

**Remarks by ITU Deputy Secretary-General Malcolm Johnson at high-level panel on  
“Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World  
Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels”**

31 MARCH 2022

Thank you, Peter.

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to those joining from around the world.

Digital development through digital transformation has become ever more important since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and various UN agencies and other stakeholders have assisted countries in their respective capacities relying substantially on the digital component. Progress in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines at the regional and international levels is essential for socio-economic sustainable development, and ITU is keen to collaborate with everyone to make sure we achieve this.

The COVID lockdowns have illustrated clearly that the availability of digital products and services empowering citizens, workers, and students in their daily engagements and needs, is now a major priority for all countries. The ability to leverage the progress made in the digital sphere has been an important factor in the resilience achieved during the pandemic—and it will be critical as we recover from this crisis.

However, as we can see in Ukraine, there are worse crises than Covid. A Digital Development Country Profile for Ukraine was under the process of finalization with the UN Country Team in Ukraine just a few months ago. It offered a broad analysis of the status of digitalization, supplemented by information on the activities and projects being implemented at the national level, and in the wider region, to guide the engagement of the UN system in the country to equip decision-makers on the digital development of the country.

According to the latest ITU data, 75% of people in Ukraine used the Internet in 2020, and even though this is below the average for the European region of nearly 85%, the share of Internet users was steadily growing over the past decade. But what is it now?

I am very pleased that the ITU Council recently adopted a resolution on “Assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding their telecommunication sector” once the war is stopped. It reaffirms the importance of telecommunications and ICTs for peace and development, and we look forward to implementing it in collaboration with UN partners.

Almost 20 years ago, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) laid out a vision for a world where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge. Since then, more people have had access to more promising technologies. As the recent UN progress report on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes notes, many expectations relating to technology and services have been exceeded—and successive waves of innovation in digital technology have had significant development potential.

ITU advocates a digital ecosystem that can turn this potential into a reality. At our World Telecommunication and Policy Forum held in last December, top international representatives from the public and private sectors adopted a set of guidelines that align emerging digital technologies with global priorities for sustainable development. At stake is the ability of public and private actors to come together to accelerate progress in health, education, climate action, innovation and infrastructure, and all the other areas related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The importance of this multi-stakeholder cooperation lies at the heart of the WSIS Process, and is exemplified in the UN Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.

During my tenure as Deputy Secretary-General, I have been pleased to see the WSIS community grow in diversity and strength. It now includes innovative thinkers, policy makers, mayors, civil

society and business leaders—from developed, developing and least developed countries alike. They each bring new perspectives to ICTs for development.

With its interactive, inclusive and far-reaching agenda, the WSIS Forum has brought to life the many benefits of ICTs in areas as critical and diverse as education, health, financial inclusion, climate change, accessibility, cybersecurity, smart cities, and many more. And this has been a driving force in extending global connectivity.

The WSIS Forum, and the UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), are excellent examples of existing interagency mechanisms for digital collaboration for social good. Initiatives such as the WSIS Stocktaking Repository of Women in Technology, the WSIS Multi-stakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons, and the WSIS Youth Campaigners, embody the spirit of the WSIS Forum. They seek to ensure that ICTs are distributed as widely and equitably as possible. The WSIS Forum is exemplary in bringing people together from around the world with the simple but powerful objective of sharing good ideas on practical ways to bring the benefits of the Information Society to people everywhere. It makes a difference to people's lives, as I have had the pleasure of witnessing, even in some of the most remote regions of the world.

I am proud of the important role ITU plays in the facilitating and implementing the WSIS outcomes and the SDGs. But this is a collective effort, and I thank all our partners and UN agencies in the WSIS family that work closely with us in implementing the WSIS Process.

As we look to the future, and the preparations for WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, we have already begun identifying the preliminary achievements and challenges in implementing the WSIS Action Lines for global development in the future.

Earlier this week, the ITU Council appreciated the ITU Secretary-General's suggested roadmap on the 20-year Review of WSIS beyond 2025. The document has been shared with the CSTD Secretariat and we look forward to working in close collaboration with CSTD and all other UN Agencies involved in the WSIS Review process, including UNGIS members.

Discussions on the roadmap will continue at this year's WSIS Forum, so I encourage you to help shape it by taking an active part in the event. We are now holding virtual sessions of the WSIS Forum every week, and the final week of the Forum will take place physically in Geneva from 30 May to 3 June.

We have also submitted to the CSTD Secretariat a detailed presentation with all the updates regarding the WSIS Process and I hope you will have a chance to look at it.

Now, more than ever, the keywords are collaboration, coordination and cooperation. Let us strengthen what unites us, not what divides us. Let us work closer together at the national, regional and international levels, to continue to align the WSIS process with the SDGs—and fulfil the vision of an Information and Knowledge Society where everyone, everywhere can benefit from the opportunities that ICTs can bring.

Thank you.



