**Council Working Group**
**on WSIS and the SDGs**
Fortieth meeting - From 1February (p.m.) to 2 February 2024

## Contribution by the secretariat

## THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) PROCESS

### Purpose

To inform the Group about the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event and the WSIS+20 review updates. The presentation serves as a reference for members of CWG-WSIS&SDG.

### Action required

This report is transmitted to the Council Working Group on the WSIS and the SDGs **for information**.

# THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) PROCESS

*WSIS+20 Review Process ● WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event*

www.wsis.org
#WSIS

# WSIS Process

WSIS is a **UN process** that involves 39 UN Agencies 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.

# WSIS PROCESS

*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
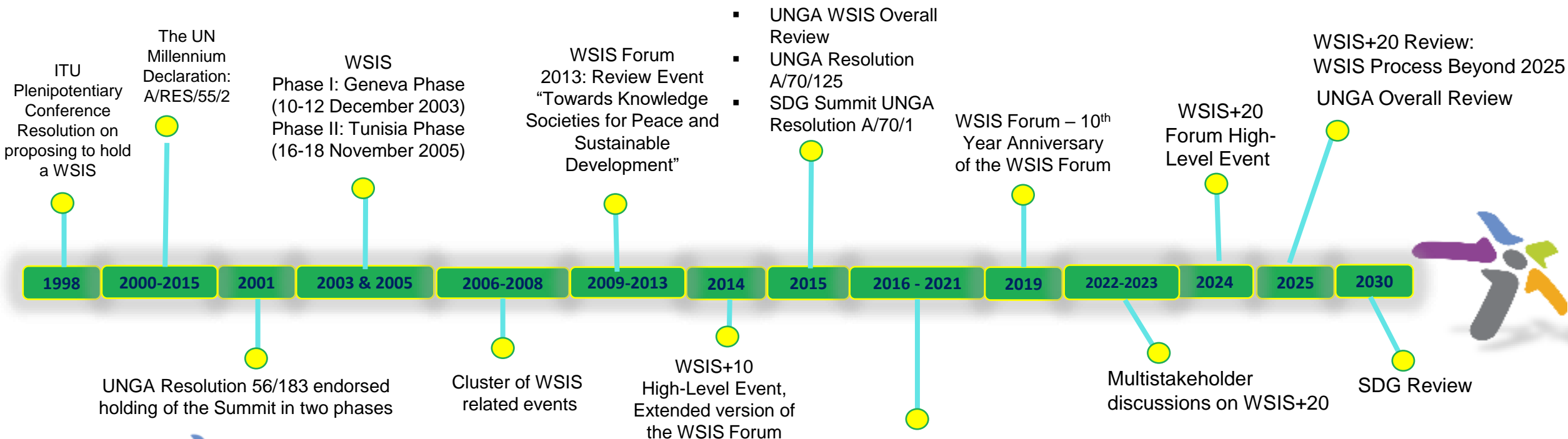
## 2024-2025: WSIS+20 Review

**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.

# WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

# WSIS PROCESS TIMELINE

ITU Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution on proposing to hold a WSIS

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

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"

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

WSIS Forum – 10th Year Anniversary of the WSIS Forum

WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event

WSIS+20 Review: WSIS Process Beyond 2025
UNGA Overall Review

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

UNGA 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

Multistakeholder discussions on WSIS+20

SDG Review

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"
- 2020: "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development "
- 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

## WSIS FORUM IS 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**

# WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

WSIS+20 FORUM
HIGH-LEVEL EVENT
27-31 May 2024
Geneva, Switzerland

# REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Registration to the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event is **OPEN.** Remote participation will also be made available.

