

9 JULY | 8:00 – 9:00 AM NEW YORK (14:00 – 15:00 CEST)



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNGIS  
SIDE EVENT

ICTS FOR INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT  
AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES AND  
ECONOMIES (WSIS COOPERATION  
FOR ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS)



United Nations Group  
on the Information Society

## High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021 Side Event

### ICTs for Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Societies and Economies (WSIS Cooperation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals)

*A side event organised by the United Nations Group on the Information Society  
(UNGIS)/WSIS/Russian Federation*

**FRIDAY 9 JULY 2021**

**08:00 – 09:00 AM NEW YORK TIME (UTC-4)**

**(14:00 – 15:00 PM CEST)**

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#### Overview

Throughout more than 15 years of multi-stakeholder engagement through the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have rapidly transformed societies and economies, with potential to address the most complex and interconnected development challenges and to build a sustainable future for all as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More needs to be done to leverage the development potential of digital technologies.

The [WSIS process](#) remains the leading global and multistakeholder platform to engage ICTs as a critical driver of sustainable development. This side event is organized by the [UN Group on the Information Society \(UNGIS\)](#), established by the UN Chief Executives Board in 2005 as the first and primary digital cooperation model of the UN system to promote digital cooperation.

As one of the Group's contributions to the [HLPF process](#), this session, organised by the UNGIS co-vice chairs, will focus on how ICTs and the WSIS Action Lines can help accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), learning from the COVID-19 experience to build more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societies and economies and to strengthen partnerships and digital cooperation towards achieving the goals and targets across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, all WSIS Stakeholders will have the opportunity to share their efforts, experiences, and contributions to the WSIS Process.

Since its inception, UNGIS has played an important role in the WSIS process, including forging collaboration and partnerships among UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) members to achieve

WSIS objectives. Drawing on the respective competencies of the different members of the Group, UNGIS is working collectively to implement more coordinated actions, greater coherence, and effectiveness in the UN's overall support to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes. UNGIS is committed to maintaining ICT and science and technology issues at the top of the UN agenda, and to advocating for the implementation of ICT for development solutions in the programmes of CEB members.

The WSIS process is built on the framework of the [11 WSIS Action Lines](#) that cover all aspects of ICTs for development. Since 2015, the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are being aligned by stakeholders to integrate ICTs into their approaches in implementing the activities/initiatives to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This session will focus on how the ICTs and the WSIS Action Lines can help accelerate the SDGs learning from the COVID-19 experience to build inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societies and economies. It is important to strengthen partnerships and digital cooperation towards achieving goals and targets across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Register to attend:

[https://itu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yMBwzN2TUCqZZEF\\_Anj8w](https://itu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yMBwzN2TUCqZZEF_Anj8w)





## Speakers

- ❖ **Mr Tawfik Jelassi**, Assistant Director General for Communication and Information, UNESCO (*Chair of UNGIS*)
- ❖ **Mr Malcolm Johnson**, Deputy Secretary-General, ITU (*Vice Chair of UNGIS*)
- ❖ **Ms Isabelle Durant**, Acting Secretary-General, UNCTAD (*Vice Chair of UNGIS*)
- ❖ **Mr Haoliang Xu**, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (RBPPS), UNDP (*Vice Chair of UNGIS*)
- ❖ **Dr Roman Chukov**, Representative of Russia to the MAG IGF, Chair of the Council, Center for Global IT-Cooperation
- ❖ **Dr Ian Philp MD CBE**, Visiting Professor, University of Suffolk and Founder, Age Care Technologies, United Kingdom (*Winner of WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize – Age Care Technologies*)
- ❖ **Ms Diana Wilson**, Founder, Yielding Accomplished African Women (*Winner of WSIS Prizes 2021 – Action Line C7 E-learning*)
- ❖ **Ms Joanna Ruan**, Vice-President, GIMUN, Switzerland/China (*WSIS Youth Campaigner*)
- ❖ **Mr Dusan Stojkovic**, Product Marketing Specialist, Mindvalley, Serbia/Malaysia (*WSIS Youth Campaigner*)



## Mr Tawfik Jelassi

Assistant Director General for Communication and Information, UNESCO

*(Chair of UNGIS)*

Tawfik Jelassi (Tunisia) has been appointed to the post of Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information. He was previously Programme Director and Professor of Strategy and Technology Management at the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in Lausanne (Switzerland).

