



United Nations General Assembly Addressing the Digital Divide in the Development of AI Technologies





I. Committee Background

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six main organs of the United Nations. Since its first meeting in 1946, it has served as the main policy making and representative organ of the UN. It played key roles in decolonization movements after the Second World War, forming human right frameworks and Cold War debates. It is responsible for the appointing of the secretary general, budget and appointing non-permanent states into the United Nations Security Council. It ensures efficient collaboration between other UN bodies (ECOSOC, Human Rights council, etc..).

The UNGA provides international democracy, granting member states 1 vote each, no matter size or power. Debates vary, ranging from immediate crises to long term goals. Every year global leaders and delegations meet to attempt to find common ground about global issues. The resolutions adopted after these debates express the general opinion of the international community and are not legally binding.

II. Introduction to Topic

1. Development of AI

The development of AI has caused for a rapid change in society. The use of AI is now allowing for the automation of tasks, optimization of businesses and analysis of data sets, is leading to a revolutionary change to ordinary life. The countries which are primarily driving the development of the AI are the United States of America, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom and India. With the United States of America having a large lead over other countries in almost all categories of AI development (R&D, Economy, Policy and Governance, etc..). The development of AI will lead to advanced AI models



being created, which would further enhance the categories previously mentioned. Advanced AI are deep learning models that can perform a multitude of complex tasks at a time. This development is currently being conducted by developed countries, while developing countries lack the research capabilities to develop their AI technology.

2. Integration of AI into society

AI is revolutionizing a multitude of industries such as healthcare (with the use of Diagnostic systems and personalized medicine), transportation (autonomous vehicles such as a Tesla), education (adaptive learning and AI marking) and others, even the government use it for public administration, data analysis and predictions. Because of this, it raises questions based on accountability and bias in the use of Artificial intelligence as they can be programmed to give as previously mentioned, biased statements. The integration of AI into society comes with the risks of false information spreading and the loss of jobs and income, so managing the ethicality of AI use is also extremely important to addressing the divide.

3. Addressing the growing gap of AI between countries

The global AI market value currently resides at about 500 billion US dollars and is projected by 2033, to be valued at around 4.8 trillion dollars, similar to the GDP of Japan. With some countries not having the ability to afford or the resources to maintain it, they will miss out on the economic growth available created by Artificial Intelligence. For example, the current leaders in AI research and investment, are the United States, China and the European Union,



and the countries without the economic success are consumers to these nations, buying more than creating. This imbalance risks reinforcing existing economic and social inequalities on a global scale. Some of the growing disparities are as follows:

- Limited Digital Infrastructure – Many low- and middle-income countries lack the foundations for affordable broadband internet, data centers and cloud computing facilities.
- Shortage of technical expertise – There is a significant gap in AI related education, research institutions, and skilled professionals in low- and middle-income countries.
- Data inequality – Developing nations often lack the access to large, diverse, and high-quality datasets, that are essential for the training AI systems.
- Dependence on foreign technology – The over reliance on imported AI tools and platforms from high income countries reduces local innovation capacity and raises the issues of data sovereignty and privacy.

4.Unlocking Artificial Intelligence’s full potential

With AI development continuing worldwide, it is continuously becoming an integral and crucial part of society. The maximization of its use is the one of the next steps in its development. Governments are now beginning to install AI education. For example, the People’s Republic of China has made it mandatory for AI to be taught in schools throughout secondary school. This is



to familiarize students with AI, which should allow them to become more efficient when utilizing AI in the future. The key to maximizing the potential of AI is allowing for AI to improve efficiency in industry, which could minimize damages and proving for benefits both for society and the economy.

III. Essential Questions/Key Issues

The rise in AI technology and the growing gap of this technology poses a multitude of questions and key issues.

How will developing countries get access to benefits of AI?

AI could allow develop at incredibly fast rates. The implementation of AI in areas like education, employment and industry increases efficiency, permitting these countries to overcome challenges in shorter amounts of time. Access to AI technology is what is stopping this. Should these countries develop their own AI technologies? Or should it be provided by other countries and the international community? These questions are controversial and topic of discussion amongst the international community.

AI and its Bias

The creation and development of AI produces biases in its code. This could lead to systematic discriminatory outcomes regrading certain prompts. One of the ways AI gets its bias from is its data collection during its development. The data it gathers during this phase determines the bias it will carry forward once it is published and open to the public. This bias in AI technology can cause mistrust and lead to disruptions in areas such as healthcare and finance.



Could countries be at risk of a “Brain Drain” because of wealthier tech rich countries?

A brain drain is where talented and educated individuals immigrate to other countries due to the lack of opportunity in their home country. This could potentially influence the economy and research development of a country, while it could also have benefits to the countries where the individuals are migrating to. This occurs in the case of AI, further increasing the AI divide between countries.

Should a stricter international AI framework be created?

The potential misuse of AI may pose threats to civilians, corporations and governments. This poses the question if a stricter international AI framework be created. This would allow for AI development and access to be regulated by an international framework. This could slow AI development but could decrease the gap in AI technology.

IV. Countries List

- **The United States of America**
- **The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**
- **People’s Republic of China**
- **Russian Federation**
- **French Republic**
- **Commonwealth of Australia**
- **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**
- **Republic of Kenya**
- **Republic of Uganda**
- **Republic of El Salvador**
- **Republic of the Niger**



- **Hellenic Republic**
- **Republic of Egypt**
- **Republic of Fiji**
- **Republic of Chile**
- **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**
- **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**
- **Swiss Confederation**
- **The Portuguese Republic**

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