



Security Council briefing on Artificial Intelligence and the Maintenance of International Peace and Security, 19 December 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
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President

I begin by thanking you for convening and chairing this high-level briefing on this highly topical issue. I also thank the briefers for their valuable insights.

The responsible development and use of AI require clear principles and international governance to uphold human dignity through ethical oversight and accountability. Ethical frameworks shared by all stakeholders are essential to safeguarding against harmful effects, including biases impacting marginalised groups.

Safeguards to mitigate risks during the design, development, and deployment of AI systems must be integrated, ensuring they do not undermine information integrity or exacerbate digital divides.



To ensure AI supports human dignity, ethical oversight must be embedded at every stage. National legislation should mandate principles like fairness, transparency, accountability, and gender equality while preventing discrimination. Human oversight must remain integral, preventing automated decisions from eroding individual rights. By prioritising safeguards, we can create systems that serve humanity while minimising risks.

With the advancement of AI, also in the military domain, it would be relevant, for the international community to reach consensus on the way forward on the discussions being held within the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons in Geneva, so as to have adequate regulation on autonomous weapons.

Decades of research in AI have underscored key lessons.



First, inclusive governance frameworks, such as UNESCO's AI Ethics Declaration, emphasise the importance of embedding ethical considerations into AI development. These frameworks ensure AI serves humanity without undermining it. Leadership from women in technology and governance is essential to ensure gender perspectives are included in AI development.

Second, prioritising human judgement in AI systems reinforces respect for rights and addresses biases affecting underrepresented communities.

Third, fostering transparency and accountability builds trust, ensuring alignment with societal values.

Finally, capacity-building and equitable, mutually agreeable technology transfer empower communities to benefit from AI advancements without compromising dignity.



Governing AI demands diplomatic efforts and consensus-building, as seen in the Global Digital Compact. Collaborative efforts establish best practices for testing, and help bridge digital divides and enhance security.

International cooperation should also prioritise capacity-building for developing countries. Empowering all states to participate in AI governance ensures fair representation and equitable access. The GA resolution on AI capacity adopted in July underscores the need for global collaboration aligned with the UN Charter and international law. Such collaboration should promote safe, trustworthy AI technologies while advancing peace, security, and development.

Member States can take proactive steps to foster a robust international AI ecosystem. Building consensus on ethical AI use and unified risk mitigation approaches is essential. The proposed Global Digital Compact office could enhance UN coordination, ensuring AI technologies respect human rights and support sustainable development.



Multi-stakeholder collaboration should remain central, incorporating perspectives from governments, private sectors, and civil society to uphold human dignity. Member States should prioritise equitable access to AI benefits by investing in data access and capacity-building initiatives. Establishing frameworks for cross-border regulation is crucial to mitigate risks like monopolisation and ensure fair competition. Public-private partnerships can bridge the technology gap for developing nations.

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Robust accountability frameworks and national policies aligned with human rights standards are essential to prevent potential abuses. Gender equality must be considered in military AI applications to protect women and girls in conflict zones.



Member States must strengthen safeguards against AI misuse, particularly in areas like surveillance and encryption. Independent oversight mechanisms can ensure that military applications of AI uphold global legal and ethical standards. By balancing AI capabilities with ethical use, we emphasise human oversight, transparency, and accountability.

In conclusion, President, the responsible governance and development of AI hinges on collaboration, ethical oversight, and adherence to international law. Let us work together to advance safe, trustworthy AI technologies that support peace, security, and development for all.

I thank you.