

March 2026

8.30-9.45 am
CET

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SIDE EVENT

SAVE THE DATE • HYBRID EVENT



Digitalisation and the child's right to identity

A TOOL FOR INCLUSION OR EXCLUSION?

Digitalisation is one key accelerator for universal birth registration and ensuring that every child has a nationality.

International human rights law provides a framework for using and regulating digital technologies in these contexts including the need to uphold the rights to privacy, non-discrimination, participation, freedom of expression, access to information, and accountability.

This framework is essential for ensuring safe and inclusive use of digital technologies.

Digitalisation alone is, however, not the solution for achieving the child's right to identity. 2025, was a year of increased attention to these issues with various reports, learnings and recommendations for a sustainable human rights-based approach to digitalisation. This side event considers these reports to demonstrate and help understand:

- What is digitalisation for inclusive identity within the wider digital public infrastructure?
- How may digitalisation lead to exclusion of certain groups of children?
- What digitalisation practices are promising and human rights based?

OPENING REMARKS

Ambassador Francisca Méndez
Permanent Representative of Mexico
to the UN Office in Geneva

PANEL

Mr. Bhaskar Mishra
Child protection specialist, UNICEF
(moderator)

Ms. Helen Griffiths
Human Rights Officer, Office of the
United Nations High Commissioner for
Human Rights

Professor Philip Jaffé

Vice-chairperson, United Nations
Committee on the Rights of the Child

Hon. Sabrina Gahar
Chairperson, African Committee
of Experts on Rights and Welfare
of the Child

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