STI FORUM SIDE EVENT

Innovating for Peace:
New methods and technologies
in support of implementing SDG16

TUESDAY, 4 MAY 2021, 12:15-13:15 PM EDT

JOIN THE EVENT HERE:
https://zoom.us/j/92575686987

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY PERMANENT MISSION - UN

State of Qatar

DPPA
Preventing Conflict. Sustaining Peace
INNOVATION

This STI Forum side event, co-organized by Turkey, Qatar and the UN Department of Political Affairs and Peacebuilding (DPPA) / Innovation Cell will focus on the opportunities and challenges of innovative methods and new technologies in support of implementing SDG16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels), including the role of machine learning, artificial intelligence and advanced data analytics.

COVID-19 accelerated the digital transformation in the field of conflict prevention and resolution. Due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, innovative and digital approaches to prevention, mediation, peacebuilding and sustaining peace have become increasingly relevant. The UN has adapted quickly to the new normal, switching to online platforms and leveraging technological solutions for ensuring business continuity. As an example of the vast work spearheaded by the UN Innovation Network, the Innovation Cell established within the DPPA has pioneered new methodologies to support UN's work in this field, developing innovative tools like AI-enabled dialogues to enhance inclusivity of peace processes in Yemen and Libya. Beyond advancing early warning and dialogue capacities, data analytics carry untapped potential in complementing conventional methodologies in measuring progress towards implementation of SDGs in general and SDG16 in particular.

The side event will bring together experts from academia and think-tanks with interdisciplinary backgrounds for a deep-dive and interactive discussion on concrete examples of how data-based analysis is used for measuring and advancing SDG16. The interactive event will enable multi-stakeholder participants to engage with speakers to discuss methods, needs and gaps. This event will contribute to the STI Forum through examining the impact of rapid technological change on the SDGs in the light of COVID-19, as well as to the 2021 HLPF which will review among others, progress towards SDG16.

The side event will consist of a panel and interactive discussion segment. During the panel segment, panelist will elaborate on measuring peace, avoiding conflict, as well as monitoring its impact. Panelists will examine practical as well as more ethical issues related to new methods and technologies. In the panel segment the following questions will be tackled:

- Can we measure peace?
- Can we forecast peace?
- What is the role for innovate methods and new technologies in approaching these SDG16 related questions especially during the COVID-19 era?
- What are the innovative approaches UN is employing for promoting peace?
- How can computational methods and non-traditional data sources help support SDG 16?
- What are the challenges of new methods?
- How can social media provide insights into what leads to radicalization?
- Can we detect fake news before it's written?
- How can we monitor forced displacement in real-time?

PANELISTS:

- **Ingmar Weber**, Director, Social Computing Group, Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), Hamad Bin Khalifa University
- **Christina Goodness**, Chief, Information Management Unit, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations (DPPA/DPO), United Nations
- **Reşat Bayer**, Professor, Department of International Relations, Koç University

MODERATION AND COMMENTS:

- **Ayşe Can Crabtree**, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the UN
- **Martin Waehlisch**, Team leader, Innovation Cell, Policy and Mediation Division Department of Political Affairs and Peacebuilding, United Nations (DPPA)