Summary points of digital governance discussion

The discussion on digital governance touched on the following interlinked areas:

1. The digital aspects of the governance systems, which enable societies to function – the 'foundational' and 'functional' systems, the sectoral and the 'whole of government' aspects.
2. Digital and democratic governance systems – how digital is changing democratic governance, for example, the opportunities and challenges around different forms of representative governance (both old and new).
3. The governance of the digital - how the principles, norms and objectives of the UN should be applied to the rapidly evolving digital sphere to ensure inclusive and rights-based social contracts, and what UNDP's role in this is.
4. Due to I. and II. (and other reasons) we struggle to have a coherent conversation around these issues and, as mentioned by Robert Opp in his concluding remarks, work out what our organizational position should be. As noted by many participants, this is an urgent conversation.

About the event

Around the world digital technologies are redefining the relationships between the state and different forces and interests in society. These trends have been further amplified with the onset of COVID-19, highlighting the importance of privacy and data protection legislation, civil registration and national identity coverage, and reducing digital inequalities both within and between countries.

The event will provide a venue to collectively explore the role of digital governance in building new social contracts and highlight perspectives on pressing policy debates in the digital governance space, including approaches to address the impacts of COVID-19. We will consider how digital technologies can be leveraged to achieve inclusive service delivery, expand civic space and reduce inequalities, including the 'digital divide'. We seek your views on the key issues that we should be taking into account as we further develop our offer.

This event will primarily be UNDP focused but please feel free to forward this invitation to select partners who may wish to participate.

Speakers:

Mandeep Dhaliwal, Director, HIV, Health and Development Practice, BPPS, GPN, UNDP

Tariq Malik, Surge Advisor, Digital Governance, BPPS, GPN, UNDP

Robert Opp, Chief Digital Officer, BPPS, GPN, UNDP

Nina Sun, Assistant Clinical Professor and Deputy Director of Global Health, Community Health and Prevention, Drexel University

There will be a substantive Q&A and discussion session which will be moderated by Mandeep Dhaliwal.

Kindly note that you will need to have an existing Zoom account to be able to join this session. You can either join by using the Outlook Calendar invite or enter the call details below to register. If you are directed to sign in, please make sure to use the SSO log-in function (undp.zoom.us).

About the Future of Governance series

The Future of Governance consultation series will explore the state of social contracts in different development settings and the role that UNDP can, and should, play in supporting new social contracts and the current governance offer. It will act as a convening space where the range of conversations on the future of governance across the organization, including in country offices and the regional hubs, and through the communities of practice, can come together. This will help ensure that a broad range of expertise and perspectives contribute to informing a common vision and a shared narrative for UNDP's governance priorities.

The consultation series will be hosted on a dedicated Spark Blue page where interested parties can discuss thematic questions, showcase insights and expertise and reflect on what has worked well (and what has not) throughout the current Strategic Plan. In addition, as part of the series, the BPPS Governance team will undertake an extensive desktop review, targeted interviews and host a curated e-consultation. We look forward to an inclusive process with active participation from colleagues across the organization and invited external participants.