Register here:
https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/Registration

**We encourage you to book your accommodation early.**

# VENUES



**Centre International de Conférences
CICG Genève**



**ITU Headquarters, Montbrillant Building**

WORLD SUMMIT ON
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# OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Provide a platform for multistakeholder discussions on the progress made since the inception of WSIS and take stock of the achievements/success in 20 years.
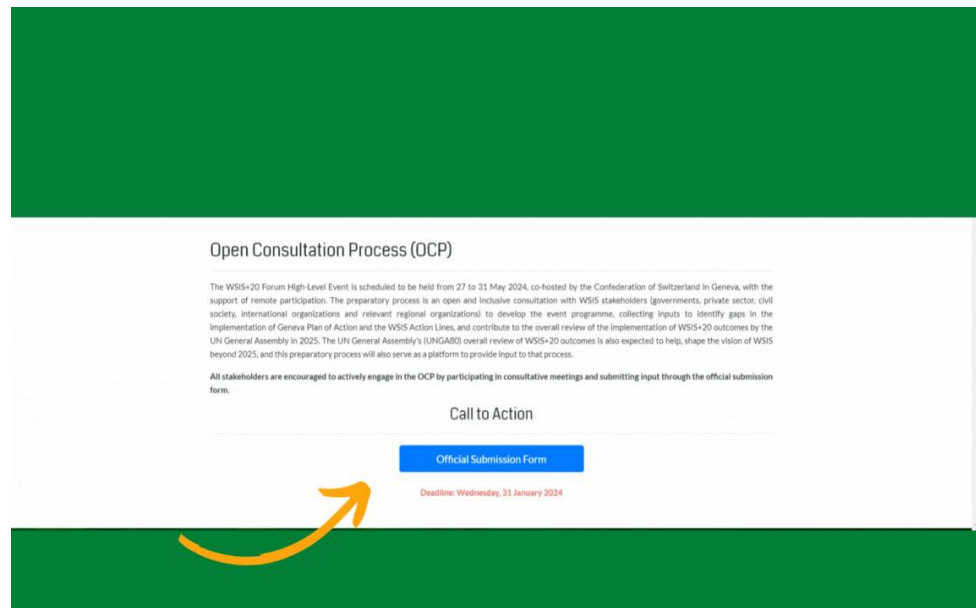
Identify the gaps, challenges, and opportunities in leveraging digital technologies, as well as information and knowledge societies, to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive access, both today and beyond 2025.

Multistakeholder outcome to be submitted to the Summit of the Future and to the UNGA overall review in 2025.

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# AGENDA AND PROGRAMME

Build through the **Open Consultation Process (OCP)**, which aims at ensuring a participatory and inclusive spirit of the Forum.
All stakeholders are invited to contribute and participate actively.

**First Meeting of the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event OCP**
11 October 2023, 11:00-12:00 JST

**Second Meeting of the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event OCP**
13 December 2023, 14:00 – 15:00 CET, Room L with remote participation

**Final Brief on the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event**
15 February 2024, 14:00 – 15:00 CET, Room L with remote participatio**n**

**Special WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event Session**
26 March 2024, 14:00 – 15:00 CET, Room A with remote participation

More details please visit www.wsis.org/forum

Open Consultation Process (OCP)

The WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event is scheduled to be held from 27 to 31 May 2024, co-hosted by the Confederation of Switzerland in Geneva, with the support of remote participation. The preparatory process is an open and inclusive consultation with WSIS stakeholders (governments, private sector, civil society, international organizations and relevant regional organizations) to develop the event programme, collecting inputs to identify gaps in the implementation of Geneva Plan of Action and the WSIS Action Lines, and contribute to the overall review of the implementation of WSIS+20 outcomes by the UN General Assembly in 2025. The UN General Assembly's (UNGA80) overall review of WSIS+20 outcomes is also expected to help, shape the vision of WSIS beyond 2025, and this preparatory process will also serve as a platform to provide input to that process.

All stakeholders are encouraged to actively engage in the OCP by participating in consultative meetings and submitting input through the official submission form.

