



Joint Webinars On “Digital Cooperation during COVID19 and beyond”

Webinar #3:

The ‘Infodemic’ – misinformation and disinformation during Covid-19

09:30-11:00 New York/15:30-17:00 Geneva, 29 April Wednesday

As the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise, the world is increasingly confronted with what the World Health Organization has described as a “massive infodemic, which makes it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it”. Denials of expert advice, fake cures and lies about governments’ response to coronavirus – the consequences of disinformation could be harmful to the public. Besides that, a dramatic surge has been observed in hate speech, dehumanizing language and scapegoating narratives which are increasing the risk of exclusion and violence towards minorities and vulnerable groups.

Several big tech companies have collaborated with media and governments to limit the spread of disinformation on digital media, but what else could be done? How can we prevent misinformation from spreading through personal networks, including social media and messaging? How can we raise critical media and information literacy in societies, and also reach the most vulnerable populations who might not be online?

This webinar is the third in the series of “Digital Cooperation during COVID19 and beyond” webinars. This webinar aims to discuss specific communication challenges countries are facing during the COVID19 crisis, and strategies and tactics which have been deployed to counter disinformation and misinformation. In particular, discussion will focus on what could be possible immediate action that could lead the global response to COVID19. **UNDP** and **UNESCO** are 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

- **Mr Robert Opp**, Chief Digital Officer (CDO), UNDP
- **Mr Guy Berger**, Director for Strategies and Policies in the Field of Communication and Information, UNESCO

Speakers

- **H.E Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger**, President of the Human Rights Council 2020
- **Mr Adama Dieng**, Under Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Genocide Prevention, UN
- **The Rt. Hon. Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury**, Former President of the Supreme Court, U.K.
- **Ms Mercedes Aramendia**, President of the Unidad Reguladora de Servicios de Comunicaciones (URSEC), Uruguay
- **Ms Monika Bickert**, Vice President for Content Policy, Facebook
- **Ms Irene Jay Liu**, Google News Lab Lead, APAC.
- **Ms Liz Corbin**, Deputy Media Director and Head of News, European Broadcast Union (EBU)
- **Mr John Omo**, Secretary-General, African Telecommunication Union