



## 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 2013**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the second edition of WSIS Project Prizes. As you may be aware, WSIS Project Prizes is a unique recognition for excellence in the implementation of WSIS outcomes. This initiative is an immediate response to the requests expressed by WSIS stakeholders during the WSIS Forum 2011: to create a mechanism to evaluate and reward stakeholders for their efforts in the implementation of WSIS outcomes. The WSIS Project Prizes are an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking Process that was set up in 2004 (**Para 120, Tunis Agenda**).

**United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2012/5** "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society" reiterates the importance of sharing the best practices at the global level, and while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives which further the WSIS goals, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects to the annual WSIS Project Prizes, as an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process, while noting the report on the **WSIS Success Stories**.

The WSIS Project Prizes 2013 contest ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes)) is an occasion to showcase projects. The 18 winners of WSIS Project Prizes will be honored, recognized and presented with an award at the Prize Ceremony at the WSIS Forum 2013. The winners will also have the opportunity to network, present and promote their projects at an international level, share knowledge and experience as well as learn about other best practices and models which further the WSIS goals. Detailed information about the contest for the WSIS Project Prizes 2013 is presented in **Annex I: The Contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2013**.

I encourage all stakeholders to submit their project descriptions no later than 16th December 2012.

Yours faithfully,

[Originally signed]

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré

Enc: Annex I: The Contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2013  
Copy: Permanent Missions of the UN in Geneva  
Other WSIS Stakeholders

## Annex I: The Contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2013


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

The categories are listed below:

- C1) The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development;
- C2) Information and communication infrastructure;
- C3) Access to information and knowledge;
- C4) Capacity building;
- C5) Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- C6) Enabling environment;
- C7) ICT Applications: • e-government • e-business • e-learning • e-health • e-employment  
• e-environment • e-agriculture • e-science;
- C8) Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content;
- C9) Media;
- C10) Ethical dimensions of the Information Society; and
- C11) International and regional cooperation.

The contest is organized into four phases:

- *Phase One* – Submission of project descriptions  
3rd September – 16th December 2012 (TIME: 23:00 Geneva time)
- *Phase Two* – Voting by the members of the WSIS Stocktaking Platform  
14 January 2013 – 15 March 2013  
The deadline for completing votes is 15 March 2013 (TIME: 23:00 Geneva time)
- *Phase Three* – Compilation of extended descriptions of the winning projects and preparation of “WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2013”. The release of publication is scheduled to be at the WSIS Forum 2013
- *Phase Four* – The WSIS Project Prize Ceremony that will be hosted at the WSIS Forum 2013 on 13 May 2013 followed by Showcasing Roundtable 2013 “Mapping the impact of winning projects” and WSIS Gala Dinner.

Referring to **phase one** of the contest for WSIS Project Prizes 2013, I am pleased to announce that during the period from 3rd September until 16th December 2012, all stakeholders including governments, private sector, international organizations, civil society and others are invited to submit WSIS related projects to the contest for WSIS Project Prizes 2013 by completing the online form at [www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes). Please, kindly consult the rules and guidelines available at [www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes) prior to the submission. The template for the questionnaire is available here 

All submitted activities will also be part of the WSIS Stocktaking Report 2013. Please see the previous edition at <http://www.itu.int/wsis/stocktaking/docs/reports/S-POL-WSIS.REP-2012-PDF-E.pdf>

Submitted project descriptions should demonstrate success in the following areas:

- Impact on the development of the Information Society
- Measurable input to achieve WSIS targets
- Ability of the model to be replicated
- Empower the community at the local level
- Project added value and importance to the community at the national level
- Functioning of the project/system
- Partnerships development
- Sustainability model of the project.

**Phase two** will provide the online mechanism for all stakeholders to participate in the contest for WSIS Project Prizes 2013. The winners will be selected based on the appreciation/voting for projects descriptions by WSIS stakeholders representing WSIS online network at [www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes). In 2012, the contest was organized for the first time and it was encouraged that this initiative be continued in 2013 with the same open approach allowing all stakeholders to participate in this transparent contest and engage the community at the national level.

During **phase three**, the list of the most appreciated/voted projects will be identified. This will be based on careful review of all projects where the extended descriptions of the winning projects will construct the basis for the “WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2013”. The success stories will showcase examples of projects on the implementation of WSIS outcomes, emphasizing the achievements of stakeholders working towards 2015, transferring experience and knowledge at global level and also spreading WSIS values while fostering them.

During **phase four**, the winning projects will be announced officially to the public during the Prize Ceremony that will be held on 13 May 2013 during the WSIS Forum 2013, in Geneva, Switzerland.

On the same day, the winners will be part of a showcasing roundtable that will serve as a platform to present and promote their projects at the international level, to share knowledge and experience and learn about other best practices and models that exist. The winners with a representation from governments, private sector, civil society, and international organizations will be able to exchange the success and challenges in the implementation of the project. The showcasing roundtable will be chaired by the ITU official and the Contest partner.

On the following day, the GALA dinner for the WSIS Project Prizes 2013 will provide the space for networking and also give opportunity for winners to showcase and brand its projects. The GALA dinner will be moderated by an expert in the ICT field. The winners of the previous contest will also be invited to the WSIS Gala Dinner in order to provide an update on their projects and future developments. The WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2013 will also be presented at the Gala evening.

Please do not hesitate to contact the WSIS Stocktaking Team at [wsis-stocktaking@itu.int](mailto:wsis-stocktaking@itu.int) in case of any questions or need for assistance.

In order to find more information regarding previous contest of WSIS Project Prizes, you are kindly invited to visit <http://groups.itu.int/stocktaking/WSISProjectPrizes2012.aspx>

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