Joint Webinars On "Digital Cooperation during COVID19 and beyond"

Webinar #1: Connectivity – Situation Assessment
09:30-11:00 New York/15:30-17:00 Geneva, 15 April Wednesday
Connect Via https://itu.zoom.us/j/573987097 (Meeting ID: 573 987 097)

During the COVID-19 global pandemic, digital technologies and connectivity have become a critical enabler facilitating continuity of our regular lives and connecting people more than ever before. As more cities and countries ask citizens to stay at home, more people are turning to their computers and smartphones as a lifeline and tools to substitute their in-person activities online. However, as 46% of the global population/3.6. billion people are still without access, the lack of connectivity (digital divide) also becomes a more obvious and immediate matter, which translates directly into missed socio-economic opportunities, such as teleworking, distance learning, e-commerce, and even telemedicine; and will eventually worsen and widen the inequality gap in our society. In addition, countries vary widely in terms of their digital capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks.

"Bridging the digital divide", together with capacity building, data protection and human rights, digital public good, as well as digital trust and safety, has been key part of the follow-up discussions to the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation. Building on these discussions, the Office of the Special Adviser, UN Under Secretary-General Fabrizio Hochschild, in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), is now organizing a series of Webinars on Digital Cooperation in response to COVID-19.

Under the overall theme of **"Digital Cooperation during COVID19 and beyond"**, This Webinar series will start with a discussion on **assessing the current situation of connectivity and network resilience in different regions,** and so to understand what we need to do or can do as emergency responses or actions to secure and network; to reduce the digital gap; and so to enhance stable and affordable access for people who remain unconnected.

Organizers

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

Moderators

- **Mr Christopher Fabian**, Principal Advisor, Innovation, UNICEF
- **Mr Alex Wong**, Senior Strategy Advisor, ITU

Speakers

- **Mr Vint Cerf,** Senior Google executive and internet pioneer
- **H.E Paula Ingabire,** Minister of ICT and Innovation, Rwanda
- **Ms Mitchell Baker,** CEO Mozilla Company and Chairwoman Mozilla Foundation
- **Mr Joakim Reiter,** Group External Affairs Director, Vodafone
- **Mr Carlos Lugo,** Commissioner/Director, Communications Regulation Commission, Colombia
- **Ms Tiziana Bonapace**, Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, UNESCAP