

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Scholars and Practitioners
at the intersection of
Communication and International Relations:
submit your
Research, Communication Proposal, or Poster/Video
for the first conference dedicated to

COMMUNICATING for A BETTER WORLD

*How communication can strengthen the United Nations,
advance solutions to global issues, and help create a better world for all.*

21-23 OCTOBER 2026
NEW YORK CITY
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
CUNY GRADUATE CENTER

**LEARN MORE &
SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL**
SUBMIT BY MAY 31, 2026
communicatingforabetterworld.com

WHY THIS CONFERENCE?

“The United Nations cannot achieve its purposes unless the peoples of the world are fully informed of its aims and activities”

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Resolution 13 (I), 13 February 1946

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Speakers include experts from the UN, academia, civil society, business, and the diplomatic community, e.g.:

MAHER NASSER
United Nations, Director of the Outreach Division

LA NEICE COLLINS
United Nations, Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly

STÉPHANE DUJARRIC
United Nations, Spokesperson of the UN Secretary-General

THEMES

Topics related to how communication is key to the work of the United Nations and the issues it addresses.

COMMUNICATION ASPECTS
e.g., AI, Branding, Digital Diplomacy, Information Integrity, Public Opinion

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
e.g., the UN Secretariat, the UN General Assembly, UNICEF, UNESCO

GLOBAL ISSUES
e.g., climate change, peacekeeping, sustainable development, human rights

PROGRAM

HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS
Interdisciplinary panels covering AI, information integrity, campaigns, etc.

RESEARCH PANELS
Scholars and practitioners share their research and exchange insights

NETWORKING SPACES
Identify collaboration opportunities to jointly communicate for a better world

EXPERT WORKSHOPS
Learn the art & craft of United Nations communication

ORGANIZERS & HOSTS

 COLUMBIA | SIPA

COLUMBIA WORLD PROJECTS | Thinking Doing Columbia Global

Ralph Bunche Institute
for International Studies

 GRADUATE CENTER

COLLABORATORS

COLUMBIA Alliance · Saltzman Inst. **FLETCHER Center** for Int. Law & Gov. **NORTHEASTERN School** of Public Policy & Urban Affairs **SETON HALL School** of Diplomacy & IR **THE GW UNIV. Elliott School** · Inst. for Public Dipl. & Global Comm. **THE NEW SCHOOL Int. Affairs** **UCLA Burkle Center** for IR **UF College** of Journalism & Comm. **VIENNA SCHOOL OF INT. STUDIES** · ACUNS · AIGA NY · ISA · ICA · AUSTRIAN MARSHALL PLAN FOUNDATION · DICEN-IDF

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

DR. STEFAN TSCHAUKO
Conference Creator & Chair

DR. ELI KARETNY
Interim Director, CUNY Ralph Bunche

PROF. DANIEL NAUJOKS
Lecturer, Columbia / SIPA

Submission Guidelines: Deadline for Proposal Submission: May 31, 2026

Aim

The conference seeks to explore how UN organizations—and their stakeholders—can communicate to strengthen the institutions and advance solutions to global issues.

Scope

We welcome submissions related to **ALL COMMUNICATIONS ASPECTS** related to the **UNITED NATIONS**, organizations and campaigns of the **UN SYSTEM**, and the **GLOBAL ISSUES** UN system organizations address. We encourage submissions that are relevant for the UN system organizations, including those with practical policy recommendations.

Submission Types (ABSTRACTS FOR ONGOING WORK ARE WELCOME)

RESEARCH PAPER. Original research that could be published as a paper. The paper will be presented on a panel and circulated among conference participants before the conference.

COMMUNICATION PROPOSAL. Submit creative ideas about how UN organizations and their stakeholders could communicate.

POSTER/ VIDEO. If your insights and ideas can be displayed in a visually engaging fashion, consider submitting a poster or video. Submissions will be displayed during networking events.

MORE DETAILS: www.communicatingforabetterworld.com.

About the Conference

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IS CENTRAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS' ABILITY TO DELIVER ON ITS MANDATES. As trust in institutions faces growing strain and the rapid evolution of digital technologies reshapes how information is produced and consumed, strategic communication has never been more critical. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres underscored this in the Security Council's first debate on the topic: "strategic communication is central to the success of all our work" (July 12, 2022).

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN INFORMED GLOBAL PUBLIC WAS RECOGNIZED IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. On 13 February 1946, the General Assembly created a dedicated department with the goal to "promote to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world" (A/RES/13 [1], ANNEX 1). For over 80 years, this Department – under its previous name of Department of Public Information and now as Department of Global Communications – and communication offices across the UN system have worked to inform stakeholders about the UN's work and rally support for addressing global challenges.

TODAY, HOWEVER, WE ARE WITNESSING A COMMUNICATION ENVIRONMENT THAT IS UNDERGOING PROFOUND DISRUPTION. Declining confidence in traditional media, audience fragmentation, and the lack of guardrails around AI technology are challenging information integrity and undermining the UN's ability to reach

UN System Organizations

The United Nations and UN system consists of many different actors, including the UN Secretariat, the Security Council, and the General Assembly. It also includes many independent organizations, such as UNICEF, the World Food Programme, UNESCO, the World Health Organization, or the International Atomic Energy Agency – See [UN System Chart](#) for an overview.

Global Issues

Climate Change · Environment · Gender Equality · Human Rights · Peace & Security (e.g., Peacekeeping) · Sustainable Development (e.g., the SDGs) · Women, Peace, and Security (WPS Agenda) – See [SDGs](#) and [UN website](#) for more examples.

Communications-Related Aspects & Disciplines

Advocacy · AI · Branding · Celebrity Diplomacy · Communication for Development · Crisis Communication · Data Visualization · Digital Diplomacy · Emerging Technologies · External Relations · Graphic Design · Image and Reputation · Information Design · Information Integrity · Legitimacy · (Cause / Social) Marketing · Multilingualism · News & Media · Public Diplomacy · Public Information Public Opinion · Public Relations · Science Communication · Social Media · Strategic Communication · Visual Communications – See [our website](#) for more examples

a global audience with accurate, consistent and reliable information. We must therefore ask: How can UN communication engage audiences, build trust and resilience, and empower digitally literate and informed stakeholders?

THIS CONFERENCE WILL BRING TOGETHER COMMUNICATION PROFESSIONALS FROM WITHIN AND BEYOND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, alongside scholars, students, and Member State representatives to discuss these questions. Together, we will reflect on current communication challenges and opportunities, learn from past approaches and achievements, and envision new pathways for how we can build a healthy information ecosystem that supports multilateralism.

In **HIGH-LEVEL PANELS**, participants from different sectors will share and learn from one another's reflections on the UN's communication challenges, approaches, and ideas for solutions. Scholars will showcase their work through **PANEL DISCUSSIONS** and **PRESENTATIONS** and identify avenues for future research with real-world policy impact. In **NETWORKING SPACES**, participants can draw inspiration from multiple perspectives and explore collaboration opportunities, while hands-on **WORKSHOPS** will offer practical learning directly from communication professionals.

JOIN US FOR THIS INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE, share your ideas and research, and help advance the United Nations' mission of communicating for a better world.