Joint Webinars On "Digital Cooperation during COVID19 and beyond"

Webinar #5: Public health, digital responses and human rights
09:00-10:30 New York/15:00-16:30 Geneva, Wednesday 13 May

As countries around the world grapple with the COVID-19 crisis, governments, businesses and academics have turned to digital technologies and tools in their efforts to counter the pandemic. Mobile location data has been employed to monitor population movements, while digital contact tracing is touted as a useful approach to notifying people who have been exposed to those carrying the virus. Digital tracking tools are also deployed to monitor compliance with lockdown and quarantine executive orders. Some countries are even looking into issuing digital certificates to people who have recovered from COVID-19 in order to support the easing of lockdown measures.

These digital measures may be integral parts of effective solutions but they are also often intrusive – and hold the potential for adverse impacts on data protection and a broad range of human rights, from the right to privacy, to the rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly, to work, liberty of movement and also the right to health and the right to life. While the COVID-19 pandemic clearly raises the level of a public health threat that may justify restrictions on certain rights, all such measures must be lawful, necessary and proportionate, time-bound and justified by legitimate public health objectives.

This webinar is the fifth and final in the "Digital Cooperation during COVID19 and beyond" series. In this edition we will discuss the broad range of digital technologies deployed or under consideration in the fight against COVID-19 and how these tools may help to protect and promote human rights. In particular, the discussion will focus on requirements for a human rights-based design and deployment of digital technologies and measures, such as the principles of legality, legitimacy, necessity and proportionality. OHCHR and WHO are the strategic partners of this webinar.

Organizers

- **Mr Fabrizio Hochschild,** Under Secretary-General and Special Advisor, UN
- **Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin,** Director of Development Bureau, ITU

Moderator

- **Ms Peggy Hicks,** Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR

Speakers

- **H.E Kyung-Wha KANG,** Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
- **Ms Dunja Mijatovic,** Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Mr Bernardo Mariano,** Director of Digital Health and Innovation, WHO
- **Mr Steve Crown,** Vice President and Deputy General Counsel of Human Rights, Microsoft
- **Mr Yoshua Bengio**, Professor, Scientific Director of Mila, Université de Montréal
- **Mr Urs Gasser,** Executive Director, Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, University of Harvard
- **Mr Jean-Pierre Hubaux,** Head of Laboratory for Data Security (LDS), EPFL
- **Ms Nanjira Sambuli,** Former Member of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation