

Africa WSIS Regional Review Meeting 2022

Monday, 28th November 2022 from 09.30-11.15 (EAT) Banquet Hall B – Auditorium

<https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-session-submission-form?type=D0>

Background

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was the culmination of a process that began in Geneva in 2003. As a result of the Summit, the global community adopted a common set of principles and a vision of the information society, identified its key principles, and outlined the main challenges towards achieving an information society for all based on shared knowledge. The idea of holding a world summit to address these and other issues related to the information society began as an initiative of the 1998 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference and was subsequently endorsed by resolution 56/183, adopted in December 2001.

This resolution encourages the members of the United Nations Group on the Information Society to contribute to the reports. The report will contain a factual assessment of the status of implementation of the WSIS outcomes, highlighting progress and shortfalls, and indicating areas where further actions and initiatives might be needed. It will also take into account the outcome of the overall review of the WSIS, conducted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015.

At its 36th meeting, the ITU Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and sustainable development goals (SDGs) started with taking stock of several activities related to the WSIS process and SDGs, including the outcomes of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2020 meeting, the [2020 UN General Assembly Resolution on ICT for sustainable development](#), and the UN Secretary-General Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.

The main objective

The objective of this 2022 regional WSIS follow up and review session is to bring together key main actors in the ICT sector across the continent and the world to discuss within the post Covid-19 context how we can fully improve the digital framework in the continent and to showcase best practices and innovative solution developed on how African countries are implementing the WSIS Action Lines in the attainment of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063. The session will also raise awareness of the Global Digital Compact, shape our digital goals, and amplify the voices of Africans.

Key Issues

Aligned with the proposed Global Digital Compact in the UN Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda* report, the following questions will guide the discussion:

- a. What are best practices and policies in implementing WSIS Action lines that can help countries leverage on the opportunities presented by the digital technologies drawing lessons from our response as a continent to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- b. What are the emerging and future concerns that may have an impact for the future on an innovative approach to better implement the WSIS outcomes at the regional level?

- c. What are best practices/lessons learned to reduce the digital divide both among and within countries and further harnessing ICT for sustainable development via the WSIS +20 review? Background information on WSIS 2023 Forum.
- d. Where is Africa with regard to ensuring enhanced digital cooperation and digital governance?

Registration link for the Participants

The session will be held in a hybrid format allowing onsite and online participation. The registration link for participants is:

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AGENDA

Session Moderator: **Mr. Mactar Seck**, UNECA

Time	Speaker	
09:20 – 09.30	All seated/ Online Registrations & Login	All
	Welcome Remarks	
9.30 – 09.50		<p>Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, Director Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, UNECA</p> <p>Anne Rachel Inne, Director ITU Africa</p> <p>Dr. Kamugisha Kazaura, AUC Director</p> <p>Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, Under-Secretary-General</p>
09: 50 – 10:30	Session 1: Setting the scene: WSIS Review	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa WSIS Review 2022: Ms. Margaret Nyambura, UNECA • WSIS Forum 2023 Updates: Ms. Gitanjali Sah, Strategy and Policy Coordinator, ITU
10:30– 11.05	Session 2: Policy Perspective for the digitalization of Africa Session	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazouz Souhila , AUC • Eng.Daniel Murenzi , (TBC) • Ms. Amel Saidane, Co-founder & CEO BetaCube, President Tunisian startups Association
11.05-11.15	Conclusion and Closing Remarks	Mr. Mactar Seck , UNECA