New Technologies, Data, Artificial Intelligence (A.I.), and the Digital Divide, from a Human Rights perspective

Co-facilitators' informal meeting with:
- the President, Members and Observers of the Human Rights Council (HRC),
- Representatives of other International Organisations based in Geneva,
- Stakeholders from the Civil Society, Academia, and the Private Sector

July 9th, 2024 – 1:00pm-3:00pm – Palais des Nations, Room XXIV
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The Co-facilitation Process

Appointment of co-facilitators by letter from the President dated February 14th, 2024

Mandate

Co-facilitators will facilitate discussions and dialogue on new technologies, artificial intelligence, and the digital divide, with a view to defining challenges and opportunities from a human rights perspective.

➢ Brainstorming meetings of Co-facilitators
➢ Meetings with OHCHR Secretariat
➢ Meetings with HRC President

Objectives and expected outcomes

Co-facilitators will hold brainstorming sessions with delegations, civil society, and experts (Special Rapporteurs, the HRC Advisory Committee and the OHCHR) to discuss and exchange views on ways to increase access by all to emerging technologies, including A.I., so that all states can equally benefit from its enormous potential and to bridge the digital divide, instead of deepening it.

➢ Outreach to the five Regional Groups
➢ Outreach to CSO and Academia
➢ Outreach to other International Organisations based in Geneva

Co-facilitators will consider the opportunities and challenges presented by emerging technologies, including A.I., for the enjoyment of human rights and paths forward to ensure that such technologies are placed at the service of human rights.

➢ Co-facilitators' non-paper to the HRC President: "Human Rights – Universal Standards for a World with A.I."

Co-facilitators will consider what role the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms might play to seize the opportunities and mitigate the risks presented by such technologies regarding the enjoyment of human rights – what is the Council and its mechanisms already doing and what more does it need to do?

➢ Secretariat "Mapping Report – Human Rights and New and Emerging Digital Technologies" (A/HRC/56/45)
➢ Secretariat "Feasibility Study on Developing a Digital System for the HRC" (A/HRC/56/27)
➢ Co-facilitators' Draft Recommendations to the President

The Co-facilitators' Draft Recommendations to the President of the HRC

1.

Establish an integrated digital Knowledge Management Tool on all activities of the HRC, according to the recommendations of the feasibility study submitted, as requested in A/HRC/PRST/OS/17/1, incl. by introducing pertinent ontologies and taxonomies;

2.

Propose unequivocal language and/or universal conceptual frameworks on the role of Human Rights as the indispensable and overarching set of universally agreed references and/or principles, guidelines and criteria to define guardrails to mitigate the inherent risks of A.I., to be included in the PFTF and the GDC;

3.

Encourage the preparation of a draft resolution to establish a geographically representative multistakeholder Task Force to enhance coherence between the actions of different actors within the Human Rights Council, and to collate initiatives into a coherent and overarching framework in the field of new and emerging digital technologies, including monitoring the technological evolution and governance of A.I. and data from a human rights perspective;

4.

Encourage the systematic inclusion by States under review of measures taken to seize opportunities of A.I. for HR and mitigate risks of A.I. to HR into the reporting requirements of the UPR and other HRC peer review mechanisms;

5.

Encourage the systematic inclusion of measures to be taken to seize the opportunities of A.I. for HR and mitigate the risks to HR into considerations under agenda item 10 on Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building;

6.

Sensitise the HRC's mandate-holders of special procedures to include aspects of opportunities for and risks to HR during the implementation and in their reports under their respective mandates;

7.

Explore the opportunity of appointing a special procedures mandate-holder of the Human Rights Council on New Technologies, Data, A.I, the Digital Divide, and Human Rights;

8.

Recommend to future HRC Presidents to continue this co-facilitation track on new technologies, data, A.I., the digital divide, and human rights, including through its above-mentioned Task Force and in close cooperation with the OHCHR.