

Protecting Human Rights During the COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond: Digital Pandemic Surveillance and the Right to Privacy

Date and Time: 5 October 2020 at 10:00am – 11:30am EDT

Location: <https://www.accessnow.org/unga75-side-event>

Objective

This high-level multi-stakeholder panel – composed of experts from government, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector – aims to delve into the implications of increased surveillance on human rights, during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, narrowing in on contact tracing, the use of biometric and health-related data, and other technological interventions. Drawing upon existing multi stakeholder initiatives, such as the UN Secretary General’s High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation Roadmap, panelists will explore pressing questions from varying perspectives to brainstorm efforts to work towards the protection of personal data and promotion digital rights in the fight against the pandemic and beyond.

Speakers

Opening remarks

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (TBC)

H.E. Ville Skinnari, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Finland – (*video statement*)

Panel discussion

Moderator: **Ms. Peggy Hicks**, Director, UN Human Rights

Panelists

- **H.E. Patricia Adusei-Poku**, Commissioner and Executive Director of the Data Protection Commission, Ministry of ICT of Ghana
- **Ms. Alexandria Walden**, Global Policy Lead for Human Rights and Free Expression, Google
- **Ms. Fanny Hidvégi**, European Policy Manager, Access Now
- **Mr. Robert Kirkpatrick**, Director, UN Global Pulse
- **Dr. Eduardo Bertoni**, Director, Agencia de Acceso a la Información Pública

Commenters:

- **H.E. Silvio Gonzato**, Ambassador Deputy Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union – *confirmed*
- **H.E. Sang-beom LIM**, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
- **H.E. Henry Verdier**, French Ambassador for Digital Affairs, France
- **H.E. Anne Marie Engtoft Larsen**, Tech Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark

Output and Outcomes

- Bring together various experts across all sectors to foster conversation on the multifaceted implications of increased digital surveillance on human rights during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Highlight examples and best practices for maximizing the benefits of digital technologies, investigating the evidence and limits of efficiency of such technologies gleaned from this pandemic or other public health crises;
- Brainstorm efforts for next steps, building on the various UN initiatives developing and applying human rights online.

**The event will be recorded live*