

## **Covid-19's tsunami of new technologies: For the common good or corporate interest? And launch of *Assess Technology* website**

**Monday 3 May**

**12pm-1.30 pm Eastern Daily Time (US)**

Link to register and join: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_FvKLZmhcQOWbS-rYnqMpgw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FvKLZmhcQOWbS-rYnqMpgw)

### **Summary**

The pandemic has impacted our relationship to industrial technology with a rapidity and at a scale that exceeds anything that has taken place during any similar period of time in history.

In some sectors, particularly those involving digital platforms, tech companies have achieved dominance in the market in a period of a few weeks, which might otherwise have never taken place, or taken several years. Intellectual property regime, trade rules and a policy vacuum have all been handy for the corporate interests that control new technologies to assert market dominance and consolidate power in key industries in the midst of the pandemic, as millions of people lost their jobs, livelihoods and access to food.

The often blinkered and self-interested agendas of corporations now threaten to lock us into future policy trajectories on key issues such as climate change and food sovereignty, replacing nascent processes of popular participation and public accountability for the common good.

This session will explore what lessons we can learn from previous initiatives, particularly by local communities and Indigenous peoples in the Global South, to challenge potentially harmful technological futures, based on lived experiences and the values of social and ecological justice. It will also launch the new online resource to support the assessment of new technologies: <https://assess.technology/>

### **Speakers:**

Silvia Ribeiro, ETC Group (Mexico)

Jim Thomas, ETC Group (Canada)

Anita Gurumurthy, IT for Change (India) - tbc

Ranja Sengupta, TWN/Civil Society FfD Group/APRCEM

Marta Galambos/Tori Lovins, MGCY

### **Co-organisers:**

- ETC Group
- Women's Major Group
- Civil Society FfD Group
- MGCY
- APRCEM