High Level Panel Discussion

on the occasion of the 47th session of the Human Rights Council:

"The role of the Human Rights Council in promoting a human rights-based approach to new and emerging technologies"

Date: 15 June 2021; 3 – 5pm CET

Co-organizer: Core Group on new technologies (South Korea, Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, Singapore); OHCHR

In his "Call to Action on Human Rights", UN Secretary-General Guterres identified new and emerging technologies as a new frontier for human rights. He called for the development of a human rights-based „framework" for the digital space, following-up on the recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

Within the framework of the Human Rights Council and its special mechanisms, numerous resolutions, publications, and recommendations have emerged in recent years addressing the impact of new technologies on specific rights (right to privacy, freedom of association, freedom of expression, children's rights, economic/social/cultural rights). In 2019, the HRC adopted a resolution tasking its Advisory Committee to develop a global perspective on the issue and to identify options for action for the HRC. The report will be presented to the HRC at its 47th session in June 2021.

Objectives:

- Raising Awareness: Exchange between states, tech-companies and UN agencies in the run-up to the Human Rights Council.

- Taking stock of challenges and opportunities for the full realization of the existing human rights framework for new/digital technologies.

- Reviewing and discussing the Advisory Committee's report on the possible impacts, opportunities and challenges of new and emerging digital technologies with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights and its recommendations

- Identifying challenges and issues that the HRC should address in its work.

Program

Welcoming remarks: Assistant Secretary General, **Maria-Francesca Spatolisano**, acting UN Tech Envoy

High Level Opening Panel:

- High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Michelle Bachelet**
- Foreign Minister of Austria, **Alexander Schallenberg**
- Foreign Minister of Denmark, **Jeppe Kofod**
- Foreign Minister of Morocco, **Nasser Bourita**
- Vice Foreign Minister of South Korea, **Choi Jong-moon**

Panel Discussion:

Moderator: Charlotte Stix (technology policy expert; coordinator of the High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI HLEG) of the European Commission)

(1) Applying human rights for Tech: Norms, gaps, and challenges

- **Eileen Donahoe**, Executive Director Global Digital Policy Incubator, Stanford
- **Julie Owono**, Facebook Oversight Board
- **Stephen Bereaux**, Deputy to the Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

Interventions from the floor (15 min)

(2) Possible impacts, opportunities and challenges of new and emerging digital technologies with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights – report of the Advisory Committee (A/HRC/47/52)

- **Baek Buhm-Suk**, member of UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (current rapporteur of the Advisory Committee for the report)
- **Peggy Hicks**, OHCHR

Interventions from the floor (15 min)

Format/organizational issues: Due to the sanitary measures that continue to apply in Switzerland the event will take place online.