



# Panel discussion on the most efficient ways of upholding good governance to address the human rights impacts of the various digital divides

**DATE : 4 September 2023, 10:00 – 12:00 pm, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (UTC+2)**

**VENUE : Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, and online platform (Zoom)**

## OPENING SESSION



**Mr. Volker Türk**

Mr. Türk is the current United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. He took up his official functions as High Commissioner on 17 October 2022.

He has devoted his long and distinguished career to advancing universal human rights, notably the international protection of some of the world's most vulnerable people - refugees and stateless persons.

Prior to this, Mr. Türk was the Under-Secretary-General for Policy in the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General where he coordinated global policy work. He also ensured UN system-wide coordination in the follow-up to the Secretary-General's "Call to Action for Human Rights" and his report, Our Common Agenda, which sets out a vision to tackle the world's interconnected challenges on foundations of trust, solidarity and human rights. He previously served as Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (2019-2021).

As Assistant High Commissioner for Protection in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva (2015-2019), Mr. Türk played a key role in the development of the landmark Global Compact on Refugees.

Over the course of his career, he held a number of key positions including at UNHCR headquarters where he served as Director of the Division of International Protection (2009-2015); Director of Organizational Development and Management (2008-2009); and Chief of Section, Protection Policy and Legal Advice (2000-2004). Mr. Türk also served UNHCR around the world, including as Representative in Malaysia; Assistant Chief of Mission in Kosovo and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, respectively; Regional Protection Coordinator in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and in Kuwait.

Mr. Türk holds a doctorate in international law from the University of Vienna and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Linz, Austria. He has published widely on international refugee law and international human rights law. He is fluent in English and French and has a working knowledge of Spanish.



**H.E. Mr. Václav  
Bálek**

H.E. Václav Bálek has been the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva since August 2021. On 9 December 2022, Mr. Bálek was elected president of the Human Rights Council for 2023. Mr. Bálek held several positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. He was Director of the Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (2017-2021), Head of the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Unit (2015-2017), Political Director - Director-General of the Security and Multilateral Issues Section (2013-2015), and Director-General of the Section of Non-European States (July-October 2013). He also served as Director of the Department of Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union (2006-2009), Deputy Director of the Security Policy Department (2004-2006) and desk officer at the Security Policy Department (1999-2000). Abroad, Mr. Bálek was Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the Political and Security Committee of the European Union in Brussels, Belgium, from 2009 to 2013. From 2000 to 2004, he served as second secretary in the political section of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London, the United Kingdom. From 1998 to 1999, Mr. Bálek undertook training at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Before joining the foreign service, he worked as a researcher at the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague. He holds a master's degree from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the Czech Technical University, Prague.



**Ms. Adriana  
Quiñones**

Adriana Quiñones is the Head of Human Rights and Development and Deputy Head of UN Women Geneva Office.

She leads UN Women's work at the Human Rights Council and all high-level actions in non-humanitarian areas, such as trade, labor or health.

For the last 14 years at UNIFEM and UN Women, she has held posts as Country Representative, Policy Advisor in Asia and Latin America and Manager of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and Girls in New York. She has more than 20 years of experience leading efforts in the areas of Gender Equality, Elimination of Gender Based Violence, Access to Justice and Women's Economic Empowerment.

She has supported the creation of youth development programs, access to trade and credit for the benefit of indigenous and afro-descendant women, as well as programs to combat stigma and discrimination. She supervised for the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations portfolios of more 70 million in 50 countries around the world.

She advised the High Commissioner for Peace in Colombia on issues of human rights violations in the context of the internal armed conflict and to address the needs of the displaced populations.

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Adriana has a master's degree from the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and a second Master's degree in Economics and International Development from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

## Session 1: Human rights-based approach to data and indicators as a means of measuring good governance and bridging the digital divides

### • Moderator



**Mr. Nicolas Fasel**

Nicolas Fasel is Chief Statistician at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). He coordinates OHCHR's program on human rights indicators and data, including reporting on SDG indicators and supporting collaboration between national statistical offices and national human rights institutions to operationalize a human rights-based approach to data. He was seconded to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to oversee the conceptualization of the first Global Compact on Refugees Indicators Report. Previously, he worked for the international statistical agency of the European Union and the national statistical office of Switzerland.

