

Beginning at the UN World Summit on Information Society, Geneva



**WSIS+20 FORUM
HIGH-LEVEL EVENT**

27-31 May 2024
Geneva, Switzerland

Participants' & Speakers' Session Briefing **Mobilizing Collective Intelligence to Harness Innovation for Connectivity & Applications**

World Summit Awards and Geneva Innovation
Movement together with University of Geneva
and ICNM



World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Forum High Level Event 2024 – What is the purpose?



“The WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 is tasked to take stock of twenty years of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, which took place in two phases — Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005.

Twenty years ago, WSIS set the framework for global digital cooperation with a vision to build people-centric, inclusive, and development-oriented information and knowledge societies”



“The WSIS Action Lines serve as a key framework for advancing progress towards the achievement of SDGs. The WSIS Action Lines cover eleven areas of focus with technology serving as a key enabler for sustainable development. The WSIS-SDG Matrix, developed by the UN Action Line Facilitators, clearly shows the linkage between each Action Line and the 17 SDGs and provides rationale for each.”

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024>

World Summit Award: Turning the United Nations WSIS Targets on the Information Society and the UN SDGs, into Action! - 2003 to 2024



- WSA's journey started in 2003 at the UN World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva.
- Transforming the Knowledge Society for the WSIS 2025 review
- Selecting digital solutions, hacking digital divides and contributing to the Agenda 2030
- WSA translates Action Line C7 and C8 into 8 best practice categories for a Global Contest in 182 UN member states



- Government & Citizen Engagement
- Health & Well Being
- Learning & Education
- Environment & Green Energy
- Culture & Heritage
- Smart Settlements & Urbanization
- Inclusion & Empowerment
- Business & Commerce

1724 winning solutions achieving UN SDGs





B. Objectives, goals and targets

4. “The objectives of the Plan of Action are to build an inclusive Information Society; to put the potential of knowledge and ICTs at the service of development; to promote the use of information and knowledge for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; and to address new challenges of the Information Society, at the national, regional and international levels. Opportunity shall be taken in phase two of the WSIS to evaluate and assess progress made towards bridging the digital divide.

5. Specific targets for the Information Society will be established as appropriate, at the national level in the framework of national e-strategies and in accordance with national development policies, taking into account the different national circumstances. Such targets can serve as useful benchmarks for actions and for the evaluation of the progress made towards the attainment of the overall objectives of the Information Society.

6. Based on internationally agreed development goals, including those in the Millennium Declaration, which are premised on international cooperation, indicative targets may serve as global references for improving connectivity and access in the use of ICTs in promoting the objectives of the Plan of Action, to be achieved by 2015.

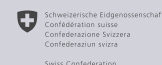
C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life

14. ICT applications can support sustainable development, in the fields of public administration, business, education and training, health, employment, environment, agriculture and science within the framework of national e-strategies. This would include actions within the following sectors:

C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

23. Cultural and linguistic diversity, while stimulating respect for cultural identity, traditions and religions, is essential to the development of an Information Society based on the dialogue among cultures and regional and international cooperation. It is an important factor for sustainable development.

Document WSIS-03/GENEVA/DOC/5-E





Beyond 2025

UNCTAD View

WSIS Action Line C7. E-business

The Evolution of Context

- Over the last 20 years, digital technologies have transformed the way we live, work, consume, and do business. Digitalization has facilitated participation in regional and global value chains of trade in goods and services.
- Data is now critical to be competitive in many sectors. The Internet of Things and AI are transforming how we produce and access goods and services. The data-driven digital economy could be harnessed to accelerate progress towards sustainable development goals.
- The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the digital transformation while highlighting the persistent digital divide, both between and within countries.
- Digital technologies have become pervasive in the global economy. Effective digital cooperation is needed to ensure that e-business supports economic development outcomes that are inclusive and socially and environmentally sustainable.

