

Houston Area Model United Nations Standard Committee

UNSC



Chair | Annie George

Topic B: Fostering Global Security in the Age
of Artificial Intelligence

Houston Area Model United Nations 49
February 1 & 2, 2024

Note to Delegates

Hello Delegates,

My name is Annie George, and I am your United Nations Security Council chair. I am currently a junior at the University of Houston. My major is Computer Information Systems, and my minor is Business Administration. I am a part of a couple of programs, such as Women in Stem and the Council of Cultural Activities. I love volunteering, walking my dog, and reading!

I started Model UN during my first year of high school and was in a mix of Standardized Committees and Crises. I did UNHCR, DISEC, A Crisis, and Security Council. Once I entered college, I was a vice chair at UNOOSA and head chair for UNEP. I joined Model UN because I love researching different topics and debating them. When I learned about Model UN, I was excited because I got to look at such a painful thing as international warfare and think of numerous solutions for the said problem, work with others, and come up with a final answer to the issue at hand. Problems such as the ones that we will be talking about in UNSC.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), established in 1945, is a pivotal component of the UN's mission to preserve global peace and security. Comprising 15 member states, including five possessing veto power, the UNSC can sanction military interventions, enforce punitive measures, and facilitate conflict resolution. As you participate in this conference as a delegate, your role entails approaching issues from your nation's perspective and leveraging them as the foundation for your debate arguments and final policy proposals. Consequently, cooperation among countries will be essential in formulating comprehensive solutions to address the two topics.

Throughout our committee sessions, I encourage you to approach problems with an open mind, exploring diverse solutions creatively. Think outside the box and do not hesitate to voice your opinions on relevant issues, fostering engaging discussions. Above all, remember to enjoy the experience. As we embark on this year's conference, I anticipate a truly distinctive and rewarding journey for all of us. Wishing each one of you the very best of luck!

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Security Council

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Background Information

Executive Summary:

In the age of artificial intelligence (AI), fostering global security is a multifaceted challenge that requires innovative and collaborative approaches. AI technologies have ushered in unprecedented economic growth and technological advancement opportunities, but they also present new risks and vulnerabilities. Nations must strike a delicate balance between harnessing the potential of AI and safeguarding against its potential misuse.

In global security, the rise of autonomous AI systems in military applications raises concerns about potential unintended conflicts and escalations. As nations invest in AI-driven defense technologies, the need for international norms, treaties, and cooperation becomes increasingly vital to prevent the proliferation of lethal autonomous weapons systems and maintain stability in a rapidly evolving strategic landscape. Furthermore, AI also plays a pivotal role in the realm of cybersecurity.

With the increasing interconnectivity of the world, nations are exposed to cyber threats that can disrupt critical infrastructure, compromise sensitive data, and undermine national security. As AI-powered cyberattacks become more sophisticated and mysterious, global efforts to strengthen cyber defenses and promote responsible AI practices are of paramount importance. Building international consensus on norms and rules for cyber behavior and AI development is essential to prevent state-sponsored cyber conflicts and ensure the security of nations in the digital age. In conclusion, fostering global security in the age of artificial intelligence demands collective action, cooperation, and the establishment of robust frameworks to harness the benefits of AI while mitigating its associated risks. It is a challenge that requires the active engagement and collaboration of nations in various forums, including Model United Nations, to craft effective policies and strategies that safeguard the well-being and security of the global community.

The New World and How AI is Interrupting it's Global Security:

In the era of artificial intelligence (AI), ensuring global security presents itself as a multifaceted challenge, demanding innovative and collaborative solutions. AI technologies have not only ushered in unparalleled economic growth and technological advancement opportunities but have also brought forth fresh vulnerabilities and risks. Nations are tasked with the intricate balancing act of exploiting AI's potential while simultaneously safeguarding against its misuse.

Artificial intelligence stands as a transformative force, poised to revolutionize multiple facets of society, including healthcare, transportation, communication, and national defense. The breadth of AI applications holds the promise of elevating the quality of life for billions of people. However, as the saying goes, with great power comes great responsibility. While AI technologies offer immense benefits, they also carry substantial risks, particularly in the realm of global security.

Among the most pressing concerns in the AI age is the proliferation of autonomous AI systems designed for military purposes. These systems, often referred to as lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), possess the potential to redefine warfare and conflict dynamics. Proponents argue that autonomous AI systems can minimize the risk to human soldiers and enhance the precision of military operations. Yet, a host of critical ethical and security dilemmas surround their deployment.

The adoption of AI in military contexts raises fears about the inadvertent onset of conflicts and escalations. Autonomous AI systems, driven by algorithms and data, make split-second decisions without human intervention. In scenarios involving multiple AI-equipped military forces, misunderstandings or misinterpretations of intent could lead to conflicts spiraling out of control. The absence of human judgment in decision-making processes introduces an element of unpredictability and insecurity.

