



The Secretary-General

Geneva, 7 October 2011

Ref: DM-11/1018

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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 2012

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the WSIS Project Prizes 2012. 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 on 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**).

WSIS Project Prizes 2012 (www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes) will provide international visibility and recognition to all stakeholders. There will be opportunities for WSIS Project Prize winners to extend professional networks, to facilitate the creation of partnerships and financing opportunities, to be referenced in the WSIS Process and highlighted in the **WSIS Stocktaking Report on Success Stories 2012** (the previous version of the publication is available at www.wsis.org/stocktaking).

Detailed information about the contest of the WSIS project Prizes 2012 is presented in the **Annexure: The Contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2012**.

I encourage all stakeholders to submit the project descriptions not later than 20 January 2012.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Touré', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré

Enc: Annexure
Copy: Administrations of Member States of ITU
Permanent Missions of the UN in Geneva
Other WSIS Stakeholders

Annexure: The Contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2012

WSIS Project Prizes 2012 containing 18 categories were created in order to encourage all groups of stakeholders from all over the world to share their experiences on WSIS implementation and leverage its activities. The 18 categories of the WSIS Project Prizes 2012 are linked to the WSIS Action Lines outlined in the Geneva Plan of Action.

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;

C11) International and regional cooperation.

The contest is organized into four phases:

- *Phase One* – Submission of project descriptions
10 October 2011 – 20 January 2012
- *Phase Two* – Voting by the members of the WSIS Stocktaking Platform
25 January – 10 April 2012
- *Phase Three* – Compilation of extended descriptions of the winning projects and preparation of “WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2012”
10 April – 10 May 2012
- *Phase Four* – The WSIS Project Prize Ceremony and release of the Success Stories 2012 publication at the WSIS Forum 2012
15 May 2012

Referring to **the phase one** of the contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2012, I am pleased to announce that from 10 October 2011 – 20 January 2012, you are invited to nominate your projects for WSIS Project Prizes 2012 by completing the online form at www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes. Please, kindly consult the rules and guidelines available at www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes prior the submission.

Submitted project descriptions should show success in the following areas:

- impact on the development of the Information Society
- measurable input to achieve WSIS targets
- ability to be replicated

The phase two will carry on the online character by giving the chance to all stakeholders participate in the contest of WSIS Project Prizes 2012. The winners will be selected based on the appreciation/voting of projects descriptions by WSIS stakeholders representing WSIS online network at www.wsis.org/stocktaking/prizes

During **phase three**, the list of the most appreciated projects will be identified where the extended descriptions of the winning projects will construct the basis of the “WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2012” aimed at showcasing the examples of projects on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and transferring experience and knowledge at global level.

During **phase four**, the list of the winning projects will be announced during the ceremony to award the prize that will be held on 15 May 2012 during the WSIS Forum 2012, in Geneva, Switzerland. The ceremony will be followed by a day-long series of presentation sessions on project implementation where the managers of winning organizations will be invited to illustrate key lessons and showcase their projects to the public emphasizing the impact of their projects for the development of the Information Society and achieving WSIS targets.

In case of any questions or need for assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the WSIS Stocktaking Team at wsis-stocktaking@itu.int