



BACKGROUND GUIDE

CSTD

Case Maddox, Defne Onal, Alyssa Chen

A large, light gray watermark logo is centered on the page. It features a rounded square border containing the letters 'AI' in a bold, sans-serif font. Above and below the square are five vertical bars, and to the left and right are three horizontal bars, resembling a stylized circuit board or a digital interface element.

UNCMUNC XIV

Background Guide

The Threat of a New Br(AI)n: Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Case Maddox, Defne Onal, Alyssa Chen

Ed: Natalie Clyburn

CSTD

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Letters from the Chairs

Greetings, delegates!

My name is Case Maddox, and I will be serving as the head chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)! I am a freshman at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, majoring in Multinational Finance and minoring in Chinese and Russian.

Starting in my freshman year of high school, I joined Model UN because my brother joined, and now, 5 years later, I am still enjoying the thrill of Model UN conferences! Throughout high school, I attended various conferences throughout North Carolina, hosted multiple conferences at my home high school, and served as Co-President of my school club during my senior year. Throughout my years in Model UN, I have served on a wide range of committees, so if you are ever unsure about something, feel free to reach out with questions.

I hope this background guide is able to paint a better picture of the contentious international debate over AI policies and procedures. As this is a very multi-faceted debate, we will be considering many different topics from different spheres, so it is important that the commission moves swiftly and effectively in order to properly advise UNESCO officials. Throughout this conference, new developments in this emerging field and discussion may flip or reinforce your positions; however, it is up to the delegates and chairs to respond properly.

I am looking forward to a respectful and cooperative environment that embodies the spirit of this commission. If there are any concerns, questions, or comments, feel free to communicate them to me, but be sure to remember that there is a time and place for these discussions. Through proper planning, attention to detail, and a willingness to adapt, I believe this commission can thrive.

Best Regards,

Case Maddox

Head Chair

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Positions List

United States

The Department of State promotes an international policy to assist in AI development. The United States is a founding member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI). GPAI focuses on project-oriented collaboration, which looks at data governance, future work, and commercialization.¹ The State Department works with the Department of Defense, regulating all weapons, including weapons with autonomous functions provided by AI. The Biden-Harris Administration aims to invest in responsible research and development, evaluate existing AI safety, and address the risks of AI.² The US's commitment to emerging technologies is reflected in the financial support provided to this fund by the US.³

Germany

Germany is one of the founding members of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), an international initiative to ensure the development of AI, which includes respecting human rights, diversity, and economic growth.⁴ The German Federal Government updated its National AI strategy in December 2020, focusing on research, knowledge, expertise, and sustainability.⁵ Germany aims to ensure high-quality education in AI by expanding learning platforms, creating over 100 fellowships, and getting students involved more in STEM subjects.⁶

United Kingdom

¹ n.d. "Artificial Intelligence (AI)." U.S. Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/artificial-intelligence/>.

² 2023. "FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Promote Responsible AI Innovation That Protects Americans' Rights and Safety." The White House. May 4, 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/04/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-promote-responsible-ai-innovation-that-protects-americans-rights-and-safety/>.

³ United Nations. (n.d.). Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecosoc_res_2022d15_en.pdf

⁴ 2021. "Germany AI Strategy Report." AI Watch. European Commission. September 1, 2021. https://ai-watch.ec.europa.eu/countries/germany/germany-ai-strategy-report_en

⁵ 2021. "Germany AI Strategy Report." AI Watch. European Commission. September 1, 2021. https://ai-watch.ec.europa.eu/countries/germany/germany-ai-strategy-report_en

⁶ 2021. "Germany AI Strategy Report." AI Watch. European Commission. September 1, 2021. https://ai-watch.ec.europa.eu/countries/germany/germany-ai-strategy-report_en

On March 29, 2023, The UK Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT) released an AI white paper that describes their approach to regulating AI.⁷ DSIT describes context-specific regulation that focuses on specific uses of AI outcomes. The white paper explains that humans do not easily understand the patterns and connections AI makes and the difficulty in assigning responsibility for AI outcomes. The UK government aims to future-proof AI definition, “products and services that are ‘adaptable’ and autonomous,” rather than focus on a specific technology.⁸ The UK government will continue to help partner countries build awareness and capacity of AI and implement responsible and sustainable AI regulation.

Japan

Japan is the 2023 Group of Seven (G7) chair, gathering opinions to influence international rule-making.⁹ The Japanese government plans to focus on boosting economic growth rather than regulation; one approach includes removing copyright restrictions to train an AI model.¹⁰ The Japanese government published the Social Principles of Human-Centric AI in 2019, implementing three philosophies: human dignity, diversity and inclusion, and sustainability. The goal is to recognize these principles through AI rather than using the principles to restrict AI.¹¹ The government is still placing development and use regulations to maximize AI’s positive impact.

China

China’s recent regulations aim to advocate a humanistic approach to the use of AI. China aims to ensure that AI is safe, reliable, and controllable. China released the *Position Paper of the People’s Republic of China on Regulating Military Applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI)* in December 2021, focusing on AI regulation, development, utilization, and international

⁷ Nuthi, Kiri. 2023. “An Overview of the UK’s New Approach to AI.” Center For Data Innovation. April 19, 2023. <https://datainnovation.org/2023/04/an-overview-of-the-uks-new-approach-to-ai/>.

⁸ Nuthi, Kiri. 2023. “An Overview of the UK’s New Approach to AI.” Center For Data Innovation. April 19, 2023. <https://datainnovation.org/2023/04/an-overview-of-the-uks-new-approach-to-ai/>.

⁹ Baba, Kana. 2023. “Japan Takes a Step toward Setting Generative AI Guidelines.” Nikkei Asia. May 12, 2023. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Technology/Japan-takes-step-toward-setting-generative-AI-guidelines>.

¹⁰ Morrison, Ryan. 2023. “Japan Becomes Latest Country Proposing Hands-off AI Regulation, but Businesses ‘Likely to Follow EU Rules.’” Techmonitor. July 4, 2023. <https://techmonitor.ai/technology/ai-and-automation/japan-ai-europe-regulation-artificial-intelligence>.

¹¹ Habuka, Hiroki. 2023. “Japan’s Approach to AI Regulation and Its Impact on the 2023 G7 Presidency.” CSIS. February 14, 2023. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/japans-approach-ai-regulation-and-its-impact-2023-g7-presidency>.

cooperation.¹² China has three approaches to AI governance, each led by three different Chinese bureaucracy branches: Cyberspace Administration of China, the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, and the Ministry of Science and Technology.¹³

Russian Federation

President Vladimir Putin instructed all sectors of the economy and society to be introduced to AI by September 1, 2023. The Russian government hopes to achieve specific results in technology development. The Russian National Strategy for the Development of Technologies (NSDT) plan for AI development contains 65 AI project products developed by AI development partners in Russia and the cooperation of partners from allied countries.¹⁴ By 2025, the Russian Federation will commonly use AI technology for economic and industrial reasons.

Denmark

Denmark is ranked fourth in the Digital Economy and Society Index and enjoys a high digitalization in its public sector.¹⁵ It has also published a “National Strategy for AI,” which set forth 24 initiatives, including working on AI in priority areas such as healthcare, energy, agriculture, and transport. The Danish government has created six ethical principles for the use of AI, which include self-determination, meaning that people’s autonomy should be prioritized when developing any new AI.¹⁶ As a leader in digital development in the EU, Denmark will have the economic power to impact further technological growth. It may be vital in encouraging industry movements toward economic and social welfare.

¹² 2022. “Position Paper of the People’s Republic of China on Strengthening Ethical Governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI).” Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China. November 17, 2022. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt_665385/wjzcs/202211/t20221117_10976730.html#:~:text=China%20is%20committed%20to%20building.principle%20of%20AI%20for%20good.

¹³ Sheehan, Matt. 2022. “China’s New AI Governance Initiatives Shouldn’t Be Ignored.” Carnegie Endowment For International Peace. January 4, 2022.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/01/04/china-s-new-ai-governance-initiatives-shouldn-t-be-ignored-pub-86127>.

¹⁴ Goncharoff, Paul. 2023. “Russia Accelerates Its Artificial Intelligence Development Program.” Russia Briefing. February 1, 2023.

<https://www.russia-briefing.com/news/russia-accelerates-its-artificial-intelligence-development-program.html#:~:text=It%20is%20estimated%20that%20more.plan%20to%20implement%20them%20shortly>.

¹⁵ Carraro, Beatrice. “Danish AI: How Denmark Is Contributing to the World’s Digital Dream.” Certainly, June 22, 2022. <https://certainly.io/blog/danish-ai/>.

¹⁶ OECD. “Danish Policies on AI.” Policy - OECD.AI. Accessed June 26, 2023.

<https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/http:%2F%2Faipo.oecd.org%2F2021-data-policyInitiatives-24241>.

