

: DW Global Media Forum

Session

Innovation by disruption?

How COVID-19 is changing diplomacy

Programme

Online / World Conference Center Bonn (WCCB)

14 June 2021, 13:45 to 14:15 hrs

Language: English

BACKGROUND

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international diplomacy was and is considerable. The pandemic led to most international negotiation processes being halted for the time being; many international conferences such as the UN Climate Change Conference were postponed in an initial reaction. However, the hope that these processes could be resumed in the foreseeable future in the usual format proved to be false. Instead, innovative ways were and are needed to maintain diplomatic exchange and to continue working together on solutions to global challenges.

But is it possible at all to successfully conduct diplomatic negotiations virtually? What challenges are emerging, what innovative solutions are conceivable? What are the consequences of zoom diplomacy for inclusivity and transparency, e.g. for countries from the Global South or representatives of the media and civil society? And will the current experiences permanently change international diplomacy?

PROGRAMME

Chair

Stephanie Liechtenstein

Diplomatic Correspondent

Freelance Journalist, Vienna

ROUND TABLE

Dr Jovan Kurbalija

Executive Director

DiploFoundation, Geneva

Head, Geneva Internet Platform

Dr Katharina Höne

Director of Research

DiploFoundation, Geneva

INTERACTIVE PLENARY DISCUSSION

END OF SESSION

BIO NOTES



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Stephanie Liechtenstein Diplomatic Correspondent – Freelance Journalist, Vienna

Stephanie Liechtenstein has 18 years of experience working in international organizations, think tanks and journalism. She studied history of international relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and finished her studies with a Master in Science (MSc). In February 2019, she also completed an Online Postgraduate Diploma Course at the London School of Journalism.

For six years, Stephanie worked at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna in different positions, including as senior assistant in the Office of the OSCE Secretary General. Stephanie also worked as a Consultant at the International Peace Institute (IPI) in Vienna.



Dr Jovan Kurbalija Executive Director, DiploFoundation Head, Geneva Internet Platform

Dr Jovan Kurbalija is the Executive Director of DiploFoundation and Head of the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP). He was a member of the UN Working Group on Internet Governance (2004-2005), special advisor to the Chairman of the UN Internet Governance Forum (2006-2010), and a member of the High Level Multistakeholder Committee for NETmundial (2013-2014). In 2018-2019, he served as co-Executive Director of the Secretariat of the United Nations (UN) High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

A former diplomat, Jovan has a professional and academic background in international law, diplomacy, and information technology. He has been a pioneer in the field of cyber diplomacy since 1992 when he established the Unit for Information Technology and Diplomacy at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies in Malta, and later, DiploFoundation.



Dr Katharina Höne Director of Research, DiploFoundation; Geneva

Dr Katharina Höne is Director of Research at the not-for-profit organisation DiploFoundation (diplomacy.edu). She researches, writes, and teaches on a number of issues in the area of diplomacy, global governance, and the impact of technology on international relations. Over the last years, she has focused on research at the intersection of diplomacy and technology. She is the lead researcher and author of Mapping the challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence for the conduct of diplomacy and The future of (multilateral) diplomacy? Changes in response to COVID-19 and beyond, both reports were supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Recent work at DiploFoundation focuses on digital foreign policy, with an initial mapping report on the emergence of digital foreign policy (together with Dr Jovan Kurbalija).