Updates on using tech for peacebuilding & peacekeeping

Promoting Peace, Trust and Security in Cyberspace at the United Nations

ICT4Peace's Daniel Stauffacher was invited on 4 and 5 May 2015 to address the United Nations member states in Geneva, where he called again for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for peaceful purposes. In particular, he stressed that ICTs be used to improve early warning of potential conflicts, mitigate their impact, and promote reconciliation and non-violent means of resolving disputes between and within nations. He warned that ICTs are increasingly being used for purposes detrimental to peace and security, including attacks on digital networks and systems. Noting that traditional and social media can be used to promote disharmony and conflict between social, political and ethnic groups, Stauffacher demanded that norms of responsible behaviour and confidence building measures (CBMs) for cyberspace be urgently developed by the world community.

Read more here.

ENTRi certified course on new media in crisis information management

For the second consecutive year, the ICT4Peace Foundation's Special Advisor Sanjana Hattotuwa led the training of a new and unique ENTRi course on the use of new media for crisis management. The course was held from 18 – 22 May at the European Academy Grunewald in Berlin, Germany.

The training was conducted in collaboration with the renowned Zentrum für Internationale Friedenseinsätze gGmbH (ZIF), based in Berlin, and introduced 24 participants from a range of backgrounds to a variety of new media tools and platforms used in the collection, presentation, verification, and dissemination of information.

Participants used several leading web based tools, apps and services as part of interactive activities and group work, while learning about digital communications security as well in order to protect information and sources.

Read the full update here.

Future of peacekeeping and technology at re:publica 2015, Berlin

As part of the GIG programme and hosted by ZIF – Center for International Peace Operations, Sanjana Hattotuwa, Special Advisor at the ICT4Peace Foundation was invited to deliver a presentation on technology and peacekeeping today. The session was interestingly titled 'NERDS WITH BLUE HELMETS? DIGITAL INNOVATION AND PEACEKEEPING'.

Read Sanjana's presentation here and see the video of his submission here.

ICT4Peace consultations with the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Berlin

On 23 April 2015, ICT4Peace was invited by the German Federal Foreign Office to discuss international cybersecurity affairs and to give a presentation on the

Reinventing How We Live Together

From Occupy to Podemos to #IllRideWithYou, initiatives for change and civic engagement are increasingly happening outside of established institutions. By leveraging technologies that amplify people's voices, these new initiatives are more inclusive, more dynamic, and more meaningful on the ground. We see the links between civic engagement and peacebuilding, including the positive function technology can play by broadening avenues for discourse. It is our view that this new paradigm for peacebuilding is parallel to this new paradigm for civic engagement. While many challenges remain, technology enables this paradigm shift, even if it does not necessarily cause it.

Read the full article Reinventing How We Live Together on Building Peace.

More details here.

Annual consultations in Geneva around CiM, innovation and human rights

Sanjana Hattotuwa, Special Advisor at the ICT4Peace Foundation, met with Chad Hendrix, Patrick Gordon, members

work and mandate by ICT4Peace to German Diplomats from various departments working on international cyber affairs. The presentation can be found here.

Daniel Stauffacher of ICT4Peace was kindly received by Ambassador Dr. Norbert Riedel, Commissioner for International Cyber Policy and Dr. Karsten Geier, Head, Cyber Policy Coordination Staff, Federal Foreign Office, Germany, and Head of the German Delegation to the UN Governmental Group of Experts on Cyberspace (GGE) Negotiations in New York.

Read more here.
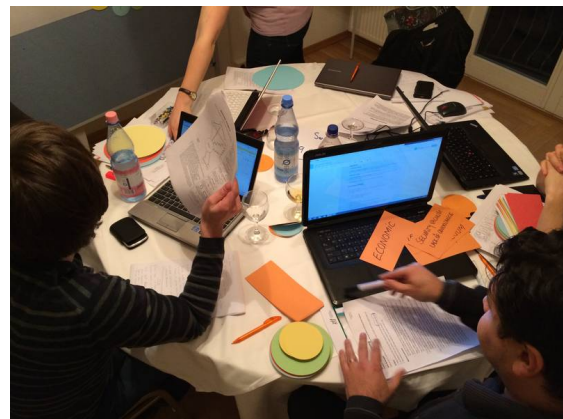
UN General Assembly and UN Secretary General take important steps to improve Crisis Information Management

The UN General Assembly in December 2014 approved the UN Secretary-General's Strategy, to better exploit the enormous potential of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for decision-making and delivery capacity of the United Nations in the areas of peace

of the UN Information Management Working Group (IMWG), the ICRC's Tarun Sarwal and Gulheim Ravier and finally with key staff from the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) on issues anchored to crisis information management (CiM), human rights, innovation, governance and technology development in support of, inter alia, humanitarian aid, civilian protection and peacekeeping.

