



# PEACE IN THE AGE OF AI: From Principles to Practice

13 May 2026, Wed, 4pm – 5:30pm, Singapore Time



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| Centre for  
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**MODERATOR**



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**MODERATOR**



**Ms. Johanna  
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Head, Inclusion &  
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**Dr. Samuel White**  
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**Dr. Rafael  
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University College  
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EVENT REPORT · 13 MAY 2026

## Peace in the Age of AI: From Principles to Practice

A joint webinar hosted by the **Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore** and **CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, Helsinki**, held on Zoom from 4:00–5:30 pm Singapore Time. The session convened over 650 attendees and viewers across the international peacebuilding, legal, and AI governance communities.

### Date

13 May 2026

### Format

Online Webinar · Zoom

### Duration

90 minutes · 1.5 CPD Points

### Audience

650+ attendees / viewers

# Event Overview

## Moving responsible AI principles into peace practice

On 13 May 2026, the Centre for International Law (CIL) at the National University of Singapore and CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation jointly hosted this webinar, supported by the UNESCO Chair on AI Law & Sustainability at CIL NUS and the ILA Committee on AI & Technology Law. The session examined how AI is reshaping conflict analysis, information environments, peace mediation and ceasefire monitoring — with a focus not only on the promise of AI, but on the practical safeguards needed when digital tools operate in fragile political settings where trust, accountability, legitimacy and human agency are central.

**Central Question:** How can AI be integrated into peace processes in ways that support trust, accountability and human agency, while avoiding harms linked to bias, opacity, exclusion, information manipulation and over-reliance on automated outputs?

The event brought together expertise from public international law, military law, digital peacemaking, peace mediation, global governance and AI regulation. Across the discussion, speakers moved deliberately from high-level principles to concrete operational issues — including data poisoning, digital dialogue, public consultation, misinformation, monitoring technologies and accountability in peace arrangements.



### Security & Governance

Operational risks, legal frameworks, AI in conflict settings and institutional safeguards under international law.



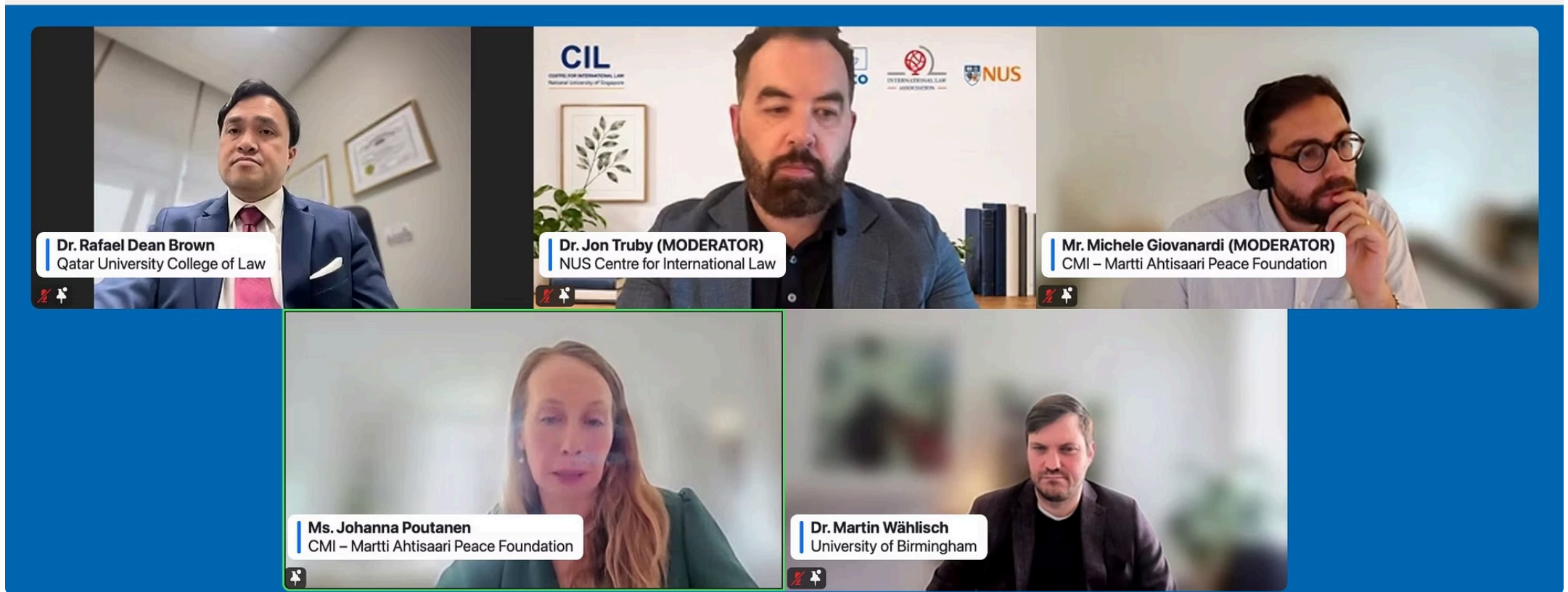
### Inclusion & Participation

Listening at scale, digital inclusion in mediation, community consultation and equitable access.



