



GMUNC X

United Nations Economic and Social Council

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Addressing the Impacts of Artificial Intelligence and Automation on the Workforce

Letter from Chair:

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Economic and Social Council of Gunn Model United Nations 2023! In this committee, we will explore the role Artificial Intelligence has played and what actions we can take to help shape our society for the better.

GMUNC welcomes delegates of all skill levels, and a review of standard parliamentary procedures will take place at the beginning of the committee. Make sure you are contributing to the committee and collaborating with other delegates as it may be the first MUN conference for some delegates. We encourage you to consider your delegation's stance through plenty of research and think about potential plans you would like to discuss throughout the conference. Most importantly, we hope you have a fun and engaging experience as well.

Delegates must be prepared to compromise and face challenging discussions in these unprecedented and urgent times. If you have questions regarding how to write your position paper, conference information, or any general questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at gmuncecosoc@gmail.com

Sincerely
Lily Ogawa
Eason Lu

Meet your Chairs:

Lily Ogawa:

Lily Ogawa is a senior at Gunn High School and is beyond thrilled to be serving as your chair this year. She has been in MUN since seventh grade and has previously chaired GMUNC IX as well as other MUN conferences in Japan. Outside of MUN, she is in debate and mock trial club. She also loves to binge-watch Netflix shows!

Eason Lu:

Eason Lu is a sophomore at Gunn High School and is excited to be serving as vice-chair this year. He has been participating in MUN for three years and is extremely interested in international laws. Outside of MUN, he is professionally trained and certified in emergency management and first aid.

Introduction

GMUNC will be held in person on **October 21st**. For more information about the conference, please visit the GMUNC website at **gmunc.weebly.com**. Delegates can find guidelines for position papers at the website. The deadline for the position papers is **October 14th, 2023**. Any submission before the due date is eligible for all awards given out by the conference. **October 20th** is the deadline for position papers in order to be considered for any committee awards (not research awards). If delegates are in need of an extension for position paper deadlines, would like to submit their position papers, or have questions or concerns, please contact: gmuncecosoc@gmail.com

Background

While the term artificial intelligence was coined in the 1950s by John McCarthy, the rapid development of AI only came decades after in the 1980s when funding for the sector significantly increased. In the 2010s, there was a breakthrough in the industry when NASA launched the Mars rover and Apple developed Siri. In the next few years, the public interest in AI grew with the first humanoid robot named Sophia becoming the first citizen created by Hanson Robotics. Since this time, there have been more advancements in the technology. Now, more and more countries have started integrating AI into the workforce as AI has opened doors for new opportunities. In the healthcare sector, AI was essential in optimizing covid vaccines by modeling every gene combination to find the best result. AI has also helped clean up nuclear waste more efficiently by assessing each situation in detail. Because AI solves some of the inefficiencies in the workforce, it can cut down time and increase the quality of the work done.

On the other hand, AI has also raised concerns, especially in the education sector with ChatGPT. ChatGPT is an autonomous chatbot, capable of answering the same question differently every time. Because of its ability to provide different answers, some people have raised concerns that students can get away with plagiarizing AI's work.

Additionally, many have voiced concern about using AI in the military sector. Several countries have developed lethal autonomous weapons, known as killer robots, and used them in wars. Some argue that killer robots dehumanize wars as, for now, AI cannot experience feelings.

The main criticism of integrating AI into the workforce is the impact it can have on people's jobs. The McKinsey study estimates that about 400 to 800 million jobs could be fully automated, leaving millions to lose their jobs and pushed to change industries. Other studies

argue that there will be a net gain of jobs as a new market opens up. Furthermore, there is also a concern about bias. Artificial intelligence algorithms are racist and sexist; this is because the AI uses historical data that can be discriminatory. For instance, studies indicate that Amazon's resume process is sexist. The AI almost always recommended men because they "penalized resumes that included the word 'women's' as in 'women's chess club captain,'" according to Reuters. Cases such as Amazon depict the need for AI to improve, especially if they are to be used in our daily lives.

While there is potential for AI improvement, these cases highlight the dangerous side of the technology. Thus, there is an urgent call for the adoption of an AI framework in each country; there is no doubt that the introduction of AI will change people's lives.

Past UN actions

While no major U.N. resolutions have passed yet addressing AI, there have been U.N. initiatives. ECOSOC has opened up forums to address the potential of artificial intelligence in developing vaccines. The UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination has also addressed the benefits and issues of AI on society in its sessions. In one of the sessions, they approved the “United Nations system-wide strategic approach and road map for supporting...development on artificial intelligence” (CEB). This focuses on the funding of AI especially in emerging countries.

In November 2021, UNESCO adopted *the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, which is a non-binding guideline for the potential regulations on AI that member states can implement. This Recommendation encourages the involvement of the private sector to help oversee and monitor the usage of AI. Additionally, recently in 2022, the Chief Executives Board supported the *Principles for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the United States System*.

Despite the move towards regulating AI, there have been some drawbacks. For instance, U.N. talks on banning lethal autonomous weapons have failed to reach a conclusion as many countries disagree on the matter. While 125 nations such as China have urged a ban or new regulations to be introduced, the U.S., Russia, the U.K., and other countries have opposed it in the discussion of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Overall, the U.N. is still in the early stages of addressing Artificial Intelligence. While countries have discussed new frameworks, there is no worldwide consensus on how AI should be regulated. Some have emphasized the importance of AI as a stepping stone to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Current Situation

AI is a fast-evolving technology with great potential to make workers more productive, to make firms more efficient, and to spur innovations in new products and services. At the same time, AI can also be used to automate existing jobs and exacerbate inequality, and it can lead to discrimination against workers. While previous technological advances in automation have tended to affect “routine” tasks, AI has the potential to automate “non-routine” tasks, exposing the workforce to potential disruption. The challenge for policymakers is to foster progress and innovation in AI while shielding workers and consumers from potential types of harm that could arise.