As countries invest heavily in AI-driven defense technologies, the importance of international norms, treaties, and cooperation becomes increasingly evident. These are vital to preventing the unchecked proliferation of lethal autonomous weapons systems and maintaining equilibrium in a rapidly evolving strategic landscape.



Addressing the multifaceted challenges associated with autonomous AI systems in military applications hinges on international cooperation and the establishment of clear norms and regulations. It is paramount for nations to collaborate to curb the proliferation of these technologies and construct mechanisms for accountability in case of misuse. Several key areas necessitate international norms and cooperation.

To meet this demand, the international community should contemplate the formulation of a treaty explicitly regulating the use of autonomous AI systems in warfare. Such a treaty would not only set clear boundaries but also delineate the circumstances in which these systems may be deployed. This would include mechanisms for transparency and accountability, as well as repercussions for violations, creating a framework that guides responsible AI development and use in military settings.

Furthermore, it is imperative that an effective system for verification and monitoring is established to ensure adherence to international agreements related to autonomous AI systems. This system may encompass a range of measures, from on-site inspections and reporting obligations to the involvement of independent third-party organizations for compliance assessments. These actions would serve to strengthen the implementation of the treaty and bolster global security efforts.

In addition to these practical measures, international organizations and governments should collaboratively focus on establishing ethical frameworks governing the development and utilization of AI in military contexts. These frameworks can offer not only guidance but a moral compass for responsible AI development and deployment.

They underscore the importance of retaining human control and accountability in decisions that may significantly impact global security. By developing these ethical guidelines, the international community can contribute to fostering a safer and more secure future in the age of autonomous AI systems.



Moreover, in addition to military applications, AI also plays a pivotal role in the realm of cybersecurity. The increasing interconnectedness of the world, driven by the Internet of Things (IoT) and global communication networks, exposes nations to cyber threats capable of disrupting critical infrastructure, compromising sensitive data, and undermining national security. As AI-powered cyberattacks become more sophisticated and inscrutable, global endeavors to fortify cyber defenses and promote responsible AI practices become imperative.

AI holds significant potential for enhancing cybersecurity efforts. AI-powered tools can analyze colossal datasets, identify patterns, and respond to cyber threats in real-time, vastly improving a nation's ability to ward off cyberattacks. Nonetheless, these very AI capabilities can be employed offensively to orchestrate sophisticated attacks.

To tackle the intricate challenges posed by AI in cybersecurity, nations must unite to set international norms and regulations. This necessitates laying down rules of engagement for state-sponsored cyber activities, which is paramount. The establishment of norms for how nations should behave in cyberspace can deter the escalation of cyber conflicts and provide a foundation for attribution and accountability.

In this collaborative effort, governments and the private sector should join forces to establish responsible AI practices in cybersecurity. These practices can encompass transparency in AI algorithms employed in cybersecurity, ethical considerations, and compliance with international standards for data protection and privacy.



By promoting responsible AI practices, the international community can bolster its defenses against emerging cyber threats and ensure the ethical use of AI in safeguarding global security.

Furthermore, encouraging the sharing of information and cooperation among nations and international organizations is pivotal. This collaborative approach aids in early threat detection and response while fostering trust in international cybersecurity endeavors. Sharing knowledge and pooling resources can significantly enhance the collective ability to counter cyber threats, ultimately contributing to a more secure digital environment in the age of AI.

In summary, fostering global security in the age of artificial intelligence necessitates collective action, cooperation, and the establishment of robust frameworks that capitalize on AI's benefits while mitigating its associated risks. The multifaceted challenges arising from autonomous AI systems in military applications and AI-driven cyber threats call for international collaboration and consensus.

The United Nations and its Security Council are instrumental in tackling these challenges. In forums such as Model United Nations, young diplomats and future leaders have the opportunity to devise effective policies and strategies to safeguard the well-being and security of the global community. It is through the active involvement



Topic History:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly evolved from a niche field of study to a transformative force with global implications. Its history is rich, multifaceted, and spans continents and decades. This essay provides a global perspective on the history of AI, highlighting key milestones, breakthroughs, and the collaborative efforts that have shaped its development.

The story of AI begins in the 1950s when the term "artificial intelligence" was coined at the Dartmouth Conference in the United States. Pioneering researchers like John McCarthy, Marvin Minsky, and Herbert Simon laid the groundwork for AI as a distinct field. Early AI was characterized by rule-based systems and symbolic reasoning, with the development of programs like the Logic Theorist and General Problem Solver.