Read more here.
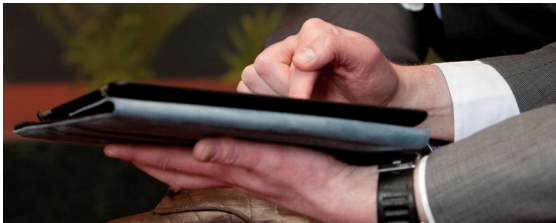
Cybersecurity initiatives since January 2015

- The Government of Kenya and ICT4Peace Foundation co-organize the first Regional Training Workshop in Africa on International Security and Diplomacy in Cyberspace
- ICT4Peace conducts International Cybersecurity Diplomacy Course at the Global Conference on Cyberspace 2015, The Hague Netherlands
- First ICT4Peace publication in Spanish: A Role for Civil Society in Cybersecurity Affairs
- ICT4Peace Panel on International Norms for Peace and Security at the Global Conference on Cyberspace, The Hague, Netherlands
- ICT4Peace: A Comprehensive Normative Approach to

and security, humanitarian operations and development, human rights and international law. The strategy is contained in the SG's report of 10 October 2014 on Information and Communication Technology in the United Nations (A/69/517).

The ASG UN Chief Information and Communication Technology Officer (UN CITO) Ms. Atefeh Riazi and her Office are responsible for the implementation of the Secretary General's strategy.

The ICT4Peace Foundation, with the financial support of the Governments of Switzerland, Sweden and private Foundations is honoured to have been supporting since 2008 the UN CITO and UN Organisations such as OCHA, DPKO/DFS, UNHCR, OHCHR, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP etc. to improve the UN Crisis Information Management System (CiMS).

Read more here.

The UN's Human Rights Up Front initiative: Embracing ICTs

Sanjana was asked to lead a session on the second day of the workshop on how Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) could assist and strengthen a common operational

- Cybersecurity is needed
- ICT4Peace on the Role of Civil Society in furthering Confidence Building Measures in Cyberspace at Lomonosov University Conference in Garmisch
- ICT4Peace invited to OSCE Workshop on Cyber Security in Tashkent

framework, situational awareness and information exchange around human rights within the UN family, as well as bringing into the UN architectures information from the public domain – in line with the thrust of the UN HRUF initiative.

Sanjana presented an overview of some of the ways through which ICTs, in the broadest sense, had already impacted the domain of human rights protection and monitoring. After the presentation, there was discussion around the very aspects and issues the ICT4Peace Foundation has been engaged with as part of the UN's Crisis Information Management strategy, since 2008. Questions around verification (generating actionable intelligence from the tsunami of unverified information in the public domain), the challenges around managing big data, how to overcome institutional mandates through the use of technology, forward thinking governance mechanisms as well as more technical and technological queries came up. One participant said that in response to a question raised on the first day (what do communities do when the UN isn't around to strengthen civilian protection and human rights) the ICT4Peace Foundation's presentation provided the answers, in terms of the ICTs already used by varied stakeholders engaged in work allied with OHCHR.

Read more here.

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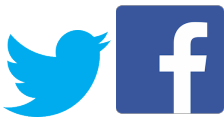
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Download **a report on the use of Information and Communications Technologies for peacebuilding (ICT4Peace),** with a Preface by Kofi A. Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations here. An updated version of this report, with critical analysis on current policies and practices of ICTs in peacebuilding and crises was published in early 2011. Published in collaboration with the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University and GeorgiaTech, *Peacebuilding in the Information Age: Sifting Hype from Reality* can be read here.

ICT4Peace took root with pioneering research on the role of ICTs in preventing, responding to and recovering from conflict in 2003 and lead to the adoption of Paragraph 36 by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis in 2005 which recognises "...*the potential of ICTs to promote peace and to prevent conflict which, inter alia, negatively affects achieving development goals. ICTs can be used for identifying conflict situations through early-warning systems preventing conflicts, promoting their peaceful resolution, supporting humanitarian action, including protection of civilians in armed conflicts, facilitating peacekeeping missions, and assisting post conflict*

peace-building and reconstruction".

The **ICT4Peace Foundation** works to promote the practical realisation of Paragraph 36 and looks at the role of ICT in crisis management, covering aspects of early warning and conflict prevention, peace mediation, peacekeeping, peace-building as well as natural disaster management and humanitarian operations.

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