ICT for peace foundation

UN Crisis Information Management Advisory Group (CiMAG) retreat looks at Ebola response

ICT4Peace was again invited by ASG UN Chief Information Technology Officer Ms. Atefeh Riazi to organise again the UN Crisis Information Management Retreat (CIMAG) 2015. The themes of this year's retreat were as follows:

1. An introspection of the UNMEER / UN Ebola response, interrogating in particular the adoption of Crisis Information Management (CiMS) principles to strengthen collaboration and coordination in the response efforts
2. A retrospection of CiM efforts of the UN since Haiti 5 years ago, ending with UNMEER, to understand what's changed and what remain key challenges.
3. Moving forward, develop concrete recommendations for the UN top Management on how data and technology can be better leveraged within the UN system and beyond to manage humanitarian crisis such as Ebola.

Approximately 30 Information Management Specialists from the UN Secretariat, UN Organisations responsible for Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Operations participated on 8 and 9 June in Manhattan New York Meeting (UN OICT, OCHA, WHO, DPKO/DFS, UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank,UNOSAT, UNMEER, UNHCR, UN OCC, UN DPA, UN DPI, UN Global Pulse).

Read more here.

ICT4Peace on Strategic Communications in UN Peace Operations

ICT4Peace's Daniel Stauffacher was invited by the US Institute for Peace and Folke Bernadotte Academy to participate in a Challenges Forum workshop on Strategic Communications in UN Peace Operations on 23 June 2015 in Washington DC.

The Agenda of the workshop can be found here, and Daniel Stauffacher's presentation here.

The main points of the Foundation's input, the concept and content of which was fleshed out by Sanjana Hattotuwa, Special Advisor, ICT4Peace Foundation, can be summarised here.

ICT4Peace at UNIDIR

Welcoming UN's report on the use of ICTs to secure the right to life

A new report released by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Christof Heyns, titled the 'Use of information and communications technologies to secure the right to life' strongly resonates with the ICT4Peace Foundation's work, training and output over the years to mainstream the use of technology in peacebuilding and human rights.

Read more here.

WSIS + 10 ICT4Peace at UN General Assembly interactive hearing on WSIS

The ICT4Peace Foundation is honoured

Cyber Stability Conference in Geneva

ICT4Peace was invited by The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to participate in its 2015 Cyber Stability Conference entitled “Regime Coherence” on 9 July 2015, Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. The Agenda you find here.

This year’s conference aimed to support discussions on how current and future norm-setting cyber initiatives can be coordinated to further the development of a pragmatic global approach to cyber stability and avoid being in unintentional conflict with one another. The conference brought together stakeholders from the Geneva diplomatic community, cyber industry, and capital-based policymakers to discuss and explore ways in which the cyber community can better align strategic goals, and promote a stable and secure cyber environment.

Read more here.

Report of Crisis Information Management Advisory Group (CiMAG) 2015 Retreat

to have been invited to speak at the UN General Assembly on the importance of the emerging ICT tools, including traditional and new media for supporting actors working in peace operations, peace building, humanitarian response and the protection of fundamental rights.

ICT4Peace’s President, Daniel Stauffacher participated at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) – UN General Assembly interactive hearing on 2 July 2015 at the UN in New York, and delivered the following statement.

Read more here.

ICT4Peace supports the safe, coordinated and effective use of humanitarian drones (UAVs)

ICT4Peace participated in The Humanitarian UAV Network (UAViators) recent 3-day Policy Forum on Humanitarian UAVs at the Rockefeller Foundation in Bellagio Italy. The purpose of the Forum was to draft guidelines for the safe, coordinated and effective use of UAVs in humanitarian settings. Sanjana Hattotuwa, Special Advisor, ICT4peace, is a founding Board member of UAViators.

Led by the UN's Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) and organised by the ICT4Peace Foundation, the 2015 Crisis Information Management Advisory Group (CiMAG) meeting was held on 8th and 9th June in New York.

Representatives from OICT, OCHA, UNOCC, ICTD/DFS, UN Global Pulse, UNHCR, DPKO-DFS, UNDP, UNHCHR, UNOSAT, UNICEF, WFP, EOSG, UNDP and DPA participated along with, on the second day, representatives from the DataPop Alliance, Nethope, the Digital Humanitarian Network, World Bank, MapAction, Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and What3Words. Ambassador Per Thöresson, Sweden, ASG UN CITO Ms. Atefeh Riazi, Dr. David Nabarro, former UN Special Envoy on Ebola and UNMEER SRSG Peter Graaff also participated by video-conference in the workshop.

Read more here.

ICT4Peace Presentation at OSCE in Vienna on Capacity Building for International Cyber Security Negotiations

In Bellagio, UAViators brought together a cross-section of experts from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), World Food Program (WFP), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), American Red Cross, European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Organization (ECHO), Medair, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap, ICT for Peace Foundation (ICT4Peace), DJI, BuildPeace, Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), Trilateral Research, Harvard University, Texas A&M, University of Central Lancashire, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Pepperdine University School of Law and other independent experts.

Five key sets of guidelines were drafted, each focusing on priority areas where policy has been notably absent: 1) Code of Conduct; 2) Data Ethics; 3) Community Engagement; 4) Principled Partnerships; and 5) Conflict Sensitivity.

These five policy areas were identified as priorities during the first Humanitarian UAV Experts Meeting, co-organized at the UN Secretariat in New York by UAViators and OCHA and co-sponsored by ICT4Peace.

Read more here.

Daniel Stauffacher, President of ICT4Peace Foundation, was invited on 20 July 2015 by US Ambassador to the OSCE Daniel Baer, Chair of the OSCE Informal Working Group (IWG) on Confidence Building Measures in Vienna, to address participating States on the work of ICT4Peace on cyber/ICT security, and in particular on its training course for Diplomats on Cybersecurity Policy and Diplomacy. The Program of the informal workshop can be found here.

Daniel Stauffacher's presentation can be found here.

Read more here.

Another Year, Another GGE? The slow process of norm building for cyberspace

The latest report of the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) concerned with "Developments in the field of Information and Telecommunications in the context of International Security") was published in July 2015 (see UN General Assembly A/70/174)

Peacekeepers in the Sky: The Use of Unmanned Unarmed Aerial Vehicles for Peacekeeping

The ICT4Peace Foundation is pleased to release 'Peacekeepers in the Sky: The Use of Unmanned Unarmed Aerial Vehicles for Peacekeeping', authored by Helena Puig Larrauri and Patrick Meier.

The use of surveillance technologies by the UN may at times be politically unpopular among those UN Member States that fear technologies like UUAVs will inevitably compromise their territorial and political sovereignty. In fact, arguments against the use of UUAVs sometimes resemble arguments against the "Responsibility to Protect" norm adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2005 as a framework for justifying military intervention as a last resort to protect civilians from mass atrocities. This admittedly narrow set of concerns is

The group was comprised of experts from some twenty states and chaired by Brazil. Its work, conducted over the course of 2014 and 2015, built on the outcome of earlier GGEs, notably the 2013 one, in which experts agreed on the applicability of existing international law and norms of state behaviour to cyberspace and state uses of ICT and a range of voluntary capacity, confidence and cooperative measures moving forward. The 2014-2015 was tasked with studying the issues further, particularly how international law and other norms of behaviour apply in practice.

Read more here.

ICT4Peace contributes to Expert-Workshop on the German Government's "White Paper 2016 on Cyber Security

On 17 September 2015, ICT4Peace was invited to participate in an Expert-Workshop "White Paper 2016 on Cyber Security" in Berlin, Germany, hosted by the Federal Ministry of Defence, the University of the Federal Armed Forces Munich and the Federal Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications and New Media (BITKOM). In preparation of the drafting not always an issue; they can vary greatly based on the context of a given peacekeeping operation.

Download the full report here.

