



WSIS+20 FORUM HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

27-31 May 2024
Geneva, Switzerland

WORLD SUMMIT ON
THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS outcomes at the regional and international levels

Commission on Science and Technology for Development,
2023-2024 Inter-sessional Panel
6-7 November 2023 (Lisbon, Portugal)

Presented by Vladimir Stankovic, Program Officer, ITU

www.wsis.org/forum
#WSIS

Organized by



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WSIS Process

WSIS is a **UN process** that involves more than 30 UN Agencies. 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



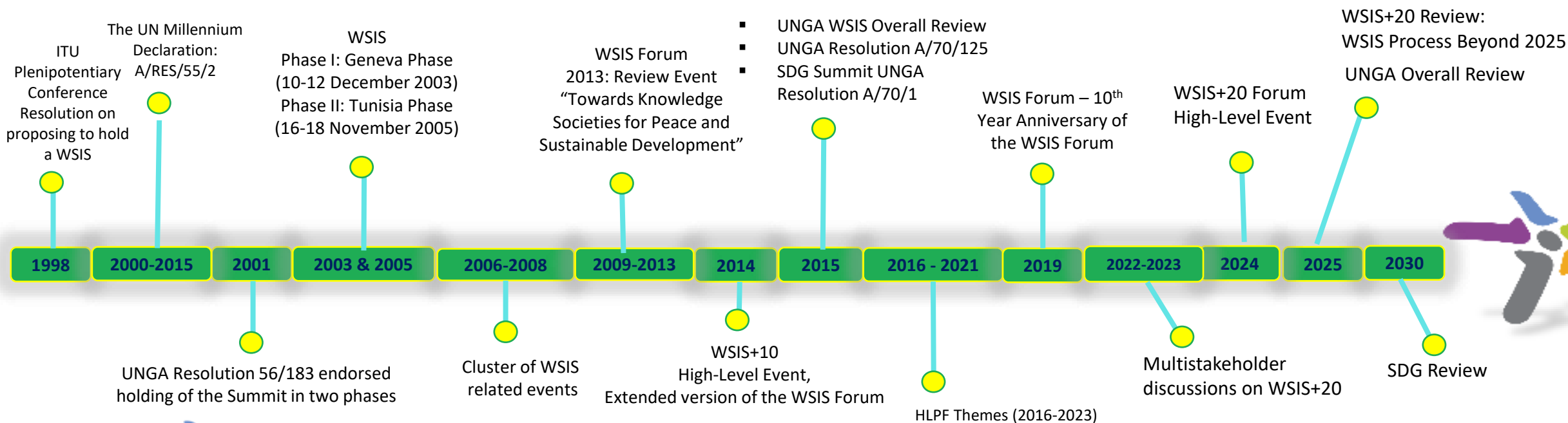
2024-2025: WSIS+20 Review

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.





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
- 2023: 13-17 March – virtual sessions (April – May)
- 2024: 27-31 May**
- 2025: 26-30 May**

- 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+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.



Strengthened Digital Collaboration

Close collaboration with ITU, UNESCO, UN CSTD, UN DESA, WSIS Action Lines Facilitators and other UN Agencies involved.

