Joint Webinars On "Digital Cooperation during COVID19 and beyond"

Webinar #4: Online Safety and Security during COVID19
09:00-10:30 New York/15:00-16:30 Geneva, 6 May Wednesday

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to expand, organizations are reporting a dramatic increase in cyberattacks and cybercrimes all over the world. Individuals are facing online threats and harms from increased fraud, phishing, and extortion whilst ransomware attacks have compromised mission critical systems, such as governments, companies, media facilities, and even the United Nations, including the World Health Organization (WHO). There is also a large spike of reconnaissance activity and intrusions into some of major institutions, especially those who have identified themselves as working on COVID research labs and hospitals. Amongst the heightened vulnerability to ever-present online harms, home-based work and schooling has also increased the potential cybercrime victim-pool and online child abuse investigators have already seen a large rise in offences.

While much of this can be attributed to people's daily activities increasingly moving online, it is also because newly remote workers, educators, and students are unaware of basic security measures. Existing vulnerability of women and children to online harassments and potential abuse has also been heightened by the increased digitization of activity. In addition, organizations are facing serious challenges to keep externally - accessed system secure and safe, while making it accessible for their employees to continue to work remotely on their duties.

Whilst the picture is challenging, there are lights in the darkness. Law enforcers are stepping up investigation; policy makers are advancing regulation; tech companies are thwarting bad players; and civil society are enhancing capacity building. What more, though, can we do? How can we accelerate our efforts? How can the United Nations add real value to the work of government - and that of the private sector – to strengthen online safety and foster cybersecurity culture during COVID19 and beyond?

This webinar is the fourth in the "Digital Cooperation during COVID19 and beyond" series. We will discuss specific challenges that the world is facing during the COVID19 crisis and strategies which have been deployed to ensure safer and secure access to digital service, as well as helping younger generations to be protected by potential online threats. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a strategic partner of this webinar.

Organizers

- **Mr Fabrizio Hochschild,** Under Secretary-General and Special Advisor, UN
- **Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin,** Director of Development Bureau, ITU

Moderator

- **Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin,** Director of Development Bureau, ITU

Speakers

- **Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden**

- **Hon D. Balgobin**, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, Mauritius
- **H.E. Urmas Reinsalu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Estonia
- **Ms Ghada Fathi Waly** Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)
- **Ms Catherine De Bolle,** Executive Director, Europol
- **Mr Hans Erik Vestberg,** Chief Executive Officer, Verizon
- **Mr Howard Taylor,** Executive Director, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children
- **Mr R. S. Sharma,** Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority, India