

Digital Border Governance: A Human Rights-Based Approach

Monday, 18 September 2023
14:00 – 15:00 (CET/Geneva)
Palais des Nations, Room XXV
and online for capital colleagues

New and emerging digital technologies are increasingly tested and deployed within border governance.

These new technologies include:

- drones, infrared cameras, surveillance towers and biometric technologies used at physical borders;
- data collection and exchange, and the development of largescale and interoperable databases;
- algorithmic risk assessments within applications such as for visas and removal decisions;
- technologies such as electronic monitoring as ‘alternatives’ to detention.

This side event launches a joint study between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the University of Essex funded by Switzerland which analyses the manifold and cumulative human rights effects of digital border technologies. The side event focuses on the study’s recommendations on how states, businesses and UN entities can ensure that a human rights-based approach is taken to the use of new and emerging digital technologies in the context of border governance.

Agenda

Words of welcome by **Christine Löw**, Minister, Deputy Head of the Peace and Human Rights Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

Moderation and opening remarks by **Peggy Hicks**, Director, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR

Panellists:

- **Profs Lorna McGregor and Petra Molnar**, University of Essex presenting the findings of the new study on *Digital Border Governance: A Human Rights-Based Approach*
- **Prof Pablo Ceriani Cernadas**, Independent Expert member, UN Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families
- **Dr Ilia Siatitsa**, Programme Director and Senior Legal Officer, Privacy International
- **Nicholas Oakeshott**, Senior Policy Officer, Digital Protection, Digital Service, UNHCR

Closing remarks by **Ms. Ambassador Seong-mee Yoon**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea in Geneva

If you plan to **attend in person and need access to the Palais des Nations**, please register at this link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007407/>. Deadline for registration is **Friday 15 September 2023**.

Here is the link to **join online (WebEx)**:

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