

Digital Contact Tracing & the Road to Reopening the Global Economy

Last Tuesday, the U.S. Chamber and the UN Foundation hosted a conversation on the evolution of digital contact tracing, featuring experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and global health and digital policy leaders. The discussion touched on COVID-19 testing and tracing, legal frameworks for data privacy, barriers to widespread adoption, and the role of the private sector.

Participants emphasized that technology alone cannot drive the pandemic response. “We need the combination of public health interventions and technology to realize the benefits that technology can bring to address the public health emergency,” said Bernardo Mariano, Jr., CIO of WHO.

The discussion also touched on data collection, with Access Partnership Managing Director Greg Francis noting that people trust companies more than their governments to protect personal data. “Companies take their subscribers’ privacy seriously, and it gets to how willing citizens are and with whom they trust to manage their data,” he said, outlining the private sector’s key role in combatting COVID-19.

[Watch the conversation here.](#)

—Lucas Tramontozzi, Senior Director, Global Health Initiative, U.S. Chamber of Commerce