Singapore

Singapore is utilizing a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy to transform its economy. This plan includes identifying areas to focus resources on at a national level, realizing the positive impact of AI, and addressing areas where potential risks could come about if AI does become pervasive.¹⁷ However, Singapore is not rushing to set regulations for AI even though there are calls for government intervention. The Singapore government is calling companies to collaborate in the world's first AI testing toolkit - called AI Verify.¹⁸

India

There are many programs in India focusing on using AI to strengthen social empowerment and inclusion; examples include a Covid-19 help desk and a cataract detector.¹⁹ According to the Stanford AI Index Report 2023, India has the highest AI skill penetration worldwide. The Indian government has also started a myriad of programs to utilize AI to educate marginalized populations, such as using the Diksha portal to offer digital education in public schools.²⁰

Israel

Israel aims to become an AI superpower which would advance its autonomous warfare and streamlined combat decision-making. Rapid AI evolution includes steps to form a dedicated organization for military robotics. Moreover, in 2021, the Israeli military said that robot surveillance jeeps would help support the Gaza Strip.²¹ On top of this, Israel's military utilizes the Harpy system, which uses a 'kamikaze drone' that plunges into any radar emissions in a given area.²²

¹⁷ "National AI Strategy." Smart Nation Singapore. Accessed August 5, 2023.

<https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/initiatives/artificial-intelligence/>.

¹⁸ Chiang, Sheila. "Singapore Is Not Looking to Regulate A.I. Just yet, Says the City-State's Authority." CNBC, June 19, 2023.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2023/06/19/singapore-is-not-looking-to-regulate-ai-just-yet-says-the-city-state.html>.

¹⁹ "Home." OECD.AI. Accessed August 5, 2023. <https://oecd.ai/en/wonk/india>.

²⁰ "Permanent Mission of India to the UN , New York." Welcome to Permanent Mission of India to the UN , New York. Accessed August 5, 2023. <https://pminewyork.gov.in/others?id=NDk1Nw%2C%2C>.

²¹ "Israel Aims to Be 'Ai Superpower', Advance Autonomous Warfare." Reuters, May 22, 2023.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-aims-be-ai-superpower-advance-autonomous-warfare-2023-05-22/>.

²² Franke, U. (2020, October 22). Flash wars: Where could an autonomous weapons revolution lead us?. ECFR.

https://ecfr.eu/article/flash_wars_where_could_an_autonomous_weapons_revolution_lead_us/

Brazil

Brazil's AI strategy (EBIA) is based on five OECD principles for responsible management of AI systems, including inclusive growth, human-centered values and fairness, transparency, security, and accountability.²³ However, Brazil has also noted that it needs to encourage entrepreneurship in the state. Some tenets of the strategy include focusing on certain sectors - such as finance and the law- where AI would bring certain benefits.²⁴

Uganda

Uganda has facilitated a national task force to advise its government on technological development to increase its economic growth. This task force- comprising of engineers, scientists, policymakers, and academia- will also warn the Ugandan government against some disruptive technologies, which could include AI.²⁵

Introduction to the Committee

The CSTD was established during the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1992.²⁶ Using resolutions 34/218 and 41/183 as a framework, the general assembly transformed a temporary conference held in Vienna in 1979 into this commission to provide ECOSOC with analysis and policy recommendations regarding the rapid development of technology across all sectors. Additionally, this commission seeks to further the understanding of the implications of policies regarding emerging technologies, particularly concerning the potential impact on developing countries. As technology rapidly progresses, the digital divide continues to widen, and the CSTD aims to combat this divide by expanding accessibility to these technologies worldwide. In 2006, ECOSOC mandated the commission to monitor the outcomes

²³ "Home." Brazilian AI Strategy . Accessed August 5, 2023. <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/overview>.

²⁴ "Brazil Launches National AI Strategy." Civil Service & Public Sector News. Accessed August 5, 2023. <https://www.globalgovernmentforum.com/brazil-launches-national-ai-strategy/>.

²⁵ "EXPERT NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION." Policy - OECD.AI. Accessed August 7, 2023.

<https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/http:%2F%2Faipo.oecd.org%2F2021-data-policyInitiatives-27387>.

²⁶ UN. General Assembly (46th sess). (1992). Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields : resolution / adopted by the General Assembly. United Nations. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/148232?ln=en>

of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).²⁷ The CSTD continues to evaluate the implementation of action lines, advise members on effective strategies to improve Summit outcomes, and facilitate conversations and actions to achieve the agreed-upon goals of the Summit.²⁸

The CSTD meets annually for a week under the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. ECOSOC elects commission members for four-year teams, which has resulted in a commission comprised of forty-three member states, including eleven members from African states, nine members from Asia-Pacific states, eight members from Latin American and Caribbean States, five members from Eastern European States, and ten members from Western European states and other states. Given their relevance to the conversation surrounding AI, ECOSOC has elected Uganda, Singapore, Denmark, and Germany to join this commission for this session. Every session, a new bureau of one chairperson and four vice-chairpersons will be elected, each hailing from different regions. Between sessions, the newly elected chairpersons coordinate future commission activity. Outside of member states, the CSTD will also involve civil society representatives to represent discussion topics better and advise the commission on critical issues and other United Nations bodies such as UNESCO, Regional commissions, and ITU.²⁹ This commission serves as a crossroads for academics, member states, business leaders, and field experts to cooperate on providing structure and support to novel science and technology regarding sustainable development goals and developing countries.

Introduction to the Topic

The idea of artificial intelligence began thousands of years ago, beginning with inventors creating “automatons,” which are various mechanical objects that do not require human intervention to work. There are many records of automatons in the ancient world, some dating back to the 3rd century BCE. There are two groups of automatons: those for functional use and

²⁷ United Nations. (n.d.). Mandate and institutional background. UNCTAD.

<https://unctad.org/topic/commission-on-science-and-technology-for-development/mandate>

²⁸ United Nations. (n.d.). Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecosoc_res_2022d15_en.pdf

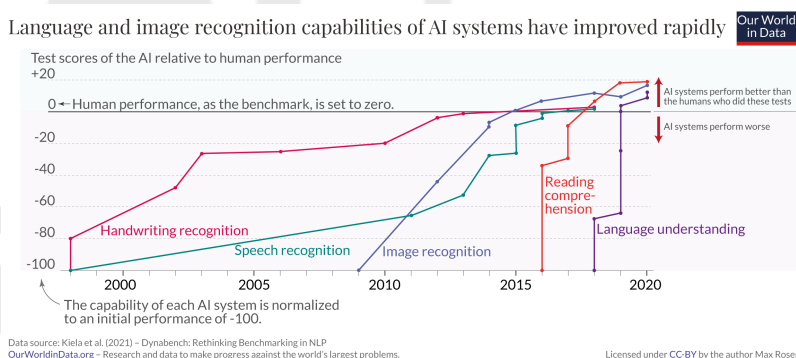
²⁹ United Nations. (n.d.-a). About the CSTD. UNCTAD.

<https://unctad.org/topic/commission-on-science-and-technology-for-development/about>

those for visual fascination.³⁰ An example of a functional automaton is a mechanical orchestra made for a Chinese emperor of the Han Dynasty. Visual fascination automatons include spinning roundels that flash patterns of light and imitate waterfalls through twisted rods of glass.

In the early 1900s, scientists started asking if it was possible to create an artificial brain. Artificial humans, or robots, mostly began as steam-powered entities. One of the earliest records of the idea of artificial humans was in 1921 when Karel Čapek, a Czech playwright, released “Rossum’s Universal Robots,” which contained the first known use of the word “robots.”³¹ The rapid rise of AI occurred between 1957 and 1979, exploring the idea of robots. However, AI had very little funding during this time, so there were many struggles scientists had to overcome. The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) was founded in 1979. Their goal is to advance scientific understanding of mechanisms and machines. Research breakthroughs and government funding occurred during the 1980s, labeled as the “AI boom.”³² The rise of interest in AI through the public occurred in the early 90s and early 2010s, which allowed for more funding and developments, as we have seen in society today.

Recent trends have shown rapid developments and improvements in AI. AI performance is making its way toward reaching human capabilities and intelligence; for example, one of AI’s recent developments is in language and image recognition. In the image above, AI that scored above the zero line scored higher than humans who took the same test.³³ As AI advances, AI capabilities will exceed those of humans.



³⁰ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. n.d. “Automaton.” Britannica.

<https://www.britannica.com/technology/automaton>.

³¹ n.d. “What Is the History of Artificial Intelligence (AI)?” Tableau.

<https://www.tableau.com/data-insights/ai/history>.

³² n.d. “What Is the History of Artificial Intelligence (AI)?” Tableau.

<https://www.tableau.com/data-insights/ai/history>.

³³ Roser, Max. 2022. “The Brief History of Artificial Intelligence: The World Has Changed Fast – What Might Be Next?” Our World in Data. December 6, 2022. <https://ourworldindata.org/brief-history-of-ai>.