### Monitoring & Verification

AI-supported ceasefire monitoring, satellite tools, transparency, data sovereignty and accountability.



## Programme and Speaker Line-up

Tracing the path from principles to practice, this 90-minute webinar brought together a diverse panel of experts to examine how AI is reshaping peace work in real time. With perspectives spanning law, mediation, governance, inclusion and verification, the discussion tackled an urgent question: how can digital tools strengthen peace efforts without undermining trust, accountability or human agency?

**16:00**

Opening & Framing  
Dr Jon Truby — UNESCO  
Chair on AI Law &  
Sustainability, CIL NUS

**16:05**

Introductory Remarks  
Mr Michele Giovanardi — CMI,  
Co-Moderator

**16:10**

Panel Intervention I  
Dr Samuel White — Security,  
operational realities and  
responsible AI in conflict  
settings

**16:25**

Panel Intervention II  
Dr Martin Wählisch — AI,  
conflict and international  
governance

**16:40**

Panel Intervention III  
Ms Johanna Poutanen — Inclusion, digital  
innovation and peace practice

**16:55**

Panel Intervention IV  
Dr Rafael Dean Brown — AI monitoring and  
verification of peace and ceasefire  
arrangements

**17:10**

Moderated Exchange  
Audience Q&A and closing reflections

# The Speakers and Moderators

The panel brought together six distinguished practitioners and scholars from Singapore, Finland, the United Kingdom, and Qatar — representing international law, military law, digital peacemaking, AI governance, and conflict mediation.



## **Dr Jon Truby**

UNESCO Chair on AI Law & Sustainability at CIL NUS and Chair of the ILA Committee on AI & Technology Law. Moderator and host of the webinar.



## **Mr Michele Giovanardi**

Programme Officer for Digital Peacemaking at CMI and doctoral candidate at the United Nations University for Peace. Co-moderator of the webinar.



## **Dr Samuel White**

Global Fellow at CIL NUS. Focused on security, operational realities and responsible AI in conflict settings, including military law and cyber operations.



## **Dr Martin Wählisch**

Associate Professor of Transformative Technologies, Innovation and Global Affairs at the University of Birmingham. Expert in AI, conflict and global governance.



## **Ms Johanna Poutanen**

Head of Inclusion and Digital Innovation at CMI and Professor in Practice at Durham University Law School. Focused on inclusion, digital innovation and peace practice.



## **Dr Rafael Dean Brown**

Clinical Associate Professor at Qatar University College of Law and Co-Rapporteur of the ILA Committee on AI & Technology Law. Expert on AI monitoring and verification in peace arrangements.

# A Practical Framework for Responsible AI in Peacebuilding

## From Principles to Practice

A recurring message across the webinar was that responsible AI cannot remain at the level of abstract ethics. In peacebuilding contexts, principles must be translated into institutional practice, operational standards, trained human oversight and safeguards that can survive political pressure. The following five-step framework captures the shared logic of the panel's interventions.



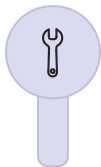
### 1 • Purpose

Start from the peace process and the specific problem to be solved. AI deployment must serve a clearly defined need — not the reverse.



### 2 • Context

Assess political realities, stakeholder needs, access inequalities and operational risks before any technology is introduced.



### 3 • Tool Choice

Use AI only where it adds demonstrable value to analysis, inclusion or monitoring — and where alternatives have been considered.




### 4 • Safeguards

Build in human oversight, privacy protection, transparency, documentation and meaningful mechanisms for redress.



### 5 • Practice

Keep human judgment and institutional responsibility at the centre. AI assists; it does not decide.

 The value of AI in peace practice depends entirely on the process in which it is used. AI may help actors listen, analyse, anticipate and monitor — but it cannot create political will or replace human judgment.

# Speaker Intervention: Security, Governance and Operational Risk

## Dr Samuel White

Global Fellow, Centre for International Law,  
National University of Singapore

*Security, operational realities and responsible  
AI in conflict settings*

Dr Samuel White placed AI within the longer history of military adaptation, noting that stronger defensive tools have historically triggered stronger offensive responses. He emphasised that cyberspace has already reduced the cost of producing disruptive effects, and that AI may further widen asymmetries between actors with advanced compute capacity and those without it.

