



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 2014

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the contest of **WSIS Project Prizes 2014**. 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 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 contest of **WSIS Project Prizes 2014** is organized into four phases to be held from 5 September 2013 until 13 April 2014. On the latter date 18 winners of WSIS Project Prizes will be honored, recognized and presented with an award during WSIS Project Prizes 2014 Ceremony at the WSIS+10 High-Level Event.

The WSIS Project Prizes 2014 contest (www.wsis.org/prizes2014) provides a platform to identify and showcase success stories and models that could be easily replicated; empower communities at the local level; give a chance to all stakeholders working on WSIS to participate in the contest, and particularly recognize the efforts of stakeholders for their added value to the society and commitment towards achieving WSIS goals.

Detailed information about the contest for the WSIS Project Prizes 2014 is presented in **Annex I: The Contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2014**.

I encourage all stakeholders to submit their project descriptions no later than 1 November 2013.

Yours faithfully,

[Originally signed]

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré

Annex I: The Contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2014

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 four phases:

- 1) *The first phase:* Submission phase
5 September – 1 November 2013 (Deadline for last submission: 23:00 Geneva time)
- 2) *The second phase:* Nomination Phase. The Revision of submitted projects by Expert Group that will result with a list of nominated projects
15 November- 16 December 2013
- 3) *The third phase:* Public Online Voting
16 December– 15 February 2014 (Deadline for casting last vote: 23:00 Geneva time)
- 4) *The fourth phase:* Announcement of winners to the public during WSIS Project Prizes 2014 Ceremony at WSIS+10 High-Level Event 2014, scheduled to be held on **13 April 2014**, and the release of publication “WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2014”, 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 2014 at www.wsis.org/prizes2014. During the period from **5 September until 1 November 2013**, all stakeholders are invited to submit WSIS related projects to the contest for WSIS Project Prizes 2014. In order to process the submission, stakeholders are requested to complete the submission form for WSIS Project Prizes 2014 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/prizes2014

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/prizes2014](http://www.wsis.org/prizes2014).

2. The second phase: Nomination phase. The 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](http://www.wsis.org/prizes2014). The outcome of the Expert Group's work will be a list of nominated projects that will be announced to the public on **16 December 2013**. 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 2014. Please see the previous edition at <http://www.itu.int/wsis/stocktaking/docs/reports/S-POL-WSIS.REP-2012-PDF-E.pdf> and http://web.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/opb/pol/S-POL-WSIS.REP-2013-E07-PDF-E.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 Project Prizes 2014. The list of nominated projects will be announced to the public on **16 December 2013** 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/prizes2014. The deadline for completing votes is **15 February 2014** (Deadline for casting last vote: 23:00 Geneva time). Winners will be selected based on the appreciation/voting for project descriptions by WSIS stakeholders representing WSIS online network. The rules for voting should be strictly respected. They are available online at www.wsis.org/prizes2014

4. The fourth phase: Announcement of the winners to the public during WSIS Project Prizes 2014 Ceremony at WSIS+10 High-Level Event 2014

During phase four, the list of the 18 most appreciated/voted projects will be identified and winning projects will be announced officially to the public during the Prize Ceremony, which will be held on **13 April 2014** at the WSIS+10 High-Level Event 2014. Extended descriptions of the winning projects will constitute the basis for the "WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2014". 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](http://www.wsis.org/prizes2012) and [WSIS Project Prizes 2013](http://www.wsis.org/prizes2013) portals.