AI's impact on the workforce can be categorized into the following categories:

Automation and Job Displacement:

AI's main impact on the workforce is the automation of “non-routine” tasks. As AI technologies advance, they can perform tasks that were previously reserved for humans, leading to concerns about job displacement. Routine and repetitive jobs, such as data entry, assembly line tasks, and some customer service roles, are particularly susceptible to being replaced by AI-driven automation. For example, almost all phone call-based customer service reception has been replaced by AI. In some areas, however, rather than outright replacing human workers, AI is increasingly being used to augment human capabilities. AI systems work alongside humans to enhance productivity, decision-making, and creativity.

AI and related Job Creation:

While AI's automation capabilities can lead to job displacement, it also opens up new opportunities. AI has contributed to the rise of new job roles, such as AI specialists, data scientists, machine learning engineers, and other positions that focus on developing, maintaining,

and optimizing AI systems. However, it is important to note that AI's potential goes beyond just executing specific tasks programmed by humans. With enough training and sophisticated algorithms, AI can develop the ability to learn and understand the world by themselves. This concept of artificial general intelligence (AGI), machines that possess human-like cognitive capabilities, leading to groundbreaking advancements in various fields.

Ethical Considerations mainly Bias in AI training:

Ethical considerations, particularly those related to bias introduced in AI training, have worsened as artificial intelligence continues to impact various aspects of our lives, particularly in the workplace. The potential benefits of AI in streamlining processes and enhancing productivity are undeniable, but it is crucial to address the ethical concerns that arise alongside its implementation. One major ethical concern in AI training is the issue of data privacy. As AI systems process vast amounts of data to make informed decisions, the privacy of individuals can be compromised. This raises questions about how organizations and companies should collect, store, and use data, and whether they are transparent with users about how their information is being utilized. Another critical aspect of ethical AI training is transparency. AI algorithms are often complex and difficult to understand, making it challenging for individuals affected by AI-based decisions to grasp the reasoning behind those choices. Lack of transparency can create mistrust and uncertainty, especially when AI is involved in critical decision-making processes like determining loan approvals or job applications and even college admissions. Another ethical concern is currently AI is prone to hallucination and can provide made-up information that sounds preservative, which can lead to catastrophic consequences, especially in the legal and translation fields where wording and objective truth is critical.

Job Satisfaction and General Well-being:

AI has both short term and long term impact on job satisfaction and general well-being, in the short term AI can assist many workers in their jobs and can potentially automate some non routine tasks, it can also help them come up with more ideas. However in the long term as AI technology becomes more and more well developed the fear of job loss due to being replaced by AI will overshadow all the benefits that AI brings to the workforce.

Economic Impact in General:

AI has significantly transformed economies worldwide, its impact will be felt through increased efficiency, productivity, and innovation in all economic sectors. AI has shown its ability to automate non-routine tasks, leading to reduced operational costs. In the services sector, AI-powered applications have enhanced customer experiences through personalized recommendations. Moreover, AI's data analysis capabilities have allowed businesses to gain valuable insights into their customers. Despite these benefits, there are concerns about job displacement due to automation and the need for changing and educating the workforce to adapt to the rapid development of AI. Overall, AI's economic impact is profound, its unique ability has impacted labor markets, and business models while presenting both opportunities and challenges for societies worldwide.

Goals for committee

The goal of this committee is to address the social, economic, and political impact that the rapid development of AI will have on society with a specific focus on the impact of the workforce and the rippling effect. Delegates are also expected to maintain their perspective and policies throughout the committee; they should work together to create a universal guideline for

countries to address the recent rise of AI. Regardless of whether countries should restrict or soften the regulations on AI, delegates should keep in mind the different conditions each country faces, specifically the digital divide that separates the global south and north.

Questions to Consider

1. How will the widespread adoption of AI affect employment rates across different industries in your country?
2. What are the potential advantages and disadvantages of AI and automation that could affect productivity, efficiency, and economic growth?
3. Knowing the effect of AI and automation on productivity, efficiency, and economic growth, is it necessary to take any actions?
4. What policies or measures can be implemented to ensure a smooth transition for workers whose jobs may be displaced or affected by AI and automation?
5. How can governments and industries collaborate to reskill and upskill workers so that they can adapt to the changing demands in the job market?
6. What strategies should be adopted to promote inclusive economic growth and prevent inequalities arising from the wide adoption of AI and automation?
7. How can countries promote entrepreneurship and innovation in response to the rise of AI and automation, and how might this create new job opportunities?
8. How can governments and international organizations collaborate to create a global framework for the ethical use of AI and automation, ensuring transparency, accountability, and privacy protection?
9. How can a country balance privacy protection and the protection of “original work” and copyright?

Appendix-A Country's List

Afghanistan
Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Bangladesh
Belgium
Botswana
Brazil
Chile
China
Congo
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
India
Iraq
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Lebanon
Mauritania
Nigeria
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Serbia
Somalia
South Africa

Sweden
Switzerland
Togo
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Vietnam
Zimbabwe

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