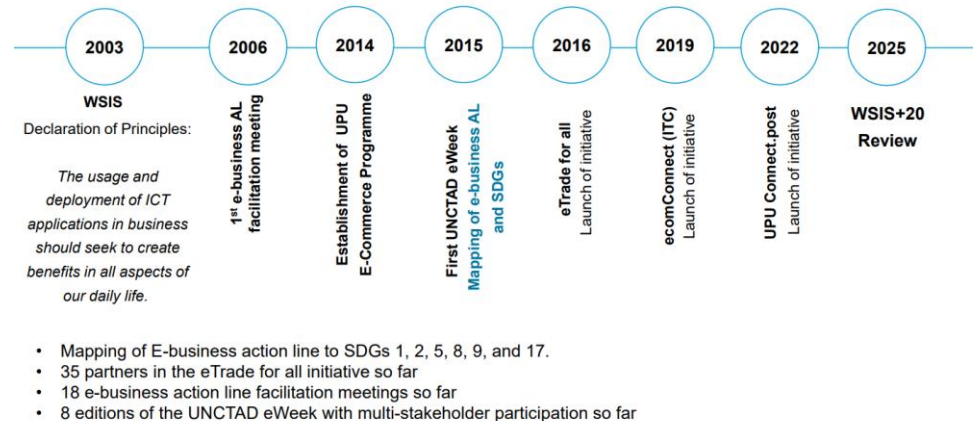
WSIS Action Line C7. E-business

Challenges in implementing the Action Line

- **Challenge 1:** Many developing countries and LDCs still lack the digital infrastructure, skills, resources, enabling environments, and access to capital needed to compete in e-business with developed countries.
- **Challenge 2:** They also lack official statistics on the use, value, or volume of e-business, e-commerce, and the digital economy to guide policy (evidence-based policy making).
- **Challenge 3:** The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the continued divide between developed and developing countries regarding their digital readiness and their ability to leverage the data-driven digital economy for development goals.
- **Challenge 4:** Support from the international community to improve the e-business readiness of developing countries and LDCs is not yet enough to reduce the divide.

WSIS Action Line C7. E-business

Key Milestones: 20 years of Achievements



WSIS Action Line C7. E-business

Trends and Opportunities Beyond 2025

- Global efforts to boost the digital readiness of developing countries should be scaled up.
- Least developed countries in particular need support to boost digital infrastructure, skills, and regulatory frameworks.
- The environmental footprint of the digital economy could be reduced through innovation in ICT production, e-waste management, and a shift to renewable energy.
- Women entrepreneurs in the digital economy need more support to improve their access to finance, services, and capacity building, and to involve them in crafting digital economy policy.
- It is time for a global governance approach to data, digital platforms, and technologies like AI, that will aim to ensure equal access, shared benefits, and the protection of human rights.

Session view: Harness Innovation for Connectivity & Applications



Given the WSIS overall Objective -> Towards an Information Society for All Based on Shared Knowledge the focus needs to shift and include these issues:

Three challenges to be discussed in the session on May 28

1 How to elevate entrepreneurial insight and experience with strategic foresight and cross-sector support to accelerate progress in closing Digital Divides?

2 How to build an agenda to create cross sector designs for the future – by engaging in relevant cross sector action / cooperation to support the creation and scaling of innovative solutions?

3 How to move this from discussion to tangible outcomes, and where does this need to happen?

Session roles: Drawing on collective intelligence + cross-sector designs



This interactive session will facilitate dialogue between cross-sector groups:

1. Reflections from Cross-Sector Experts: How to elevate entrepreneurial insight and experience with strategic foresight and cross-sector support to accelerate progress in closing Digital Divides.
2. Entrepreneurial insight from two WSA Winners
3. Moderated small group discussion to build an agenda to create cross sector designs for the future
4. Plenary briefing and discussion
5. Elevating our insights to agree on next steps

This session will seek the following follow up:

1. Input to UN Summit for the Future Sept 2024: Agree on a vision of digital technology
2. High Level Session at internet Governance Forum, December 15-19, 2024, Riyadh, KSA
3. WSA Global Congress, April 6-9, 2025 Hyderabad India
4. 2nd Workshop at WSIS+20 , April/May 2025, Tunis, Tunisia
5. UN General Assembly WSIS+20 review scheduled for September 2025

Please join the session

Mobilizing Collective Intelligence to Harness Innovation for Connectivity & Applications

Tuesday, 28 May 2024 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM
Room 11+12, 2nd Floor,
Centre International de Conférences Genève
Rue de Varembé 17, 1211 Genève

The session is moderated by

Prof. Dr. Tina Ambos, GIM Board, Univ. of Geneva
| Tina.Ambos@unige.ch

The content prep is coordinated by

Prof. Dr. Peter A. Bruck, WSA Chairperson, ICNM
Austria | bruck@wsa-global.org





WSA is

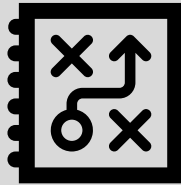
- Is a **global network** of start-ups, entrepreneurs, thought leaders, mentors, jurors, IT experts, governments and international organizations
- works with **national experts** in **182 UN member** states
- selects and promotes **local digital innovation** with high impact on improving society
- encourages **youth entrepreneurship** and **digital creativity**
- Invites to international events, workshops, seminars, and meetings throughout the year, offering a platform for knowledge transfer
- is organized in the framework of the **United Nations** World Summit on the Information Society (UN WSIS)
- supports the UN Post-2025 Sustainable Development Agenda
- is organized by a not-for-profit organization based in Austria (Europe), conducted in 2003
- is **diverse, democratic, inclusive**
- is an **award system** following the UN model: 1 nomination per country per category per year



INNOVATION & PARTNERSHIPS



Academic Impact through
Fundamental Research



Practitioner Oriented Impact
through **Applied Research**



Knowledge Transfer Impact
through **Thought Leadership**



Learning Impact through
Ecosystem Collaboration

The Competence Center for Innovation and Partnerships aims to create, share and promote knowledge on innovation and cross-sector partnerships in the Geneva ecosystem.

<https://www.unige.ch/gsem/en/research/centers/ip/>

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATING

Creating and communicating insights

UP-SKILLING

Developing new perspectives
and new skills for managers



NETWORK BUILDING

Facilitating across silos and
connecting people



<https://genevainnovation.org>