



Resource Guide

WFUNA International Model United Nations New York City 2024

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Intercontinental Times Square and The Westin Times Square

Security Council

Artificial Intelligence - Opportunities and Risks for International Peace and Security





Welcome to WFUNA International Model United Nations New York 2024.

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the United Nations in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the Organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and subsections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!





Topic Description

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is defined as the ability of machines and systems to acquire and apply knowledge, and to carry out intelligent behaviour. As we approach the Sixth Industrial Revolution, AI is becoming more accessible to the wider public and the rapid rate at which it is developing is causing some concern. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, has noted that — “while it took more than 50 years for printed books to become widely available across Europe — “ChatGPT reached 100 million users in just two months”.

Recognizing the potential for AI to transform societies in positive and negative ways, the Council recently convened a high-level briefing to discuss the impact AI could have on international peace and security and to promote its safe and responsible use. The ways in which AI can assist peacebuilding and the work of the UN in other areas is considerable. They include the potential to: improve conflict analysis, early warning and prevention efforts, support mediation and peacebuilding activities, help monitor ceasefires in real time and to improve the accuracy of mine clearance operations. It is also being explored by mediators as a tool that can be used to hold real-time consultations with a large group of individuals in local dialects and languages. Finally many experts have pointed out that it can help increase the pace of drug discovery by identifying chemicals, molecules and compounds that may best target specific diseases; help adapt to the worst effects of climate change by using AI to advance weather prediction; tackle corruption by allowing financial services companies to better identify fraudulent or corrupt activities; and provide a quality education for all through the development of personalised, adaptive and intelligent learning systems.

At the same time, experts warn that advanced AI systems can be misused in launching cyberattacks and in the design of weapons of mass destruction and lethal autonomous weapon systems that is also an emerging area of concern. Furthermore, its ability to create and distribute highly realistic manipulated imagery, video and audio at an unprecedented pace and scale can amplify mis- and dis-information that can be used against UN Peacekeeping Missions and negatively impact both global security and the United Nations itself if people are not able to believe what they see and read. A 2022 survey found that nearly half of all United Nations peacekeepers believe that mis- and disinformation threaten their safety and security and obstruct missions from conducting life-saving work.

There are three questions the Security Council needs to consider:



- How can Security Council members promote the safe and responsible development of AI to maintain international peace and security, while supporting the opportunities it brings for sustainable development?
- How can AI be used to enhance the United Nations peace and security?
- How can the Council better monitor and prevent the emerging risk that the development and use of AI could exacerbate conflicts and instability?





Official Resources on the Topic

- [Factsheet on AI and Peace and Security](#)
Summary: This document produced by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and funded by the Republic of Korea, seeks to provide an overview of Artificial Intelligence and its impact on peace and security explores whether technology can in fact be neutral and how the use of AI can generate negative outcomes.
Published: 2023
- [Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Risks for International Peace and Security - Security Council, 9381st Meeting | UN Web TV](#)
Summary: This video documents a historic meeting of the United Nations Security Council, whereby the simulation's topic and theme was discussed in depth by the Council, civil society organisations and private stakeholders. The briefers provided important information on the topic.
Published: 2023
- [International Community Must Urgently Confront New Reality of Generative, Artificial Intelligence, Speakers Stress as Security Council Debates Risks, Rewards | UN Press](#)
Summary: This summary of the historic Security Council debate on Artificial Intelligence provides a more detailed summary of what was said by invited briefings and by Council Members at its 9381st Meeting highlighting the positive and negative impacts of artificial intelligence on international peace and security. In addition, this detailed briefing allows for us to see the perspective of civil society organisations and private stakeholders who hold a great deal of influence in the development of AI, including experts in the field such as Jack Clark and Yi Zeng. If you are not able to view the video in its entirety, this provides a summary of what was said by those present.
Published: 2023
- [Secretary-General Urges Security Council to Ensure Transparency, Accountability, Oversight, in First Debate on Artificial Intelligence | UN Press](#)
Summary: This Press Release contains a record of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks to the Security Council debate on artificial intelligence.
Published: 2023
- [Militarization of AI Has Severe Implications for Global Security and Warfare | United Nations University](#)



Summary: This postgraduate article written by Tshilidzi Marwala, draws attention to the growing need for effective governance mechanisms to manage the use of AI and mitigate its potential hazards.

