OPENING SESSION

Jürgen Heissel
Director, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Jürgen Heissel has two decades of experience in the Austrian Foreign Service, covering human rights and security policy issues. He has been working in multilateral settings with organizations including the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. His posting prior to RFoM was with the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE, where in 2017 he was the co-ordinator of the Human Dimension during the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship. Heissel holds a degree in Law from the University of Salzburg and is a graduate of the Vienna School of International Studies (Diplomatische Akademie) and the European Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation.

Elena Cherniavska
Senior Adviser, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Elena Cherniavska joined the Office in 2015, previously co-founded and chaired the Institute for Democracy, Media and Cultural Exchange (Germany), and served as head of department at the European Institute for the Media (Germany).

Naranjargal Khashkhuu
President, Globe International Center NGO, Mongolia

Naranjargal Khashkhuu is a former broadcast journalist and Honorary Professor at the University of Arts and Culture of Mongolia. Since 1995, she has been working to promote and sustain democracy and human rights, particularly freedom of expression and support for independent media in Mongolia. She is a former Executive Committee member of the International Federation of Journalists and Vice-Chair of the UNESCO IPDC Bureau. She has been working as a
trainer and consultant for local and international projects with IFJ, the WB, ADB and MCC, implementing surveys and research on the media situation in the Central Asia, author of dozens of articles and handbooks on free expression. She has been teaching Television Journalism at the Mongolian National University, University of Humanities and a Journalism Diploma Course at the Mongolian Press Institute. She is also the author of the textbook “Television journalism: Key concepts and tips”.

SESSION I

Lorena Jaume-Palasí

Founder and Executive Director, Ethical Tech Society NGO, Germany

Lorena Jaume-Palasí is the founder of The Ethical Tech Society, a fact- and theory based non-profit initiative focused on automation and digitization processes with regards to their social relevance. Lorena’s work centres on ethics and legal philosophy. In 2017, she was appointed by the Spanish government to the High-Level Expert Council on Artificial Intelligence and Big Data, and re-appointed in 2020. She is a former member of the EU High Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence. In 2018, she was awarded the Theodor Heuss Medal "for her contribution to a differentiated view of algorithms and their mechanisms of action" with the Algorithm Watch initiative. Lorena is on the Advisory Board of the Goethe Institute as well as of the German Cyber-Valley initiative and is the Chair of the Advisory Board of the Open University of Catalonia.

Marat Torobekov

Lawyer, Civil Initiative on Internet Policy NGO, Kyrgyzstan

Marat Torobekov is an independent security consultant. He has extensive experience in law enforcement, law, politics and public administration. From 2015 to 2018, he worked in the Secretariat of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic, where he was engaged in legal and political issues in the field of law enforcement, countering violent extremism, illegal migration, information and telecommunication technologies, including E-government, information and cybersecurity,
privacy, internet regulation and telecommunication, internet freedom, digital rights and anti-corruption.

**Hannah Storm**

Director and CEO, Ethical Journalism Network NGO, United Kingdom

Hannah Storm is a media consultant specializing in mental health, safety, gender-based violence and gender-sensitive reporting, and was the former director of the International News Safety Institute (INSI). She has been a journalist for more than two decades and has worked in dozens of countries, across print, broadcast and online.

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**SESSION II**

**Inga Sikorskaia**

Director, School of Peacemaking and Media Technology in Central Asia NGO, Kyrgyzstan

Inga Sikorskaia is a professional journalist, media expert and trainer. Her areas of expertise include freedom of expression, countering hate speech, encouraging diversity and conflict-sensitive journalism. Having established the School of Peacemaking & Media Technology in 2010, she found herself in the centre of ethnic violence in southern Kyrgyzstan and made numerous media reports and photos from the conflict zone. She has initiated regular media monitoring of hate speech adopting a research methodology, which was new for Central Asia. Sikorskaia has developed several handbooks/training courses for Central Asian journalists on how to cover ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity in time of peace and conflict. Sikorskaia is the author of more than 150 analytical reports for the British Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), where she spent seven years as a senior editor for Uzbekistan. She has worked in Kyrgyz TV and radio.
Marc Fumagalli

Senior Adviser, Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Marc Fumagalli (Italy and Luxembourg) has worked as a Senior Adviser to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities since January 2016. He holds an MPhil in European Politics and Society. He worked for several years in Central Asia, initially as the Political Officer for the EU Delegations to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. He also served as Political Analyst for the Office for Democratic institutions and Human Rights election observation mission to the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan in October 2010. He then headed International Alert’s field office in Tajikistan, co-ordinating programmes promoting dialogue, civic education and tolerance. He was then posted to southeast Ukraine as an OSCE SMM Monitoring Officer.