World Summit  
on the Information Society  
Turning targets into action  
Geneva 2003 | Tunis 2005 | New York 2015

# WSIS Forum 2022: Briefing



**WSIS  
FORUM 2022**

**Starting on 15 March**

**Final week 30 May - 3 June**



# WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY



Coordinated by:

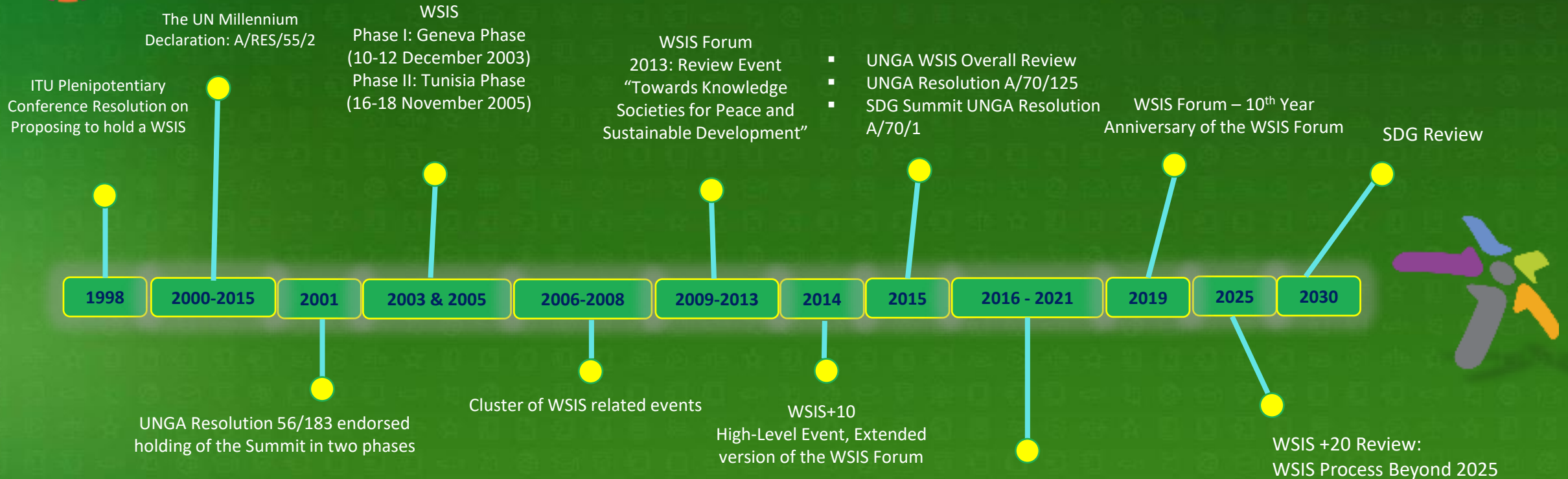


Organized by:





# WSIS Process Timeline



## 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

### HLPF Themes (2016-2022)

- 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"



# WSIS Action Lines – Sustainable Development Goals

## Impact of the WSIS Action Lines on Sustainable Development Goals



WSIS-SDG Matrix: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/sdg/>

The WSIS implementation mechanism at the international level is organised taking into account the themes and action lines in the Geneva Plan of Action, and moderated or facilitated by UN agencies when appropriate.





# WSIS Action Lines and UN Secretary-General 'OUR COMMON AGENDA'













**United Nations**



**Common Agenda**

## WSIS Action Lines

 <b>LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND</b>	 <b>PROTECT OUR PLANET</b>	 <b>PROMOTE PEACE &amp; PREVENT CONFLICTS</b>	 <b>ABIDE BY INTERNATIONAL LAW &amp; ENSURE JUSTICE</b>	 <b>PLACE WOMEN &amp; GIRLS AT THE CENTER</b>	 <b>BUILD TRUST</b>
 <b>IMPROVE DIGITAL COOPERATION</b>	 <b>ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING</b>	 <b>BOOST PARTNERSHIPS</b>	 <b>LISTEN TO &amp; WORK WITH YOUTH</b>	 <b>BE PREPARED</b>	

 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 1 PROMOTION OF ICTS FOR DEVELOPMENT</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 2 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 3 ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 4 CAPACITY BUILDING</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 5 BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY IN THE USE OF ICTS</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 6 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT</b>
 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 8 CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND LOCAL CONTENT</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 9 MEDIA</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 10 ETHICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 11 INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 7 E-BUSINESS</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 7 E-LEARNING</b>
 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 7 E-HEALTH</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 7 E-EMPLOYMENT</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 7 E-ENVIRONMENT</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 7 E-AGRICULTURE</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 7 E-GOVERNMENT</b>	 <b>WSIS ACTION LINE 7 E-SCIENCE</b>



# UNGIS Digital Transformation Repository



## UNGIS

UNITED NATIONS GROUP ON THE  
INFORMATION SOCIETY FOR DIGITAL  
TRANSFORMATION

### CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS



UNESCO  
CHAIR



ITU  
VICE-CHAIR



UNCTAD  
VICE-CHAIR



UNDP  
VICE-CHAIR



UNESCWA  
VICE-CHAIR

**Members of UNGIS** reiterated commitment to the WSIS Action Lines implementation and alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes.