Problems Identification

AI in the Court of Law

AI raises ethical dilemmas regarding privacy, surveillance, and data protection, especially in judicial systems. Although AI can potentially evaluate cases more efficiently than a judge can, the emergence of AI and predictive justice means repercussions on human rights. The standardization and opaqueness of AI have deep implications where the rule of law and due process are concerned.³⁴ Nevertheless, AI is said to be able to “forecast” more than “predict” court outcomes, so when court proceedings are more nuanced and have more information, the risk of the result of the court case not being correct increases.

To give an example, a machine learning application that claims to be able to predict the outcome of a Supreme Court case with an accuracy of 70.2% and the voting behavior of individual judges has been developed by a group of American academics.³⁵ Another example is an application that claims to predict decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), which uses natural language processing to predict whether the Court will rule if one of its provisions has been violated.³⁶ Though AI is ubiquitous, attorneys are still vital, as clients value human relationships.

Artificial Intelligence and the Global Economy

While the future of AI is both promising and exciting, the consequences and impacts AI will have on the global economy are shrouded in uncertainty. In a May 2023 survey, 77% of polled European macroeconomists projected at least a 4-6% growth in the global economy as a result of AI in the market.³⁷ These projections are further enforced by a recent study by Goldman Sachs, which concluded that over the next ten years, AI could cause a 7% increase in Global GDP while lifting productivity growth by 1.5 percentage points. Given both the opinions of

³⁴ “AI and the Rule of Law: Capacity Building for Judicial Systems.” UNESCO.org. Accessed August 7, 2023. <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/rule-law/mooc-judges>.

³⁵ Katz, Daniel Martin et al. A General Approach for Predicting the Behavior of the Supreme Court of the United States (January 16, 2017). SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2463244> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2463244>.

³⁶ Aletras N, Tsarapatsanis D, Preotiuc-Pietro D, Lamos V. 2016. ‘Predicting judicial decisions of the European Court of Human Rights: a Natural Language Processing perspective’, PeerJ Computer Science 2:e93 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj-cs.93>.

³⁷ Centre for Macroeconomics. (2023, May 31). Artificial Intelligence and the economy. The CFM-CEPR Surveys. <https://cfmsurvey.org/surveys/artificial-intelligence-and-economy>

leading macroeconomists and investment firms such as Goldman Sachs, it is pretty evident that AI will have monumental changes to the global economy. However, although this potential growth is quite exciting, it is essential to note the potential fallout from the wide-scale adoption of AI in the workplace and society. One of the concerns is the role AI will play in the job market as it begins to overtake many jobs. By analyzing over 900 occupations, the previously mentioned Goldman Sachs study concluded that around two-thirds of US careers would be affected by AI to some degree. Of those involved, at least a quarter of the work they complete could be automated. To build off of this, it was also estimated that around 300 million full-time jobs could be displaced by the rise of AI automation.³⁸ While these figures do draw reasonable concern for the future of occupations in an AI-impacted job market, new careers will likely arise from those affected by a shifting job market. In October 2020, the World Economic Forum estimated that by 2025, AI would probably generate 97 million new jobs in fields such as big data, digital marketing, and machine learning, in comparison to the estimated 85 million jobs lost.³⁹ Given the uncertainty of how AI will affect the future, members of the public seem somewhat apprehensive about the impacts stemming from innovation in the field of AI. A poll done by researchers in Germany found that, on average, respondents estimated the likelihood that AI would promote innovation was 49.2%, and the likelihood that AI would boost the economy was 51.9%; they also estimated that AI would have a 23.5% chance to be influenced by elite members of society and a 26.2% chance to destroy more jobs than it creates.⁴⁰ Further supporting this evidence, a 2022 study by the Pew Research Center found that while 18% of US citizens were more excited than concerned about AI applications, 37% were more concerned than excited, and 45% were equally concerned and excited. Additionally, as shown by the figures to the right, many US citizens were concerned with the design process behind AI programs and how it would affect different

³⁸ Generative AI could raise global GDP by 7%. Goldman Sachs. (2023, April 5).

<https://www.goldmansachs.com/intelligence/pages/generative-ai-could-raise-global-gdp-by-7-percent.html>

³⁹ Ilzetzki, E., & Jain, S. (2023, June 20). The impact of artificial intelligence on Growth and employment. Centre for Economic and Policy Research.