Nouneh Sarkissian

Managing Director, Media Initiatives Center NGO, Armenia

Working in media development, Nouneh Sarkissian has over 25 years of experience as a broadcast journalist, producer and scriptwriter. In her current job, Sarkissian has designed and implemented numerous media development and communication projects, which include various journalism training programmes; TV, radio, documentary and multimedia production; media literacy initiatives; media in conflict transformation; and awareness raising on different political and social problems and media research projects. Sarkissian graduated from the Yerevan State University, Department of Philology, has a certificate of “Effective manager” from UK Open University, and studied conflict prevention and transformation in PRDU, University of York, UK, as a Chevening Fellow.

Nadira Masiumova

Co-ordinator, Coalition for Equality NGO, Kyrgyzstan

Nadira Masiumova is an LGBT+ activist and feminist working in advocacy and media areas. She co-ordinates the Coalition for Equality, which aims to bring civil society together to promote equality and non-discrimination. In 2019, Masiumova was a member of the analytical
group and the editorial board of “Discrimination and Intolerance in the Public Discourse of Kyrgyzstan” study, which aimed to identify those groups that are most vulnerable to hate speech. The study included monitoring media coverage on ethnic groups.

**SESSION III**

**Tamara Kaleyeva**  
President, Adil Soz International Foundation for Protection of Freedom of Speech, Kazakhstan

Tamara Kaleyeva is from South Kazakhstan. In 1973, she graduated from the faculty of journalism of the Kazakh State University with honours. She worked as a journalist of the young edition of Kazakh radio in newspapers “Argumenty i Fakty” and “Kazakhstanskaya Pravda”. She was twice charged with abasement of human honour and dignity and won the cases. In 1999, she established and has since led the Adil Soz” International Foundation for Protection of Freedom of Speech, which is a non-governmental organization protecting the rights for freedom of expression and the free flow of information. The “Adil Soz” foundation actively participates in reforming Kazakhstan's media legislation and in international and national campaigns on protection of journalists.

**Azat Seyitmuhammedov**  
Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Arzuw NEWS agency, Turkmenistan

Azat Seyitmuhammedov is the founder of Arzuw NEWS, a private independent media agency focusing on politics, economy, business and civil society in Turkmenistan. Recently, Seyitmuhammedov has begun doing full-length interviews – video recordings of his interviews with some foreign diplomats in Turkmenistan are published on the Arzuw NEWS YouTube channel. In addition to the media sphere, Seyitmuhammedov is the founder and owner of one of the largest online B2C marketplaces in Turkmenistan – Wabrum.com. He is also active in the field of e-commerce business.
Gunjidmaa Gongor  
CEO, Media Council, Mongolia

Gunjidmaa Gongor was appointed as the first Executive Director of MCM in the beginning of 2018. Before joining the MCM, between 2001-2018, she was the Acting director and the Head of the Research and Information Department of Press Institute of Mongolia. She is an experienced expert in the Mongolian media development and independence, media self-regulation, journalism ethics and has successfully implemented over 150 media and journalism training courses, media research projects during the past 20 years. Between 2014-2015, she led an initiative to establish the first ever media self-regulatory body (MCM) in Mongolia. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and graduated with a Master’s of Business Administration (MBA). She is also one of the PhD candidates in Social Science at the National University of Mongolia.

Shahlo Akobirova  
Executive Director of Media, Khoma NGO, Tajikistan

In 2017-2019, Shahlo Akobirova was the Chairperson of the Tajik Media Council. In 1998-2005, she was a training co-ordinator with the international organization “Internews Network” and the Producer of the Central Asian TV project “Open Asia” in Tajikistan. In 1996-1998, she was the Director of the information-analytics TV program “Tojikiston”. In 1992, she was the Senior editor of the News Department of the Tajik state television. Akobirova is a graduate of the Tajik National State University, Journalism Faculty. In 2000, she studied at the school of journalism by Vladimir Pozner in Moscow. Akobirova is a media trainer and media expert on TV journalism. In 2013, she conducted the first Television Market Study survey in Tajikistan. She is an author and anchor of the “Tavozun”, a TV show which focuses on economic issues. Akobirova is the winner of the competition in a nomination "The best journalistic investigation" (2006) and winner of the state award for contribution to the media development in Tajikistan (2012).
Sergey Naumov

Journalist, Uzbekistan

Currently a freelance journalist, Sergey Naumov is actively collaborating with several international human rights organizations, including the International Partnership for Human Rights; the Association for Human Rights in Central Asia; and Civicus, contributing articles and conducting research, _inter alia_, on cases of violation of journalists’ rights. He is regularly publishing materials on the human rights portal www.acca.media on various freedom of expression topics. Naumov is also conducting monitoring of cases of attacks and other forms of intimidation against media workers in co-operation with the Justice for Journalists Foundation.