Current Chair: UNESCO

Vice-Chairs: ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UN ESCWA

**ITU will be the next Chair of UNGIS for period 2022-2023**

UNGIS' objective is to develop extensive collaboration and partnerships among the CEB members in order to contribute to the achievement of the WSIS objectives, to help to maintain ICT-related issues as well as science and technology at the top of the UN Agenda and finally to mainstream ICT for Development issues in the mandate of CEB members.

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION REPOSITORY

The repository of projects by UNGIS members on digital transformation will be used as a reference guide and repository for UN Agencies on different implemented initiatives/activities showing the direct impact of the WSIS Action Lines on SDGs.

### UNGIS Digital Transformation Repository

#### Submission Form

\* Denotes a required field.

1. Contact First Name\*

2. Contact Last Name\*

3. Contact Email Address\*

4. Contact Telephone Number

5. Contact Organization\*





# Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development



- Launched in 2004 to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries. The initiative is a direct response to the request made by the WSIS to produce official statistics to monitor the information society.
- The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development is made up of the 14 partner organisations.
- The Partnership work is coordinated by a Steering Committee, which is elected every 3 years. The current Steering Committee is made up of ITU, UNCTAD, and UN DESA.
- **ITU will be the chair of the Steering committee of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development in 2022.**



# UN Regional Commissions



Chair of WSIS Regional Commissions Group:

UN ESCWA (2021-2022)

Permanent Secretariat: ITU

Annual meetings held at the WSIS Forum

In the outcomes of the UN General Assembly overall review on the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (GA Resolution A/70/125), Regional Commissions are invited to continue their work in implementation of WSIS and their contribution to the reviews thereof, including through regional reviews. Sharing practices at the regional level aiming at advancing WSIS implementation at the regional Level and strengthening alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes

Coordination of regional approaches and harmonization  
Engagement of stakeholders into the regional implementation  
Strengthening of the regional perspective at the global level of the WSIS Process



# WSIS Forum 2022 is happening!

Starting **15 March 2022 onwards – virtual format**

Final Week: **30 May – 3 June 2022 – physical format with enhanced remote participation at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland**

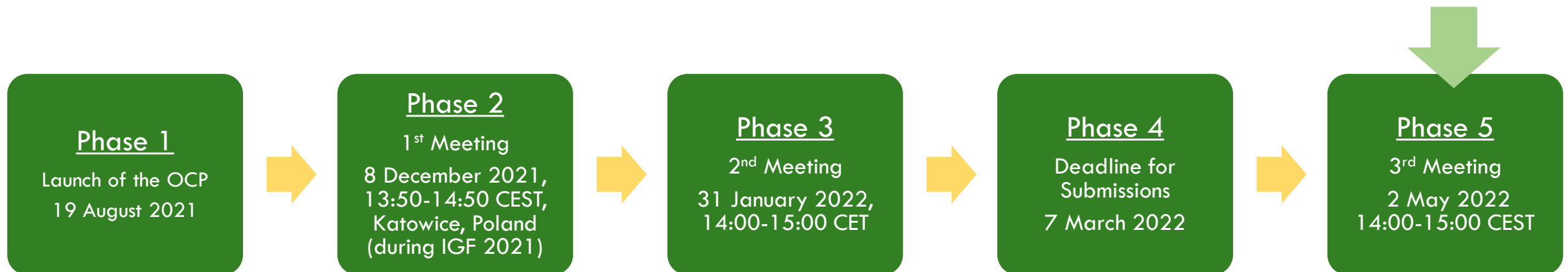
WSIS Forum 2022 components: Forum Track, High-Level Track, Special Tracks, Hackathon (ICTs and Indigenous Languages), Exhibition Space, WSIS TalkX, etc.



# Open Consultation Process

The Open Consultation process (OCP) aims at ensuring a participatory and inclusive spirit of the Forum. This process actively engages multistakeholders in the preparatory process to ensure broad ownership and further improvements of the Forum. The Open Consultation Process will include a collection of inputs from regional and national WSIS related events.

The Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2022 is structured in five phases as follows:





# Explore our WSIS Forum 2022 agenda online!

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the WSIS Forum 2022 Agenda page. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Agenda#agenda>. The page header includes the WSIS Forum 2022 logo and navigation links for Open Consultation Process (OCP), High-Level Track, Agenda, WSIS TalkX, and WTISD. The main content area features a large green banner with the word "Agenda" in white. Below the banner, the section "Agenda and Programme" is displayed, followed by a paragraph of text.

## Agenda and Programme

The WSIS Forum programme is completely crowdsourced, the engagement of governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, the technical community and intergovernmental organizations in the preparatory process ensures broad ownership and continual improvements of the Forum. The Agenda and Programme for the Forum is built on the basis of official submissions received during the Open Consultation Process on Shaping the Themes and Format of WSIS Forum 2022.