Born in 1957, former minister in the Tunisian government (2014-2015), Tawfik Jelassi holds a doctorate in information systems obtained in 1985 from New York University (United States of America) and a postgraduate diploma (diplôme d'études approfondies - DEA) in organizational computer science in 1981 from the University of Paris Dauphine (France), from which he also obtained a master's degree in computer science applied to management in 1980.

Tawfik Jelassi has extensive experience in higher education, scientific research, academic leadership, information and communication technologies, and corporate leadership – international experience gained in the United States, Europe, and Tunisia. He began his career in 1985 as an assistant professor at Indiana University (USA). He joined the European Institute of Business Administration (INSEAD, France) in 1989 as an associate professor and head of the Technology Management Department. In 1996, he was appointed Dean of Academic Affairs at the Euro-Arab School of Management in Granada (Spain) and served from 2000 to 2013 as Professor of Information Technology and e-Business and Dean of the MBA programmes at the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées in Paris (France).

From 2011 to 2014, he was, among other things, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the telecom operator Ooredoo Tunisia. From 2014 to 2015, he served as Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Information and Communication Technologies in the democratic transition government in Tunisia. Tawfik Jelassi will take up his duties as Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information on 5 July 2021.

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**Mr Malcolm Johnson**  
Deputy Secretary-General, ITU  
*(Vice Chair of UNGIS)*

Mr Johnson is a seasoned information and communication technology (ICT) executive who has served in multiple senior management positions at ITU.

Prior to serving as Deputy Secretary-General, Johnson served from 2007 to 2014 as Director of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB). Between 2003 and 2006, Mr Johnson was International Coordinator at the United Kingdom's Office of Communications (Ofcom), where he had lead responsibility for the United Kingdom in ITU.

From 1992 to 2003, he was Director of the United Kingdom's Radiocommunications Agency and European Coordinator for ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences in 1993, 1995 and 1997.

Between 1988 and 1992, he worked in the European Commission's Telecommunication Regulations Division, where he represented the Commission in the Council and the Parliament of the European Union.



**Ms Isabelle Durant**  
Acting Secretary-General, UNCTAD  
*(Vice Chair of UNGIS)*

Isabelle Durant, of Belgium, assumed her role as acting secretary-general of UNCTAD on 16 February 2021, after serving as the organization's deputy secretary-general from 3 July 2017.

Since she joined UNCTAD, Ms. Durant has relentlessly contributed to making international trade more inclusive and greener. She has also been an advocate for gender equality.

Ms. Durant has been heavily involved in the socio-economic response of the UN to the coronavirus crisis and has led the work of UNCTAD in this area. This covered a broad range of interrelated issues including finance, technology, investment, and sustainable development.

A former vice prime minister and senator of Belgium as well as vice president of the European parliament, Ms. Durant possesses solid experience in public affairs, intergovernmental processes and providing concrete assistance to countries.

She is well known for her acute skills in empowering people, addressing vulnerabilities at local and national levels, and supporting governments towards good governance and sustainable policies.

Ms. Durant also served as minister of transport and energy in Belgium for four years. She oversaw mobility, infrastructure, energy, and sustainable development policies between 1999 and 2003.

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### Mr Haoliang Xu

Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (RBPPS), UNDP  
*(Vice Chair of UNGIS)*

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced on 3 July 2019 the appointment of Haoliang Xu of the People's Republic of China as Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau of Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mr. Xu succeeds Abdoulaye Mar Dieye of Senegal, who the Secretary-General has appointed as Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the UNDP Administrator.

Mr. Xu has served as the Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific, UNDP, since 2013. He has over 25 years of experience in international development, having joined UNDP in 1994 and worked in various field and headquarters assignments in Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Central Asia, including New York, Iran, Timor-Leste, Pakistan and Kazakhstan. He has led large-scale change processes in his various assignments, built high performance teams and achieved significant efficiency gains. He puts strong emphasis on a clear strategic vision, a culture of collaboration and a mindset of continuous innovation, working with colleagues to deliver impactful development solutions. Before joining the United Nations, Mr. Xu worked in the field of civil engineering in China and the United States.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Bridge Engineering from Tongji University, a master's degree in Management Science from the Stevens Institute of Technology and a master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University. He is married with one child.

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### Dr Roman Chukov

Representative of Russia to the MAG IGF, Chair of the Council, Center for Global IT-Cooperation

Dr. Roman Chukov has graduated with bachelor and master's degree (cum laude) from the School of International Relations, St. Petersburg State University. He holds a PhD degree in political science, has a number of scientific publications on G7, G20 and BRICS and awards by the state for working during the Russian presidencies in these formats, where he has been involved for more than twelve years on behalf of Russia.

