



## Reporting on WSIS Activities related to ICTs and Older Persons

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### A. WSIS Forum Track on ICTs and Older Persons

The WSIS Forum 2020 Launched the first ever ICTs and Older Persons track, The reference of this activity was included in the UN Secretary General Report “Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing” (A/75/218) submitted pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 74/125. Para 42: Another barrier to the participation of older persons in the labour force are labour markets that do not offer the flexibility that would benefit older persons. Offering flexible and part-time work arrangements, which are highly valued by older workers, as well as exploiting the potential of new digital technologies, including robotics and artificial intelligence, to support employment among older persons can incentivize older workers to extend their working lives. While information and communications technologies (ICT) have become ubiquitous in the economic and social life of both developed and developing countries, digital divides continue to prevent ICT from achieving their full development potential, particularly in the least developed countries (see A/75/62-E/2020/11). Highlighting the importance of older persons as a cross-cutting topic, in 2020 the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, for the first time, has dedicated a special track to older persons and ICT.

Following the high interest from Stakeholders, this Track was renewed during WSIS Forum 2021 and WSIS Forum 2022, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. the [ICTs and Older Persons Track at the WSIS Forum 2022](#) will address the role of ICT in combating age-based discrimination in the workplace, achieving healthier ageing, building smarter cities, ensuring the financial inclusion of older persons and supporting millions of caregivers across the world and in digital inclusion across the generations to enable the Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020–2030.

We invite all interested stakeholders to contribute to this Special Track by submitting to the Open Consultation Process, before 7 March

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Home/Consultations>

### B. WSIS Forum Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize

[WSIS Forum 2022](#) has had a successful launch of a new special WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize as a part of [WSIS Forum 2021 Special Track on ICTs and Older Persons](#). We are pleased to continue with this important platform for engaging with ICT practitioners advancing healthy ageing in the second edition of the [WSIS Forum Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize](#) and invite you to submit ICT projects you and your communities and networks are conducting by 1 March 2022.

Given the identification and release of the UN/WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing’s Action Areas, we believe it is especially timely to encourage innovators, in the public and private sector, to connect their submissions to this seminal global effort. Specifically, to address how their products/services/platforms support and impact one of the categories that impact the ability of Older Persons to function as they age, as listed below. For more information, please visit the dedicated webpage <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Home/HealthyAgeing> :

- **Alzheimer’s and Cognitive Decline**
- **Frailty**
- **Immunizations**



- **Transportation and Mobility**
- **Elder Caregiving**

The WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize is an exceptional international recognition of WSIS Stakeholders as leaders for their excellence in supporting innovation that brings sustainable solutions for the ever-increasing global population of older people.

Submissions will be made through the [official submission form](#), with five nominees selected in each of the 5 categories by a panel of international judges. The winner, and finalists, will be announced during the WSIS Forum 2022, and will be offered a cash prize as well as recognition at the WSIS Forum.

### **C. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2022 (WTISD 2022)**

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) has been celebrated annually every 17 May since 1969 to mark the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.

As part of ITU's efforts towards the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing and the **theme of WTISD 2022, "Digital technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing"**, ITU invites all stakeholders to actively participate in commemorating, contributing, and innovating throughout the year with national, regional, and international initiatives to accelerate digital technologies for older persons and healthy ageing, during an online celebration on 17 May 2022 from 13:00 to 14:30 CET.

More information on the event and registration details are available using the following link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Agenda/Session/133>

### **D. WSIS Multi Stakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons**

At the request of the stakeholders and as an outcome of the WSIS Forum 2021 ICTs and Older Persons Track, WSIS Team facilitated a brainstorming and Knowledge Cafe on the topic of ICTs and Older Persons on 30 November 2021. First outcomes of this brainstorming were the creation of 4 groups corresponding to 4 areas of work that stakeholders would like to focus on, which are: Design & Accessibility, Capacity Building & Education, Cybersecurity, and Innovation. The topics have been already, or will be, co-chaired by voluntary stakeholders. More information is available here: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Home/ICTsOlderPersonsAlliance>

### **A. WSIS Forum 2021 - Ageing Better with ICTs Online Hackathon**

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA), and other stakeholders including World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), successfully organized the virtual hackathon on ICTs and Older Persons during the WSIS Forum 2021, gathering more than 1,100 participants joining from 48 countries. The hackathon ideated ICT solutions addressing the areas of Alzheimer's disease and cognitive decline, frailty, transportation and mobility, and financial tools for longevity. Four winners from each challenge areas were awarded during a High-Level Dialogue gathering expert judges in field



of technology and ageing. One winning team in each challenge area received a 6-month mentorship with the Global Coalition on Aging and their member companies as well as a \$1,000 cash prize. Learn more about the winners: <https://www.hackerearth.com/challenges/hackathon/ageing-better-with-icts/>

The WSIS process is creating a favourable environment for innovators and developers to further develop their ideas and transforming them into a viable and sustainable solutions.

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