<https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/impact-artificial-intelligence-growth-and-employment#:~:text=The%20World%20Economic%20Forum%20concluded,Lawrence%20et%20al>

⁴⁰ Brauner, P., Hick, A., Philippen, R., & Ziefle, M. (2023). What does the public think about Artificial intelligence?—a criticality map to understand bias in the public perception of ai. *Frontiers in Computer Science*, 5.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fcomp.2023.1113903>

demographics.⁴¹ AI will continue to impact not only economies across the globe but also everyday life and the financial sector. In May of 2010, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) lost around 1,000 points in as little as 10 minutes. In the next 30 minutes, the DJIA rebounded by around 600 points; however, the damage had already been done. Indexes such as the S&P 500 and the S&P/TSX Composite Index respectively lost 22.5% and 5% in value between 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.⁴² At the heart of this financial tragedy was merely an individual trader using algorithms and automated trading software to take advantage of the system for his own gain. Although this does not reflect the current and future of AI in key markets, it shows the potential for market destruction at the hands of trading algorithms. However, despite the potential downsides of AI in the business world, advancements in the field have been to help people at all levels. For example, open APIs have been used to avoid or reduce credit defaults, AI and data science are being used to help minimize risk, and real-time analytics have transformed how decisions are made.⁴³ While AI does have the potential to greatly benefit society, this is why policy surrounding AI will be of utmost importance in this new economic landscape. Workers' rights, financial guidelines, societal structures, and much more will likely need to be revised to wrangle this charging bull.

The Future of Art

With the prevalence of art created by AI, discussions about where human agency starts and ends grow increasingly fervent. Images generated by OpenAI and Stability.ai being called “art” are controversial since this space was once exclusive to only human authors. However, many people argue that originality can't only belong to human artists/creators. Also, the issue of copyright law has to be addressed. AI-generated art spurs questions about who should be considered the creator of such art: the human programmer or the AI application. AI could also bring about issues of artistic appropriation, which is the practice of borrowing existing art to use

⁴¹ Ranie, L., Funk, C., Anderson, M., & Tyson, A. (2022, March 17). 1. how Americans think about artificial intelligence. Pew Research Center: Internet, Science & Tech.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2022/03/17/how-americans-think-about-artificial-intelligence/>

⁴² Melin, M. (2016, January 30). Here's what actually caused the 2010 “Flash crash.” Business Insider.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/what-actually-caused-2010-flash-crash-2016-1>

⁴³ The role of data science and AI in financial decisions. Intellect Data. (2022, May 4).

<https://intellectdata.com/the-role-of-data-science-and-ai-in-financial-decisions/>

it for a new work of art. With this particular issue, an AI system could also borrow cultural products.

However, it's hard to determine if culture has been appropriated if there is no particular owner of that cultural content. To give an example, FN Meka (an AI-generated visual artist by the visual artist management company Factory New) has been reported to be an “amalgamation of gross stereotypes, appropriative mannerisms that derive from Black artists, complete with slurs infused in lyrics.”⁴⁴ Moreover, if AI-generated art is for commercial purposes, it can be hard to determine if the human programmer didn't generate it to profit from another culture.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently urged states to create policies surrounding the regulation of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) by at least 2026.⁴⁵ Alongside the advancement of AI, the pressure to implement policy surrounding LAWS only rises, and the following years will shape the foundations of global policy on this issue. Zachary Kallenborn, an expert on WMDs and drone swarms, detailed how LAWS changed warfare by removing the human element. Currently, LAWS are usually strictly used for tactical defense purposes. However, systems such as loitering munitions and drone swarms show that the offensive capabilities of LAWS are on the horizon. If LAWS were to achieve their desired qualifications, they could drastically drive down the cost of warfare.⁴⁶

Additionally, the previously mentioned threat of “flash crashes” in the financial sector also manifests as ‘flash wars’ or ‘hyper wars’ in warfare. AI can potentially transform the decision-making process in warfare to the point where it can make critical decisions instantly. Chen Hanghui, from the PLA's Army Command College, stated, “In the future battlefield, with the continuous advancement of artificial intelligence and human-machine integration technology,

⁴⁴ “Ai Rapper Fn Meka Dropped by Capitol over Racial Stereotyping.” BBC News, August 24, 2022.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-62659741>.

⁴⁵ Jones, I. (2023, July 20). UN secretary-general calls for New International Law to regulate and prohibit killer robots by 2026. Stop Killer Robots.

<https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/un-secretary-general-calls-for-new-international-law-to-regulate-and-prohibit-killer-robots-by-2026/>

⁴⁶ Christ, K. (2021, November 23). Swords and shields: Autonomy, ai, and the Offense-Defense Balance. Georgetown Journal of International Affairs.

