requests from the WSIS stakeholders to create an effective mechanism to evaluate projects and activities that leverage the power of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to advance sustainable development. Since its inception, the contest of WSIS Prizes has attracted more than 300.000 stakeholders.

Following the outcomes of the United Nations General Assembly Overall Review on WSIS (Res. A/70/125) that called for a close alignment between the WSIS Process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Res. A/70/1), the WSIS Prizes is the unique global platform to identify and showcase success stories in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC Resolution 2017/21](#) on *Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society* reiterates the importance of sharing best practices at the global level and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the WSIS, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual WSIS Prizes as an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)), while taking note of the report on the WSIS Success Stories.

Therefore, I invite all WSIS Stakeholders to participate in the contest of WSIS Prizes 2019 that is organized in five phases (see Annex One). The eighteen Winners and Champions will be recognized at the WSIS Forum 2019, to be held from 8 to 12 April 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The winning projects will be showcased in the WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2019 publication, while all submitted descriptions of projects and activities will be reflected in the WSIS Stocktaking Report 2019.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Houlin Zhao', written over a white background.

Houlin Zhao

## Annex One: The Contest of WSIS Prizes 2019

### FIVE PHASES OF THE CONTEST

1. **Phase I: 2 July 2018 – 30 November 2018** : Submission phase (Deadline for last submission: 23:00 Geneva time)
2. **Phase II: 3 December 2018 – 21 December 2018**: Nomination Phase: Review of submitted projects by the Expert Group that will result in a list of nominated projects.
3. **Phase III: 21 December 2018 – 10 February 2019** (Deadline for casting last vote: 23:00 Geneva time): Public Online Voting (identification of five projects per category with the highest number of votes)
4. **Phase IV: 11 February 2019 – 15 February 2019**: Selection of winning projects by the ITU [Expert Group](#).
5. **Phase V**: Announcement of winners to the public during WSIS Prize 2019 Ceremony at WSIS Forum 2019 (8-12 April), and the release of publication “WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2019”, which is a compilation of extended descriptions of the 18 winning projects and 72 champion projects.

### THE FIRST PHASE: Submission phase

Phase one will open the call for submissions to the contest of the WSIS Prize 2019 at [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes). During the period from **2 July 2018 until 30 November 2018**, all stakeholders are invited to submit WSIS related projects to the WSIS Prize 2019 contest. In order to process the submission, stakeholders are requested to complete the submission form online at [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes).

The contest is open to all stakeholders, entities representing governments, private sector, international and regional institutions, civil society and academia. Each entity is allowed to submit one project per category. Stakeholders are invited to consult the rules for project submission and nomination criteria at the WSIS Prizes website.

### THE SECOND PHASE: Nomination phase. Review of Submitted Projects by the Expert Group

During phase two, the [Expert Group](#) reviews the projects by referring to the rules for project submission and nomination criteria. The outcome of the Expert Group’s work will be a list of nominated projects (ten per category) that will be announced to the public on **21 December 2018**. The Expert Group consists of professionals working on the implementation of WSIS outcomes. The decisions of the Expert Group are final and without appeal.

All nominated projects will also be part of the WSIS Stocktaking Report 2019. Please see the WSIS Stocktaking Report series at [ITU Bookshop](#).

### THE THIRD PHASE: Public Online Voting

Phase three will provide an online mechanism for all WSIS stakeholders to participate in the contest of WSIS Prize 2019. The list of nominated projects will be publicly announced on 21 December 2018 and WSIS multistakeholder community will be invited to participate and cast their vote for one project in each of 18 categories at [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes).

The deadline for voting is **10 February 2019** (Deadline for casting last vote: 23:00 CEST). Voting process will result in identifying five projects with the highest number of appreciations/votes given for project descriptions by WSIS stakeholders. The rules for voting should be strictly respected. They are available online at [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes).

#### **THE FOURTH PHASE: Selection of Winning Projects**

During phase four (**11 February 2019 – 15 February 2019**), the Expert Group will make in-depth analyses of five most voted projects per category and will select one winning project per category, taking into account scale and impact of the project on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and its contribution to the sustainable development. The outcome of the Expert Group's work will be the list of winning projects that will be publicly announced during the WSIS Forum 2019 **only**. Decisions of the Expert Group are final and without appeal. Focal points of the winning projects will be contacted by 18 March 2019 at the latest.

#### **THE FIFTH PHASE: Public Announcement of the Winners during WSIS Prize 2019 Ceremony at WSIS Forum 2019**

During phase five the winning projects will be announced officially during the Prize Ceremony, which will be held at the **WSIS Forum 2019 (8-12 April 2019)**. Extended descriptions of the winning projects will constitute the basis for the ITU e-publication entitled "WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2019" (please see the WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories series at [ITU Bookshop](#)).

For more information regarding previous contests of WSIS Prizes, you are kindly invited to visit [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes) portal. Please, contact the WSIS Team at [wsis-prizes@itu.int](mailto:wsis-prizes@itu.int) for any further questions or need for assistance.