### • Panelists - Session 1



**Ms. Farida Shaheed**

Ms. Farida Shaheed, from Pakistan, was appointed Special Rapporteur on the right to education in 2022. She is the Executive Director of Pakistan's leading gender justice organization, Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource Centre. She is also an independent expert/consultant to numerous U.N., international and bi-lateral development agencies, the government of Pakistan, as well as civil society initiatives, and serves on multiple international and national advisory committees. She served as a member of Pakistan's National Commission on the Status of Women, and as the first Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights from 2009 to 2015.



**Mr. Mark Cassayre**

Mark Cassayre presented his credentials to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and assumed his duties as the Permanent Observer of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva on April 1, 2021.

Before joining IDLO, Mark served for over 20 years as a career member of the United States Foreign Service, with his most recent assignment being the Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Mission in Geneva. His other overseas assignments included tours as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Maputo, Mozambique, and positions in Nairobi, Kenya; Kyiv, Ukraine; Windhoek, Namibia; and Geneva, Switzerland. Domestically, he served as the Director of the Office of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs in the Bureau of International Organizations of the State Department; as Senior Advisor at the Department of State's Foreign Service Institute; and as a National Security Affairs Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution.

Mark has a master's degree in international relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, and bachelors' degrees in political science and French from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He speaks French, Portuguese, and Ukrainian.



**Mr. Morten Koch Andersen**

Morten Koch Andersen holds a PhD in International Development Studies from Roskilde University. His research interests are in the fields of human rights documentation, rule of law practices, public authority, corruption, torture and violence, impunity and discretion, and unequal citizenship.

He specializes in the interdisciplinary study of the nexus between corruption, human rights and development, mainly in South Asia. He has several years of experience as programme manager of development cooperation in relation to prevention of torture and rehabilitation of survivors – during and after violent conflict, and in places of detention. I have worked on institutional and legal reform, establishments of support systems, education of health and legal professionals, and of prison and police authorities. He has managed partnership collaborations in Europe, North, South and West Africa.

Currently, he advises national human rights institutes, anti-corruption institutes and universities on the relationships between corruption and human rights, and their implications for institutions, individuals and societies, in Africa, Asia and Caucasus.

He has previously been guest researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies, senior researcher at the Danish Institute Against Torture. Currently, he is affiliated researcher at the Center for Global Criminology at University of Copenhagen, external lecturer in Global Studies at Roskilde University and teaches at the International Anti-Corruption Academy.

He has worked with the UNODC on the development of educational material on the nexus between human rights and corruption, and developed web-based educational material on corruption and human rights, and violent mobilization for high school education.



**Mr. Dominik Rozkrut**

Dominik Rozkrut PhD has been the President of Statistics Poland since 2016. Dr. Rozkrut is a member of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC). He was elected as a member of ESS Partnership Group (PG) for 2018-2019 and chaired the work of the group in 2020-2021. Recently he was also involved in the PG TF on ESS Innovations and ESS work of the PG TF on revision of the European statistical law.

In 2021-22 he served as a member of the European Commission expert group on Facilitating the Use of New Data Sources for Official Statistics.

He is a member of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistics Policy (CSSP) and served as CSSP Bureau Vice-Chair (2020-2023). Moreover, he is a member of the UNECE Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and holds a Conference Bureau Vice-Chair function as well as participates in the work of UNECE High-Level Group on Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS).

At the UN level, he represents Poland in the UN Statistical Commission. He also works in the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD), co-chairs the UN Data Stewardship Working Group and is engaged in data stewardship work at European level within UNECE Task Force on Data Stewardship. Since 2021 he represents the Region of Eastern Europe in the UN High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB).



Starting from 2021 he became a member of the ISI-Committee on Agricultural Statistics (ISI-CAS). In 2021, he was nominated for 2021-2023 as the President-Elect and 2023-2025 as the President of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS).

