World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

RIPE 89

WSIS Process: Celebrating Twenty Years and Achieving Future Milestones Together

Tala Debs
WSIS&SDG Project Coordinator
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

31 October 2024

WSIS Process milestones

ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in in Minneapolis, United States

1998

UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 56/183 endorsed the holding of WSIS

2001

WSIS
Phase I: Geneva, 2003
Phase II: Tunisia, 2005

2003 / 2005

Cluster of WSIS related events
~
WSIS Forum

2006

UNGA High-Level Meeting on the overall review of WSIS (WSIS+10)

2015

WSIS+20 High-Level Event

2025

UNGA High-Level Meeting on the overall review of WSIS (WSIS+20)

2025

WSIS Beyond

2025

Guided by key principles: WSIS Action Lines

C1	ICTs for development
C2	Infrastructure
C3	Access to info & knowledge
C4	Capacity building
C5	Confidence & security
C6	Enabling environment
C7	eGovernment
C7	eBusiness
C7	eLearning
C7	eHealth
C7	eEmployment
C7	eEnvironment
C7	eAgriculture
C7	eScience
C8	Diversity & local content
C9	Media
C10	Ethical dimensions
C11	Int & regional cooperation

13 000+ digital projects aligned with SDGs

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Governance

UNGA Resolutions
ECOSOC Resolutions
CEB through the United Nations Group on Information Society (UNGIS)
CSTD
Annual WSIS Forum
Annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
UN Agencies mandated to implement WSIS Action Lines
UN Regional Commissions mandated
to implement WSIS at regional level

WSIS Prizes | WSIS Stocktaking |
Partnership for Measuring ICT development |
WSIS Special Initiatives

WSIS Process: Multistakeholder in nature, involving all stakeholders

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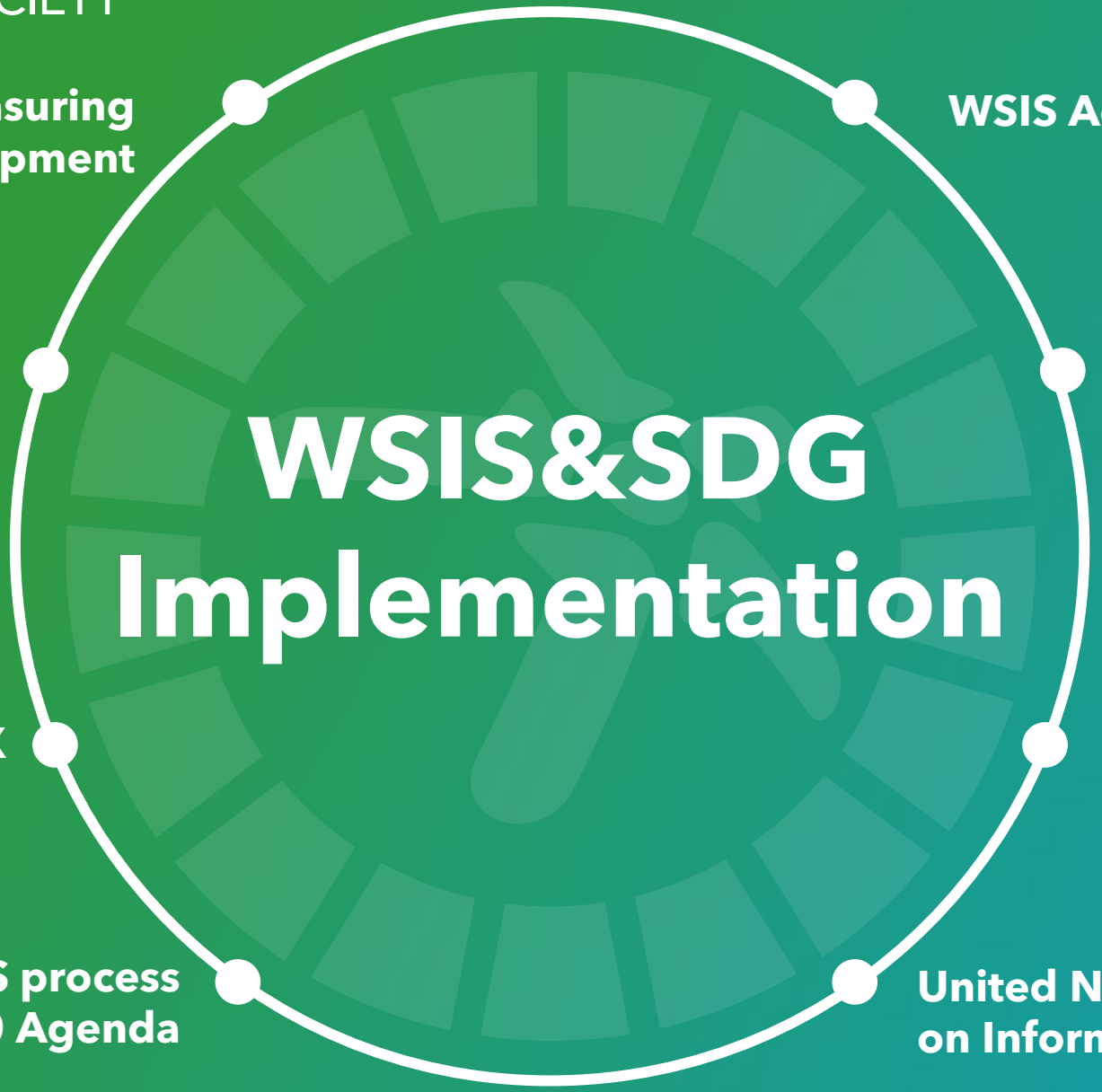


Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development

WSIS Action Lines

WSIS Special Initiatives

WSIS Forum

WSIS&SDG TalkX

WSIS Stocktaking

Alignment of the WSIS process with the 2030 Agenda

United Nations Group on Information Society

WSIS: An overall framework incorporating all aspects of digital
WSIS Framework: Implementation and follow-up to GDC

Inclusivity

Capacity Building

Bridging Digital Divide

WSIS

GDC

Protection and Promotion of Human Rights

Promotion of International Cooperation

Innovation and Knowledge Sharing

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

Ethical Use of Technology

WSIS Process and 2030 Agenda – GDC Matrix being prepared in consultation with WSIS Action Lines facilitators

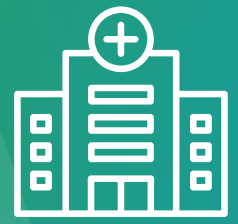
WSIS Targets : achievements since 2003

5.4

Billion people online

250 000+

Connected schools according to Giga Maps



WHO& ITU collecting Data

Connected hospitals

65%

Women using the Internet

80%

Youth (15-24 years old) use the internet

Source: ITU Facts and Figures 2023, https://giga.global/

WSIS Forum

15 years

160 countries

120 000+ multi-stakeholder participants (onsite and virtual)

40+ UN Agencies involved

10+ Special Tracks Gender, Youth …

Co-organizers

ITU

unesco
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNDP

UN trade & development
UNCTAD

WSIS Prizes

Since 2012

5000+

submissions

112	234	648
countries	Winners	Champions

WSIS: continuously evolving process addressing impacts of emerging technologies

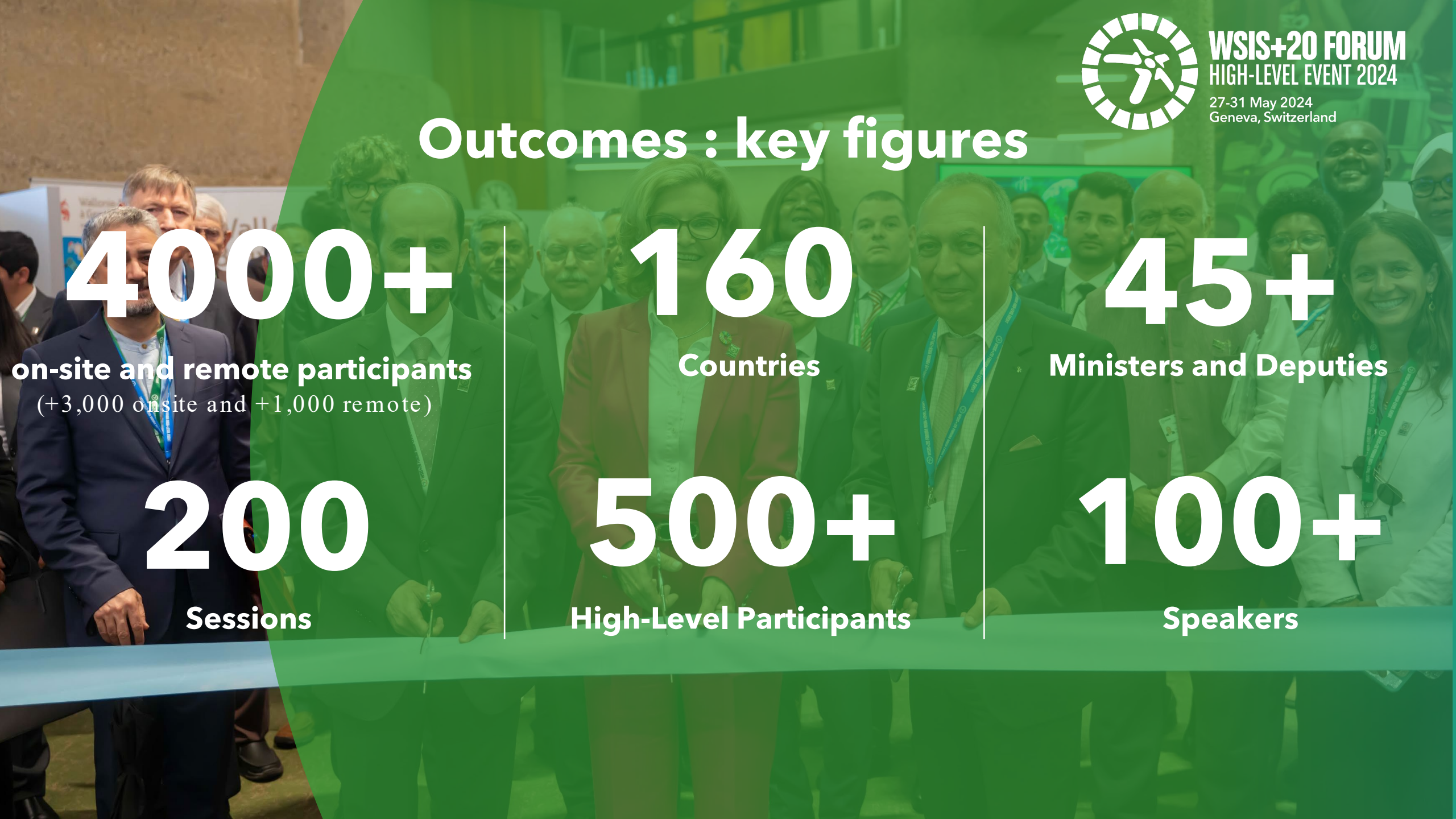
Hackathons

WSIS Forum agenda and programme continuously updated to encompass discussions on new and emerging technologies

AI for Good and WSIS Forum organized concurrently

Exhibition spaces showcasing latest technologies

WSIS Special Innovation Prizes



WSIS+20 FORUM
HIGH-LEVEL EVENT 2024
27-31 May 2024
Geneva, Switzerland

Outcomes : key figures

4000+
on-site and remote participants
(+3,000 onsite and +1,000 remote)

