**Questionnaire**

**Contact details**

Please provide your name (if applicable, title of your organization) and contact details, including your email address in case we need to contact you in connection with this survey.

**Confidentiality**

Please note that all inputs received will be published on the website of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, unless it is expressly indicated that the submission should be kept confidential.

**Questions**

Feel free to answer only the questions that are relevant for you.

1. *1.1)* Can you kindly illustrate what are the main risks posed by the use of new technologies vis-à-vis the work of human rights defenders and, in particular, of relatives of disappeared persons? *1.2*) How can these risks be mitigated? *1.3*) Can you provide concrete examples on how new technologies have been used as a tool to hinder the families of disappeared persons and human rights defenders in their struggle for truth and justice (including through cyber bullying, sexual harassment, etc.)? *1.4*) How can the judicial system offer effective protection from this kind of harassment?
2. *2.1*) How do you think that new technologies are being /can be used to facilitate the commission of an enforced disappearance (e.g.by tracing prospective victims or exercising surveillance on their relatives) and to cover-up the commission of enforced disappearance (if possible, provide concrete examples)? *2.2*) What are the preventive measures that have been put (or can be put) in place?
3. *3.1*) Can you kindly illustrate the applicable legal framework (regulations and policies) – if any – in your country (or countries in focus) to deal with, in particular, (a) internet shutdowns and access restrictions; (b) cyber-surveillance and attacks, (c) disinformation campaigns; and (d) the use of spyware? *3.2*) Can you provide concrete examples on the use of the mentioned tools/techniques in practice?
4. What are the applicable rules in your country (or countries in focus) to regulate the import/export and use of surveillance technologies?
5. Is there in your country (countries in focus) any independent oversight mechanism mandated to monitor the offensive security sector (cyber-security)?
6. Is there any concrete example where the misuse of new technologies to harass human rights defenders, including relatives of disappeared persons, or to facilitate the commission of an enforced disappearance or to cover it up, has been subjected to investigation and prosecution and those responsible have been held accountable? Kindly illustrate the main obstacles encountered in this realm, as well as the lessons learned and the good practices.
7. How can new technologies (and which new technologies) facilitate the search for forcibly disappeared persons (if possible, providing concrete examples and illustrating how such technologies operate)? What should be considered the “indispensable” tools in this realm? Are such tools easily accessible and affordable or are there specific obstacles in their purchase and use?
8. What are the new technologies that have brought the most significant results in terms of search for forcibly disappeared persons and how do they operate? Are there significant practical differences in terms of the technologies to be employed when searching for the person alive or dead?
9. Can obstacles to the search linked to the passing of time be overcome through the use of new technologies? If so, how?
10. Can you kindly indicate good practices, as well as the main obstacles – practical and legal – encountered by you/your country (or countries in focus)/ institution/organization in the use of new technologies to investigate on cases of enforced disappearances (if possible, providing concrete examples)? What are the tools that you would consider more effective for such purposes? Are such tools easily accessible and affordable or are there specific obstacles in their purchase and use?
11. What are the “evidences” that you would regard as essential to prove the crime of enforced disappearance and that can be retrieved through the use of new technologies? Do you see any specific problem in the preservation of the chain of custody here and in the admissibility of some specific pieces of evidence of this crime collected through the use of new technologies?
12. Can obstacles to the identification of the perpetrators of an enforced disappearance linked to the passing of time be overcome through the use of new technologies? If so, how?
13. What are the main issues related to the subject of “new technologies and enforced disappearances” that should be covered in the findings and recommendations included in the thematic study of the Working Group?
14. Is there any other information that you deem relevant for the purposes of the thematic study?