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| **Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG 34th meeting – Geneva, 25 September 2019** |  |
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| **English only** |

**World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Stocktaking (2019 and 2020)**

Regular reporting on [WSIS Stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking) is the outcome of the Tunis phase of the Summit, launched to serve as a valuable tool for assisting with the [WSIS follow-up](http://www.wsis.org/). WSIS Stocktaking has played a crucial role over many years, and this role takes on even greater significance in the light of the WSIS 2015-2025 process, where besides collecting data on the implementation of WSIS outcomes, it also started to collect data on how ICTs are helping advance the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300) on the ground, seeking to provide evidence for future strategy and policy making.

The WSIS Stocktaking reporting provides findings on emerging trends in the development of the information society, and references major activities being implemented in the eighteen areas covered by the eleven WSIS action lines and seventeen SDGs. The XI edition, was presented during the [WSIS Forum 2019](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2019/). At the same occasion, an interactive session was dedicated to the WSIS Stocktaking, using the opportunity to listen to the voices of the WSIS multistakeholder community on how to improve the process in the future. Summary of the session is available in Annex 1.

The WSIS Stocktaking database ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)) was introduced in 2010 and currently has more than 12,000 entries. The WSIS Stocktaking process has been maintained by ITU since 2004 as requested by the WSIS Outcomes (TAIS, Para 120). ITU remains committed to the WSIS Stocktaking process and recognizes and highly appreciates the extremely valuable contributions made by stakeholders in the period 2018-2019 thus recognizing WSIS monitoring and reporting.

The WSIS Stocktaking Platform continues to foster implementation of the WSIS outcomes and to facilitate exchange of information among more than 350,000 members representing governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders. We continue to maintain and improve the WSIS Stocktaking Database, which contains 1,062 ICT-related projects entries submitted for the WSIS Stocktaking 2019 Report. This encouraging outcome reinforces stakeholders’ belief in and commitment to the WSIS Stocktaking process. All WSIS Stocktaking publications are available at the [ITU Bookshop](http://www.itu.int/pub/S-POL-WSIS).

WSIS Stocktaking platform is undergoing major update in line with the next generation of web usage. Besides making it more interactive a more user-friendly interface, which will allow users to customize any report using advanced search tools, new products will be introduced. This will include a geographical map of WSIS Action Lines implementation on the ground, an interactive matrix is being developed that will present graphical representation of WSIS and SDG data collected, while the former and future WSIS Prizes awardees will be invited to contribute to the stocktaking blog dedicated to follow-up on the awarded projects. The fixed pages of the WSIS Stocktaking Platform will be available in all 6 UN languages, which will enable a broader community to benefit from this international repository.

The WSIS Stocktaking embeddable interface (iframe) was developed in 2017, providing opportunities for WSIS multistakeholder community to harvest on its many services by integrating it into their online platforms and websites. The objective of this product is to reach out to the communities and networks of the current WSIS stakeholders and collect their ICT-related projects and initiatives while at the same time invite them to contribute to the WSIS and SDG process.

One such example is the coordinated effort with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), with the focus on collecting artificial intelligence projects that are implementing WSIS Action Lines and advancing SDGs, striving to provide tangible global overview of projects and initiatives in this emerging field. We invite all stakeholders to take part in this unique opportunity towards evidence-based policy making and promote it within different communities and networks. The WSIS Team will provide the necessary information, sufficient to test and run the interface, upon request.

The new WSIS Stocktaking call for update and new entries 2019-2020 was launched on 22 July 2019 and we invite all stakeholders to submit their ICT-related practices to this major ICT for development platform, including projects reflecting their contributions to advancement of the SDGs. We have been promoting the Call within WSIS multistakeholder community to submit entries online at [www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking) by 5 January 2020. Submitted activities will be reviewed and reflected in various forms in the WSIS Stocktaking 2020 (reports, exhibitions, videos etc.) which will be released at WSIS Forum 2020 to be held from 30 March to 3 April 2020 at ITU headquarters, Geneva.

Should you have any questions or need for assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the WSIS Team at [wsis-stocktaking@itu.int](mailto:wsis-stocktaking@itu.int).

**WSIS Photo Contest 2019-2020**

Following the successful first and second editions of the [WSIS Forum Photo Contest](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2018/pages/photocontest), we are pleased to announce another successful edition of [WSIS Photo Contest 2019](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2019/PhotoSubmissions) with more than 200 submitted photos from around the world.

We are also pleased to announce the launch of the new call sent out on 22 July 2019, inviting the community to picture how are ICTs advancing SDGs on the ground, therefore contributing to [WSIS Photo Contest 2020](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2020/PhotoContest/) and WSIS Stocktaking overall. We use this opportunity to invite you to engage your communities and networks in building a collage of ICT for Sustainable Development photographs from around the world by promoting the Photo Contest within your networks and communities. We look forward to receiving responses to this call by 3 February 2020. Should you have any questions or need for assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the WSIS Team at [wsis-photocontest@itu.int](mailto:wsis-photocontest@itu.int).

