

Lisbon Conference of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on “Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence”

20 May 2024

HIGHLIGHTS



Lisbon, Portugal

Executive Summary

The second Lisbon Conference of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held on 20 May 2024, brought together around 170 participants, including 70 parliamentarians from 27 OSCE participating States, experts from academia, international organizations, and the private sector to explore the security impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and assess possible regulatory requirements in the OSCE region.

Organized by the Portuguese Parliament (*Assembleia da República*) and co-hosted by the OSCE PA, the conference proved instrumental in enhancing international parliamentary co-operation, promoting a greater understanding among lawmakers of AI, facilitating more harmonized approaches towards its governance, and sharing important lessons learned.

Divided into three thematic sessions, speakers addressed various aspects of AI, including its potential to impact democratic, economic and social processes, the risks it poses to privacy and civil rights, and the necessity for transparent and accountable AI systems. Participants discussed the development of independent monitoring mechanisms, how to best prevent AI misuse, and possible regulatory frameworks that support innovation and development while safeguarding security, democracy and human rights. Overall, participants concurred that AI development and use should be guided by ethical principles, aligned with human rights, subject to the rule of law and placed under human control.

Confirming the important role of legislators in shaping well-balanced regulatory frameworks, the debates underscored the need for comprehensive dialogue, targeted education, and growing digital literacy to prepare societies for an AI-driven future.

Ultimately, the conference built on previous OSCE PA deliberations in this field¹ and set the stage for continued discussions on AI governance and security, with relevant recommendations expected to inform the upcoming [OSCE PA Annual Session in Bucharest](#) (29 June - 3 July 2024).

Security Implications of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence presents several multifaceted security implications that require urgent attention. The rapid advancement of AI technologies introduces threats such as digital manipulation, disinformation, privacy and copyright infringements, as well as the potential for mass job displacement. Autonomous decision-making systems and brain-computer interactions add further complexity, raising ethical and safety concerns. The difficulty in ensuring accountability and transparency of AI algorithms undermines trust in AI systems and the institutions that deploy them.

¹[The Second General Committee Special Debate at OSCE PA Winter Meeting 2024 - “Artificial Intelligence: A Technological Breakthrough with Security Implications”](#); [The CCT Meeting at OSCE PA Winter Meeting 2024 - “Artificial Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism: A Double-edged Sword?”](#)

During the first session of the conference, titled *Understanding Artificial Intelligence and its Impact in the OSCE Region*, participants delved into these threats, emphasizing the challenge of establishing common standards at global, regional, and local levels while balancing innovation with safety. In addition to digital manipulations and disinformation, significant challenges include fraud schemes, copyright violations, and the potential misuse of AI in military operations, including nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

Concerns over the impact of AI on counter-terrorism were also highlighted. Swarming technology, which involves the co-ordination of multiple autonomous entities to achieve a common goal, has the potential to revolutionize the field of terrorism. When combined with weaponized drones, they can be used for co-ordinated attacks with unprecedented precision and scale. Moreover, immersive technologies present new avenues for training terrorists, radicalizing new individuals and conducting propaganda campaigns, which can easily be accessed and used by malicious actors.

However, AI also holds significant potential to enhance global security. During the second session on *Protecting Democracy and Promoting Development Through Artificial Intelligence*, discussions focused on AI's dual role in promoting transparency, accountability, and effective governance while mitigating risks such as corruption and social inequalities.

AI has the potential to lower expertise barriers by enabling non-experts to perform tasks that traditionally required specialized knowledge. Remarkably, AI-driven diagnostic tools in healthcare can analyze medical data with high accuracy, making expert-level healthcare accessible in areas with a shortage of specialists. This democratization of expertise fosters job creation and inclusivity across various sectors, driving economic growth and innovation. However, concerns about job displacement and inequality persist alongside the potential for AI to create new opportunities.

Artificial intelligence can also enhance democracy by making governance more efficient and transparent. It streamlines bureaucratic processes, helps evidence-based policy making and simplifies legal regulations. AI-powered platforms boost citizen engagement by facilitating communication with representatives and promoting more inclusive governance.

Furthermore, AI can both prevent and facilitate serious crime, such as terrorism and corruption. For instance, AI systems can analyze large datasets to detect anomalies and patterns indicative of criminal activities, such as irregular financial transactions or abnormal bidding patterns in public contracts. AI can automate and enforce compliance with regulations, reducing the opportunities for human intervention and manipulation that often lead to corruption. However, it can also facilitate corruption if misused. Corrupt individuals might manipulate algorithms or input biased data to serve their interests. AI can be used to create deepfakes, generate fake news, or automate sophisticated fraudulent schemes, highlighting the need for transparent regulatory frameworks to ensure it serves the public interest rather than increasing existing inequalities.

Several participants stressed that the United States and China are currently the main players in the AI field, with Europe lagging somewhat behind. Concerns were raised regarding the export of AI-driven surveillance systems by China, used to suppress democratic movements. Europe, despite its advanced regulatory frameworks and strong academic institutions, struggles to compete due to fragmented markets and limited investment into AI technologies.