WSIS+20 Review Process



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

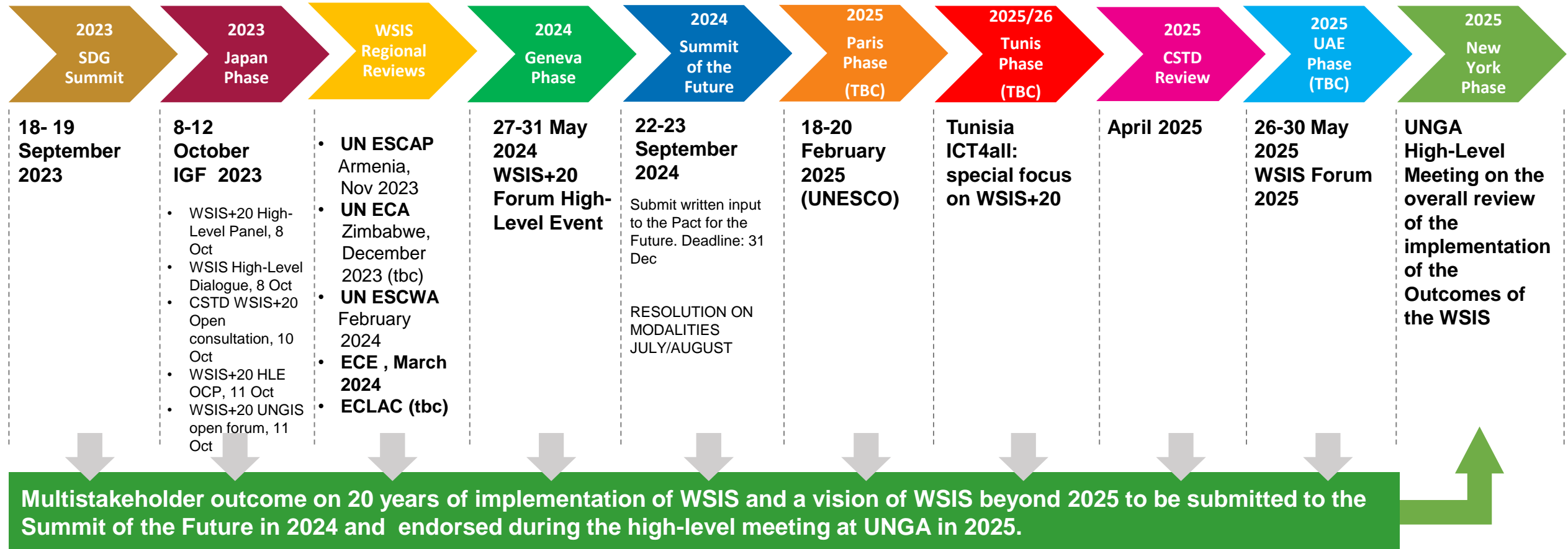


Outcome

Multistakeholder outcome on vision of WSIS beyond 2025 to be developed during WSIS+20 Preparatory Phases and submitted to the Summit of the Future in 2024 and endorsed during the high-level meeting at UNGA in 2025.



WSIS+20 Preparatory Phases





WSIS Stocktaking and UN CSTD Questionnaire on 20-year review of WSIS

Please share your experience, views and priorities in response to the following questions, addressing the issues that you consider most important for the CSTD's twenty-year WSIS review. Issues that you might consider could include any or more of the following, but need not be confined to these:

- infrastructure, access and inclusiveness;
- content, applications and capacity-building;
- technical, financial and related issues;
- governance and wider public policy aspects of the Information Society;
- social, economic and other development activities and impacts;
- measurement and monitoring of the Information Society;
- the changes that the information society has gone through over the past twenty years and the implications for the WSIS vision; and
- the relationship between the Information Society and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

This questionnaire is open to all stakeholders.



DEADLINE for submissions: 31 January 2024!

www.wsis.org/review



UN-WSIS Regional Commissions

- The **United Nations Regional Commissions** are deeply committed to the **WSIS** and are assisting their member States with the relevant issues required by the process. The role of the UN Regional Commissions will be important to carry out the assessment of implementation at the country level and to come up with a regional perspective for building sustainable national capacity in developing and transition economies.
- United Nations Regional Commissions – **Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).**
- **Chair of WSIS Regional Commissions Group: UN ESCAP(2023-2024)**
- **Permanent Secretariat: ITU**
- In the outcomes of the UN General Assembly overall review on the implementation of 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.
- **ESCAP** adopted its **resolution 72/10**, mandating the ESCAP secretariat to support the member States and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the WSIS action lines, and in particular, to hold a regional review of the implementation of the Summit Action Lines as part of the session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation; and coordinate United Nations agencies and partners in the regional review and follow-up towards harmonized approaches in the implementation of the Summit. ESCAP will organise the **Regional Review of WSIS on 8-9 November in Yerevan, Armenia.**



WSIS+20 FORUM HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

27-31 May 2024
Geneva, Switzerland

The WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event will be co-hosted by ITU and Switzerland and co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP



Objectives

- 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 and challenges in leveraging ICTs and information and knowledge societies to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive access and participation.



Expected Outcome

- Multistakeholder discussions to be considered as input to the Summit of the future and the UNGA overall review in 2025.

WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event

OPEN CONSULTATION PROCESS CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

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.

11 October 2023
11:00-12:00 JST

Workshop Room 8,
Kyoto International
Conference Centre,
Kyoto, Japan

**First Physical Meeting of the
WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event
OCP**

- Collecting multistakeholder inputs to shape agenda and programme
- Providing updates on the upcoming high-level event

13 December 2023
14:00 – 15:00 CET

ITU Headquarters,
Room L, Geneva with
remote participation
facilities

**Second Physical Meeting of the
WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event
OCP**

- Collecting multistakeholder inputs to shape agenda and programme
- Providing updates on the upcoming high-level event

15 February 2024
14:00 – 15:00 CET

ITU Headquarters,
Room L, Geneva with
remote participation
facilities

**Final Brief on the WSIS+20 Forum
High-Level Event**

- Sharing the analysis of the OCP submissions
- Presenting the programme of the high-level event
- Providing final updates on the high-level event preparation and logistics

