



A Human-Centric Approach for Emerging Technologies

Workshop Proposal for the 16th Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

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Session Content and Description

Background

We are nowadays dependent on emerging technologies more than ever before. This is also shown by the fact that all critical and strategic sectors worldwide utilise information and communication technologies for their activities and strategic needs. We can argue that the innovation in technology is transforming society and the way we interact, work and do business. However, if we can discuss the positive and negative implications of this phenomenon, it is impossible to deny that the process can be reversed for current and future generations.

As innovation moves faster than our ability to forecast challenges, it is crucial to put in place mechanisms that allow for a human-centric and multi-stakeholder dialogue to assess the impact of emerging technologies on individuals and especially vulnerable communities. This session plans to assess the impacts of these technologies on cyberpeace, defined as the respect and protection of human security, dignity, and equity by exploring how emerging technologies will impact individuals and vulnerable communities. First, it will present existing and upcoming emerging technologies that are bound to have a significant impact on vulnerable communities worldwide. Second, it will then try to forecast risks and challenges, to then fit the discussion into the local context of the Global South.

There is a crucial need to forecast challenges, address risks and ensure that technological innovation can be used for social good. To manage the risks associated with emerging technologies, we need to embrace a human-centric and multi-stakeholder approach to build collaboration and effective steps forward that foster trust, limit security concerns, and strengthen stability in cyberspace. This workshop aims to strengthen such a dialogue with a multi-stakeholder representation of experts and professionals in the field.

Focus

The workshop will present emerging technologies that are bound to have a significant impact on vulnerable communities worldwide. On the basis of this, it will then try to forecast risks and challenges, to then fit the discussion into the local context of the Global South.

The panel discussion will be driven by the following question: *How can we track emerging technologies that might have a profound impact on people and especially vulnerable communities?* In order to address this question, we decompose it into more specific questions:

- 1) *How can we identify the emerging technologies that will have the most impact on individuals and vulnerable communities?*
- 2) *How can we then identify and forecast the major risks associated with emerging technologies?*

- 3) Finally, we try to have a contextual approach and we look at one example of vulnerable communities in the Global South. *How can we connect these discussions to the local communities?*

These questions respectively touch upon concepts of trust (1), security (2), and stability (3) trying to address from a human-centric perspective how emerging technologies impact cyberpeace, defined as the respect of human security, dignity, and equity. More specifically, the workshop will focus on:

- 1) The identification of emerging technologies that will most significantly have an impact on the human dignity and equity of individuals using it and therefore influence individuals' trust in the technology. In other words, the session plans to focus on how the use of those technologies can have an impact on the safeguard of individual's beliefs, cultural rights, and ability to participate in society (respect of human dignity), and on the protection against discrimination, bias, prejudice, and inequality (respect of human equity).
- 2) The respect of human security in the use of technology as a form of protection of services essential to human life and related critical infrastructure against cyberattacks and malicious behaviour.
- 3) The safeguard of cyber stability in the use and development of such technologies.

Goals

Primary goals for this workshop include fostering a human-centric and multi-stakeholder dialogue on the topic of emerging technologies and on their societal impact especially for vulnerable communities. By doing so, this workshop plans to bridge the gap between technological innovation and risk assessment of the technology pervading the local context of vulnerable communities.

Expectations

Expected outcomes for the workshop include the continuation of multi-stakeholder discussions on the role and impact played by emerging technologies with a strong focus on vulnerable communities as well as on the policy developments needed to ensure inclusive developments in the Global South. The session will feed expertise and insights into the development of the different sections of the Disruption Radar. The latter is a project led by the CyberPeace Institute with the goal of creating a publicly available source to analyze the impact of existing, emerging and disruptive technologies worldwide within the framework of cyberpeace and to forecast challenges, and required capacity building needs for vulnerable populations.

Response to policy questions

The workshop plans to address the following policy question:

- **Ensuring a safe digital space:** How should governments, Internet businesses and other stakeholders protect citizens, including vulnerable citizens, against online exploitation and abuse?

The workshop focuses on the societal impact of emerging technologies and tries to assess the related risks and challenges especially for vulnerable communities in the Global South. The session proposes a multi-stakeholder discussion on the topic by identifying emerging technologies, related risks, and the specific needs and challenges of the Global South. The expected outcome addresses the policy question by identifying key roles in fostering policy development, advocacy and responsibility of different stakeholders in promoting safe and secure technologies as well as in the analysis of their societal impact especially but not limited to the most vulnerable. As such, the workshop will provide initial answers to how we can foster trust in the technology and ensure stability in cyberspace protecting citizens and vulnerable communities.

Format

The workshop will take the form of a panel discussion (Panel Auditorium - 60 min) with a panel composed of three experts from different stakeholder groups and moderated by Ms. Francesca Bosco, Head of Foresight, The CyberPeace Institute.

Proposed Speakers

Focus	Expert	Organization
Tracking emerging technologies	Monique Morrow	Senior Distinguished Architect for Emerging Technologies, Syniverse Technologies; Founder and President, The Humanized Internet; President, VETRI Foundation
Identifying challenges and risks of emerging technologies	Aengus Collins	Deputy Director, International Risk Governance Center, EPFL
Voices from the Global South	Nnenna Nwakanma	Chief Web Advocate, World Wide Web Foundation
Moderator	Francesca Bosco	Head of Foresight, The CyberPeace Institute

