Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council

Questionnaire on new and emerging digital technologies and human rights [i]

Core questions (for all stakeholders)

1. In what ways do new and emerging digital technologies help to protect and promote human rights? How can the positive benefits of these technologies be realized?

2. What are some of the key human rights challenges arising from new and emerging digital technologies? How can these risks be mitigated? Do new and emerging digital technologies create unique and unprecedented challenges or are there earlier precedents that help us understand the issue area?

3. Is the existing international human rights framework adequate to safeguard human rights in an era of rapid technological innovation? Why or why not? If not, what types of reforms are needed?

4. In your opinion, are there any gaps or overlaps in existing efforts to respond to the issue of new and emerging digital technologies? Are some human rights or technologies being overlooked?

5. As opposed to focusing on a selected few technologies, do you think a holistic and inclusive approach will help reduce any gaps in the existing system for addressing human rights challenges from new and emerging digital technology?

6. What should be the role of the private sector in mitigating the risks of new and emerging digital technologies to human rights? What about the roles of other key stakeholders?

Specific questions for UN Agencies

1. Please describe the relevant work that your organization has done on the issue of new and emerging digital technologies and human rights. What have been the key accomplishments?

2. What challenges have your organization encountered when approaching this issue area? What lessons were learned in the process?

3. How does your organization use new and emerging digital technologies to protect and promote human rights?

4. What have been the greatest challenges when using new and emerging technologies? Have these technologies been effective?

5. Has your organization collaborated with other organizations on the issue of new and emerging digital technologies and human rights? Did the organization face any challenges in working with other organizations?

Specific questions for States

1. What measures, if any, (legislative, administrative, institutional, or other) have been put in place in your country to deal with human rights risks arising from new and emerging digital technologies? Are these measures still in the process of being implemented? If not, why are they no longer in progress?

2. How are new and emerging digital technologies affecting the protection and promotion of human rights in your country? What unique challenges or advantages does your country have in responding to the issue? What are the lessons or best practices that can be shared?

3. In your country, which government agency has an initiative in the decision-making of new and emerging digital technologies policies? Does your country have a special agency that exclusively deals with the issues of new and emerging digital technologies? (for example: The Disruption Council in Denmark, The Presidential 4th Industrial Revolution Committee in Korea) If so, how much does the agency take the human rights issues into account in its agenda?

Specific questions for NHRIs

1. Please describe the relevant work that your organization has done on the issue of new and emerging digital technologies and human rights. What have been the key accomplishments?

2. How does your organization use new and emerging digital technologies to protect and promote human rights?

3. What have been the greatest challenges when using new and emerging technologies? Have these technologies been effective?

4. Have there been recent complaints regarding the issue of new technology and human rights?

5. Does your institution have a mandate on data protection? Is it seeking such a mandate?

Specific questions for civil society organizations

1. Please describe the relevant work that your organization has done on the issue of new and emerging digital technologies and human rights. What are the key accomplishments? What challenges have your organization faced?

2. How does your organization use new and emerging digital technologies to protect and promote human rights?

3. What have been the greatest challenges when using new and emerging technologies? Have these technologies been effective?

4. Is the current international human rights system or are the government policies effective in addressing human rights challenges from new and emerging digital technologies? If not, how can they be improved?

5. How do you evaluate citizens' awareness of the potential conflict between new and emerging digital technologies and human rights? Does your organization have a roadmap to enhance public awareness of the issue?

Specific questions for the technical community and academic institutions

1. There is a complex array of business and academic buzz words surrounding new and emerging digital technologies, such as convergence, digital transformation, Industry 4.0, and the fourth industrial revolution, among others. Could you please summarize what, in your opinion, makes today's new and emerging digital technologies different from earlier periods?

2. What are the key technological risks to human rights in the short-term and the long-term? What should be done to mitigate these risks?

3. Is the current international human rights system or are the government policies effective in addressing human rights challenges from new and emerging digital technologies? If not, how can they be improved?

4. Do you think that policy efforts to address and redress human rights issues in new and emerging digital technologies will promote technological advancement, or deter it?

Specific questions for the private sector

1. There is a complex array of business and academic buzz words surrounding new and emerging digital technologies, such as convergence, digital transformation, Industry 4.0, and the fourth industrial revolution, among others. Could you please summarize what, in your opinion, makes today's new and emerging digital technologies different from earlier periods?

2. In your sector of the economy, what would you identify as the key technological risks to human rights in the short-term and the long-term? What needs to be done (at the firm, state or global level) to mitigate these risks?

3. How can human rights due diligence be promoted in the private sector for responding to human rights risks that surface from new and emerging digital technologies?

4. In your company or industrial sector, is there a firmly established data-protection scheme? If so, how do you evaluate the implementation and compliance level of it?

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i *The term *new and emerging technologies* broadly refers to innovations that are transforming the boundaries between virtual, physical and biological spaces. They include new technologies and techniques of datafication, data distribution, and automated decision-making, such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, block chain, cloud computing, and personalized medicine, among others.