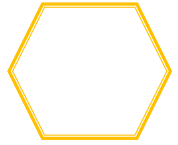


# Final Week (Draft Agenda)

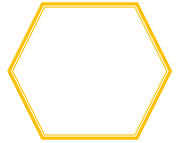
Monday, 30 May	Tuesday, 31 May	Wednesday, 1 June	Thursday, 2 June	Friday, 3 June
Exhibition Inauguration Forum Track: WSIS Action Line Facilitation Meetings (ALFM) Partners workshops (PW) Country Workshops (CW) <b>Remote participation (RP)</b>	HLM UNGIS / Opening Segment  <b>English/French            Captioning            RP</b>	HLPS 4  <b>English/French            Captioning            RP</b>	HLD #3  <b>RP</b>	WL UNGIS  Forum Track: ALFM, PW, TW, CW  <b>RP</b>
Forum Track: ALFM, PW, TW, CW  <b>RP</b>	Opening Segment  <b>English/French            Captioning            RP</b>	HLPS 5  <b>English/French            Captioning            RP</b>	HLD #4  <b>RP</b>	Forum Track: ALFM, PW, TW, CW  <b>RP</b>
Knowledge Café	WSIS Prizes Ceremony	Knowledge Café	Knowledge Café	Knowledge Café
Forum Track: ALFM, PW, TW, CW  <b>RP</b>	High-Level Policy Session 1 (HLPS)  <b>English/French            Captioning            RP</b>	HLPS 6  <b>English/French            Captioning            RP</b>	WSIS Regional Commission Meeting	Forum Track: ALFM, PW, TW, CW  <b>RP</b>
Forum Track: ALFM, PW, TW, CW  <b>RP</b>	HLPS 2  <b>English/French            Captioning            RP</b>	Ministerial RT <b>Venue TBC</b> <b>English/French            Captioning            RP</b>	Forum Track: ALFM, PW, TW, CW  <b>RP</b>	WSIS Action Lines Facilitators Meeting  <b>Captioning            RP</b>
		High-Level Dialogue (HLD) #1 <b>RP</b>		
Forum Track: ALFM, PW, TW, CW  <b>RP</b>	HLPS 3  <b>English/French            Captioning            RP</b>	HLD #2 <b>RP</b>	Forum Track: ALFM, PW, TW, CW  <b>RP</b>	Closing Ceremony  <b>Captioning            RP</b>
		Closing of High-Level Policy Sessions  <b>English/French/            Captioning            RP</b>		
Donors Dinner	Reception / Certificates	Gala Dinner	WSIS TalkX (Networking Cocktail)	



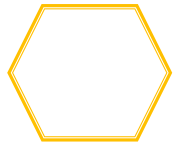
# High-Level Track



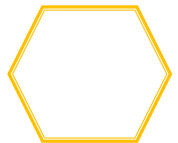
High-level Policy Sessions



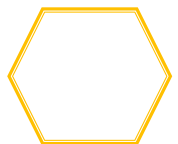
Ministerial Round Table



High-level Dialogues



Mayors Round Table



Workshop with Parliamentarians





# World Telecommunication & Information Society Day (WTISD) 17 May 2022

17 May marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the **creation of the International Telecommunication Union** and is celebrated every year as the **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**.

The theme for the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2022 (WTISD-22) is **“Digital technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing”**.

WTISD 2022 will allow ITU membership, partners and other stakeholders to raise awareness about the important role of telecommunications/ICTs in supporting people to stay healthy, connected and independent, physically, emotionally and financially – to a life of healthy ageing - and as critical for the sustainability of economic and health systems.

**17 May 2022, 13:00-14:30 CEST**, with the participation of:

- Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, ITU
- Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General, WHO
- H.E. Ms. Ursula Owusu-Ekufu, Minister, Ministry of Communication and Digitalization, Ghana
- Ms. My Linh Kha, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Japan Asia-Pacific, AMGEN
- Dr. Jane Barratt, Secretary-General, International Federation on Ageing

**Join the celebration and register here:** <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Agenda/Session/133>

More information on WTISD-22: <https://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/2022/Pages/default.aspx>


















# Open Call

## WSIS Forum 2022 High-Level Track Facilitators

- Open Call for Major Stakeholder Coordination Mechanisms following the WSIS Process to identify and nominate High-Level Track Facilitators (HLTF) for the WSIS Forum 2022.
- The main task of the HLTF is to capture the vision, identify emerging trends, opportunities and challenges shared by the leaders of their session.
- The High-Level Policy Sessions will be moderated by the High-Level Track Facilitators nominated and identified by each stakeholder type i.e Government, Private Sector, Civil Society, Technical/ Academic community and International Organization.
- Each stakeholder type is invited to identify HLTF to represent their respective communities.

