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| **Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG 35th meeting – Geneva, 6-7 February 2020** |  |
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| **English only** |

**World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2020**

Since 2012, WSIS Prizes has been recognizing remarkable efforts made by entities and organisations from around the globe that focus on accelerating socio-economic progress of the whole world as a community. [ECOSOC resolution 2019/24](https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecosoc_res_2019d24_en.pdf) also reiterates the importance of recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the WSIS goals, and encourages all stakeholders to nominate their ICT-related projects for the annual WSIS Prizes contest as an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)).

The submission phase for the [WSIS Prizes 2020](http://www.wsis.org/prizes) was launched on 22 July 2019 and finished on 29 November 2019 (first deadline 22 November 2019 was extended based on large number of requests from the WSIS community). Another record number of 807 project submissions have been received, out of which, 776 exceptional projects were shortlisted for the Nomination Phase. Thirty-three submissions were rejected based on Rules and Guidelines. The WSIS team would like to thank all of you who have contributed to another successful WSIS Prizes contest.

Due to a large number of nominations in 2019 (1.062), input was received suggesting to limit this number to a reasonable level in order for the voters to be able to review all projects and cast their votes based on social, economic and environmental impact of the projects. In this respect, the [Expert Group](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/focal_points_al.aspx), professionals working on the implementation of WSIS outcomes, are currently reviewing the 776 submitted projects and will nominate up to 20 projects per WSIS Action Line Category for the Online Voting Phase that is planned to start on 21 December 2019.

With more than two million online votes cast in 2019, it is expected that high number of votes will be cast again in 2020 with the deadline set for 24 January 2020. For a full list of WSIS Prizes 2020 Nominees, visit the website [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes) on 21 December 2019. The voters are encouraged to vote keeping in mind the social, economic and environmental impact of the projects.

During the Selection Phase, 25 January – 7 February 2020, 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 eighteen winning projects that will be publicly announced during the WSIS Forum 2020. Also, following the Selection Phase, all ninety (90) WSIS Prizes 2020 Champions (including the eighteen winners) will be publicized on the WSIS Prizes website.

During the WSIS Forum 2020, besides the WSIS Prizes Ceremony that will take place on 7 April 2020, it is planned to organize other sessions and opportunities for the WSIS Prizes 2020 Winners and Champions to promote their achievements and also for all participants to meet with them and learn more about their projects. Finally, the WSIS Prizes 2020 Winners project descriptions will be published in the publication *WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2020*.

Should you have any questions or need for assistance with WSIS Prizes 2020 contest, please do not hesitate to contact the WSIS Team at [wsis-prizes@itu.int](mailto:wsis-prizes@itu.int).

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