Published: 2023

- [Promoting Responsible Innovation in Artificial Intelligence for Peace and Security](#)

Summary: The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) and the [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute \(SIPRI\)](#) have partnered for a three-year initiative on responsible innovation in artificial intelligence (AI) for peace and security. This webpage reports on relevant news and activities and makes available various educational and awareness raising material that ODA and SIPRI are producing or will produce for this initiative, including a podcast and blog post series. .

Published: 2023

- [UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence](#)

Summary: Prior to the Security Council's historic meeting, the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) published a comprehensive recommendation on the ethics of Artificial Intelligence to provide a universal framework of values, principles and actions to guide States in the formulation of their legislation, policies or other instruments regarding AI that was consistent with international law and to ensure that ethics is embedded in all stages of the AI system life cycle

Published: 2021





Official Statements/Documents issued by Member-States

Statements

- [Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Risks for International Peace and Security - Security Council, 9381st Meeting | UN Web TV](#)

Summary: This video documents a historic meeting of the United Nations Security Council, whereby the simulation's topic and theme was discussed in depth by the Council, civil society organisations and private stakeholders. The Council members provide important information on their positions on this topic.

Published: 2023

- [International Community Must Urgently Confront New Reality of Generative, Artificial Intelligence, Speakers Stress as Security Council Debates Risks, Rewards | UN Press](#)

Summary: This summary of the historic Security Council debate on Artificial Intelligence provides a more detailed summary of what was said by invited briefings and by Council Members at its 9381st Meeting highlighting the positive and negative impacts of artificial intelligence on international peace and security. In addition, this detailed briefing allows for us to see the perspective of civil society organisations and private stakeholders who hold a great deal of influence in the development of AI, including experts in the field such as Jack Clark and Yi Zeng. If you are not able to view the video in its entirety, this provides a summary of what was said by those present.

Published: 2023

- [Briefing on Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Risks for International Peace and Security | Switzerland's Seat in the Security Council 2023-2024](#)

Summary: This statement by Switzerland delivered during the Security Council's historic debate on AI, emphasises that, "it's in our hands to ensure that AI makes a difference to the benefit and not the detriment of humanity." The statement goes on to point out three ways we can ensure that AI is used to benefit peace and security while minimising the risks.

Published: 2023

- [Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Risks for International Peace & Security - Ghana Permanent Mission to the United Nations](#)

Summary: This statement by Ghana's Permanent Mission to the UN showcases the perspective of a developing country in the conversation on AI. Ghana's representative urged the development of frameworks that would govern AI for peaceful purposes.

Published: 2023



- [Remarks at a UN Security Council High-Level Briefing on Artificial Intelligence - United States Mission to the United Nations](#)

Summary: This statement by the representative of the United States, as one of the major investors in Artificial Intelligence, provides the perspective of a developed country on this issue. The statement points out that the United States proposed a political declaration on the responsible military use of AI, he said, and encouraged all Member States to endorse this declaration and stressed its willingness to work with a range of actors to ensure the responsible development of AI for the public good.

Published: 2023

- [United Nations Security Council Session on Artificial Intelligence: Foreign Secretary's Speech - GOV.UK](#)

Summary: In this statement delivered during the historic Security Council meeting on AI, the UK Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, points out that AI could enhance or disrupt global strategic stability, challenge fundamental assumptions about defence and deterrence, and poses moral questions about accountability for use of lethal weapons on the battlefield. He also outlines the UK's 4 principles upon which its vision for AI is founded.

Published: 2023

- [Statement by Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj on Artificial Intelligence for Social Justice: Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for All](#)

Summary: In this statement delivered during an ECOSOC meeting, we get to learn about the Indian perspective on Artificial Intelligence, in which they outline how India is using AI to achieve social justice in the healthcare, agriculture and education sectors.

Published: 2023

Documents

- [A Pro-Innovation Approach to AI Regulation - GOV.UK](#)

Summary: This policy white paper presented to the UK Parliament by the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology & the Office of Artificial Intelligence details how the UK intends to support innovation in the use of AI while providing a framework to ensure that risks are identified and addressed, using an approach that will foster a faster and rapid development in safe and controlled fashion.

Published: 2023

- [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Takes New Steps to Advance Responsible Artificial Intelligence Research, Development, and Deployment | The White House](#)



Summary: This press statement by the White House, outlines its efforts to advance the research, development, and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) in a responsible manner that protects individuals' rights and safety. This fact sheet also includes hyperlinks to the detailed plans and reports that further explain these efforts.

Published: 2023

- [Position Paper of the People's Republic of China on Regulating Military Applications of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#)

Summary: With China being one of the major players in the conversation of AI, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of China to the United Nations has distributed this position paper to document their stance on the issue. Noting wide applications of AI in various fields, this statement emphasizes China's widespread concerns regarding the risks of military applications and even weaponization of AI.

