

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON / OFF – IMPLICATIONS OF DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY ON HUMAN RIGHTS

TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022 | 14:00 - 19:00 | AUDITORIUM  
CAMPUS BIOTECH, GENEVA AND ONLINE

Digitalization impacts the realization and enjoyment of human rights. It offers new ways of protection and creates new openings for violations. The mere slogan that what applies offline also applies online is surely not sufficient anymore, if it ever has been.

This year's annual conference will focus on digital connectivity in the field of human rights via two panels and by looking at the implications of being ON and OFF the grid.

Going beyond other thematic debates on those issues, we will explore in particular what contributions can be expected from the United Nations human rights mechanisms.



## PROGRAMME

### 14:00 - 14:25 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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- **Yves Flückiger**, Rector of the University of Geneva
- **Ambassador Jürg Lauber**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
- **Gloria Gaggioli**, Director of the Geneva Academy
- **Felix Kirchmeier**, Executive Director of the Geneva Human Rights Platform

### 14:25 - 14:40 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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- **Teki Akuetteh**, Executive Director of the Africa Digital Rights' Hub

### 14:40 - 14:45 INPUT FROM THE MORNING EXPERT ROUND-TABLE ON DIGITAL HUMAN RIGHTS TRACKING TOOLS

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- **Lisa Reinsberg**, Executive Director of the International Justice Resource Center and Board Member, HURIDOCS

### 14:45 - 16:15 PLENARY PANEL 1: 'ON' - HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY FOR SURVEILLANCE, INTERCEPTION AND DATA COLLECTION

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The development of increasingly advanced digital technologies has enhanced the capacity of states – as well as the private sector – to conduct surveillance, interception and data collection activities. This panel will notably address – with independent human rights experts, UN officials, academics and representatives from both the private sector and civil society – what human rights standards should regulate data collection, storage and use, and how to apply the human rights framework to private actors like surveillance and tech companies.

### 16:30 - 18:00 PLENARY PANEL 2: 'OFF' - HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF THE DIGITAL GAP AND DIGITAL DISRUPTIONS

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In today's world, access to digital technologies remains uneven and this gap reflects and amplifies existing social, cultural and economic inequalities. In addition, intentional disruptions by governments to access the internet is a growing phenomenon. This panel discussion will discuss the steps that human rights mechanisms should take to counteract internet shutdowns and bridge the digital gap, as well as the role of international organizations, companies and civil society to ensure universal internet access.

### 18:00 - 18:15 CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

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- **Beatrice Ferrari**, Director of International Affairs, Republic and State of Geneva
- **Felix Kirchmeier**, Executive Director of the GHRP

### 18:15 - 19:00 RECEPTION

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The conference will be followed by a reception.