High-Level Track Facilitators

 <p><b>Ms. Amali De Silva - Mitchell</b> Founder and Coordinator Dynamic Coalition on Data Driven Health Technologies</p>	 <p><b>Mr. Nino Letteriello</b> President DAMA Italy and EMEA</p>	 <p><b>Dr. Asan Gani Bin Abdul Muthalif</b> Associate Professor at the Dept of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Qatar University</p>	 <p><b>Dr. Olga Cavalli</b> Co-founder and Academic Director South School on Internet Governance</p>	 <p><b>Ms. Meera Das</b> Project Lead The Code to Change</p>	 <p><b>Ms. Kirthi Jayakumar</b> Founder The Gender Security Project</p>
 <p><b>Ms. Kristin Little</b> Senior Manager of Public Affairs IEEE</p>	 <p><b>Ms. Rachel Sibande</b> Senior Director, Country Outreach Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL) at the United Nations Foundation</p>	 <p><b>Ms. Eleanor Sarpong</b> Deputy Director and Policy Lead A4AI/Web Foundation</p>	 <p><b>Mr. William Njoroge</b> Head of Technology OI Pejeta Conservancy</p>	 <p><b>Mr. Clifford Schmidt</b> Founder and Executive Director AMPLIO</p>	

Nominations should be submitted to the WSIS Secretariat at [wsis-info@itu.int](mailto:wsis-info@itu.int) by 7 March 2022



# WSIS Prizes 2022

Submit your ICTs projects to the most globally recognised ICT for Development international annual award.

## FIVE PHASES OF THE CONTEST

- The first phase: Submission phase  
1 September 2021 – 31 January 2022 (Deadline for last submission: 23:00 Geneva time)
- The second phase: Nomination Phase. Revision of submitted projects that will result with a list of 360 nominated projects, twenty (20) projects per Action Line Category (18) 1 February – 25 February 2022 (twenty projects per each category will be nominated)
- The third phase: Public online voting (identification of five projects per category with the highest number of votes)  
1 March – 31 March 2022 (Deadline for casting last vote: 23:00 Geneva time)
- The fourth phase: Selection of winning projects by the ITU Expert Group that will result with a list of winning projects  
1 April – 15 April 2022
- The fifth phase: Announcement of winners to the public during WSIS Prize 2022 Ceremony at WSIS Forum 2022, and the release of publication “WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2022”, which is a compilation of extended descriptions of the 18 winning projects and 72 champion projects.

Voting Phase starts: **1 March 2022**  
[www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes)



**WSIS PRIZES 2022**

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY PRIZES 2022

**Voting Phase**  
**01/03- 31/03 2022**

A list of 360 Nominees is available for voting!

[wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)



# WSIS Stocktaking: 2021-2022 Call for New Entries

Publicly accessible WSIS Stocktaking database [www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking) currently with 13,000+ submitted projects and initiatives from 350,000+ registered stakeholders has been vigilant and started collecting projects and activities on how ICTs are assisting stakeholders in their everyday life, work, and combating challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

UN General Assembly called for a close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: WSIS Stocktaking is highlighting the contribution of 11 WSIS Action Lines to the achievement 17 SDGs;

ECOSOC resolution 2019/24 reiterates the importance of sharing best practices at the global level and encourages all stakeholders to submit ICT-related projects and initiatives to the WSIS Stocktaking platform.



**NEW Call for Submission:**  
[www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)



# WSIS Photo Contest 2022

Following the successful of previous Photo Contests editions, WSIS Forum continues the Photo Contest in 2022 and invites the community to picture how Information and Communication Technologies are playing an enabling role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

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 Forum 2022.

**Deadline: 7 March 2022**





# WSIS Forum 2022 Special Tracks



**ICTs and Youth**



**ICTs and Gender Mainstreaming**



**ICTs and Emerging Technologies for sustainable development and ICTs for Industry 4.0**



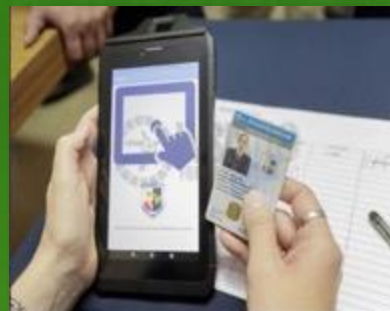
**ICTs for Well-being and Happiness and Peace**



**ICTs and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and Specific Needs**



**ICTs and Older Persons**



**Cybersecurity**



**ICTs and Indigenous Peoples and Cultures**



**ICTs for Developing Countries (and LDCs)**



# Special Track: ICTs and Older Persons

Launched in 2020, this special track addresses the role of ICTs in combating age-based discrimination in the workplace, achieving healthier ageing, building smarter cities, ensuring the financial inclusion of older persons and supporting millions of caregivers across the world and in digital inclusion across the generations to enable the Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020–2030.

This special track involves collaboration with various stakeholders that work around this matter, including Global Coalition of Aging (GCOA), Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND), E-Seniors, UN Agencies such as ITU, WHO, UN DESA and others.

## Workshops, Exhibitions & WSIS TalkX

A series of workshops, virtual exhibitions, and WSIS TalkX sessions were organised by stakeholders during the WSIS Forum to highlight ICTs and Older Persons.



## WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize

A special WSIS Prize was launched in 2021, in collaboration with GCOA, an exceptional international recognition of WSIS stakeholders as leaders for their excellence in supporting innovation that brings sustainable solutions for the ever-increasing global population of older people.

This special WSIS Prize will be continued for the WSIS Forum 2022. More information: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Home/HealthyAgeing>



## WSIS Forum 2021 Hackathon: Ageing better with ICTs

The WSIS Forum 2021 Hackathon was organized virtually under the theme of Ageing Better with ICTs by ITU, GCOA, and other stakeholders like WHO, UN DESA, etc. The virtual hackathon gathered more than 1,100 participants joining from 48 countries.