Published: 2021





Official Statements/Documents issued by Intergovernmental Organizations, Regional & Political Groups, Permanent Observers to the UN

AI-3/5: On peace and security, parliaments must keep AI in check

In 2002, the UN General Assembly granted permanent observer status to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, along with the right to circulate its official documents. This article outlines IPU position on AI and the risks it poses for peace and security.

Published: 2023





Official Documents about the situation in UN Regions or Member-States

Non-Official Resources about the Topic

- [The Role of AI in Cybersecurity: Opportunities and Challenges](#)

Summary: This blog post by Jonathan Neenan examines the challenges associated with using AI in cybersecurity that touch on the potential for bias as a result of the algorithms that are used, the challenges in troubleshooting and debugging AI algorithms, the problems associated with stopping or preventing cyber attacks, and the legal and ethical concerns that are raised by the use of AI, such as privacy and data protection issues.

Published: 2023

- [Disinformation 2.0 in the Age of AI: A Cybersecurity Perspective](#)

Summary: This journal article by scholars from Poland, the United States and the United Kingdom stresses that we are entering an era where disinformation will become more targeted and personalised, its content indistinguishable from genuine content, and its creation and dissemination further accelerated by AI. To combat these developments, the authors outline the new countermeasures that need to be followed to address these AI supported advances in the dissemination of disinformation, and the possible steps to take now to combat the negative advancements that can be implemented with the use of AI in this form.

Published: 2023

- [AI Applications for Security, Peace and Justice - The Netherlands AI Coalition](#)

Summary: The Netherlands AI Coalition created this resource as a firm stance on what they believe should be done when it comes to the use of AI for their national safety and security. The working group aims to make the Netherlands one of the leaders in human centric AI for security, peace and justice.

Published: 2022

- [The United Nations is Turning to Artificial Intelligence in Search for Peace in War Zones](#)

Summary: This landmark article by Dalvin Brown showcases how stakeholders in Libya and Yemen have used an AI-powered chat service to tell the international body how they would feel about issues, and in so doing gives us a real-life example of AI technology helping with peacekeeping operations.

Published: 2021



- [The Application of Artificial Intelligence for Peacekeeping — The Security Distillery](#)

Summary: This article by Hendrik A. Palisgh, on the Security Distillery website focuses on the potential for AI tools to support peacekeeping operations in three areas: general military tasks, conflict prediction, and specific tasks carried out during a peacekeeping operation.

Published: 2019

- [What Do We Do About the Biases in AI?](#)

Summary: This article written in the Harvard Business Review by James Manyika, Jake Silberg, and Brittany Presten starts to tackle the discussion surrounding the possible risk that algorithms embedded in AI systems have of inherently creating biases that can result in the discrimination of various minority groups, and how these biases can be possibly counteracted.

Published: 2019





Non-Official Resources about Member-States or UN Regions

- [Which Countries are Leading the AI race? - InvestGlass](#)

Summary: This blogpost written by InvestGlass allows us to have a comprehensive outlook on what countries have been leading the charge in the AI industry, and therefore those who have a vested interest in the matter for what is now being coined “The AI Arms Race”.

Published: 2023

- [AI for All: How India is Carving its Own Path in the Global AI Race](#)

Summary: As one of the major players in the AI industry, India has made a lot of strides in making AI systems more accessible to the wider public. One of the unique contributions India is making to the development of AI is in the area of language technology. India’s unique need for language tech, given the hundreds of languages that are spoken in India, is driving innovation and social change. This could be helpful to peacekeeping missions around the world when communicating with the local populations that are protecting.

Published: 2023

- [Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Conflict - New Perspectives on Shared Security: NATO's Next 70 Years - Carnegie Europe \[Full Report for Download\]](#)

Summary: This report focuses on how AI will transform the battlefield from the perspective of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In addition, it examines how biases and discrimination inherent in AI, the management of sensitive personal data, and malicious online behaviour will change societies in ways that are only beginning to be understood.

Published: 2019

- [Artificial Intelligence and Its Future Impact on Security](#)

Summary: Testimony given by Dr. Tim Sweijts, from the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, for the European Parliament subcommittee on Security and Defense on Artificial Intelligence and Its Future Impact on Security. It discusses what AI is and what it is not, as well as AI activities in security and defence, with a particular focus on the United States, China and Russia. It is a very good report on the positive and negative impacts of AI.

Published: 2018



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