BACKGROUND PAPER:

United Nations Economic and Social Council

Regulating the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Information

Introduction:

The idea of artificial intelligence has to start with the definition, AI: “Artificial intelligence refers to computer systems that can perform complex tasks normally done by human-reasoning, decision making, creating, etc.” this is the identification of AI from NASA. AI’s impact can now be seen everywhere: it has placed its name in our schools, jobs, governments, and even popular culture. AI is now appearing in everyday life and as we begin to rely more and more on the newest models like ChatGPT and Veo 3, information becomes foggy and in the worst cases misleading or fictitious.

Background & History:

The framework for the modern technology of Artificial Intelligence was laid in the 1940s and 50s as many scientists and neurologists began to delve deeper into the workings of human intelligence. New ideas about the science of the human mind, combined with the first mathematical computing systems like those of Alan Turning, lead researchers to ask questions like “can a computer play chess?” This question ossified in the minds of the yet to form computer science community and by 1955 a group of collegial researchers had coined the term *Artificial Intelligence*.

As the 1960s and 1970s passed, so did new achievements and a flurry of papers in the computing field. The ELIZA program, developed by Joseph Weizenbaum at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1965 marked the creation of the first chatbot. In 1970, WABOT-1, the first anthropomorphic robot (a robot to display human-like behavior) was developed in Japan’s Waseda

University and in 1972, MYCIN was developed by Stanford University to help with bacterial detection.

New advancements in AI began to push bodies in the 1980s and 1990s. The conversating, organ playing, music interpreting WABOT-2 from Japan and a self-driving Mercedes-Benz in Germany sound like something out of a science-fiction novel but were created in 1980 and 1986 respectively. In 1995, Richard Wallace's A.L.I.C.E. becomes an advanced chatbot similar to the likes of the aforementioned ELIZA program but with new capabilities enabled by the new World Wide Web.

By the 2000s and 2010s AI was able to recognize and stimulate emotion (Kismet in 2000), read hand writing, and analyze images (ImageNet in 2012). Finally, in November of 2023 Openai released ChatGPT--the first Large Language Model (LLM)--speaking a massive surge in AI research in development. Within a short period of time competitors in the tech industry like Google and Meta released similar models (Gemi and Meta AI respectively), not to mention the fact that nations like China have begun state lead efforts to respond to the success of American LLMs and chatbots (thus leading Deepseek).

Now, in 2025 humanity has come to an impasse; should society let this new technology flourish and expand exponentially with little to no restrictions or should states and international bodies regulate its roll out and expansion?

Current Status & The Problem:

As you can see, AI is currently affecting all aspects of our daily lives. For example, we see this in schools where the usage of AI is affecting students' ability to learn or comprehend information. According to Harvard 51% of people from 14-22 used AI at some point and 4% of that group say they use it daily. Outside of school the same demographic of students say that they use it in music, art, and code-writing, again showing the growth of AI.

On the other hand, AI is growing into cultures and norms, changing facts about a person's identity or even coming up with a completely new likeness. AI's impact can be seen in popular media as well. This space is where it is able to

generate seemingly realistic videos or where it generates its own “art”. This change affects the originality of a person's work and solidifies one's self doubt about where a source of information can come from, causing that person to dissociate credit where credit is due and become more unsure about all sources of media and information they come across.

Committee Mission:

The mission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council is to submit to the General Assembly an outline of basic regulations and laws regarding the usage of AI. All while being able to keep stable relations with current allies and current relations between strained countries, along with growing solidarity on the approach with restrictions on AI.

Questions to Consider:

1. What are possible ways to counter AI misinformation and disinformation?
2. How do we regulate a self-aware entity which impacts the distribution of information?
3. What are the geopolitical impacts of AI’s use in our current governments and the ways in which citizens stay informed?

Additional Research:

https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/artificial-intelligence

https://www.nasa.gov/what-is-artificial-intelligence/

https://www.britannica.com/science/history-of-artificial-intelligence

https://www.gse.harvard.edu/ideas/usable-knowledge/24/09/students-are-using-ai-already-heres-what-they-think-adults-should-know

https://www.forbes.com/sites/gilpress/2016/12/30/a-very-short-history-of-artificial-intelligence-ai/