CONFERÊNCIAS de LISBOA
DA ASSEMBLEIA PARLAMENTAR DA OSCE

LISBON CONFERENCES OF THE OSCE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
20 May 2024   Assembleia da República, Portugal

SECURITY
IN THE AGE
OF ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE

CONCEPT NOTE

2nd Lisbon Conference of the OSCE PA on:

Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

20 May 2024, Lisbon, Portugal

INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence, commonly known as AI, refers to the simulation of human intelligence machines, enabling them to perform tasks that typically require human cognitive abilities. The rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have captivated the world, causing both excitement and alarm. The appeal of AI is connected to its capacity to revolutionize various aspects of modern societies, including security, healthcare, transportation, among others.
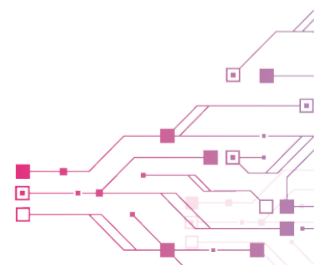
On one hand, the AI offers the promise of increased efficiency and productivity, as automation and optimization of tasks can streamline workflows and reduce operational costs. It holds the potential to address complex societal challenges, such as climate change, poverty, and healthcare disparities by providing solutions that were previously unattainable. Additionally, AI's appeal stems from its capacity to drive innovation and foster economic growth. By enabling the development of novel products, services, and business models, AI has the potential to create new markets, industries, and employment opportunities while driving productivity gains and competitiveness in the global economy.

However, despite the promise of significant societal benefits, this technological progress comes with inherent risks and challenges. The autonomous nature of AI raises ethical questions, such as the moral responsibility for AI-driven decisions and the potential bias encoded in algorithms. Its reliance on data collection and analysis exacerbates concerns about data privacy, surveillance, and cybersecurity and the rapid generation and dissemination of AI-generated content raise concerns about the authenticity of information, exacerbating challenges related to the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

On the other hand, as AI-power automation becomes more prevalent and AI algorithms become more sophisticated, they have the capacity to perform complex cognitive tasks that were once the exclusive domain of human workers. This raises serious concerns about the future viability of certain professions, leading to layoffs, unemployment, and economic insecurity for millions of workers worldwide. The latest IMF analysis[1] suggests that almost 40 percent of global employment is exposed to AI.

In other words, concerns regarding algorithmic bias, privacy infringement, job displacement, surveillance, disinformation, and the concentration of power in the hands of AI developers and tech giants need to be addressed through robust governance frameworks, ethical guidelines, and stakeholder engagement.

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[1] https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Staff-Discussion-Notes/Issues/2024/01/14/Gen-AI-Artificial-Intelligence-and-the-Future-of-Work-542379?cid=bl-com-SDNEA2024001

IMPLICATIONS ON SECURITY

Countries worldwide have been quick to recognize the potential of AI in bolstering their democratic processes. Several nations have embarked on ambitious initiatives to integrate AI into governance and public services. For instance, some governments have experimented with AI-powered decision support systems to analyze complex policy issues, aiming for more data -driven and evidence-based decision-making. AI's adoption in electoral processes has also seen notable progress. Some nations have explored the use of AI algorithms to detect and combat electoral fraud, ensuring the integrity of the voting process. Furthermore, AI-driven predictive analytics has been utilized to identify swing voters and target campaign messages more effectively.

Nevertheless, emerging AI-driven threats have transformed the security landscape. These include sophisticated cyberattacks, enabled by AI's ability to adapt, and evolve, as well as the ethical dilemmas surrounding autonomous weapons systems and instances of AI replacing human decision-making. Moreover, AI's capacity for amplifying disinformation campaigns and influence operations has become a critical concern. This not only erodes trust in democratic processes but also strains international relations, undermining the foundations of our global community. Privacy concerns also emerge prominently. Finally, AI-driven automation impacts climate change, disrupts labor markets and can lead to economic instability, which, in turn, may contribute to social unrest.
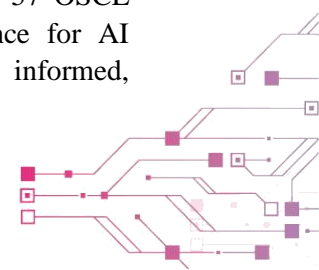
The urgency of comprehending and addressing these diverse security challenges is evident. It requires a global conversation and cooperative efforts to establish informed and responsible policies. That is why international cooperation and shared regulations to ensure global security and stability in this field are more important than ever.

POLICYMAKING

The emergence of AI technologies raises profound questions about the potential transformation of the power dynamic within society. If AI isn't properly regulated, the development and control of AI technologies by entities outside government oversight could potentially circumvent national interests and pose a threat to the governance and autonomy of states. This scenario could consolidate immense power and control in the hands of a few major private technology corporations, undermining the very essence of democratic governance. Therefore, it is imperative for policymakers to actively engage in this developing field and take decisive regulatory actions. Given the intricate and global impact of Artificial Intelligence, international co-operation in this regard is imperative. A unified approach is essential to formulate and implement effective regulations that address challenges and ensure ethical AI deployment.

Parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to navigate this complex regulatory landscape, drawing strength from international collaboration and their democratic mandate to steer AI's future development and utilization in a responsible and beneficial direction. They possess the authority to formulate and implement legislation that strikes a balance between harnessing AI's potential for societal benefit and mitigating its risks to security, privacy, and ethics. Ultimately, the development and use of AI should be guided by stringent ethical (rather than economic) considerations, governed by democratic (rather than corporate) processes and, fully subject to human control and the rule of law.

The OSCE PA provides a platform for parliamentarians from different countries to consult regarding shared security concerns arising from AI and promote greater convergence among the 57 OSCE participating States in terms of the development of global regulations and governance for AI technologies. Policymakers should draw upon their democratic mandate to develop informed, balanced, and forward-looking AI policies.

The AI has already maintained a prominent position on the OSCE PA agenda. The Winter Meeting held on 22-23 February 2024 extensively delved into this topic. The special debate within the 2nd General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, as well as the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism specifically focused on the security implications of AI, providing a solid foundation for upcoming deliberations. To effectively advance this discourse, it is imperative not only to recognize the enduring relevance of AI but also to enhance its significance on the agenda of participating States, building upon the groundwork laid in previous efforts.

Against this backdrop, the Parliamentary Conference on Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence seeks to convene parliamentary representatives, experts, and key stakeholders to facilitate informed discussions, knowledge exchange, and collaborative efforts with the aim to:

- Raise awareness about the profound implications of AI for the OSCE region and beyond.
- Foster an open dialogue and cooperation among policymakers and key stakeholders to identify legal, ethical, and human rights challenges associated with the deployment of AI.
- Explore sensible policy frameworks and new avenues for international cooperation to effectively harness the potential, and minimize the threats, stemming from AI technologies, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach within the OSCE framework.

Ultimately, the event's objectives converge on promoting a safer, more secure, and resilient future in the face of fast-paced technological advancements.

The Conference will start with an opening Session and will be followed by three thematic panels and the closing. A detailed programme of the Conference will be circulated in due course.

MODALITIES:

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