

Future Affairs – A Global Debate on the Digital Revolution

+++ The German Federal Foreign Office and re:publica are hosting Future Affairs, a one-day conference on 29 May 2019 +++ 800 invited guests from politics, science, academia, art and civil society are discussing the opportunities and challenges of the digital revolution +++ Germany's Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas and President of the Republic of Costa Rica Carlos Alvarado Quesada will be opening the event in the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin +++

Berlin, 22 May 2019 – Germany's Federal Foreign Office and re:publica, the organisers of Europe's largest internet and digital society conference, are hosting the first Future Affairs conference in Berlin. The topic for this year's kick-off event is "Digital Revolution: Resetting Global Power Politics?" Renowned international speakers from the fields of politics, science, academia, culture and digital affairs will be debating with 800 invited guests from around the world about the meaning of the digital revolution for international politics. What opportunities and challenges arise as a result of the digital transformation? What effects are to be expected for geopolitical balances of power? How will these changes influence the stability of nation-states and existing international security structures? Following on the heels of the Latin America and Caribbean Conference taking place in the Federal Foreign Office on 28 May, these and other questions will be critically examined in moderated panel discussions, workshops and break-out sessions. Distinguished international speakers will be outlining new approaches and future scenarios.

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas and President of the Republic of Costa Rica Carlos Alvarado Quesada will be opening the one-day event on current questions about the digital transformation and its effects on foreign policy and security policy.

Foreign Minister Maas: "The digital revolution is changing geopolitical balances of power worldwide and has a direct influence on the stability of nation-states. Foreign policies must be adapted to these changes and forge new paths forward. The Future Affairs conference is focussing on these challenges and bringing together experts from around the world. Although many developments remain largely unknown as yet, what is clear is that we will be in a better position to answer the pressing questions of the future working together."

"For more than ten years, re:publica has been the platform for trailblazing debates on digital topics, topics that have now reached the mainstream of society," says re:publica CEO and co-founder Andreas Gebhard. "Digitisation's influence on our worldwide coexistence must therefore be globally discussed, now more than ever. We couldn't be more pleased for the opportunity to have these debates together with the German Federal Foreign Office at Future Affairs, with so many international politicians. Interactive, intercultural, interdisciplinary – from Berlin and globally relevant."

Digital Revolution – Around 25 Speakers from 16 Countries

In the panel titled "Democracy & Digitisation: Will Democracy Survive the Digital Revolution?", the renowned filmmaker and author Hito Steyerl (documenta, Biennale) and the Chinese human-rights

activist Xiao Qiang will be discussing the interplay between human rights and artificial intelligence with other international speakers. The panel will be presenting the effects of digital innovations on democracies based on current examples from China. The panel "New Philosophies: Paradigm shifts in a machine-intelligent world" is about new concepts and paradigms for artificial intelligence and human-machines; speakers include the established researcher and professor Kate Crawford (Microsoft Research, New York University) and Moon Ribas (the world's first female cyborg artist), who will be discussing future scenarios in a world where humans and machines live together. All speakers, panels and sessions can be found at: www.future-affairs.de.

Future Affairs: Internet Politics, Digital Culture & Society – Discussed Globally

The event, jointly organised by the German Federal Foreign Office and re:publica, aims to promote open and transdisciplinary dialogue and global networking opportunities. For over a decade, re:publica has been dealing with questions about digital society. Ideas for shaping tomorrow's politics are being developed. Latin America and the Caribbean are partner regions for this year's event.

Future Affairs will be broadcast on 29 May 2019 starting at 09:00 hours on Facebook Live on [re:publica's Facebook page](#) and on [re:publica's YouTube channel](#).

For additional information as well as interview requests with the speakers and organizers, please contact:

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