



## **WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) PRIZES- CALL FOR ENTRIES**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) is calling upon the general public to submit their entries for the WSIS 2016 Prizes. The entries will be submitted to the International Telecommunications union (ITU) for the WSIS Stocktaking Process to be considered for the WSIS Project Prize.

The call is open to the Government, Private Sector, Research Institutions, Agencies and even Individuals who are involved in ICT related activities oriented to ICT Development and are in line with WSIS Stocktaking Process.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

WSIS Project Prizes is an international contest developed by the ITU and its member states in response to requests from WSIS stakeholders to create an effective mechanism to evaluate and recognize individuals, governments, civil society, local, regional and international agencies, research institutions and private sector companies for outstanding success in implementing development-oriented strategies that leverage the power of ICTs.

The WSIS Project Prizes contest is an integral part of the WSIS stocktaking process ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)). The contest was held for the first time in 2012, and rapidly gained attention and popularity within the ICT for Development (ICT4D) community.

WSIS Stocktaking Process is a unique recognition for the excellence in the implementation of WSIS outcomes. Each year, on the occasion of the WSIS Forum, 18 WSIS stakeholders are awarded WSIS Prizes. This unique recognition is open to all WSIS stakeholders of which Malawi as a country is a stakeholder. WSIS Prizes reiterate the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and recognizes excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further goals World Summit.

ICTs are enablers for sustainable development and in this regard, reporting on ICT success stories to best showcase the possible achievement of the newly adopted **Sustainable Development Goals SDGs** through the implementation of WSIS Action Lines related projects is the new objective of WSIS Stocktaking process, including WSIS Prizes. While continuing to highlight progress made towards achieving the WSIS goals, WSIS Prizes 2016 will also start reflecting their linkages with the SDGs.

The WSIS Prize 2016 ceremony will be held during the **WSIS Forum 2016, 2-6 May 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland**, where 18 winners of WSIS Prizes contest will be honored, recognized and presented with an award. The contest organized into five phases namely;

### **2.1 Phase 1 (Submission Phase)**

- 13<sup>th</sup> October – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015 (Deadline for last submission: 23:00 hrs Geneva time)

### **2.2 Phase 2 (Nomination Phase)**

- Revision of submitted projects by Expert Group that will result with a list of nominated projects.
- 6<sup>th</sup> December – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

### **2.3 Phase 3 (Public Online Voting Phase)**

- Identification of three projects per category with the highest number of votes.
- 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015 – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 (Deadline for casting last vote: 23:00 hrs Geneva time).

### **2.4 Phase 4 (Selection Phase)**

- Selection of winning projects by the Expert Group that will result in a list of winning projects.
- 14<sup>th</sup> March – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### **2.5 Phase 5 (Announcement Phase)**

- Announcement of winners to the public during WSIS Prize 2016 Ceremony at WSIS Forum 2016, and the release of publication “WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2016”, which is a compilation of extended descriptions of the 18 winning projects.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

### **3.0 SUBMISSION**

MACRA would therefore like to encourage all stakeholders to submit their project descriptions to MACRA on or before **1<sup>st</sup> December 2015** to facilitate submission to the ITU by **5<sup>th</sup> December 2015**.

All entries should be directed by to the following official email address [dg-macra@macra.org.mw](mailto:dg-macra@macra.org.mw)

Please do not hesitate to contact MACRA in case you need any additional information that might be required.

**Godfrey Itaye**

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**