



## **Report on the WSIS Stocktaking Process**

**Submitted by General Secretariat**

### **Background**

Pursuant to the outcomes of the Tunis Agenda (Para 120), ITU continues to work on the WSIS Stocktaking ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)) as a valuable tool for assisting the WSIS follow-up, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis phase of the Summit.

Being highly appreciated and reflected in ECOSOC resolution 2014/27, on “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society “, the ICT for development community highlighted the importance of sharing the best practices at the global level. While recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives which advances the WSIS goals, this Resolution encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual WSIS Prizes as an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process.

### **WSIS Stocktaking Platform**

As one of the major components of WSIS, the WSIS Stocktaking process is a unique global platform that has been embraced by the multistakeholder community with the aim to provide an international register of ICT projects and activities on the ground carried out by governments, international organizations, the business sector, civil society, and other entities, in order to highlight the progress made since the landmark event. According to the Tunis Agenda (Para 120) the International Telecommunication Union was requested to continue to maintain and update the stocktaking database of WSIS related activities. The stocktaking portal ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)) is structured around the eleven WSIS action lines and contains close to 7,000 WSIS-related entries submitted by stakeholders. This process provides a repository of best practices (maintained by the International Telecommunication Union) for stakeholders seeking updated information on the progress of implementation of WSIS outcomes. So far, WSIS Stocktaking process has involved close to 140,000 stakeholders worldwide.

As the Web 2.0 platform continues to flourish, so does the promotion of social development and economic growth through ICTs. All 140.000 stakeholders benefit from sharing interesting case studies, which should undoubtedly facilitate the transfer of knowledge, experiences and models for projects implementation. The WSIS Stocktaking platform helps to create partnerships, provide greater visibility and add value to ICT projects all around the world.

The ICT for development community is encouraged to visit the WSIS Stocktaking Platform and explore various projects submitted from all sectors around the world. Projects and initiatives reflected on this platform highlight progress made towards achieving the WSIS goals as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

We are pleased to announce that the **newly designed WSIS Stocktaking platform is under construction and will be launched in October 2015**, bringing a more interactive interface with several innovative aspects that will be more appealing to the users. The new Stocktaking platform will also feature new questionnaire that will reflect the **transition from MDG's to Sustainable Development Goals**, and what is the impact of freshly submitted ICT projects on SDGs.

### **WSIS Stocktaking Report 2015**

The 2015 edition of the WSIS Stocktaking Report is the continuation of the WSIS Stocktaking Report series. The seventh edition of the WSIS Stocktaking Report was officially released during the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2015. The 2015 report reflects more than 500 global activities relating to ICTs for development, submitted to the WSIS stocktaking process for the period April 2014 - March 2015, each one highlighting the efforts deployed by stakeholders involved in implementing the WSIS goals. The seventh edition gave examples of emerging trends in actions geared to bridging the digital divide and building an inclusive information society. The report is based on the multistakeholder approach, including input from stakeholders from all over the world, as well as the input from WSIS Action Line facilitators and co-facilitators. The reporting is based on the contributions of the stakeholders responding to the ITU official 2014 call for stocktaking update and new entries.

WSIS Stocktaking Report series (seven published editions of the report: 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015) are based on the multistakeholder approach and include input from stakeholders from all over the world as well as input from WSIS facilitators and co-facilitators. The reporting is based on the contributions of the stakeholders responding to the WSIS regular calls for updates and new entries. The latest call was issued in September 2014. WSIS Stocktaking Report 2015 is available online for download from the [ITU Bookshop](#).

## **WSIS Stocktaking and Sustainable Development**

The information and communication technologies (ICTs) have clearly demonstrated their value as a facilitator and development enabler in reaching MDGs. However, major challenges still lay ahead for counteracting the wide disparities in development and enabling all groups and all countries to benefit from universal access to information and knowledge. ICTs are cross-cutting enablers of development and are therefore critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time, WSIS stakeholders have recognized the need to link the WSIS process to the SDGs framework.

The potential of Information and Communication Technologies as contributors to economic and social development has been acknowledged by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly preparing the proposal on the SDGs. Undeniably, ICTs are a driver for growth; they will be an essential tool towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Following the presentation of the WSIS Action Lines – SDGs Matrix at the WSIS Forum 2015, which has received large appreciation by all the WSIS community, proposing to better explain the potential of ICTs as enablers for sustainable development, by investing the third dimension of the issue: that of reporting ICT success stories to best showcase the possible achievement of SDGs, through the implementation of WSIS Action Lines related projects, Booklet on *Advancing Sustainable Development Through Information and Communication Technologies: WSIS Action Lines Enabling SDGs*, was produced and is available online for download from the [ITU Bookshop](#). Other relevant material on WSIS Stocktaking and Sustainable Development is available at [www.wsis.org/sdg](http://www.wsis.org/sdg)

## **WSIS Stocktaking Process in 2016**

The many and varied stakeholders who have implemented innovative projects and contributed to the success of the WSIS Stocktaking Process deserve sincere gratitude. WSIS urges these stakeholders, along with all Member States, international organizations, the private sector and civil society, to continue submitting such contributions in the future. WSIS remains dedicated to furthering this process, certain that other stakeholders will find it insightful and stimulating to participate in the construction of a broader and more inclusive information society for all.

**The new call for update and new entries 2015-2016** will be sent out in the first week of **October 2015** and we invite you to submit entries online at [www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking). Submitted activities will be reflected in the WSIS Stocktaking Report 2016 which will be released at WSIS Forum 2016 (2-6 May 2016). **We look forward to receiving your responses to this call by 1 March 2016.** If you should have any questions or need for assistance, please contact the WSIS Stocktaking Team at [wsis-stocktaking@itu.int](mailto:wsis-stocktaking@itu.int).