## UN Secretary General Report

The reference of this activity was included in the:

- UN Secretary General Report “Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing” (A/75/218) submitted pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 74/125.
- UN Secretary General Report “Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing” (A/76/156) submitted pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 75/125.



## WSIS Special Initiative:

# WSIS Multistakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons

The WSIS Multistakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons has been created at the request of stakeholders. It has 4 sub-groups at present led by Chairs and Co-Chairs:

- 1. Design and Accessibility** (Mr. Alfredo Ronchi, EC MEDICI Framework; Mr. Raymond Saner, CSEND; Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu, CSEND)
- 2. Capacity Building and Education** (Mr. Ian Philp, Age Care Technologies; Dr. Rakesh L., Ada Lovelace Software Private Limited)
- 3. Cybersecurity issues** (Dr. Pavan Duggal, International Commission on Cyber Security Law)
- 4. Innovation** (Ms. Heba Al Heraki, Bevol International Platform; Ms. Tafadzwa Muusha, University of Zimbabwe Innovation Hub )



# Special Track: ICTs and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and Specific Needs

In 2019, the WSIS Forum launched a WSIS Accessibility Day to inform and observe how ICTs can help people living with disabilities whilst focusing on progressing towards the SDGs as well as to raise awareness on the critical role of ICTs to enable and accelerate the social and economic inclusion.

In collaboration with the WSIS stakeholders and at their request, a **special track on ICTs and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and Specific Needs was developed for the WSIS Forum 2020** to continue the discussions on ICT accessibility. The special track continued during the WSIS Forum 2021.

## Workshops, Exhibitions & WSIS TalkX

A series of workshops and virtual exhibitions were organised by stakeholders during the WSIS Forum to highlight the role of ICTs in the development of inclusive society.



## Tools for stakeholders' engagements

WSIS Forum provided tools for stakeholders' engagements, such as sign language interpreter and captioning in sessions to create an inclusive and equitable experience for all



## Collaboration with various types of stakeholders

WSIS engaged different accessibility communities, including hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, autism, etc.







# Special Track: ICTs and Indigenous Peoples and Cultures



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

## WSIS Forum 2022 Special Track: ICTs and Indigenous Peoples and Cultures

WSIS Forum 2022 will initiate a special track on ICTs and Indigenous Peoples and Culture, which will provide space for discourse on the important role that indigenous peoples and culture could play towards sustainable development with ICTs that are made accessible, inclusive and affordable for all.

Submit request for workshops/exhibition spaces through the Open Consultation Form by 7 March 2022 at [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)

*Organized by  
ITU, UNESCO, and other stakeholders*

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## Special Prize: ICTs for Preserving, Revitalizing and Promoting Indigenous Languages

WSIS Forum 2022 will initiate a WSIS Special Prize on ICTs for Preserving, Revitalizing and Promoting Indigenous Languages

The winners will be announced during the final week of the WSIS Forum 2022 (30 May – 3 June 2022).



# Special Track: ICTs and Gender Mainstreaming

The ICTs and Gender Mainstreaming special track is dedicated to the issues of bridging gender divide, women empowerment and promoting equality perspective through the use of ICTs. The special track aims to engage multistakeholders through a holistic cross-sectoral intersectional approach.

## **Thematic Partnership: Gender Digital Transformation Partner**

The proposed partnership is to enhance the ICTs and Gender Mainstreaming special track of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2022. This special track fits in the broader framework of efforts to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs. This contribution will also further enhance the recently launched of the WSIS Stocktaking Repository of Women in Technology. The impact of this funding will advance efforts in accelerating progress towards the gender equality, using ICTs as an enabler.



<http://www.itu.int/go/WSISGender>



# WSIS Special Initiative: WSIS Stocktaking Repository of Women in Technology

<http://www.itu.int/go/WSISGender>

The WSIS Process affirms the **importance of promoting and maintaining gender equality and women empowerment**, guaranteeing the inclusion of women in the emerging global ICT society, and emphasizes the need to fully integrate gender equality perspectives in WSIS related strategies and facilitate their implementation to ensure that the Information Society enables women’s empowerment and full participation based on equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes.

Launch of the Repository: 4 August 2021

Recording link:

<http://www.itu.int/go/WSISGender>

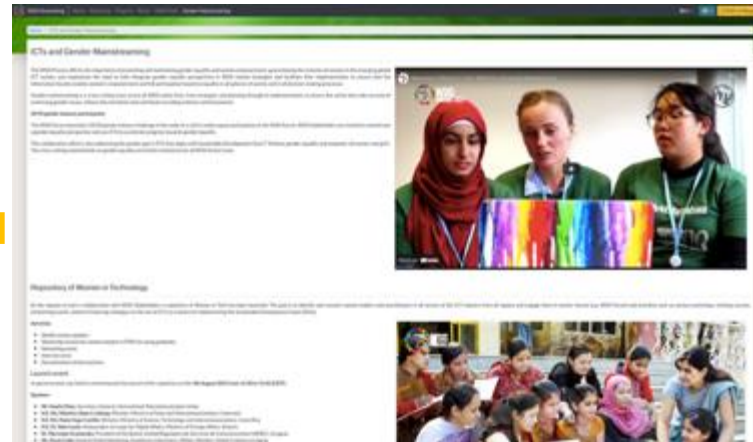
## Repository of Women in Tech

At the request of and in collaboration with WSIS Stakeholders a repository of Women in Tech has been launched. The goal is to identify and connect women leaders and practitioners in all sectors of the ICT industry from all regions and engage them in events, forums and activities.