However, the initial enthusiasm for AI was followed by a period known as the "AI winter." Funding and interest waned as early expectations of human-like intelligence were not met. This slowdown was not limited to one country; it affected research across the globe, including the United Kingdom, Japan, and the Soviet Union. Despite the challenges, AI research continued, and valuable knowledge was gained during this period.

The late 20th century witnessed a resurgence of AI research worldwide. Expert systems, machine learning, and neural networks became the focal points of research, leading to the development of AI applications like medical diagnosis systems and autonomous vehicles. The global scientific community collaborated on advancing AI techniques, and countries like Japan made significant investments in AI research.



As we entered the 21st century, it marked a turning point in the history of AI, with remarkable contributions from various countries. The United States led in AI research, with Silicon Valley serving as a hub for AI startups and innovation. Meanwhile, China emerged as a significant player, investing heavily in AI development and research, focusing on applications like facial recognition and language processing.

European countries, such as the United Kingdom and Germany, made substantial contributions to AI, emphasizing ethical AI development and responsible AI deployment. India's growing tech industry also played a vital role in AI's global expansion.

The history of AI is a testament to human ingenuity and the collaborative spirit that transcends borders. It serves as a reminder of the global nature of scientific progress, where breakthroughs made in one corner of the world can have a profound impact on the entire AI landscape. Today, as AI continues to evolve and shape our world, international cooperation and shared knowledge remain essential in harnessing its potential for the benefit of all humankind.

The global nature of AI's development is highlighted by the extensive international collaborations that have formed. Organizations like the United Nations, OECD, and the World Economic Forum have been actively engaged in discussions about AI ethics, governance, and policy. Initiatives like the Partnership on AI, which includes multinational tech companies, promote collaboration on AI research and development with a focus on global well-being.



Today, AI is deeply integrated into our daily lives, from voice-activated personal assistants to advanced healthcare diagnostics. It has permeated industries, impacting finance, healthcare, education, and transportation. Its global influence extends to defense and national security, raising important ethical and geopolitical questions.

The history of artificial intelligence is a global journey marked by moments of intense innovation, challenges, and periods of reflection. From its inception at the Dartmouth Conference in the United States to its resurgence in the 21st century, AI has seen contributions from researchers and organizations around the world. International collaboration and shared efforts have played a crucial role in shaping the AI landscape, ensuring its responsible and ethical development in our interconnected world.

As we stand at the forefront of the AI era, a global perspective on AI's history serves as a reminder of the shared responsibility to harness its potential for the benefit of all humankind. This rich history illustrates the capacity of global collaboration to address complex challenges and to seize the opportunities that AI offers in an increasingly interconnected world. It is a testament to the ingenuity and dedication of scientists, policymakers, and organizations across borders, working together to navigate the path towards a responsible, innovative, and ethical AI future. The future of AI is a global endeavor, where the collective wisdom of nations will shape its trajectory.



Questions to Consider:

How can nations globally balance the benefits and risks of AI in the context of fostering global security?

What are the shared ethical concerns when using autonomous AI systems in military applications, and how can a global consensus address these concerns?

Is there a need for a universally accepted treaty or framework to regulate the use of autonomous AI systems in warfare, and how should it reflect the interests and values of diverse nations?

What mechanisms can ensure global transparency and accountability in the development and use of AI technologies, particularly in military and defense sectors?

Should there be universal limitations on the development and use of AI-driven cyber weapons, and how can countries worldwide cooperate on this issue?

How should international organizations like the United Nations work collaboratively to set global norms and standards for AI in the context of global security?

What strategies can be employed to prevent the worldwide proliferation of lethal autonomous weapons systems among both state and non-state actors, and how can this be enforced on a global scale?

What role will AI play in shaping the future of global cybersecurity, and how can nations globally cooperate to strengthen their collective cyber defenses while ensuring responsible AI practices?



Questions to Consider:

Should there be a global agreement on the responsible use of AI in cybersecurity, including rules of engagement for state-sponsored cyber activities, and how can it be enforced on a global level?

What measures can be taken to encourage international information sharing and cooperation in the realm of cybersecurity, and how can trust be built among nations worldwide in this context?

How do different countries and regions around the world approach AI development and global security, and what are the implications of these varying approaches for international collaboration and global security?

What are the potential consequences of a global AI arms race, and how can nations collectively work to prevent such a scenario that threatens global security?

In what ways can AI be leveraged to enhance global peacekeeping and conflict resolution efforts, and what challenges may arise in ensuring global cooperation in this regard?

How can nations worldwide ensure that AI is used for humanitarian purposes, such as disaster response and relief efforts, while avoiding misuse or unintended consequences on a global scale?

What are the potential consequences of geopolitical tensions and competition in the field of AI on a global level, and how can these tensions be managed to promote global security and cooperation?



Appendix & Sources

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