<https://gija.georgetown.edu/2021/11/22/swords-and-shields-autonomy-ai-and-the-offense-defense-balance/#:~:text=i%20another%20question.-,Current%20autonomous%20weapons%20have%20typically%20been%20used%20for%20tactical%20defense,a%20particular%20piece%20of%20territory.>

the pace of combat will become faster and faster until it arrives at a “singularity”: The human brain will no longer be able to handle the ever-changing battlefield situation and must give up most of the decision-making power to highly intelligent machines.”⁴⁷ The microdecisions typical of warfare would no longer be guided by humans, leading to the risk of these aforementioned ‘flash wars’ that rapidly increase the pace of war. Additionally, with such precise decision-making and technology, explaining simple errors will likely lead to skepticism. In 2006, a family living in Baiji, Iraq, was killed by a US military-guided munition strike due to a mechanical error; however, this incident was met with skepticism due to the advanced capabilities of these munitions.⁴⁸ Policy surrounding fault for mistakes by AI has been quite difficult to procure due to the variability in potential instances of mechanical mistakes. When tragedy strikes, and an error is made, who is to blame, and will it be possible to know if a mistake was intentional or not? The previously mentioned target of 2026 for regulations on LAWS is not just benchmarks for policymakers but deadlines to prevent such catastrophes.

Past Actions and Partnerships

The United Nations and other organizations have repeatedly addressed AI and its ethical uses in society. Committees and conventions discuss the benefits and costs of AI and the limits of its services for humanity. Some issues and topics discussed involved AI and its role in military and autonomous weapons systems, labor, and the court of law.

The United Nations sought to use AI to serve the people and positively impact the environment and ecosystems. The United Nations system provided principles to ensure the ethical use of AI so that AI would benefit society. There are ten principles: not harm; defined purpose necessity and proportionality; safety and security; fairness and non-discrimination; sustainability; right to privacy, data protection and data governance; human autonomy and oversight; transparency and explainability; responsibility and accountability; inclusion and participation.⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Scharre, P. (2023, February 28). “hyperwar”: How ai could cause wars to spiral out of human control. Big Think. <https://bigthink.com/the-future/hyperwar-ai-military-warfare/>

⁴⁸ Field, M. (2020, September 30). When AI is in control, who’s to blame for military accidents? Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. <https://thebulletin.org/2020/10/when-ai-is-in-control-whos-to-blame-for-military-accidents/>

⁴⁹ High-Level Committee on Programmes. 2022. “Principles for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the United Nations System.” In , 1–6. United Nations System.

Advocacy Director Mary Wareham delivered a statement to the Convention of Conventional Weapons (CCW) on lethal autonomous weapons systems. Wareham stated that Human Rights Watch supports countries adopting a “legally binding instrument on autonomy in weapon systems.”⁵⁰ Rather than human input determining how weapon systems set targets, sensory processing should be involved with weapon systems selecting targets. Almost every Latin American and Caribbean country promotes the Belén Communiqué. This third joint statement discusses the concerns of autonomous weapons systems that lack human control. The CCW is holding back the process of finding an alternative agenda because the CCW lacks boldness, inclusiveness, and ambition.

AI is making its way through the workforce. Areas of work where AI is progressing include architecture, medicine, and music. There is increasing concern that AI will lead to high rates of unemployment. United Nations DESA’s Department Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD) has resolved that AI is not yet ready to take over the workforce.⁵¹ AI helps advance innovations and be skillful in completing tasks, making labor easier; however, AI must become more adaptable and multiskilled for it to take over completely. Technology is on track to create jobs by increasing productivity and creating new markets. However, less developed countries cannot access the same technology and advancements as first-world countries, which makes inequality between countries that cannot be left unchecked. Adapting to an increasingly technology-led world has been and will continue to be a difficult task for policymakers at the global level.

The use of AI in the courtroom is a serious discussion, as human rights are at risk. AI violates people’s rights, including privacy, health, and expression. Michelle Bachelet, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, stated, “The higher the risk for human rights, the stricter the legal requirements for the use of AI technology should be.”⁵² AI misuse has unlawfully wronged people in the past. The United Nations pushes for boundaries between AI and the law.

⁵⁰ Wareham, Mary. 2023. “Statement to Convention on Conventional Weapons GGE Meeting on Lethal Autonomous Weapons System,” March.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/03/06/statement-convention-conventional-weapons-gge-meeting-lethal-autonomous-weapons>

⁵¹ Department of Economic and Social Affairs. n.d. “Will Robots and AI Cause Mass Unemployment? Not Necessarily, but They Do Bring Other Threats.” United Nations.