Call to Action

Official Submission Form

Deadline: Wednesday, 31 January 2024

**Request for Sessions**

**Request for Exhibition Space**

**Suggest innovative format and topics**

**DEADLINE (extended): 15 February 2024**

# Key Elements



**WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY**

**WSIS+20 FORUM HIGH-LEVEL EVENT**
27-31 May 2024
Geneva, Switzerland

High-Level Sessions

Interactive Sessions

WSIS Prizes

Hackathon

Ambassadors and Mayors Roundtable

Knowledge Café

Ministerial Roundtable

WSIS Action Lines sessions

Exhibition Spaces

Private Sector, Civil Society and Technical Community Engagements

WORLD SUMMIT ON
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WSIS+20 FORUM
HIGH-LEVEL EVENT
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Geneva, Switzerland

# High-Level Track
## Expected Participation

**High-Level Guests**
- Heads of States
- Ministers
- Ambassadors
- Mayors
- Heads of International Organizations
- Parliamentarians
- CEOs
- Civil Society Leaders

**3000** onsite Multistakeholder Participants

**Remote Participation**

# WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event
## CALLS FOR ACTION

## WSIS Photo Contest 2024

Participate in building a collage of ICT for Sustainable Development photographs from around the world by promoting the Photo Contest within your networks and communities.
The three winning entries in the WSIS photo contest will be awarded and presented at the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event.

**Deadline (extended) to submit: 15 Feb 2024**



## 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 in GovStack Global - ITU, GIZ, EE, DIAL

**SUBMISSION PHASE : Opening Soon**



## 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.

**SUBMISSION PHASE : Opening Soon**

WORLD SUMMIT ON
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# WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes 2024

WSIS Stocktaking platform has been maintained by ITU since 2004 and currently comprises over 13,500 entries, aligned with the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.
Submit your Digital projects to the most globally recognised ICT for Development international annual award.

WSIS Prizes 2024 is an exceptional international recognition of WSIS stakeholders as Winners and Champions for excellence in supporting the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and the achievement of SDGs.

WSIS Stocktaking's new collaborative is with the Partner2Connect platform, which is aligned with WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.



**SUBMIT NOW**

**DEADLINE (extended) for submissions: 15 February 2024!**
**www.wsis.org/prizes**

# Call for Sponsors
# Contribute to the WSIS Fund in Trust

STRATEGIC PARTNER PLATINUM

STRATEGIC PARTNER GOLD PLUS

STRATEGIC PARTNERS GOLD

PARTNERS FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

ifip

**Partner with us!
Contact us at
wsis-info@itu.int**

WORLD SUMMIT ON
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# WSIS+20 Review Process

## Multistakeholder Process

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.

## 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

**WSIS+20
Review Process**

## 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.

# WSIS+20 Preparatory Process

| 2023 SDG Summit | 2023 Japan Phase | WSIS Regional Reviews | 2024 Geneva Phase | 2024 WSIS +20 Modalities | 2024 Summit of the Future | 2024 IGF | 2025 Paris Phase | 2025/26 Tunis Phase (TBC) | 2025 CSTD Review | 2025 UAE Phase (TBC) | 2025 New York Phase |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18- 19 September 2023 | 8-12 October IGF 2023 | • UN ESCAP Armenia, Nov 2023 • UN ECA Zimbabwe, February 2024 (tbc) • UN ESCWA May 2024 • UN ECE March 2024 • UN ECLAC (tbc) | 27-31 May 2024 WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event | Appointment of co-facilitators- Resolution on the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS (July/August) | 22-23 September 2024 Submit written input to the Pact for the Future. Deadline: 31 Dec | 15-19 December 2024 IGF 2024 | 18-20 February 2025 (UNESCO) | Tunisia ICT4all: special focus on WSIS+20 | April 2025 | 26-30 May 2025 WSIS Forum 2025 | UNGA High-Level Meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the Outcomes of the WSIS |

Under the 2023 Japan Phase heading:
• WSIS+20 High-Level Panel, 8 Oct
• WSIS High-Level Dialogue, 8 Oct
• CSTD WSIS+20 Open consultation, 10 Oct
• WSIS+20 HLE OCP, 11 Oct
• WSIS+20 UNGIS open forum, 11 Oct

**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.**

# Calls for Contributions!

**Open Consultation Process**

**WSIS Prizes 2024**

**WSIS Stocktaking**

**WSIS Photo Contest 2024**

**WSIS Fund in Trust 2024**

# WORLD SUMMIT ON
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**www.wsis.org**
**www.wsis.org/review**
**www.wsis.org/forum**
**https://itu.int/go/OCP2024**

Contact us: wsis-info@itu.int

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