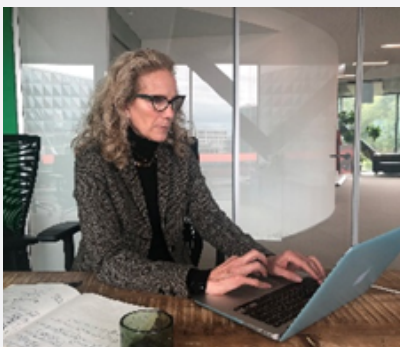
Dr. Rozkrut's career began at the Department of Statistics and Econometrics at the University of Szczecin. At the same time, he also worked as a member of a market risk management team at a commercial bank. He joined official statistics in 2007 and served as Director of a regional branch, acting as project manager for numerous research and development projects. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Szczecin, where he received his Ph.D. in statistics and econometrics.

He completed an internship at the University of Massachusetts, Lappeenranta University of Technology, and UNU-MERIT in Maastricht. Dr. Rozkrut is a member of the Main Council of the Polish Statistical Association, member of the Committee of Statistics and Econometrics and the Committee on Demographic Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences.



**Ms. Mariana  
Neves**

Mariana has previously worked for the National Statistics Office of Cabo Verde, where she coordinated Governance, Peace, and Security Statistics at the national, regional, and global levels. In this capacity, she was the Group Praia on Governance Statistics coordinator. She represented her country in the negotiations and design of the Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. From 2016 to 2019, Mariana worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as a consultant on crime and criminal justice statistics in Eastern Africa. Since 2020, Mariana has been working as Governance Statistics Specialist for the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre on several measurement-related activities, including the SDG 16 Survey Initiative. Mariana holds a Post-Graduate Degree in Data Analysis for Social Sciences.



**Ms. Caitlin Kraft  
Buchman**

Caitlin Kraft-Buchman is CEO/Founder Women at the Table – a gender equality & systems change CSO based in Switzerland and Co-Founder/Leader <A+> Alliance for Inclusive Algorithms – a global coalition ensuring a world where machine learning does not wire already biased systems into our future. <A+> Alliance is a leader of the Generation Equality Action Coalition for Technology & Innovation. Caitlin was a co-chair of the Expert Group for CSW67 whose 2023 theme was Technology & Innovation. She leads the <AI & Equality> Human Rights Toolbox initiative and is also co-founder of the International Gender Champions - with hubs in Geneva, New York, Vienna, Nairobi, The Hague & Paris which brings together female & male heads of organizations to break down gender barriers.

## Session 2: A way forward: the role of digitalisation in promoting good governance

### • Moderator



**H.E. Mr. Zbigniew Czech**

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the UN Office in Geneva

Career diplomat and lawyer with over 20 years of experience. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland since 2017. Previously director of the United Nations and Human Rights Department in the MFA of Poland, Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Paris, Acting Director of Department of the Americas and Deputy Director of the Legal and Treaty Department. Also worked in the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Poland to NATO and WEU, Asia-Pacific Department and European Security Policy Department in the MFA of Poland, Legislative Office in Chancellery of the Polish Parliament, as well as in the Office of the NATO Legal Adviser. Married with four children.

### • Panelists - Session 2



**Ms. Cheri-Leigh Erasmus**

Cheri-Leigh Erasmus serves as Co-CEO and Chief Learning and Agility Officer at the Accountability Lab, a non-profit organization aimed at making governance work for people by supporting active citizens, responsible leaders, and accountable institutions. She supports Accountability Lab's learning and impact in 12 countries across Africa, South Asia, and Latin America. She's conceptualized and implemented knowledge, skills, and network-building curricula for public service and civil society reformers. Cheri-Leigh is committed to finding new ways of using citizen-generated data to strengthen civic participation, especially related to the increased inclusion of traditionally marginalized groups. She currently co-chairs the Steering Committee of the Transparency, Accountability, and Participation (TAP) Network.



**Mr. David Clarke**

David Clarke is the acting head of the Systems Governance and Stewardship team at WHO HQ in Geneva. As well as leading the team, David works in three main areas: using law and regulation to implement Universal Health Coverage (UHC), supporting countries to strategically engage the private sector in service of UHC and developing preventative approaches to mitigate the risk of health system corruption.