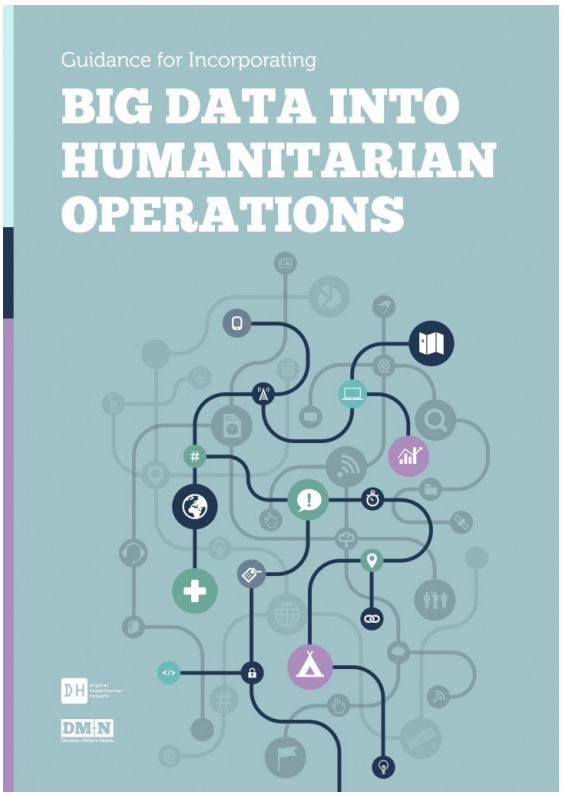
ICT4Peace at New York Cyber Security Roundtable of Munich Security Conference (MSC)

How can basic cyber norms be developed that democracies, authoritarian states and various non-state actors alike deem useful and necessary? Is an arms control framework for cyberspace plausible at all and, if so, what could it look like? How can global cyber governance be improved, and what role can and should private actors play in this effort? Senior experts, business leaders and politicians from EU and NATO member states debated these and other questions at an MSC Cyber Security Roundtable in New York on September 8. The roundtable under "Chatham House Rule" was co-hosted with Microsoft and took place in cooperation with the East-West Institute (EWI).

Read more here.

of its White Paper 2016, the German Government organised this inclusive and comprehensive consultation process, involving multiple actors from the German Bundestag, different German ministries, academia and think tanks, international partners and institutions as well as the general public. A summary of the proceedings can be found here.

Read more here.



Guidance for incorporating big data into humanitarian operations

The ICT4Peace Foundation congratulates OCHA on the launch of 'Guidance for incorporating big data into humanitarian operations' by Katie Whipkey and Andrej Verity. The new report is in substance and form, a wonderful achievement and a timely one around a topic what was once, not too long ago, peripheral at

ICT4Peace participates in UN Summit on Sustainable Development in New York

ICT4Peace is honoured to have been invited by the President of the UN General Assembly, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft to participate in an interactive panel on "Building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to achieve sustainable development" during the United Nations Summit Summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Read more here.

ICT4Peace: Smart Use of ICT, the Internet and Universal Access Imperative for Successful Implementation of the SDGs

On 27 September 2015 ICT4Peace participated in the UN Summit on the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for

best and a dark science to most. Open and big data is now centre and forward in humanitarian and aid operations. OCHA has much to be credited for this evolution.

In 2012, the ICT4Peace Foundation released ***The potential and challenges of open data for crisis information management and aid efficiency: A preliminary assessment*** that prefigured, already many years ago, the same opportunities and challenges outlined in the recent OCHA report, from the perspective of open data in the service of humanitarian aid.

Read more here.

Sustainable Development, and contributed to the Interactive Dialogue Session on building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to achieve sustainable development, co-chaired by H.E. President Michelle Bachelet (Chile) and H.E. President Park Geun-hye (Korea). ICT4Peace's Daniel Stauffacher's full statement can be found here.

Read more here.

ICT4Peace Cybersecurity Policy and Diplomacy Workshop for ASEAN countries in Singapore

Hosted by the Government of Singapore, ICT4Peace, in cooperation with RSIS, is organising a cybersecurity policy and diplomacy course in Singapore (19 – 20 October 2015) for the ASEAN Countries. Invited to participate are Diplomats, Government Officials and a limited number of academics and representatives of Think Tanks from the ASEAN Countries. The participants will be familiarised with the ongoing global (e.g. UN GGE), regional (e.g. OSCE, ARF, AU, OAS) and bilateral cybersecurity negotiation processes. They will acquire a deeper understanding of the most important areas of diplomatic

negotiations for a secure and open cyberspace, such as the application of international law for Cyberspace, norms of responsible state behaviour as well as confidence building measures in the cyberspace. An exercise will be carried out to test and deepen the understanding of the topics presented.

Read more here.

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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*

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.

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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