Nominate WSIS Gender Trendsetter

-

<https://forms.gle/WnzqX59xXYdF1uqx6>



## 50/50 gender balance participation

The WSIS Forum launched a 50/50 gender balance challenge in the wake of a call to realise equal participation at the WSIS Forum. This collaborative effort is also addressing the gender gap in ICTs that aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. The cross-cutting commitments on gender equality are further echoed across all WSIS Action Lines.

## Activities

- Identify women speakers
- Networking events
- Interview series
- Mentorship sessions for women and girls in STEM, for young graduates
- Documentation of best practices



## MEET THE WSIS GENDER TRENDSETTERS!



**Mr. Vala Afshar**  
Chief Digital  
Evangelist,  
SalesForce



**Ms. Susana Arrechea**  
Digital Community  
Center Project  
Director, New Sun  
Road for-profit public  
benefit company



**Ms. Elena Estavillo  
Flores**  
CEO,  
Centro-i para la  
Sociedad del  
Futuro Think Tank



**Ms. Mei Lin Fung**  
Chair and  
Cofounder,  
People Centered  
Internet



**Ms. Gab-Hingonne  
Gabdibe**  
National Coord.  
Action pour  
l'Education & la  
Promotion de la  
Femme, TCHAD



**Ms. Mikaela Jade**  
CEO and Founder,  
Indigital EduTech



**Ms. Kirthi  
Jayakumar**  
Coder and Creator  
at Saahas



**Dr. Tawfik Jelassi**  
Assistant  
Director-General,  
UNESCO



**Mr. Malcolm Johnson**  
Deputy  
Secretary-General,  
International  
Telecommunication  
Union



**Ms. Tatyana  
Kanzaveli**  
Founder and CEO,  
Open Health  
Network



**H.E. Ms. Lotte  
Knudsen**  
Ambassador  
Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary,  
European Union



**Ms. Fang Li**  
Deputy Director  
Research Institute  
of Technology and  
Standard, CAICT



**Mr. Benoit Louvel**  
Service Design Front  
Office Director,  
Customer Service &  
Operations, Orange  
Business Services



**H.E. Ms. Neema  
Lugangira**  
Member of  
Parliament of  
Tanzania & Founder  
of NGO, Omuka Hub



**Ms. Samantha  
Paoletti**  
Research and  
Business Dev.  
Manager CSEM



**Ms. Ari Qayumi**  
Founder and CEO,  
Mindful Venture  
Capital



**Ms. Yvette Ramos**  
President,  
WomenVai



**Ms. Natalja  
Rodionova**  
Founder, Sisters of  
Code & IT Academy  
STEP Cambodia



**Ms. Magatte  
Wade**  
Entrepreneur,  
Magatte Wade



**Ms. Vidhya Y.**  
Cofounder and  
Trustee,  
Vision Empower





# WSIS TalkX



The WSIS TalkX is a platform, both virtual and physical, dedicated to sharing experiences and inspirational stories about ICTs for development (implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for Development) by stakeholders all over the world.



Visit our page and Register for the upcoming TalkX

Listen to our Podcasts

[www.itu.int/go/WSISTalkX](http://www.itu.int/go/WSISTalkX)

<https://wsistalkx.buzzsprout.com>



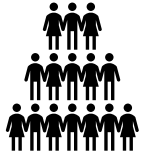
# Hackathon - Designing a Sustainable Future using ICTs

## Co-Organized by the WSIS Forum 2022 and TDRA UAE



08 – 24 November 2021

largest number of registrations: **India, Tunisia, Nepal, Pakistan, and Algeria**



**1319** Participants



**65** Teams – **54%** Female



**89** Countries



**33** Submissions



**15** Finalists

### Winners

#### I. Digital Safety

1. Privizen - AI driven Privacy Guard – Q-Aztecs
2. VigilPopuli - Browser based internet security system - WolfPackSociety
3. Personal Assistant Robot Using Arduino - vishwajeeth9297\_3a8b

#### II. Blockchain for a better life

1. . Block Chain based Innovative Fool Proof Real Estate Transactions – Safer/Efficient Real-Estate Transactions - The U-Team
2. Blockchain-Based Decentralized Identity Management for Remote Healthcare - The Unknowns
3. Lyfetime – TeamLyfetime

#### III. Climate Change

1. Identification of Deadliest Mosquitoes Using Wing Beats Sound Classification on Tiny Embedded System Using Machine Learning and Edge Impulse Platform - ML4ENV
2. PKL (PKL Knows Landslide) - kritish.pokharel\_432c
3. AI Tree - Ai Tree

The Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) of the United Arab Emirates in cooperation with the WSIS Forum 2022 organised an international hackathon across three challenge areas to promote achievement of Sustainable Development Goals using ICTs.



