Online Global Dialogue

Digital Inclusion for All
Shaping our Digital future

United Nations
16 February 2021
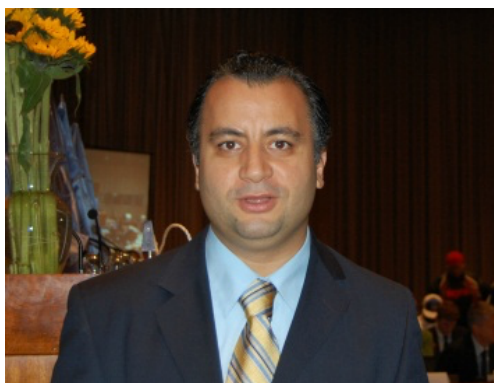9:00am - 11:00am EDT (New York)

More information and registration: bit.ly/un-csocd-digitalinclusion4all | #EveryoneIncluded

Bios of Speakers

• **Mr. Amine Lamrabat,** Information Officer, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

• **Ms. Daniela Bas,** Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

• **Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin,** Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

• **Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne**, Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

• **Ms. Yu Ping Chan**, Senior Programme Officer, Office of the Envoy on Technology

• **Ms. Kristen Saloomey,** Correspondent at Al Jazeera English New York

• **Ms. Laia Bonet Rull,** Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for the 2030 Agenda: Digital Transition and International Relations

• **Dr. Julia Glidden,** Corporate Vice President for Microsoft Worldwide Public Sector

• **Ms. Alison Gillwald**, Executive Director, Research ICT Africa, Adjunct Professor at University of Cape Town

• **Ms. Nicol Turner Lee**, Senior Fellow, Center for Technology Innovation, The Brookings Institution

• **Ms. Komal Ahmad,** Founder & President of Copia

• **Ms. Nenna Nwakanma,** Chief Web Advocate, World Wide Web Foundation

• **Mr. Jan A.G.M. van Dijk,** Professor of communication science at the University of Twente, the Netherlands

Mr. Amine Lamrabat

Mr. Amine Lamrabat works for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in the Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD). Over the past ten years, he has been working on social development issues (ageing, youth, family, indigenous peoples, cooperatives and persons with disabilities), civil society, communication and outreach, as well as innovation and information and communication technologies. He has published and coordinated a number of promotional materials for DESA/DISD.

He joined the United Nations in 2004 and has coordinated the participation of NGOs in many DISD's major events, such as the Commission for Social Development, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing.

He also worked at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) at the United Nations Headquarters on monitoring and managing the human resources databases of DPKO Missions and Headquarters. He is a member of DESA's Civil Society Task Force, DESA ICT, Outreach Task Force, and the DESA Social Media Task Force.

Before joining the United Nations, he worked in the private sector. He managed the outreach and information technology of a small and medium enterprise in Italy, providing support to expanding market opportunities. He holds a Master of Science in Technology from Pace University, New York and a Post-Graduate Diploma in International Marketing. He is fluent in Arabic, English, French, and Italian and has a good knowledge of Spanish.

Ms. Daniela Bas

Ms. Daniela Bas, of Italian nationality, is the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs since May 2011. Political scientist with a major in International Politics, she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a dissertation on "The elimination of architectural barriers and the employment of people with physical disabilities". She is also a certified journalist and worked for major press, Radio and Television networks and is also a certified multicultural/life coach. Ms. Bas interest has always been people-centred in the various activities, associations, and professional roles she has held. In addition to her work at the United Nations from 1986 to 1995, she held managerial roles until 2000 in the private sector in Italy.

From then until 2011, before joining UNDESA she was, inter alia, adviser for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Italy. On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she was Board Member of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and of the Committee to Promote non-Armed and non-Violent Civil Defense of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Ms Bas was also the special adviser to the Vice President of the European Commission (On. Frattini) on human rights, democracy, and social affairs.

Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin was elected Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau in November 2018 and took office on 1 January 2019, and is the first woman in ITU history to hold one of the organization's top elected management positions.

