Yitzy Shaykevich

Security Council: Topic #2 - Artificial Intelligence

YUNMUN XXXIV

In July 2023, during the first-ever United Nations Security Council (UNSC) debate on the subject, Secretary-General António Guterres addressed the UNSC regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI).[1] [2] He emphasized the impressive uses of AI in peacekeeping, stating "[AI] is increasingly being used to identify patterns of violence, monitor ceasefires and more, helping to strengthen our peacekeeping, mediation and humanitarian efforts." However, the main purpose of the speech was to underscore the potential dangers associated with AI, not praise its accomplishments. Secretary-General Guterres explained, "AI tools can also be used by those with malicious intent. AI models can help people to harm themselves and each other, at massive scale. Let's be clear: the malicious use of AI systems for terrorist, criminal or State purposes could cause horrific levels of death and destruction, widespread trauma and deep psychological damage on an unimaginable scale." There is a dark side to AI that countries must consider.

In his speech, Guterres focuses on a few main points where AI can be harmful. Below are just some of his main points:

1. **Cyberattacks:** "AI-enabled cyberattacks are already targeting critical infrastructure and our own peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, causing great human suffering."
2. **Disinformation & Deepfakes:** "The advent of generative AI could be a defining moment for disinformation and hate speech… look no further than social media. Tools and platforms that were designed to enhance human connection are now used to undermine elections, spread conspiracy theories and incite hatred and violence."
3. **Malfunctioning AI**
4. **Interaction with other technologies**: "the interaction between AI and nuclear weapons, biotechnology, neurotechnology and robotics is deeply alarming."

[1] https://press.un.org/en/2023/sgsm21880.doc.htm
[2] https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15359.doc.htm

Read the entirety of Guterres' message to the Security Council, as well as the statements made by each country. Analyze what is currently being done, what could be done, and what each country's obligation should be. This is a new question, so research requires analyzing your country's position in similar circumstances, such as cybercrime prevention. This is an ongoing discussion, and the facts may change by February, so keep yourself informed.

Things to keep in mind when doing research and writing your position paper:
- What are the risks of AI that your country may be weary of?
- Should governments be funding AI projects?
- Are Guterres' points valid? Is there anything specific your country may disagree with?
- How are cyber attacks currently being handled by your country?
    - Does your country engage in cyber warfare?
- Is there a difference between which AI private citizens should be allowed to use and the AI governments can use?
- What should the UN's role be in moderating AI?

Please ensure that your position paper is your own work, accurately represents the views of your country, and that all information is cited. All papers will be submitted to TurnItIn, as plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable. Citations from your country's government website or from the UN website are ideal. Citing news articles is acceptable so long as the information cited is unbiased. Please keep your position paper to 1-2 pages.

Yitzy Shaykevich
Chair, UN Security Council,
YUNMUN XXXIV