He serves as Chair of the Board at the Centre for International Promotion Fund, adviser to the CEO of the Roscongress Foundation and a founding member of the Friends for Leadership network for the next generation leaders and entrepreneurs.

In 2018 he was elected and appointed by the UN Secretary General as a Russian representative to the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the UN Internet Governance Forum (MAG IGF).

In 2020 he was elected as Chair of the Council for the Center for Global IT-Cooperation.

In 2021 he was elected as Vice Chair of the CYI Board of Trustees for the UN Major Group for Children and Youth.



### Dr Ian Philp MD CBE

Visiting Professor, University of Suffolk

Founder, Age Care Technologies, United Kingdom

*(Winner of WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize – Age Care Technologies)*

Professor Ian Philp is the founder of [Age Care Technologies](#). He is an advisor to the World Health Organization in person-centered care for older people. He holds a Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Edinburgh and was a practicing physician for 35 years in the UK National Health Service, spending eight years an Executive Medical Director.

As Professor of Health Care for Older People at the University of Sheffield, he led teams which won the UK hospital team of the year in the care of older people and the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education for research into improving the quality of life of older people.

From 2000-8, he was the National Clinical Director for Older People in England, leading the development and implementation of the National Service Framework for Older People,



campaigning to ensure respect for dignity in care and eliminate age discrimination, leading national strategies for intermediate care, stroke, dementia and the prevention of falls and fractures.

Professor Philp was awarded a CBE in the Queen's birthday honours in 2009 in recognition of his work to improve the lives of older people.

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### Ms Diana Wilson

#### Founder, Yielding Accomplished African Women

*(Winner of WSIS Prizes 2021 – Action Line C7 E-learning)*

Achievement is in Diana Wilson's DNA! Diana Wilson is a vibrant, articulate, and highly successful 25-year-old social entrepreneur, marketing strategist at Google, professional development coach, activist, and global speaker. She was recognized as the 'Next Black Female Mark Zuckerberg' via Face2Face Africa. She has gone viral for her achievements via MTV and LinkedIn. In 2018,

Diana created Yielding Accomplished African Women (Yaa W.). Yielding Accomplished African Women is on a mission to build the largest career community and online academy for African women in STEM, and the place where hundreds of young women are building their career. The first of its kind in the world. Their ecosystem consists of African female leaders in finance, machine learning/AI and software engineering. Their goal is to reach 30,000 women by 2030. Under Diana's leadership, Yaa W has trained 800+ young African women and have a ~6k media following. She has solidified partnerships with companies such as Google, Bank of America, MTN, Chartered Financial Institute (CFI), Educative.io, etc. As well as raise over \$315k in sponsorships. Her goal is to reach 30,000 women by 2030.

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## About UNGIS, WSIS, WSIS Action Lines, and the WSIS Forum

UNGIS was endorsed by the [UN Chief Executives Board](#) (CEB) as the interagency mechanism with the main objective to coordinate substantive and policy issues facing the United Nations' implementation of the WSIS outcomes. UNGIS currently has 31 [Member Agencies](#) and is chaired by UNESCO (2021-2022), with ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP and UN ESCWA as the Vice-Chairs.

WSIS was held in two phases, in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005). The WSIS Action Lines serve as the framework for the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, organized according to the themes of the Plan of Action adopted in Geneva (facilitated by agencies in UNGIS). The WSIS Forum has evolved since 2005 to become the world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for development' community. It facilitates the implementation of the [WSIS Action Lines](#) to advance sustainable development as well as information exchange, knowledge creation and sharing of best practices, dialogue and debate on emerging technological trends and issues, partnerships building, and engagement on the evolution of increasingly digital societies. The [2021 WSIS Forum](#) hosted more than 250 sessions, including virtual workshops, live interviews, WSIS TalkX, the high-level track, hackathon and many more, with a cumulative attendance of over 50,000 attendees (zoom room, zoom recording, Facebook Live videos, YouTube, and other format) from government, civil society, academia, private sector, and intergovernmental organizations.

In 2015, WSIS Action Line facilitators developed the [WSIS-SDG matrix](#) to serve as a guiding tool depicting impact pathways of ICTs on SDGs. The WSIS Forum 2021 created an opportunity for WSIS stakeholders to share their efforts and innovative ideas to leverage the ICTs. Also, it built momentum to advance action-oriented dialogue on efforts in the context of COVID-19 recovery and initiatives to implement the WSIS Action Lines to advance the SDGs.