26 March 2024
14:00 – 15:00 CET

ITU Headquarters,
Room A, Geneva with
remote participation
facilities

**Special WSIS+20 Forum High-Level
Event Session**

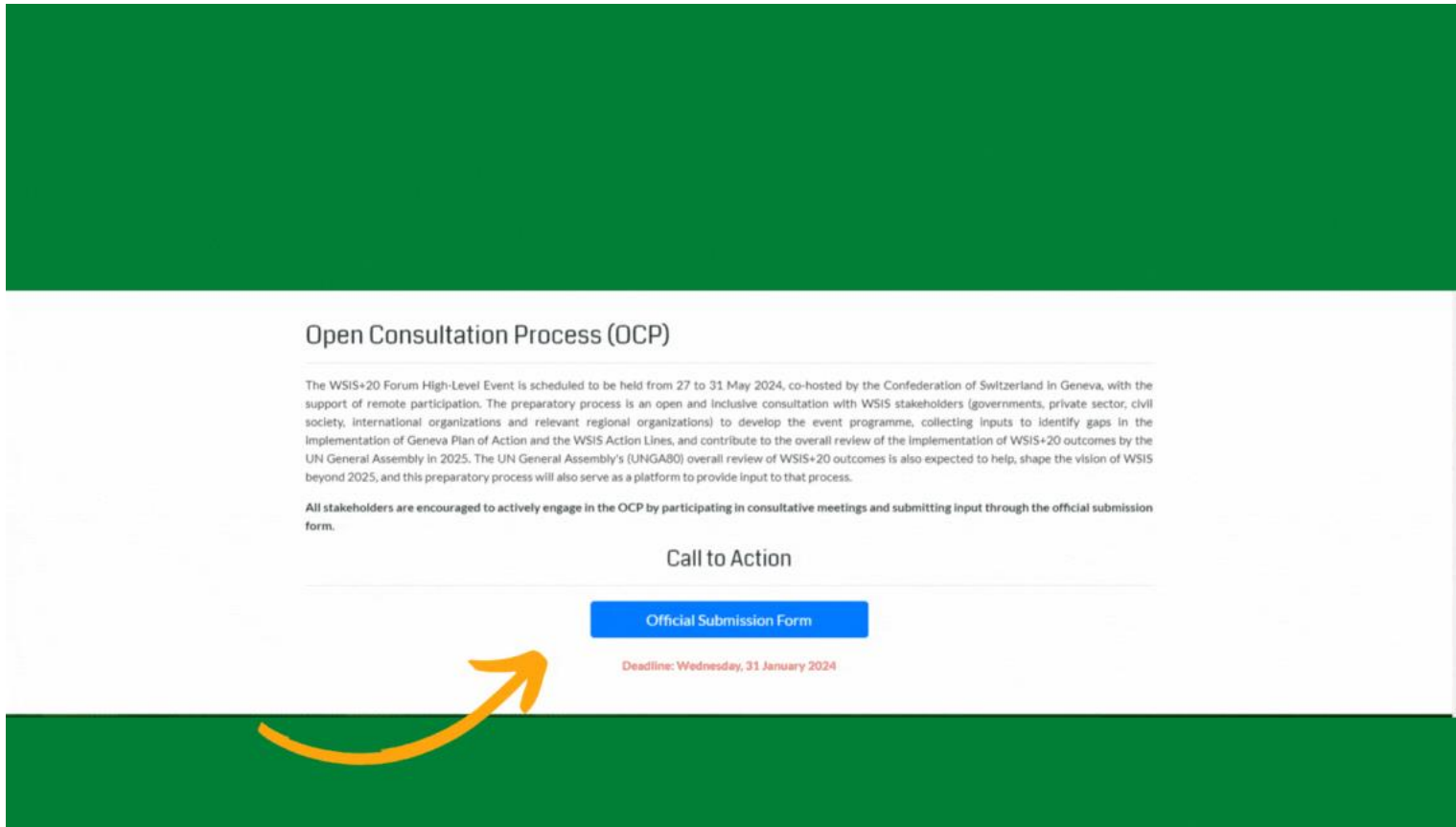
- WSIS+20 multistakeholder consultations

WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event: Open Consultation Process

Official submissions to the WSIS Secretariat on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format

1. Login with your existing account or Sign up as a new user
2. Fill out the OCP Form
www.wsis.org/forum

Deadline: 31 January 2024



The screenshot shows the 'Open Consultation Process (OCP)' webpage. It features a green header, a white main content area, and a green footer. The main content area contains the following text:

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

An orange arrow points from the bottom left of the screenshot towards the 'Official Submission Form' button.

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



Agenda and Programme

Workshops

WSIS+20 Track

**Civil Society and Private Sector
consultations**

UN Consultations

Youth Track

Interactive Sessions

AI Governance – AI for Good Summit

Academia Track

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.

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

WSIS Stocktaking's new collaborative is with the Partner2Connect platform, which is aligned with WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. Contact us for more information partner2connect@itu.int



SUBMIT NOW

DEADLINE for submissions: 31 January 2024!

www.wsis.org/prizes

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.

SUBMISSION PHASE : Opening Soon



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





Call for Sponsors

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Contact us at
wsis-info@itu.int



MORE INFO

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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