⁵² Human Rights. 2021. “Urgent Action Needed over Artificial Intelligence Risks to Human Rights.” UN News. United Nations. September 15, 2021.

Bloc Positions

Some of the top 10 most funded countries for AI include China, the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, and India.⁵³ With more extensive funding, AI technology advances and developments will be rapid and surpass countries with less funding. China and the United States are two of the main competitors in the AI race. The increasing competitiveness has led to massive technological advancements, with each country trying to use AI for economic growth and military potential. The European Union is also at the top of the race but is still focused on ethical and secure uses of AI.⁵⁴

Japan agrees with the United States and the United Kingdom's approach to AI regulations, which includes softer AI rules and regulations, giving scientists more freedom for research and development. Japan's approach contradicts the European Union, which is focused on AI regulation and placing strict AI rules to ensure countries are not unethically using AI. The chair of the Japanese government's AI strategy council, The University of Tokyo's Professor Yutaka Matsuo, stated that the European Union's rules of AI are "too strict."⁵⁵ The European Union has tried convincing Japan and other Asian countries to create stricter AI regulations but has yet to be successful.

The United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Singapore are all founding members of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI). GPAI allows countries to collaborate on AI research and identify critical issues. GPAI aims to understand AI impacts and encourage safe and responsible developments.⁵⁶ Additional members of GPAI include Brazil, Denmark, and Israel.

There are other steps countries are taking for international cooperation. The European Union and United States Trade and Technology Council's Working Group of AI Standards released a [Joint Roadmap on Evaluation and Measurement Tools for Trustworthy AI and Risk](#)

⁵³ Market Trends. 2022. "Funding and Investments! AI Investments by Top 10 Countries." Analytics Insight. May 3, 2022. <https://www.analyticsinsight.net/funding-and-investments-ai-investments-by-top-10-countries/>.

⁵⁴ Castro, Daniel, McLaughlin, Michael, Chivot, Eline. 2019. "Who Is Winning the AI Race: China, the EU or the United States?" Center for Data Innovation. August 19, 2019. <https://datainnovation.org/2019/08/who-is-winning-the-ai-race-china-the-eu-or-the-united-states/>.

⁵⁵ Nussey, Sam, Kelly, Tim. 2023. "Japan Leaning toward Softer AI Rules than EU, Official Close to Deliberations Says." Reuters. July 3, 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/japan-leaning-toward-softer-ai-rules-than-eu-source-2023-07-03/>.

⁵⁶ n.d. "The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence." GPAI. <https://gpai.ai/>.

Management in December 2022.⁵⁷ This roadmap aims to establish inclusive cooperation, advance technology, and monitor existing AI technology.⁵⁸ The OECD developed the Framework for the Classification of AI Systems to allow countries to evaluate AI systems from a “policy perspective.”⁵⁹ The initiatives still need to go through numerous processes before implementation, but the initiatives allow countries to come one step closer to international cooperation.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer (QARMAs)

- 1) How can countries ensure responsible AI development while balancing economic growth, innovation, and ethical considerations?
- 2) What measures can be taken to promote international collaboration in AI research, particularly among the founding members of GPAI and other countries?
- 3) How can countries navigate the challenges of building public trust in AI technologies, given concerns about transparency, accountability, and potential bias?
- 4) What regulations can countries adopt to govern AI-generated content, copyright issues, and attribution in fields such as art and culture?
- 5) What role should governments play in regulating AI in the military and the development of autonomous weapons? How can potential risks be mitigated?
- 6) How can countries ensure that AI technologies are used responsibly and ethically in the judicial system while upholding principles of fairness, due process, and human rights?
- 7) What role should AI play in the workplace, and how should policymakers work to provide support for job displacement?
- 8) How will an increased reliance on AI technologies shape the global economy? How does this affect financial markets?

⁵⁷ Habuka, Hiroki. 2023. “Japan’s Approach to AI Regulation and Its Impact on the 2023 G7 Presidency.” CSIS. February 14, 2023. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/japans-approach-ai-regulation-and-its-impact-2023-g7-presidency>.

⁵⁸ 2022. “TTC Joint Roadmap on Evaluation and Measurement Tools for Trustworthy AI and Risk Management .” December 1, 2022.

https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2022/12/04/Joint_TTC_Roadmap_Dec2022_Final.pdf.

⁵⁹ 2022. “OECD Framework for the Classification of AI Systems.” OECD. February 2022.

<https://www.oecd.org/publications/oecd-framework-for-the-classification-of-ai-systems-cb6d9eca-en.htm>.

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“A CALL FOR ACTION IN UNCERTAIN TIMES”