The three winning entries in the WSIS photo contest will be awarded and presented at the WSIS Forum 2020. In addition, all photos that fit the criteria will be exposed at the dedicated Photo Contest Exhibition at the Forum and also promoted in WSIS-related events.

**ANNEX 1**

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| Interactive Session |
| **WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes** |
| Friday 12 April 2019 09:00–10:45  Room Popov 1 – ITU HQ |

The Interactive Session on WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes took place on the last day of the WSIS Forum, in the Popov Room 1 at the ITU HQ. The session aimed at highlighting the key points and factors shaping the WSIS Stocktaking Process which were presented by the moderator Mr. Vladimir Stankovic, coordinator of the WSIS Stocktaking. The session concentrated on the achievements and the future of WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes. Events and a wide range of memories were organized during the WSIS forum 2019 and a brief overview was presented. Statistics, graphics, and the publications (e.g., success stories report, global report) linked with WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes were introduced. The Interactive Session ended with a round of questions from the audience and a brief summary of what have been accomplished during this edition, the special 10th one of the WSIS Process.

The main outcome of this session was the message summarized by the WSIS Stocktaking team on the way forwards, as the following:

* The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) remains committed to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process, and to implementation of the WSIS goals beyond 2019.
* ITU recognizes and highly appreciates the extremely valuable contributions made by stakeholders to enable the continuation of WSIS monitoring and reporting.
* There can be no doubt whatsoever that, in today’s fast-moving world, sharing good ICT practices based on innovation and efficiency is vital to achieving SDGs.
* Accordingly, the WSIS Stocktaking reporting continues to serve as the key international repository of ICT projects and initiatives that are serving communities around the world and enabling social impact in all segments of life.

WSIS stocktaking has been evolving to be the unique global process for collecting information on actions implemented within WSIS framework, aligning the WSIS process with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the crosscutting contribution of ICTs to the SDGs. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2018/28 on "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", which reiterates the importance of sharing best practices at the global level and recognizes excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit project prizes, as an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process, while noting the report on the WSIS success stories.

This Interactive Session updated the participants on overall functions and the new features of the [WSIS Stocktaking platform](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/Prizes/2019/DetailsPopup/15436041983574459) and its growing database, since it was launched in 2010, and invited all to continue using it and promoting it further within their networks and communities. The platform continues to serve as a good practice for WSIS community, enabling anyone to contribute by sharing an ICT-SDG related projects and activities (by providing all the essential information). It is also a learning tool about the connections between WSIS Action Lines and SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) showcasing examples from the ground and making the WSIS-SDG Matrix more comprehensible in real life practices.

Having acknowledged the opportunities given by the Stocktaking Database, the audience also got to learn about the WSIS Prizes 2019 in itself – comprised of many phases since it was launched on 2 July 2018, ending successfully during the WSIS Forum 2019, 8-12 April 2019.

This year we had a remarkable number of the projects submitted for WSIS Prizes – 1,141 out of which 1,062 got nominated for the Online Voting. The voting process ended with more than 2 million votes cast and it gave us the final results – five top projects in each category were claimed as Champions and the one with most votes as a Winner. The Winners were officially announced during the WSIS Prizes Ceremony (9 April 2019). A complete list of all the 90 awarded projects (72 Champions and 18 Winners) can be found under the following link:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/Prizes/2019/Champions>.

Several key points on this year’s WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes process were delivered:

* The WSIS Stocktaking Platform continues to foster implementation of the WSIS outcomes and to facilitate exchange of information among more than 350,000 members representing governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders.
* ITU continues to maintain and improve the WSIS Stocktaking Database, which contains more than 1,000 entries this year, bringing the total number of entries to more than 12,000 since its inception.
* Promotion of the WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes as a supporting instrument for evidence-based policy making, contributes to leveraging ICTs in building information and knowledge societies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
* WSIS community is looking for an increased visibility of the WSIS Stocktaking publications, including promotion of individual entries and testimonials from former awardees.
* In order to further improve the WSIS Prizes contest, strengthening the Nomination Phase is required in the future through detailed analysis of submitted entries, thus reflecting the most impactful projects, making the Online Voting phase more user-friendly for voters.
* Increasing better networking opportunities for WSIS Prizes awardees during the WSIS Forum events was much appreciated, including utilizing WSIS TalkX podcasts and evening talks.
* New WSIS Prize Ceremony format was welcomed by all WSIS Forum participants, including the WSIS Prize Winners, especially for being provided with an occasion to address the audience and deliver brief statements.

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