She is a strategic leader with more than 30 years' high-level experience in international and inter-governmental relations, and a long history of success in policy and strategy development, analysis and execution.

She was an architect of the annual Global Symposium for Regulators, the pre-eminent global event for digital policymakers, and leads ITU's contribution to the *EQUALS Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age*. For more than a decade she has served as Executive Director of the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and is leading ITU's collaboration with UNICEF on the Giga project to connect all the world's schools.

Ms Bogdan-Martin is a frequent speaker at top-level international policy events and is spearheading ITU's new Youth Strategy to more actively engage with the young people who are driving the next wave of digital transformation.

She holds a Master's degree in International Communications Policy from the American University in Washington, DC and a post-graduate certificate in Strategies for Leadership from the Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland.

She is an affiliate of the Harvard University Berkman-Klein Center for Internet and Society and is a Generation Unlimited Champion and a Champion of the EDISON Alliance led by the World Economic Forum. She serves on a number of advisory bodies, including the Geneva-Tsinghua Initiative, the SDG Lab Advisory Board, the UN Technology Innovation

Labs, and the Alumni Expert Council of the Internet Governance Lab of the American University in Washington D.C. She is also a qualified amateur radio operator.

Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne

Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne is the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD. She leads UNCTAD's work in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), including the work on e-commerce and digital economy. She also serves as the Head of the Secretariat of the UN Commission of Science and Technology for Development which is the focal point of the United Nations on STI policy dialogue. She also leads UNCTAD's trade logistics programme, including the work on trade facilitation, sustainable and resilient freight transport, and port management. As such, her responsibilities include the supervision of UNCTAD's largest technical cooperation programme, ASYCUDA—the Automated System for Customs Data.

Ms. Sirimanne has extensive experience in development policy, research and technical cooperation gained from international organizations, national governments, think tanks and universities. She served as Director of the ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), where she spearheaded major regional cooperation programmes. Among them are the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative for seamless broadband connectivity, Regional Drought Mechanism for monitoring and early warning of drought through space applications, and the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade, UNNExT.

During her tenure with ESCAP, Ms. Sirimanne also headed the trade facilitation programme, and led the macroeconomic policy work and ESCAP's flagship publication, *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*. Prior to that, Ms. Sirimanne was with the UN Economic

Commission for Africa (ECA), where she led the economic policy team and the *Economic Report on Africa*, the flagship publication of ECA. She has also worked for the Canadian Department of Finance and the World Bank. Ms. Sirimanne holds a PhD in Economics.

Ms. Yu Ping Chan

https://twitter.com/YuPing_Chan

Yu Ping Chan is a Senior Programme Officer in the Office of the Envoy on Technology at the United Nations. She coordinates and oversees the team's work on follow-up to the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation and Roadmap for Digital Cooperation; as well as advocacy, engagement and coordination efforts to strengthen global digital cooperation. This follows-on from her previous work in leading the Digital Cooperation team in the Office of the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General.

Yu Ping previously led the Policy and Regional Support teams in the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism's policy, knowledge management and coordination branch. Prior to this, she worked in the Policy and Mediation Division of the UN's Department of Political Affairs, and in the New York Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Before joining the UN Secretariat, Yu Ping was a diplomat in the Singaporean Foreign Service. She served at the Singapore Mission to the United Nations in New York as Singapore's expert representative on the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) and Sixth Committee (Legal) of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as her Embassy's Press Officer. Before her posting to New York, Yu Ping worked in the Singaporean Ministry of Foreign Affairs' department overseeing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and regional political and strategic issues.

A Singaporean national, Yu Ping has a Bachelor of Arts (magna cum laude) from Harvard University, and a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Ms. Kristen Saloomey

Kristen Saloomey is an award-winning news correspondent with the international network, Al Jazeera English. She brings an international perspective to grassroots reporting across the United States and the globe covering everything from elections to natural disasters and protest movements. Based in New York, she has considerable experience navigating the halls of the United Nations and issues of international justice.

