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PLATFORM



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# 2021 Annual Conference

## CONCEPT NOTE PLENARY PANEL 2

**The digital shift and the role of new technologies  
towards comprehensive human rights monitoring  
and implementation at the national level**

**Maison de la Paix (Pétale 5) and online event (Zoom),  
Tuesday 12 October 2021, 11:30 – 13:00 (CET)**

A project of the: **GENEVA  
ACADEMY** | Académie de droit international  
humanitaire et de droits humains  
Academy of International  
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

The Geneva Academy, a Joint Centre of



## TOPIC

One aim of a functioning National Human Rights System (NHRS) is to coordinate the monitoring and implementation of recommendations from the UN human rights system at the national level. States are subject to increasing burdens in this regard, related to the implementation and follow-up of a growing number of recommendations from the UN Treaty Bodies, the Universal Periodic Review process (UPR) and Special Procedures, as well as achieving progress on Agenda 2030 which has its own reporting requirements through the Voluntary National Review process.

All in all, the reporting burden can be significant due to a number of factors: high volume and overlapping nature of recommendations; competing national priorities; incomplete or missing data; staff turnover; loss of institutional knowledge from one reporting cycle to the next; and inconsistent reporting requirements across the international human rights framework. An important aim is also to ensure that follow-up to human rights recommendations is integrated into broader national policies and priorities including national development policies and aims to support achievement of Agenda 2030. Integrated approaches to human rights and SDG systems can achieve progress on rights-based development as over 92 percent of SDG goals and targets are based on the human rights framework.

It is important to consider how national human rights systems can benefit from effective measures of data collection and digital tracking tools. Member States and governments have rapidly turned to digital service delivery solutions in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This 'rush to digital' creates great opportunities but must be aligned with assurances of human rights due diligence and human rights safeguards. Information management initiatives for tracking human rights mechanism recommendations at country level have been developed and rolled out by different stakeholders.

With this emphasis on digitally transformative approaches, this discussion will consider possible convergences, complementarities, and best practices concerning available human rights tracking databases and the value of digitalization for a more systemic approach to human rights monitoring and implementation that is also well positioned to contribute to sustainable development.

## PANELISTS

- **Peggy Hicks**, Director, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR
- **María Alejandra Costa Prieto**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN in Geneva, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay
- **Salman Asif**, Senior Human Rights and Social Protection Expert, Decentralization, Human Rights and Local Governance - Democratic Governance Unit, UNDP Pakistan
- **Jonas Grimheden**, Head of Fundamental Rights, FRONTEX

## MODERATOR

- **Ashley Bowe**, Chief of Party, Human Rights and Social Development Division, Pacific Community (SPC) and Founding Trustee, Impact OSS Trust

## PARTNERS

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