



The Secretary-General

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All WSIS Stakeholders:

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

Subject: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Project Prizes 2015

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the contest of **WSIS Project Prizes 2015**. As you may be aware, WSIS Project Prizes is a unique recognition for excellence in the implementation of WSIS outcomes.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2014/27 "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of - and follow up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", that reiterates the importance of sharing the best practices at the global level, and while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the WSIS, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual WSIS Project Prizes, as an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process, while noting the report on the WSIS success stories.

The contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2015 is organized in five phases from 15 December 2014 till 1 May 2015. The WSIS Project Prizes 2015 ceremony will be held during the WSIS Forum 2015, (25 - 29 May 2015) in Geneva, Switzerland where 18 winners of WSIS Project Prizes will be honored, recognized and presented with an award.

The WSIS Project Prizes 2015 contest (www.wsis.org/prizes) provides the platform to identify and showcase the success stories and models that could be easily replicated, to empower the community at the local level, to give the chance to everyone to participate in the contest and mainly to recognize the efforts of stakeholders for their added value to society and commitment towards achieving WSIS goals.

Detailed information about the contest for the WSIS Project Prizes 2015 is presented in **Annex I: The Contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2015**.

I encourage all stakeholders to submit their project descriptions no later than 10 February 2015.

[Original signed]

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré

Annex I: The Contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2015

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
15 December 2014 – 10 February 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
10 February 2015 - 10 March 2015
- 3) The third phase: Public Online Voting (identification of three projects per category with the highest number of votes)
10 March - 1 May 2015 (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
2 May - 5 May 2015
- 5) The fifth phase: Announcement of winners to the public during **WSIS Project Prizes 2015 Ceremony at WSIS Forum 2015, scheduled to be held from 25 to 29 May 2015**, and the release of publication "WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2015", 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 Project Prizes 2015 at www.wsis.org/prizes. During the period from 15 December 2014 until **10 February 2015**, all stakeholders are invited to submit WSIS related projects to the contest for WSIS Project Prizes 2015. In order to process the submission, stakeholders are requested to complete the submission form for WSIS Project Prizes 2015 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.

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.

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 **10 March 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 2015. Please see the previous edition at <http://groups.itu.int/stocktaking/WSISProjectPrizes2014.aspx>.

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 Project Prizes 2015. The list of nominated projects will be announced to the public on **10 March 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.

The deadline for completing votes is **1 May 2015** (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 (2-5 May 2015), 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 2015. Decisions of the Expert Group are final and without appeal. Focal points of the winning projects will be contacted on **8 May 2015** at the latest.

5. The fifth phase: Announcement of the Winners to the Public during WSIS Project Prizes 2015 Ceremony at WSIS Forum 2015

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 2015** (25-29 May 2015). Extended descriptions of the winning projects will constitute the basis for the "WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2015". 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 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 Project Prizes 2012](#), [WSIS Project Prizes 2013](#) and [WSIS Project Prizes 2014](#) portals.