# WSIS Forum 2022 Hackathon ICTs for Indigenous Languages



- ITU, UNESCO and relevant stakeholders will jointly organize a WSIS Forum 2022 Hackathon on ICTs for Indigenous Languages
- The Hackathon is calling on stakeholders to form teams of 2-5 to explore the use of ICTs in transmitting, preserving, revitalising and promoting indigenous languages.
- 3 Challenge areas: knowledge, empowerment and preservation
- 3 Winners, one per challenge area will be awarded each a USD 1,000 cash prize

**ICTs for Indigenous Languages  
HACKATHON**

**REGISTER NOW >**

3 winners, one per challenge area

KNOWLEDGE   
 EMPOWERMENT   
 PRESERVATION

21 Feb.	18 March. – 18 April.	18 April. – 10 May	10 May. – 20 May.	31 May – 3 Jun.
<b>High-Level Launch of the Hackathon during the WSIS TalkX celebrating the International Mother Language Day</b>	<b>Participants Registration</b>  Promotion and Outreach.	<b>HACK and Experts Meetings</b>  ICT Ideation and Development of Proof of Concepts  Mentoring Sessions Organized with Subject Matter Experts	<b>Finalists Selection &amp; Pitching session</b>  Jury Panel review  15 finalist teams will be selected by the platform based on specific predefined criteria provided by the Jury.	<b>Winners Announcement</b>  The winners of the Hackathon will be announced during the Final week of the WSIS Forum 2022 event as part of the High-Level Dialogue on ICTs for Indigenous Languages.

**APPLY NOW!** Registration is open until **18 April** on

<https://icts-for-indigenous-languages.hackerearth.com/>



# WSIS Youth Campaigns



*Awareness Building*

*Partnerships and Collaboration*

*Youth Empowerment*



ICTs & CLIMATE ACTION



ICTs & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



ICTs & BUSINESS





# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

STRATEGIC PARTNER  
PLATINUM



STRATEGIC PARTNER  
GOLD PLUS



STRATEGIC PARTNER  
GOLD



PARTNERS FOR  
SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES



CONTRIBUTING  
PARTNERS



SUPPORTING  
PARTNERS







# PRIORITY THEME 1: Industry 4.0 for inclusive development

- Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are a key driver and essential for Industry 4.0 and for the SDGs to be fully realized.
- As the UN specialized agency on ICTs, ITU is working in collaboration with multiple stakeholders to bring the benefits of Industry 4.0 for inclusive and sustainable development.
- WSIS Forum serves as a ready platform to showcase examples of projects/policies in organizations helping countries undertake transition towards urban sustainability so that cities are productive, inclusive, and liveable. Events related to the topic are witnessing an increased number of sessions and workshop that discuss the impact of ICTs on Industry 4.0 and vice-versa, organized by WSIS stakeholders and ITU membership sharing national strategies, policies, laws, programmes and initiatives concerning Industry 4.0.
- ITU-WSIS and UNCTAD are committed to strengthen collaboration in the areas of Industry 4.0 to enable people worldwide to reap the benefits of the fourth industrial revolution.
- This year, the WSIS Forum 2022 will organise a special track on ICTs for Industry 4.0 and Emerging Technologies special track to explore how frontier technological solutions will address sustainable development challenges and facilitate industry innovation in a rapidly changing world. UNCTAD is contributing to this special track by organising a session on Measuring the deployment of Industry 4.0 in developing countries, which will be held virtually on 13 April 2022.



## PRIORITY THEME 2: STI for sustainable urban development in a post-COVID world

- Digital technologies, or STI, are a mean to achieve urban sustainability not a goal. Meaning that the global community needs to work together to build capacity and facilitate global learning that emphasize on solving common challenges, such as interoperability, and aligning sustainable urban development with the SDGs.
- Based on ITU's experience, one of the main challenges cities are facing when implementing digital technologies in response to the global pandemic and for sustainable development is the need to measure progress and align development strategies with the SDGs.
- United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) is a UN initiative coordinated by ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat and supported by other 14 United Nations agencies and programmes to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".
- WSIS process, including WSIS Forum, WSIS Stocktaking, WSIS Prizes and its many special initiatives serve as examples of sharing best practices and discussing how ICTs are helping countries undertake transition towards urban sustainability so that cities are productive, inclusive, and liveable. A new repository was launched in April 2020 - WSIS Stocktaking Coronavirus Response – ICT Case Repository - that has been collecting projects and activities on how ICTs are assisting stakeholders in their everyday life, work, and combating challenges caused by the pandemic, including the impact on sustainable urban development.
- ITU has provided significant support to countries and cities to leverage STI for sustainable development through standardization.

# THANK YOU

[www.wsis.org](http://www.wsis.org)

[www.wsis.org/sdg](http://www.wsis.org/sdg)

[www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)

[www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes)

[www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)

[www.wsis.org/review](http://www.wsis.org/review)

[wsis-info@itu.int](mailto:wsis-info@itu.int)