- AI use in conflict settings does not fit neatly within traditional legal categories such as peace, armed conflict, sovereignty, non-intervention, use of force and international humanitarian law — creating significant regulatory gaps.
- Targeting systems and planning tools may accelerate decision-making, but they raise serious issues around error, appeal, explainability and public confidence in international law.
- **Data poisoning** was identified as a particularly difficult risk: altered training data may change the behaviour of AI systems without the user detecting any change.
- If data poisoning occurs before an armed conflict begins, existing legal frameworks may struggle to classify it as a trigger event. If discovered during conflict, the harm may already have materialised and be irreversible.

## Dr Martin Wählisch

Associate Professor of Transformative  
Technologies, Innovation and Global Affairs,  
University of Birmingham

*AI, conflict and international governance*

Dr Martin Wählisch shifted the discussion from larger shields and swords to larger negotiation tables, situating AI within a broader technology environment that includes deliberative technology, virtual reality, digital twins, human-machine interaction and strategic foresight.

- AI is reshaping the conditions of conflict itself, as physical theatres, legal categories, information flows and political effects increasingly overlap in ways that existing frameworks do not adequately address.
- Peacebuilding can use technology to listen to wider groups, brief decision-makers, test scenarios and support foresight — but the same infrastructure can simultaneously be used for coercion or manipulation.
- The **"human in the loop"** can become a false comfort where humans merely validate outputs they cannot meaningfully question, understand or challenge.
- Responsible PeaceTech should preserve judgment, empathy, intuition and human-to-human dialogue, rather than automating the core political work of peace processes.

# Speaker Intervention: Inclusion, Monitoring and Verification

## Ms Johanna Poutanen

Head of Inclusion and Digital Innovation, CMI.  
Professor in Practice, Durham University Law School

*Inclusion, digital innovation and peace practice*

Ms Johanna Poutanen focused on how AI can support more inclusive, better-informed and more responsive peace practice. Her intervention began from the needs of the peace process rather than the technology — asking who is being included, on what issues and for what purpose.

- AI can support **listening at scale** by processing large consultation inputs, clustering themes, detecting shifts in narratives and helping mediation teams make sense of diverse perspectives across communities.
- CMI practice examples included WhatsApp-based youth engagement in Yemen and an AI-enabled dialogue platform used with women's groups in Sudan during displacement — demonstrating applied digital peacemaking in active conflict environments.
- Digital inclusion is not automatic. Unequal access, digital literacy gaps, affordability, language barriers, bias and online violence can reproduce existing exclusions or create new forms of harm.
- Good practice requires context-sensitive design, hybrid online and offline engagement, privacy-preserving data practices, meaningful human oversight and transparency about how participant inputs will be used.

## Dr Rafael Dean Brown

Clinical Associate Professor, Qatar University  
College of Law. Co-Rapporteur, ILA Committee on AI & Technology Law

*AI monitoring and verification of peace and ceasefire arrangements*

Dr Rafael Dean Brown used the Colombia mediation process in Doha as a case study, drawing on his role as a legal adviser and mediator in the Qatari host delegation to consider how AI tools might support transitional zones, situational awareness and detection of possible ceasefire violations.

- Possible AI applications include CCTV-based monitoring, satellite alert systems, drone observation, natural language processing for misinformation detection and data fusion to identify emerging hotspots.
- Monitoring technologies can support human monitors and reduce certain field risks, but they can also damage trust, privacy and dignity if deployed without clear legal limits and community consent.
- Key governing principles include: human oversight, transparency and explainability, necessity and proportionality, data sovereignty, and accountability with redress mechanisms.
- AI can assist monitoring institutions but cannot replace local relationships, human judgment and on-the-ground knowledge that are essential to verification in fragile settings.

# Cross-Cutting Insights from the Panel

## Issues that converged across all four interventions and the moderated Q&A exchange

Across the interventions, the panel converged on a shared analytical point: AI may support peacebuilding and mediation, but its value depends on accountable institutions, context-sensitive design and meaningful human control. The discussion also demonstrated that the same technologies can serve both peace and conflict objectives — making governance choices especially consequential.

### Context Before Tools

AI should be selected because it serves a specific peace process need, not because a tool is available or currently fashionable. Process logic must precede technology selection at every stage.

### Human Agency Must Be Real

Oversight must allow for genuine questioning, correction and refusal. Nominal human review that cannot meaningfully challenge automated outputs does not constitute adequate accountability.

### Inclusion Is Political

Digital consultation inputs only matter if they are connected to actual influence over outcomes. Gathering community voices through AI tools does not automatically produce meaningful participation.

### Trust Is Fragile

Opaque or intrusive AI systems can damage confidence in a mediation or monitoring process — particularly in communities affected by conflict, surveillance or state violence.