Her reporting on the source of Haiti's 2010 cholera epidemic in has been recognized by the United Nations Correspondents Association. She serves on the board of the Foreign Press Association and has worked as an editor for Vital Interests, a foreign policy newsletter put out by Fordham University's Center on National Security.

Ms. Laia Bonet Rull

Laia Bonet is the Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for the 2030 Agenda, the Digital Transition, Sports, Territorial and Metropolitan Coordination, and International Relations. In her capacity, she leads Barcelona's digitalization policies, as well as the city's international action. A lawyer by training, she is a professor of Administrative Law (Pompeu Fabra University) and Communications Law (Blanquerna- Ramon Llull University).

Prior to her current role as Deputy Mayor of Barcelona, she was Secretary of the Government of Catalonia (2007-2010), and a member of the Parliament of Catalonia (2010-2012), where she was deputy spokesperson for the Socialist Parliamentary Group.

Dr. Julia Glidden

Dr. Julia Glidden is Corporate Vice President, Worldwide Public Sector, for Microsoft Corporation, where she is helping to deliver on Microsoft's mission to empower every person and organization on the planet to achieve more.

An internationally recognized expert on Digital Government, Dr. Glidden specializes in identifying and piloting emerging technologies such as AI, Cloud and Blockchain in the GovTech space. Julia pioneered the concept of Cognitive Government and has delivered many of Europe's leading innovation projects. For over ten years, she has served as an expert advisor to the United Nations, the World Economic Forum and the European Commission.

Prior to joining Microsoft, Dr. Glidden oversaw IBM's Global Government Industry, where she was responsible for driving digital transformation for public sector clients across the globe. Prior to joining IBM, she founded a London-based innovation boutique which advises governments across the globe on technology disruption.

An accomplished TedX speaker, Julia is regularly asked to speak around the world on emerging digital trends. In addition to being named in Apolitical's inaugural list of the Top 100 most influential people in digital government, Julia was recognized as one of the Top 40 GovTech Influencers in the 2019 e-Governance Global Industry Landscape Overview.

An avid outdoor enthusiast, Julia loves to ski, snowshoe, ice skate and kayak. A native New Englander, Julia spent over half her life in Europe and Africa. Dr. Glidden completed her D.Phil. in International Relations at Oxford University.

Ms. Alison Gillwald

Alison Gillwald (PhD) is the Executive Director of Research ICT Africa (RIA) an African digital policy and regulatory think-tank that works across 20 African countries. She is also adjunct-professor at the University of Cape Town's Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance where she supervises doctoral students undertaking transdisciplinary research in digital policy regulation and data governance. A former regulator she was appointed to the founding Council of the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA) in 1997, having headed the policy department at the first broadcasting regulator, the Independent Broadcasting Authority established in 1994. She has advised the South African Presidency, the National Planning Commission, the Competition Commission and the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, in addition to the African Union Commission, SADC, CRASA and the SADC Parliamentary Forum. She has been commissioned by the International Telecommunications Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank to undertake research to inform policy across a number of Africa countries and collaborates with networks across the Global South to build evidence base for decision-makers. She is the deputy chairperson of Giganet, the international academic internet governance conference and was an inaugural associate editor of the ITU journal, Discoveries.

Ms. Nicol Turner Lee

Dr. Nicol Turner Lee is a senior fellow in Governance Studies, the director of the Center for Technology Innovation, and serves as Co-Editor-In-Chief of TechTank. Dr. Turner Lee researches public policy designed to enable equitable access to technology across the U.S. and to harness its power to create change in communities across the world. Her work also explores global and domestic broadband deployment and internet governance issues. She is an expert on the intersection of race, wealth, and technology within the context of civic engagement, criminal justice, and economic development.

