# Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM)

## **Topic B:**



Enhancing international cooperation on capacity building of artificial intelligence

### I. Introduction

Advancements in AI present both opportunities and challenges. AI is a transformative technology able to revolutionize several sectors including education, healthcare and economic growth. On the other hand, this new technology raises social, ethical and economic concerns. However as the technology advances rapidly, so does the disparity in AI capacity building between countries (Correa).

Due to factors such as inadequate infrastructure, a shortage of workers with the needed skills and limited financial resources, developing countries don't have the same opportunities as developed countries to develop capacity building of artificial intelligence. This is one of the challenges of the development of AI.

As we progress to a more technologically advanced world we need to address the divide in AI capacity building between developing and developed countries. By strengthening global

collaboration to develop and improve skills, infrastructure and regulatory frameworks we can ensure effective and ethical use of AI and improve capacity building of AI across countries while also ensuring its secure and ethical development.

#### II. Definition of key terms

- International cooperation: the collaborative efforts between countries to address global challenges and achieve common goals (Science Direct).
- Artificial Intelligence (AI): technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy (Stryker).
- **Capacity Building:** the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world (United Nations "Capacity Building").
- **Financial resources:** the funds and assets that finance an organisation's or country's activities and investments (University of York)
- Developing countries: a country with a relatively low standard of living, undeveloped industrial base, and moderate to low Human Development Index (HDI) (Educational Pathways International).
- Developed countries: A sovereign state that has a highly developed economy and advanced technological infrastructure relative to other less industrialized nations (IGI Global).

- Infrastructure: The physical structures, facilities, networks and other assets which provide services that are essential to the social and economic functioning of a community or society (UNDRR).

#### **III. Background information**

The need to enhance international cooperation on capacity building of artificial intelligence became more prominent due to the advancements in AI technologies, which further increased the disparities in AI capabilities between countries. This divide between countries is mainly due to resource disparities. The development of AI requires substantial resources. The required resources include skilled workers, advanced infrastructure and significant financial investment. These resources are not available to many developing countries which results in a widening gap in AI development between nations. Due to these disparities, there is unequal access to Artificial Intelligence and its benefits which could lead to the exacerbation of global inequalities (United Nations General Assembly)

For an effective AI system, high-quality data is crucial, however access to such relevant and diverse datasets is often limited. Such limitations, found particularly in developing regions, can hinder the development of robust AI technologies. Through the promotion of data governance frameworks and through support for inclusive datasets, we can lead to an increasing equitability in AI development. Another factor crucial to the development of artificial intelligence technologies is skills. Investment in training and skill development through education and training programs to build local expertise in artificial intelligence can enable all countries to develop and manage AI technologies independently, closing the divide in AI development. Furthermore, we need to address the ethical considerations of the integration of AI, such as ensuring fairness, protecting privacy and maintaining transparency. By addressing these concerns guidelines and franworks responsible use of artificial intelligence can be developed, ensuring that these technologies are aligned with ethical standards and human rights (UNESCO "Ethics of Artificial Intelligence").

Although awareness and initiatives to enhance capacity building of AI have increased, challenges still persist. AI capacities are concentrated in a few countries and certain nations still face significant challenges in accessing crucial AI tools. To enhance capacity building of AI, international cooperation can play an important role in reducing these disparities through the sharing of resources, provision of technical assistance and promotion of inclusive policies.

#### **IV. UN Treaties/Historical Events:**

On the 25th of November 2021, UNESCO's member states adopted the <u>UNESCO's</u> <u>Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence</u>, the first global standard on the ethics of AI. at the General Conference. This global standard-setting instrument defines values and principles to guide the creation of legal infrastructure needed for a healthy development of AI. The Recommendation provides answers to unprecedented challenges of new artificial intelligence technologies, such as increased gender and ethnic bias, threats to privacy, dignity and agency. It aims to reduce risks entailed in the use of AI and that the digital transformations promote human rights in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The main points of the Recommendation is the banning of social scoring and mass surveillance, helping to monitor and evaluate how ready Member States are in terms of legal and technical infrastructure and emphasis on the use of resource and energy-efficient AI methods (UNESCO "UNESCO member states adopt")

On the 1st of July 2024, during its 78th session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution <u>A/RES/78/311 on "Enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building of artificial intelligence"</u>. This resolution, sponsored by the People's Republic of China. addresses the digital divide and divide in AI development and aims to enhance international cooperation on capacity building of artificial intelligence in order to harness the benefits of AI and accelerate the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The resolution promotes safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development while addressing the malicious use of AI as a threat to state security and human rights. Furthermore, it considers the challenges faced by developing countries and the so-called Global South in accessing tools for enhancing capacity building of AI. Considering these challenges, the resolution aims to bridge the AI and other digital divides within and between countries and enhance international cooperation on capacity building in developing countries (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean).