### Data Governance Is Central

Data ownership, storage, bias, cybersecurity, privacy and access rights determine whether AI use is legitimate and safe in any given peace context.

### International Law Matters

AI in peace and conflict settings engages sovereignty, human rights, international humanitarian law, due diligence obligations, state accountability and remedies for affected populations.

✔ **Practical Conclusion:** The shift from principles to practice requires clear mandates, training, safeguards, audit trails, participatory design, procurement rules and mechanisms for affected people to challenge AI-related errors.

# Audience Engagement and Communications

Post-event visibility, recording and institutional follow-up

## 650+

### Live Attendees

Registered viewers across the Zoom webinar, reflecting strong international interest in responsible AI and peace governance.

## 5

### Platforms

Post-event communications deployed across the CIL website, LinkedIn, X, Facebook and Instagram.

## 1.5

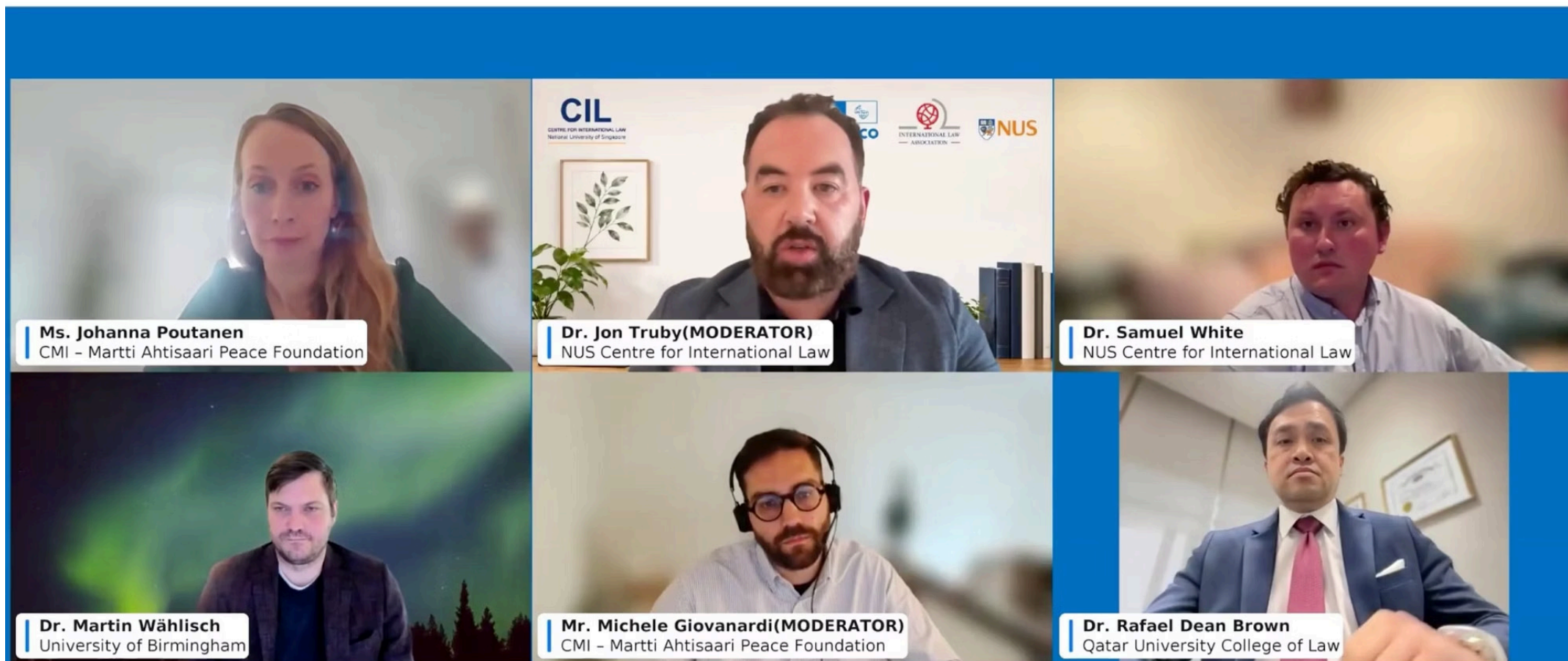
### CPD Points

Public CPD credits awarded for participation, enhancing the event's value for legal practitioners and academics.



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# Partners, contributors, recording and contact information

CIL thanks CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, the moderators, the speakers and all participants for contributing to a timely and practice-oriented discussion on responsible AI in peace and conflict settings. This event report was compiled and prepared by **Dr Jon Truby** and **Sheikh Sultan Aadil Huque**, UNESCO Chair on AI Law & Sustainability, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore.

## Resources and Links



Event page and recording

[Open event page](#)



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