The UN Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, launched in June 2020, presents a set of recommended actions for the international community to help ensure all people are connected, respected, and protected in the digital age. It lays out the tremendous benefits and opportunities which digital technologies have given us, as well as the potential risks and unintended consequences we must be cognizant of.

The Roadmap calls for all stakeholders – from public, private and technical communities – to come together and build upon successful efforts, partnerships and coordination to ensure every person has safe and affordable access to the Internet by 2030, human rights are respected online, and the most vulnerable are protected from the potential perils of digital technologies.

In particular, the Roadmap notes that special attention should be given to ensuring connectivity in times of crisis and in humanitarian operations. This online event will be an opportunity to delve into how humanitarian and development actors can advance digital cooperation in the field.

The discussion will cover how the humanitarian sector is already improving effectiveness and efficiency in a changing landscape through the use of new technology and innovation, such as drones, data analytics, AI, biometrics, blockchain and mobile money transfers. Then, participants will explore where more could or should be done, taking account of the unique risks and challenges associated with deploying new technologies in humanitarian contexts, such as data privacy and protection, and the spread of misinformation. Finally, there will be time to reflect on ways the community can work together to coordinate and scale up efforts more effectively, keeping a clear focus on the people they serve.

The event is co-hosted by the Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Special Advisor working on Digital Cooperation, the UN World Food Programme, and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

**PROGRAMME**

**Opening Remarks:**
- Fabrizio Hochschild, UN Under-Secretary General and Special Advisor on Preparations for the 75th UN Anniversary & Digital Cooperation
- Enrica Porcari, CIO & Director of Technology, World Food Programme
- Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Head of Policy Branch, UN OCHA

**Discussion:**
- Kimberly Brown, Head of Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation, GSMA
- Alexander J. Diaz, Crisis Response & Humanitarian Aid, Google.org
- Andrew Schroeder, VP of Research and Analysis, Direct Relief
- Sarah Telford, Lead, Centre for Humanitarian Data, UN OCHA
- Gabriela Alvarado, Chief of IT Emergency Preparedness & Response, WFP