On the 5th of September 2024 the Council of Europe opened for signatures the <u>Framework Convention on artificial intelligence and human rights, democracy, and the rule of</u> <u>law</u>. This is the first international legally binding treaty with the aim to ensure the consistency of AI systems with human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The treaty provides legal frameworks that cover the entire life-cycles of artificial intelligence systems, promoting AI progress while also managing risks it may pose (CAIDP).

#### V. Main Issues:

#### Bridging the AI Capacity Gap

Developing countries often lack infrastructure, resources and expertise needed for an effective development and implementation of artificial intelligence systems. Disparities are becoming more evident with the rapid advancements in AI development. Developing countries continue to face challenges in keeping pace with the fast development of artificial intelligence (United Nations. "Deputy Secretary-General's message)

#### • Data Accessibility

Access to high-quality data for AI systems is often limited, particularly for developing countries. Such limitations challenge the development of AI technologies as quality data is essential for training effective AI systems. This disparity further hinders the ability of developing countries to implement, develop and benefit from AI solutions (United Nations General Assembly)

• Ethical Considerations in AI Development

AI development has the potential to violate human rights including privacy infringements and discrimination. Therefore, it is important to integrate ethical principles in all stages of AI development to respect and protect human rights and state law (Correa)

#### **VI. Possible Solutions:**

Enhancing international cooperation on capacity building of artificial intelligence is essential in order to ensure equitable access to artificial intelligence systems and their benefits. Potential solutions include:

- Establishing international standards and policies for ethical development of AI to promote a responsible use of AI that protects human rights and state law
- Facilitating access to open datasets and resources related to AI through collaborative data and service infrastructures to close the gap between developed and developing nations
- Investing in education, capacity-building initiatives and training to build AI literacy and ensure that all countries can benefit from AI. This includes the training of AI professionals and providing support for research and innovation of artificial intelligence
- Enhancing digital infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, which is necessary to enable effective use of artificial intelligence
- Developing international frameworks to prevent the misuse of AI and address security and safety concerns

#### VII. Works Cited

CAIDP. "Council of Europe opens first ever global treaty on AI for signature (5 September 2024)." *caidp.org*, 5 Sept. 2024,

www.caidp.org/resources/coe-ai-treaty/?utm\_source=chatgpt.com.

Correa, Carlos M. "The United Nations Call to Enhance International Cooperation for Capacity-Building on Artificial Intelligence." *WWW.SOUTHCENTRE.INT*, South Center, 22 Aug. 2024, www.southcentre.int/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SV273\_240822.pdf.

Educational Pathways International . "WHAT IS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY." educational pathways international.org,

www.educationalpathwaysinternational.org/what-is-a-developing-country/. Accessed 8 Jan. 2025.

IGI Global. "What is Developed Country." *ig-global.com*, www.igi-global.com/dictionary/developed-country/48917. Accessed 8 Jan. 2025.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. "UN General Assembly adopts Resolution on International Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence." *pam.int*, 9 July 2024, pam.int/un-resolution-artificial-intelligence/.

Science Direct. "International Cooperation." *sciencedirect.com*, www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/international-cooperation#:~:text=International%2 0cooperation%20refers%20to%20the,of%20capital%20and%20good%20governance. Accessed 8 Jan. 2025.

Stryker, Cole. "What is artificial intelligence (AI)?" *ibm,com*, IBM, 9 Aug. 2024, www.ibm.com/think/topics/artificial-intelligence.

UNDRR. "Definition: Critical infrastructure." undrr.org,

www.undrr.org/terminology/critical-infrastructure#:~:text=The%20physical%20structures%2C% 20facilities%2C%20networks,of%20a%20community%20or%20society. Accessed 8 Jan. 2025.

UNESCO. "UNESCO member states adopt the first ever global agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence." *unesco.org*, 25 Nov. 2021,

www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artif icial-intelligence?utm\_source=chatgpt.com.

UNESCO. "Ethics of Artificial Intelligence." unesco.org,

www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics?utm\_source=chatgpt.com. Accessed 7 Jan. 2025.

United Nations. "Capacity-Building." *un.org*, www.un.org/en/academic-impact/capacity-building. Accessed 8 Jan. 2025.

United Nations. "Deputy Secretary-General's message to the High-Level Meeting on International Cooperation on Capacity-building on Artificial Intelligence [as prepared for delivery]." *un.org*, 25 Sept. 2024,

www.un.org/sg/en/content/deputy-secretary-general/statement/2024-09-25/deputy-secretary-gene

rals-message-the-high-level-meeting-international-cooperation-capacity-building-artificial-intelli gence-prepared-for-delivery?utm\_source=chatgpt.com.

United Nations General Assembly. "Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 July 2024." *documents.un.org*, documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/197/26/pdf/n2419726.pdf. Accessed 7 Jan. 2025.

University of York. "Financial resources: what are they and how are they managed?" *online.tork.ac.uk*,

online.york.ac.uk/financial-resources-what-are-they-and-how-are-they-managed/. Accessed 8 Jan. 2025.