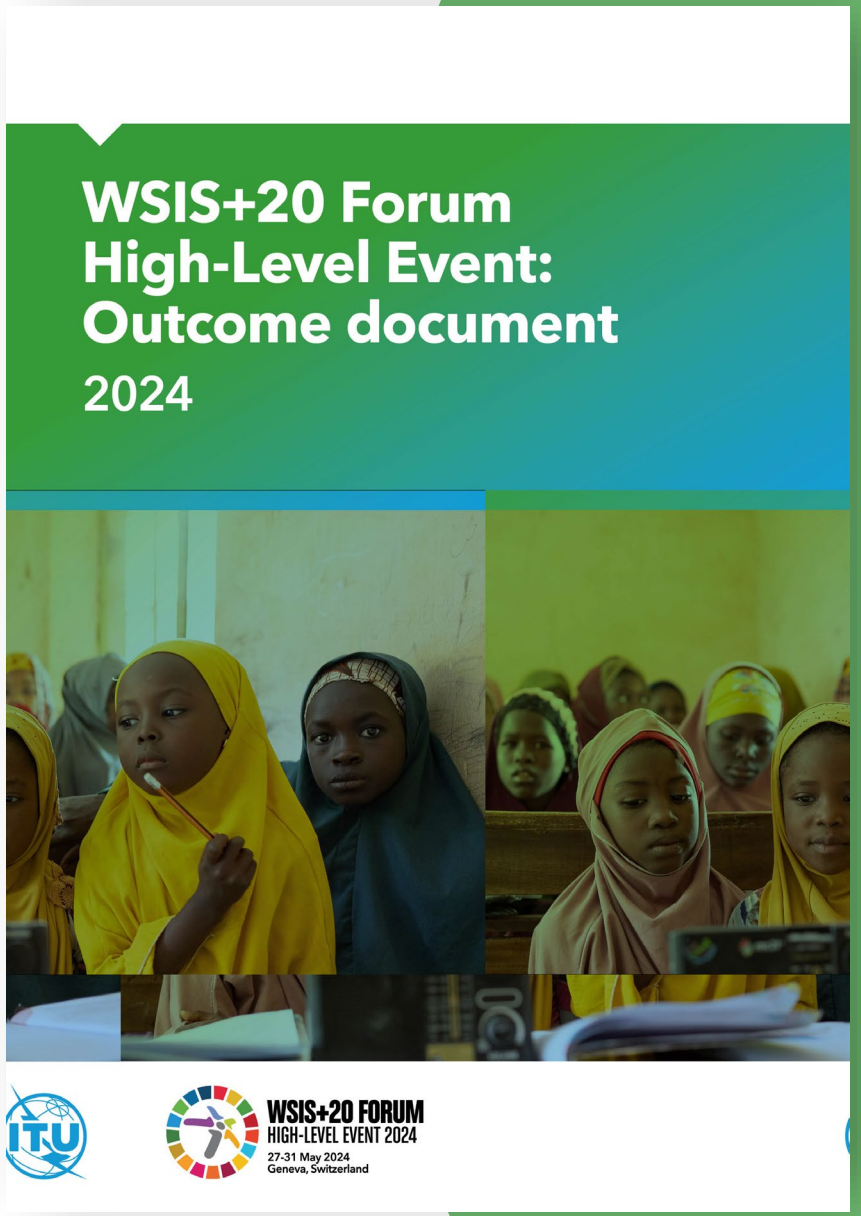
160
Countries

45+
Ministers and Deputies

200
Sessions

500+
High-Level Participants

100+
Speakers



WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024: Outcomes

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/Outcomes

WSIS+20 REVIEW

WSIS+20 Review
Joint Preparatory Process

2023
SDG Summit

18- 19
Sep. 2023

2023
Japan Phase

8-12 Oct.
IGF 2023:

WSIS+20 High-Level Panel

WSIS
High-Level
Dialogue

CSTD WSIS+20
Open
consultation

WSIS+20 HLE
OCP

WSIS+20
UNGIS open
forum

Regional Events

UN ESCAP:
8-9 Nov 2023,
Yerevan,
Armenia

UN ECE:
14 March 2024,
Geneva,
Switzerland

UN ESCWA:
21-23 May
2024, Dubai,
UAE
Feb 2025
Amman, Jordan

UN ESCAP:
3-5 Sept 2024,
Astana,
Kazakhstan
25-26 Sept, Jeju
Island, South
Korea

UN ECA:
9-11 Oct 2024,
Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania

UN ECLAC:
7-8 Nov 2024,
Santiago, Chile

2024
Geneva Phase

27-31 May
2024:

WSIS+20
Forum High-
Level Event
2024

2024
Summit of the Future

22-23 Sep
2024

2024
IGF

15-19 Dec
2024:

IGF 2024,
Riyadh, Saudi
Arabia

2025
Paris Phase

12-13 Feb
2025

UNESCO event:
Global Forum
on AI and
Digital
Transformation
in the Public
Sector

2025
WSIS+20 Modalities

Appointment of co-facilitators _ Resolution on the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS

(before June 2025)

2025
CSTD Review

7-11April
2025:

28th CSTD
session

2025
Geneva Phase

7-11 July
2025:

WSIS+20 High-
Level Event
2025

2025
New York Phase

UNESCO event:
Global Forum on
AI and Digital
Transformation in
the Public Sector

Multistakeholder outcome on 20 years of WSIS implementation and a vision of WSIS beyond 2025 to be submitted to the Summit of the Future 2024 and endorsed during the high-level meeting at UNGA in 2025

Contribute: Call for Inputs on the WSIS+20 Review

In accordance with ITU Council Resolution 1332, members and other stakeholders are invited to contribute their views on the work of the ITU in the WSIS+20 review, including ideas related to the review of the WSIS Action Lines.

- An online form launched in August 2024 for all stakeholders, **deadline 31 January 2025**
- **October 2024** — ITU Council Working Group WSIS&SDG 1st Physical Meeting
- **February 2025** — ITU Council Working Group WSIS&SDG 2nd Physical Meeting
- **7-11 July 2025** — A side event during the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025

Learn more

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Save the date
7-11 July 2025
Geneva, Switzerland

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WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025

Objectives

A platform for multistakeholder discussions on the progress made since the inception of WSIS and take stock of the achievements/success in 20 years to bridge the digital divide and promote meaningful connectivity, both today and beyond 2025.

Format

Leaders TalkX
High-Level Dialogue
Interactive sessions
Ministerial Roundtable
Exhibition
Social Events
Sharing sessions, etc.

Outcome

Multistakeholder outcome to be submitted to the UNGA overall review in 2025

WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 : Calls for Contributions

OPEN CONSULTATION PROCESS

First physical meeting: Monday 18 November 14:00 – 15:00 CET
Deadline: 14 March 2025

WSIS STOCKTAKING & WSIS PRIZES 2025

Submit your best digital projects for development and be recognized globally
Deadline: 10 February 2025

WSIS Photo Contest, WSIS Special Prizes and Hackathon

Coming soon!

www.wsis.org/forum

Partner with Us!

