



## The Secretary-General

Geneva, 13 October 2015

Ref: WSIS Prizes 2016  
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To: All WSIS Stakeholders

- Governments
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Academia
- International Organizations

### **Subject: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2016 - Call for New Entries**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the contest of WSIS Prizes 2016. As you may be aware, WSIS Prizes are a unique recognition for excellence in the implementation of WSIS outcomes.

In July 2015 the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted the resolution that: “reiterates the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit project prizes ([www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes)) as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process”.

ICTs are enablers for sustainable development and in this regard, reporting on ICT success stories to best showcase the possible achievement of SDGs through the implementation of WSIS Action Lines related projects is the new objective of WSIS Stocktaking process, including WSIS Prizes. While continuing to highlight progress made towards achieving the WSIS goals, WSIS Prizes 2016 will start reflecting their linkages with the newly proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The contest of WSIS Prize 2016 is organized in five phases with Submission phase starting from 13 October 2015 and with Online Voting phase ending on 10 March 2016 (see Annex I for details). The WSIS Prize 2016 ceremony will be held during the WSIS Forum 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland, where 18 winners of WSIS Prizes contest will be honored, recognized and presented with an award. ICT for development (ICT4D) community is encouraged to continue following WSIS Stocktaking process, and submit their project descriptions for WSIS Prizes 2016 using the WSIS Stocktaking online platform ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)).

I encourage all stakeholders to submit their project descriptions no later than 5 December 2015.

Yours faithfully,



Houlin Zhao

## **Annex I: The Contest of WSIS Prize 2016**

**The contest** comprises the following 18 categories that are directly linked to the WSIS Action Lines outlined in the Geneva Plan of Action:

- 1) The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development;
- 2) Information and communication infrastructure;
- 3) Access to information and knowledge;
- 4) Capacity building;
- 5) Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- 6) Enabling environment;
- 7) ICT Applications: e-government;
- 8) ICT Applications: e-business;
- 9) ICT Applications: e-learning;
- 10) ICT Applications: e-health;
- 11) ICT Applications: e-employment;
- 12) ICT Applications: e-environment;
- 13) ICT Applications: e-agriculture;
- 14) ICT Applications: e-science;
- 15) Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content;
- 16) Media;
- 17) Ethical dimensions of the Information Society; and
- 18) International and regional cooperation.

**The contest is organized into five phases:**

- 1) The first phase: Submission phase  
**13 October – 5 December 2015 (Deadline for last submission: 23:00 Geneva time)**
- 2) The second phase: Nomination Phase. Revision of submitted projects by Expert Group that will result with a list of nominated projects  
**6 December – 11 December 2015**
- 3) The third phase: Public Online Voting (identification of three projects per category with the highest number of votes)  
**11 December 2015 – 10 March 2016 (Deadline for casting last vote: 23:00 Geneva time)**
- 4) The fourth phase: Selection of winning projects by the Expert Group that will result with a list of winning projects  
**14 March – 18 March 2016**
- 5) The fifth phase: Announcement of winners to the public during **WSIS Prize 2016 Ceremony at WSIS Forum 2016**, and the release of publication “WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2016”, which is a compilation of extended descriptions of the 18 winning projects.

### **1. The first phase: Submission phase**

Phase one will open the call for submissions to the contest of the WSIS Prize 2016 at [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes). During the period from **13 October 2015 until 5 December 2015**, all stakeholders are invited to submit WSIS related projects to the WSIS Prize 2016 contest. In order to process the submission, stakeholders are requested to complete the submission form for WSIS Prize 2016 online that contains two parts:

Part one: executive summary (100 words) and

Part two: project information (1500-2000 words and 1 photo)

The templates are available at [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes).

The contest is open to all stakeholders, entities representing governments, private sector, international and regional institutions, civil society and academia. Each entity is allowed to submit one project per category. Stakeholders are invited to consult the rules for project submission and nomination criteria at [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes).

### **2. The second phase: Nomination phase. Revision of Submitted Projects by the Expert Group**

During phase two, the Expert Group revises the projects referring to the rules for project submission and nomination criteria. The outcome of the Expert Group's work will be a list of nominated projects that will be announced to the public on **11 December 2015**. The Expert Group will consist of professionals working on the implementation of WSIS outcomes. The decisions of the Expert Group are final and without appeal.

All nominated projects will also be part of the WSIS Stocktaking Report 2016. Please see the previous edition at <http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2015/Content/doc/reports/wsisstocktaking-report-2015.pdf>.

### **3. The third phase: Public Online Voting**

Phase three will provide an online mechanism for all WSIS stakeholders to participate in the contest of WSIS Prize 2016. The list of nominated projects will be announced to the public on 18 December 2015 and WSIS multi-stakeholder community will be invited to participate and cast its vote for one project in each of 18 categories at [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes) on **11 December 2015**.

The deadline for completing votes is **10 March 2016** (Deadline for casting last vote: 23:00 Geneva time). Voting process will result in identifying three projects with the highest number of appreciations/votes given for project descriptions by WSIS stakeholders representing WSIS online network. The rules for voting should be strictly respected. They will be available online at [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes).

### **4. The fourth phase: Selection of Winning Projects**

During phase four (**14-18 March 2016**), the Expert Group will make in-depth analyses of three most voted projects per category and will select one winning project per category, taking into account scale and impact of the project on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and its contribution to the sustainable development. The outcome of the Expert Group's work will be the list of winning projects

that will be announced to the public only during the WSIS Forum 2016. Decisions of the Expert Group are final and without appeal. Focal points of the winning projects will be contacted on 7 April 2016 at the latest.

**5. The fifth phase: Announcement of the Winners to the Public during WSIS Prize 2016 Ceremony at WSIS Forum 2016**

During phase four, the list of the 18 most appreciated/voted projects will be identified, and during the phase five the winning projects will be announced officially to the public during the Prize Ceremony, which will be held at the **WSIS Forum 2016**. Extended descriptions of the winning projects will constitute the basis for the “WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2016” ITU e-publication. The success stories will showcase examples of projects on the implementation of WSIS outcomes, emphasizing achievements of stakeholders working towards achieving WSIS goals, transferring experience and knowledge at the global level and also spreading WSIS values while fostering them.

In addition to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact the WSIS Stocktaking Team at [wsis-prizes@itu.int](mailto:wsis-prizes@itu.int) for any further questions or need for assistance.

For more information regarding previous contest of WSIS Project Prizes, you are kindly invited to visit [WSIS Prizes 2012](#), [WSIS Prizes 2013](#), [WSIS Prizes 2014](#) and [WSIS Prizes 2015](#) portals.