**Ms. Zorana  
Markovic**

Zorana joined UNODC as a regional anti-corruption adviser in 2013, first in UNODC Regional Offices for the Middle East and North Africa (Cairo) and then for the Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok). Since 2021 she's been working as a crime prevention and criminal justice officer in the Corruption and Economic Crimes Branch in the HQ Vienna. Zorana possesses solid experience in providing anti-corruption police advice, technical assistance and expertise notably in designing and delivering activities aimed at strengthening the legal framework and institutional capacity of the countries to implement the UN Convention against Corruption.

Before joining UNODC, Zorana was the Director of the Serbian anti-corruption agency from 2009 until 2012 where she led its establishment and management and developed its portfolio in accordance with the national laws and international standards. In this capacity Zorana worked primarily on preventive anti-corruption issues including the control and inquiries of asset disclosures, on political party funding and electoral campaigns and on enhancing international cooperation amongst anti-corruption and law enforcement bodies. She was a head of the delegation and an evaluator to the Council of Europe - GRECO specifically on political party funding and integrity issues and was the national focal point and evaluator in the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for the Southeast Europe.

Prior to this, Zorana was the Assistant to the Resident Coordinator of the US Department of Justice and worked on the criminal justice reform and anti-corruption programmes, supporting capacity building of the organized crime court, prosecutors and law enforcement units in Serbia and Montenegro on investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating complex corruption and organized crime cases; the legal advisor in the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, managing the training program for lawyers in application of the European Convention of Human Rights before national and international courts and the senior trainer on governance reform in the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Democratization department. She also held different positions in her national government.

Zorana holds a BA in Law from the Belgrade University Faculty of Law and a certificate for practicing law before courts in Serbia.



**Mr. Vincenzo  
Aquaro**

Mr. Aquaro is the Chief of the Digital Government Branch of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In his functions he supports the UN Secretariat and UN Member States, promoting innovation and transformation in digital government, good governance, public administration, and advancing public sector reforms toward more inclusive, effective, accountable, and people-centric public service delivery to achieve sustainable development. Since 2010 he has overseen the flagship publication United Nations E-government Survey and on the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) data collection and data management team. With more than 30 years of experience in ICT in private and public sector, he was in 2019 named in Apolitical's list of the World's Top 100 most influential people in the digital government.



Before joining the United Nations, from 2000 to 2010, he was the CEO of Formit Servizi SpA, an Italian ICT consulting corporate, specialized in project management, monitoring, and evaluation of ICT strategic programmes and masterplans in public sector. In 2007 he founded and chaired a Private and Public Partnership Research Consortium named CARMA - Consortium for Automation and Risk Management in Agriculture. The Consortium, in partnership with academia and SMEs, was specialized in advanced research on risk management and financing for SMEs' development in e-agriculture. The consortium was co-financed by the European Commission and oversight by the Italian Government of Apulia's region.

From 2008 to 2010, he co-chaired, jointly with the Department of Informatics and Automation of the Faculty of Engineering of the Italian University of Roma III, the 1st and the 2nd Edition of the Second Level Master's Degree in ICT Governance in Public Administration: Development, Management, and Monitoring.

Mr. Aquaro holds a master's degree (Laurea Magistrale) in Electric Engineering from the University of Bari, Italy.

## CLOSING SESSION

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**Ms. Nada  
Al-Nashif**

Nada Al-Nashif was appointed United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights on 6 December 2019, assuming the position on 10 February 2020. She brings to the role close to 30 years of experience within the United Nations system around the world. As an economist and development practitioner, Ms. Al-Nashif has taken on increasingly complex management roles during her career within the United Nations, including leading strategic organisational transformation processes. From 2015-2020, Ms. Al-Nashif served as Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO in Paris, leading a portfolio that targets the mobilisation of knowledge for inclusive, just and sustainable societies. Prior to joining UNESCO, she served as Assistant Director-General/Regional Director of the International Labour Organization's Regional Office for Arab States, based in Beirut, Lebanon (2007–2014). She previously worked at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), where she started her United Nations career in 1991, serving in Libya (1992-1995), Lebanon (2000-2004), Iraq (2003) and at Headquarters in New York (1995- 2000, 2005-2006). She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (1987) from Balliol, Oxford University (UK) and a Master in Public Policy (1991) from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (USA). Ms. Al-Nashif, who is Jordanian, is bilingual in English and Arabic, with working knowledge of French.