- Strategic Partner Diamond
- Strategic Partner Platinum
- Strategic Partner Gold
- Silver Partner
- Contributing Partner
- Supporting Partner

Increase your visibility
Contact us at wsis-info@itu.int

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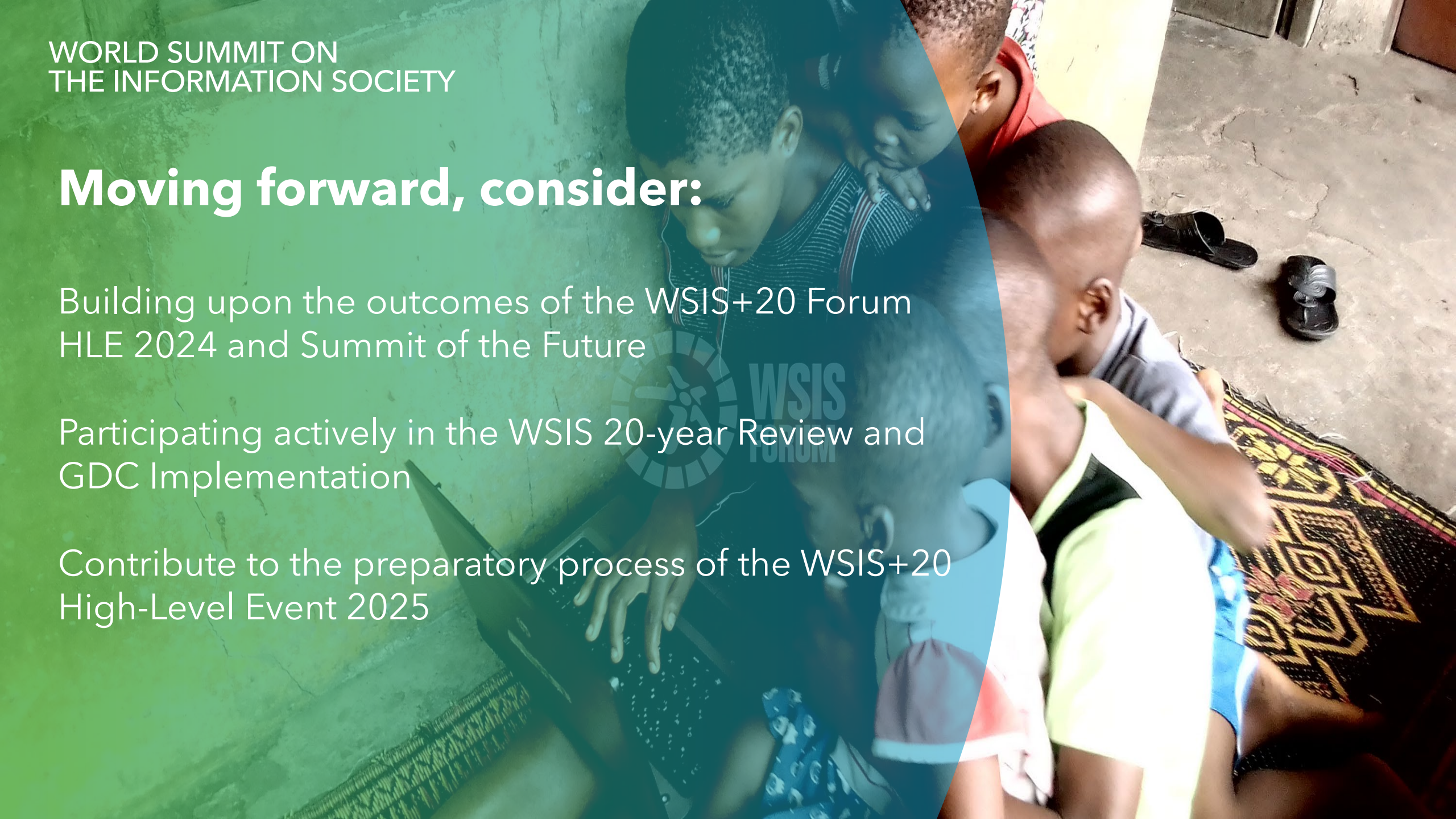
Moving forward, consider:

Building upon the outcomes of the WSIS+20 Forum HLE 2024 and Summit of the Future

Participating actively in the WSIS 20-year Review and GDC Implementation

Contribute to the preparatory process of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025



Thank You

wsis.org/forum

#WSIS

@WSISprocess