

# THE GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM



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# GHRP FRIDAYS

## Digital Uplift

Friday 21 January 2022, 2.30 – 4.00 pm CET

This event is held exclusively online on the platform ZOOM

## Topic: Digital Uplift

It is undisputed that procedures inside the OHCHR Treaty Body Branch and also between Treaty Body Members need to adapt to today's technologies. Mechanisms and rules put in place in the times of letters and faxes are not anymore up to the task to deliver efficiently, in a quickly changing environment, where also the volume of work has sharply increased over the years.

Yet, how to do so, what to do in whose responsibility and on what budget remains unclear. Already the terminology between "digital shift", "digital uplift" and "digital transformation" shows that the vast area of digitalization of working methods is seen differently in scope by different actors. Furthermore, quick sectorial solutions bring the risk of moving from analog siloes into digital siloes, so even if some areas might serve as good examples, a major challenge will be the "uplift" of the whole secretariat structure across the board.

This GHRP Friday discussion will look at the technical options currently under discussion, their potential impact and the process required to get there – in terms of decision making, financing and practical implementation. Panelists will also address the value of a digital platform and knowledge management both, for internal proceedings, but also to enhance the transparency and interaction with all stakeholders.

To limit the scope of our discussions, this meeting will look neither into the substantive impacts of digitalization on then enjoyment of human rights nor into the exact working methods committee by committee. It rather will discuss the systemic approach of knowledge management and digitalized procedures, keeping in mind the claims put forward by Treaty Body Members (e.g. CRPD paper) to look carefully into which TB activities can be moved online.

## Program

### 2.30 pm      **Opening of the session**

Felix Kirchmeier, Executive Director, Geneva Human Rights Platform

### 2.40 pm      **Presentations on recent developments**

H.E. Shara Duncan Villalobos, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the UN in Geneva

Dina Rossbacher, Chief, Petitions and Urgent Actions Section, OHCHR

Laura Dolci, Special Assistant to CTMD/Director, OHCHR

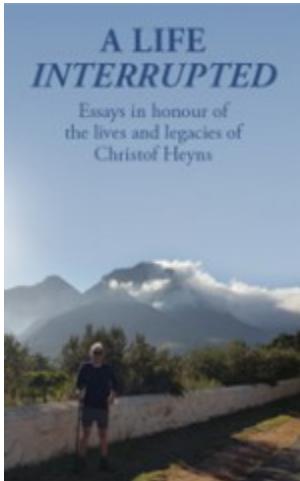
Olivier de Frouville, Vice-Chair, CED and Member of the GHRP Advisory Board

Vincent Ploton, Director of treaty body advocacy, International Service for Human Rights

### 3.20 pm    **Open Discussion**

### 4.00 pm    **End of the Meeting**

## Documentation



**'Digital shift': what have the UN treaty bodies achieved, and what is still missing?**

**January 2022**

Vincent Ploton

In: A Life Interrupted – Essays in honour of the lives and legacies of Christof Heyns, *Edited by Frans Viljoen, Charles Fombad, Dire Tladi, Ann Skelton and Magnus Killander*

[Download](#)

## Background / Concept

Completing the 2020 Treaty Body Review by the General Assembly, the report of the co-facilitators, Morocco and Switzerland, has been submitted and noted by the General Assembly (A/75/601). Treaty Bodies have responded to the issues raised in various forms, most recently via the [report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Chairpersons](#) (A/76/254), or, individually, e.g. via the [CRPD position paper](#).

States have also voiced their views and expectations, as e.g. via a [joint letter](#) to the TB Chairs' 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Yet, the important proposals resulting from the 2020 review process still remain to be implemented. Those proposals include the establishment of predictable review calendars on new timelines, the introduction of focused reviews in the reporting cycle, harmonization of working methods, transparency in the nomination process for membership and the digital shift, including inter-sessional work online, and questions around remuneration of online work. Aside of budgetary considerations, implementation will depend on political will and collaboration of all actors involved, and their openness to test new way of working.

The GHRP Friday event series will provide a space for discussions among diplomats, Treaty Body members, OHCHR staff and civil society on the results of the review and practical ways to implement change.

## Modalities for Participation

This event will exceptionally be held online only on the platform Zoom. Meetings will be open to the diplomatic community, Treaty Body members, OHCHR staff and representatives of civil society.

## Registration

Register [here](#) to follow this event online. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.