Dr. Turner Lee's most recent publications address biases in machine learning algorithms, the digital divide, 5G mobile infrastructure and telehealth. She has written extensively on the digital divide in both urban and rural areas, and the availability of local health resources, including those enabled through telemedicine. She has a forthcoming book on the topic, Digitally Invisible: How the Internet is Creating the New Underclass (Brookings Press, 2021).

Dr. Turner Lee has been cited in the New York Times, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Communications Daily, Multichannel News, and Washington Informer. She can also be seen or heard on NPR, NBC News, ABC and other print and online publications. She is also a widely sought expert and speaker on issues related to communications policies in media and at conferences, and she has testified on multiple occasions before Congress. Dr. Turner Lee was a two-time Digital Research Program Scholar as part of Time Warner Cable's Cable Research Program in Communications and recipient of countless recognitions, including the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition (2015 and 2019) and one of the Most Inspiring Women in Media from the Alliance of Women in Media (2014).

Ms. Komal Ahmad

As Founder & President of Copia, Komal intelligently solved the complex logistics associated with the redistribution of highly-perishable excess food from businesses, commercial kitchens, and events to nonprofits in need. As a for-profit surplus food waste management company Copia's advanced and proprietary technology dramatically reduces food waste and ends hunger across North America.

This year, Copia will feed over 5 million people all while providing businesses and nonprofits with over $21M in savings.

Copia is distinguished as **1 of the top 3 startups run by women** in the U.S.

Komal is the **University of California's "30 Under 30" Global Food Changemaker** and has been awarded the **Social Entrepreneur of the Year.**

Komal is named by Entrepreneur magazine as one of the *Most Powerful Women in the World*, recognized by Marie Claire as one of the *Most Powerful & Impactful People in Business,* highlighted by Fast Company as one of the *Most Creative People in Business,* listed by InStyle among the *Top 50 Most Badass Women in the World,* and appointed by Toyota as their *Mother of Invention*. She has made the coveted **Forbes 30 Under 30** list twice. Komal was also honored with the prestigious **Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Award.**

Follow Komal's journey on **Twitter @Komal_Ahmad** and **Instagram @KomalAhmad786** as she proves to the world that **"Impossible is just a word."**

Ms. Nnenna Nwakanma

Nnenna advocates for policy and systemic changes that are needed for meaningful internet access, open data, open government and the open web across Africa, bringing together local and international stakeholders to advance the digital agenda. She works to drive affordable internet access, data rights, digital freedom and digital responsibilities of stakeholders, sectors and actors.

Nnenna is a respected technology voice and leader in Africa. Her capacity to network and bridge the gap between the local and the global has made her a voice bearer for women, rural populations, the unconnected and the civil society across the world.

Nnenna is a Diplo alumnus, an ICT4D Strategist, an expert in e-Participation and Citizen Engagement, one of the early pioneers of the Africa Data Revolution, a respected voice in the UN's Internet Governance Forum, a pioneer and continued advisor on internet governance in Africa, and Faculty at the Schools of Internet Governance. She has over 15 years of experience working with the United Nations Systems in human rights, information society, gender, data digital equality and sustainable development.

Her career has allowed her to work closely with many civil society organizations, the African Development Bank, the Digital Solidarity Fund and has seen her involved in many phases of the UN's Africa Information Society Initiative. As well as leading a highly regarded consultancy platform, Nnenna has in recent years co-founded The Free Software and Open-Source Foundation for Africa, and served as a board member of the Open Source Initiative. She has lived and worked in five African countries and is fluent in English, French and a number of African languages.

Mr. Jan A.G.M. van Dijk

Jan A.G.M. van Dijk (68) is emeritus professor of communication science and sociology of the information society and still working at the University of Twente, the Netherlands. His main domains of research are the social aspects of the digital media, digital democracy and the digital divide. His best-known books are *The Network Society* (Four Editions), *Digital Democracy* (2000), *The Deepening Divide* (2005), *Digital Skills* (2014), *Internet and Democracy* (2018) and *The Digital Divide* (2020). During his long career he was an advisory of many governments and departments and the European Commission.