IMRF virtual side-event: The Perils and Possibilities of Using Technology for Migration Management

Date and time: Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET

Notetaker: Anastasia Strouboulis

Video recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkgf9LlnQq&t=3s

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<th>Notes of the session</th>
<th>Member State/UN/Stakeholder</th>
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<td>• Lack of governance regulations and standards for the development and deployment of technology for</td>
<td>• United States</td>
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<td>migration management</td>
<td>• EU Member States deploying migration technology</td>
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<td>• Migration corridors are already zones of violence and death, and migration technology exacerbates</td>
<td>• UNHCR, IOM</td>
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<td>border risks</td>
<td>• Private sector actors developing migration technology</td>
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<td>• Increasing securitization, criminalization, and militarization of migration, enabled by government-</td>
<td>• Civil society organizations monitoring the development, deployment, and risks of</td>
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<td>employed technology</td>
<td>migration technology</td>
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<td>• Companies and governments need to ask bigger questions about unintended consequences and implications</td>
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<td>• There is a lack of mechanisms for accountability and investigations when human rights abuses have</td>
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<td>been reported</td>
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<td>• Need to center the perspectives and priorities of those who have experienced and are affected by</td>
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<td>these technologies in policy conversations</td>
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Summary (500 words max)

Introduction

- **GCM Objectives:**
  1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data
  3. Provide accurate and timely information
  7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
  17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
  23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly, and regular migration

- **Side-event organization:**
  o Virtual side-event: 143 registered live participants, 567 YouTube views
  o Three panelists:
    ▪ Panelist 1: Jessica Bither, Senior Expert for Migration, Bosch Foundation
Panelist 2: Santiago Navaez, Investigator/Researcher, R3D (Red en Defensa de los Derechos Digitale)
Panelist 3: Petra Molnar, Associate Director, Refugee Law Lab

Number of interventions: 15 answers from panelists, including two audience questions

Panel discussion

- The question is not whether digital technologies will change how we think about migration and human mobility, but how we employ these technologies according to which rules and principles.
- These conversations are not about the technologies themselves but about power—who gets to decide how the tech is developed, deployed, and regulated and according to which rules and principles.
- Technology cannot be viewed as a “quick fix” for fundamental governance and political questions about human mobility.
- Increasingly invasive technologies are becoming a part of cooperation between developed and developing countries.
- Fundamental questions for governments to ask themselves: What is it that we are doing? Why? What are we okay with as a society? Who is and isn’t a part of regulatory conversations?
- These fundamental questions need to be thoroughly considered and addressed because these technologies have clear impacts on the safety and protection of people on the move.
- There is an opportunity to make these environments more secure by consulting and developing tools alongside affected communities.

Interventions from the floor

- GCM Objective 1: Data gaps—Need to collect more granular data on where technology is being used and how it was developed
- GCM Objective 3: Informed consent—For data to be useable and equitable, migrants need to be aware of what data is being collected, how it will be used, and where they can report concerns/issues.
- GCM Objective 7: Violence on the border—Companies, governments, and international organizations need to institutionalize mechanisms for reporting abuses.
- GCM Objective 17: Stronger evidence base—Policy makers, companies, and civil society must apply a critical lens in investigating specific use cases, both positive and negative, to identify the underlying governance issues relevant to each case and the tech-migration space overall.
- GCM Objective 17: Lack of accountability and investigative mechanisms—Need regulatory lawmaking at the international and national level and companies need internal mechanisms to review the development of technology and ensure that they are being employed as intended without human rights risks.
- GCM Objective 23: International norm-setting—Establish cross-disciplinary, international consultation processes with the private sector, governments, civil society actors, and migrants themselves to discuss the links between technology and mobility.