**Forum:** Security Council (SC)

**Issue:** Implementing Measures for the Transparency, Accountability, and Oversight of AI Systems

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# Introduction

With the discovery of the benefits artificial intelligence can offer to improve the United Nations' systems, the organization has successfully incorporated it into its operations. However, as advanced a system AI is, its liabilities are still prominent, and when left unsupervised, can become detrimental to the future functionality of the organization. Thus, their concerns have shifted from whether AI should be managed to how it should be managed. It is one of the United Nations' top priorities to ensure that the AI incorporated into their operations is not only functional, but compatible and compliant with human rights, and artificial intelligence's transparency, accountability, and oversight are three of the core factors that determine this competency. This document aims to present the measures the UN has undergone to align AI with the preservation of human rights and ethical mechanics, and to raise feasible actions that can be taken to sustain these ethics and goals the organization wishes to accomplish.

# Definition of Key Terms

**Transparency**

The degree to which artificial intelligence can be understood, namely understanding their operations, decision-making reasons, and algorithms.

**Accountability**

The concept that those involved in the development, design, and deployment of artificial intelligence are held accountable for any negative outcomes that may result.

**Oversight**

(also known as human oversight) The supervision of the design, development, and deployment of artificial intelligence by humans to minimize its chances of violating fundamental human rights.

# General Overview

Artificial intelligence has fused itself in various aspects of human interactions and societal facets. Comparatively for the United Nations, AI has unequivocally brought numerous improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization's systems. In spite of this, however, the UN also recognizes the grave dangers AI poses to peace, security, and human rights through its innate characteristics of creating bias and producing unexplainable results. By way of addressing AI's opacity and autonomy, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) took the first steps in acknowledging the ethical concerns AI raises through the formulation of the world's first globally-recognized AI ethics standard in 2021. This publication created a network from which subsequent reports and agendas were produced to further support delegations in maintaining transparency, accountability, and oversight for AI. The most recent action taken with regards to AI comprehension and regulation was earlier this 2024 with the release of a report addressed to all members proposing consensual findings and suggestions for future artificial intelligence governance.

# Major Parties Involved

**France**

- France's stance on artificial intelligence accountability and oversight is aligned with both the UN's general opinion and the French legislature. The 1978 Act, known as the Act on Information, Technology, Data Files and Freedoms, decrees that automated data processing cannot be the sole determinant of verdicts, acknowledging the need to take responsibility for technology and to supervise its products;

- The delegation has also spoken regarding the ethical adoption of AI during the Security Council's Arria-formula meetings. On December 19, 2023, representative Alexandre Olmedo shared the country's affirmations in a responsible, law-respected approach to developing and adopting AI;

- France also hosted the UNESCO Policy Dialogue on AI Governance in June 2024, a hybrid-platform discussion of plausible means through which an ethics-oriented AI system can be globally formulated;

- France's acknowledgement of AI through its own legislations, collaboration with UN agencies, and statements deems the delegation a prominent endorser of measures to enhance AI transparency, accountability, and oversight.

## Timeline of Key Events

| Date | Description of Event |
|------|----------------------|
| November 2021 | UNESCO creates the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. It is with the production of the Recommendation that the Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory commences its work. |

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| **July 2023** | The Policy Brief on A New Agenda for Peace is published, consisting of recommendations to Member States on how to prevent AI from disrupting their nation's peace and security. |
| **October 2023** | The Secretary-General assembles the High-level Advisory Board to formally create guidelines solely targeted at international AI governance. |
| **December 2023** | The Advisory Body publishes the Interim Report by product of accelerated collaboration with thousands of experienced AI stakeholders. This report outlines the benefits of AI that can be leveraged, the risks that AI poses with respect to the UN's values and those internationally, and the urging of necessary principles to navigate AI comprehension and discipline. |
| **September 2024** | The final report "Governing AI for Humanity" is endorsed by the Advisory Body, consisting of consensus-agreed findings, analysis, and recommendations on how AI should be approached with respect to the potential risks the technology poses. |

# Previous Action Taken

1. During the Security Council's session on July 18, 2023, Secretary-General António Guterres urged the Council to uphold accountability, oversight, and transparency of the

UN's AI systems. His remarks advised the Council to solemnly consider the factors that make AI a liability to security and peace and also gave light to various events and publications that will assist the Member States in the ethical adoption of AI;

2. Through the mandating of the Recommendation, UNESCO developed and introduced the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) on December 13, 2022. Through countries' answers to quantitative and qualitative questions regarding their nation's sectors, RAM measures the degree to which a country is prepared to ethically adopt AI and informs of the gaps that need addressing and the means through which it can be. On a global scale, RAM has aided UNESCO in providing the specific needs of the country to accomplish ethically-sound AI adoption;

3. In September of 2022, The Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) issued a summary of the Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory's ten core principles in regards to a human-rights-focused approach to ethical AI, and further enunciates the need for all delegations to adopt such principles in their own governments.

## Possible Solutions

1. **Publishing General AI Ethics Guidelines**

   Creating an outline of benchmark characteristics and qualifications that implemented AI should follow can ensure reliable and responsible AI production and integration;

2. **Endorsing Ethical AI**

   Announcing the creation and/or utilization of UN-standardized AI

   To encourage the use of human-rights-aligned AI, Member States that create and/or utilize AI to promote stronger country collaboration founded on ethical technology;

3. **Promoting Risk-reducing Techniques**

   Producing a variety of assessments and verification procedures that can be performed to encourage a firm understanding of the importance of creating and implementing transparent AI and to reduce the probability of operating rights-violating technology;

4. **Conducting Inter-Continental AI Testing**

   Hosting artificial intelligence system testings between two countries from different continents to ensure collaborative ethics checking between the delegations and to accelerate progress towards universal ethical AI governance.

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