



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Promoting Integral Human Development and Peace in the Digital Age *new technologies in the post-covid world*

Organized by

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the Vatican COVID-19 Commission, the Diplo Foundation, Torino World Affairs Institute, Pax Christi International, and the Catholic University of America

9 December 2021 @ 14:00 - 18:00 CET | 8:00 - 12:00 EST

Held in person in the Sala Etchegaray at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and virtually on Zoom.

For virtual attendance, please register at this [link](#).

Short Summary

The conference will bring to light emerging moral and ethical questions related to the impact of new technologies on the post-pandemic world towards new approaches to integral human development and peace. Experts will offer a general scientific and ethical analysis along with case studies showcasing how new technologies can be placed at the service of integral human development, especially in the fields of food security, integral healthcare including fair and equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines, dignified labor, peace and security, and promotion of a communal economy. The event will raise crucial questions regarding the use of these technologies and their impact on the human being and its integral development in light of the vision laid out by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*: "*we can once more broaden our vision. We have the freedom needed to limit and direct technology; we can put it at the service of another type of progress, one which is healthier, more human, more social, more integral*" (*Laudato Si'* 112).

Purpose

The COVID-19 pandemic has widely affected the entire spectrum of human activity and piqued global reflection on the structures and phenomena that govern the world. One of the most salient is the rapid development of new types of technologies, including new generations of artificial intelligence, robotics, augmented and virtual reality, blockchain, internet of things, and 5G (from hereon "new technologies"). Yet these developments are seldom accompanied by ethical and moral reflection, and governing human activity rather than serving it. Without a comprehensive moral and ethical framework, rapid technological advancements risk sharpening inequalities and leaving the most marginalized behind. On the other hand, a far-reaching moral vision could set these technologies towards minimizing harm and serving integral human development.



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At this crucial point in history, there is a great need for a shift away from the technocratic paradigm, as described by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* (106). Following the dialogue initiated at the 2019 conference [The Common Good in the Digital Age](#), the *Promoting Integral Human Development and Peace in the Digital Age* hybrid conference will aim to contribute to the global dialogue on the role of new technologies in the post-pandemic era with a view towards [integral ecology](#), justice, an integrated “[One Health for All](#)” approach, and a more communal economic system.

A note on format:

The hybrid conference will feature in-person and virtual participation from speakers, while all attendees are invited to join the conference virtually. Each session will be streamed live on the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development’s YouTube account in English with simultaneous interpretation available in Italian and Spanish. The conference will begin with an introduction, followed by two sessions deepening reflection on the theoretical role and practical implications of new technologies, including a presentation on the work of the Vatican COVID-19 Commission’s New Technology for Peace and Integral Human Development Working Group.

**The flyer and graphics have been created by Altimeter Group, a U.S. based creative and strategic advisory firm. Special thanks to the designer, Mimi Shyngysova, for her commitment to human-centered design, storytelling and unique aesthetics.*

Conference Program

14:00-14:30 Introductory Session

Moderator: Dr. Alessio Pecorario, Coordinator, Security Task Force, Working Group 2, Vatican Covid-19 Commission

- H.Em. Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
- Ms. Francesca Di Giovanni, Under-Secretary, Multilateral Affairs, Section for Relations with States of the Secretariat of State of the Holy See
- H.E. Msgr. Paul Tighe, Secretary, Pontifical Council for Culture

14:30-15:45 Session I: Towards an ethical vision for new technologies: what is at stake?

Moderator: Ms. Melinda Davis, Security Task Force, Vatican COVID-19 Commission (5min intro)



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- Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love, Catholic University of America (10min)
The tension between ethics and the development of new technologies through the lens of CST
- Prof. Jovan Kurbalija, Diplo Foundation (10min)
New technologies and diplomacy: how new technologies impact international politics and development, and the issues inherent in developing global norms
- Dr. Paolo Gianturco, Senior Partner at Deloitte Consulting Srl (10min)
An ethical approach to FinTech and development
- Dr. Barbara Gerstenberger, Eurofound (10min)
The effects of digitalisation on the quality of working life

Q&A (20min)

15:45-16:00 BREAK Potential video (5 minutes)

16:00-17:00 Session II: Situation, opportunity, and risk in the use of technologies in development and peacebuilding: What can we do?

Moderator: Dr. Francesco Silvestri, China Director, TOChina Hub, Torino World Affairs Institute (5min intro)

- Dr. Lyndon Burford, King's College London; Blockchain Advisor to STF (10min)
How blockchain can contribute to nuclear disarmament and integral security
- Mr. Jakub Dysarz, Policy Officer, DG CNECT, European Commission (10min)
Cyber security challenges in times of pandemic from the perspective of the EU
- Prof. Andrea Calessio, professor of financial mathematics, AI models expert, University of Padova (10 min)
New approaches to assess economic variables
- Dr. Kristina Hook, Kennesaw State University and Dr. Tim Weninger, University of Notre Dame (10min)
AI, social media, and political violence project

Q&A (10 min)

17:00-17:15 CONCLUSION: Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, Ad-Interim Secretary, DPIHD, Apostolic Delegate to Vatican COVID-19 Commission
Why the Holy See? A way forward