Participants also discussed the potential for AI to increase existing biases and inequalities, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that everyone benefits from AI advancements. They highlighted the disparity in AI development and implementation between the global north and south, stressing the need for inclusive discussions that consider the perspectives and needs of less represented regions. Addressing these disparities is crucial to prevent AI from widening the gap between developed and developing areas and to ensure that the benefits of AI are shared equitably across the globe.

Ultimately, participants concurred that transparent and effective regulatory frameworks are instrumental in ensuring that AI serves, first and foremost, in the interest of the general public and of citizens' security.

Regulatory Efforts and the Role of Parliamentarians

Finding common standards for AI governance that balance innovation with safety is the real challenge. Participants emphasized that regulations should be targeted and well calibrated to promote responsible innovation and economic growth while preventing its misuse by states or private entities. Key principles for AI regulation include respect for human dignity, transparency, accountability, non-discrimination, and privacy protection. AI development, deployment, and use should be guided by ethical principles, aligned with human rights, subject to the rule of law and placed under human control.

In the third session on *Regulating Artificial Intelligence - The Role of National Parliaments*, participants explored the regulatory challenges surrounding AI. While a global agreement on AI regulation represents the ideal scenario, experts agreed that it is currently unrealistic. Instead, regional blocks like the EU should lead the way, maintaining an open dialogue with major AI developers in the United States and China to prevent geopolitical tensions. It is imperative to develop independent monitoring mechanisms and coherent policy frameworks to prevent AI from undermining democratic values and human rights.

The Council of Europe's Framework Convention on AI², the first international treaty in this domain, was highlighted as a significant step towards establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework. Negotiated by the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), this treaty aims to ensure that AI development and use respect human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, thereby emphasizing transparency, accountability, and ethical principles.

Moreover, the EU has recently adopted one of the world's first comprehensive regulations on artificial intelligence. The EU AI Act, enacted in March 2024, aims to ensure the safe,

² The convention was adopted on 17 May 2024 and is scheduled to be signed in September 2024.

transparent, and ethical development and use of AI technologies within the European Union. It categorizes AI systems by risk level, imposing bans and obligations accordingly. Generative AI models like ChatGPT must comply with transparency standards, and AI-generated content must be labeled. Scheduled to be fully applicable over the next 24 months, this Act marks a significant step in ensuring responsible AI development and use among EU member states.

Speakers stressed that the exponential pace of AI advancements requires regulatory approaches that are adequately flexible to quickly adapt to emerging needs. For this reason, digital literacy and education is paramount to prepare individuals for an AI-driven future. Several also stressed that a human-centered and bottom-up approach to AI regulation, ensuring the right for all to benefit from AI advancements, is necessary to harmonize innovation with security needs.

International co-operation is critical in this regard. Participants shared national experiences, highlighting the important role of national parliaments in navigating AI's regulatory complexities. The discussions underscored the necessity of synchronized efforts among key stakeholders to create a cohesive regulatory approach. Disparity in AI development and implementation between the global North and South was also stressed, advocating for more inclusive policies and dialogue.

Finally, participants commended the spearheading efforts of the OSCE PA in addressing the intersection of AI with security, expressing gratitude for the continued focus on this crucial issue. A strong emphasis on artificial intelligence in forthcoming policy guidance to be adopted by the OSCE PA at the 31st Annual Session - such as the draft Resolution of the [General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment](#), as well as the Supplementary Item sponsored by the [Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism](#) titled "AI and the Fight against Terrorism" - stands as a testament to this dedication.

Policy Focus

Key policy recommendations put forth by the conference participants include³:

- Enhance digital literacy among society at large.
- Increase transparency in AI-development and training data models.
- Safeguard copy and privacy rights.
- Enforce stringent data protection standards with effective legal remedies.
- Set-up open, free and dynamic AI-markets.
- Enforce legal accountability of AI.
- Clearly label AI-generated content online.
- Boost the quality and integrity of the data-sets on which AI operates.
- Foresee the possibility to appeal to humans in autonomous decision-making systems.

³ This list is not meant to be exhaustive of all the suggestions which have been voiced during the event, but merely indicative of some of the most frequent proposals.

- Co-operate closely at international level, for instance to regulate the use of AI in military context (e.g. automated weapon systems).
- Regularly monitor AI-related developments, for example through a dedicated Subcommittee under the aegis of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

09:30 – 10:00 OPENING SESSION

Paula Cardoso, Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE PA

Helga Maria Schmid, OSCE Secretary General (video-message)

Pia Kauma, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

José Pedro Aguiar-Branco, President of the Assembleia da República of Portugal

10:00 – 11:30 SESSION I: Understanding Artificial Intelligence and its Impact in the OSCE Region

Arlindo Oliveira, Distinguished Professor of Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), President of INESC

Jean-Marc Rickli, Head of Global and Emerging Risks at the Geneva Center for Security (on-line)

Moderator: **Gudrun Kugler**, Rapporteur of the OSCE PA General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

12:00 - 13:30 SESSION II: Protecting Democracy and Promoting Development Through Artificial Intelligence

Sarah Spiekermann, Chair of the Institute for Information Systems & Society at Vienna University of Economics and Business

Kristian Bartholin, Head of the Council of Europe Digital Development Unit, Secretary to the Committee of Artificial Intelligence

Irene Charalambides, OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption

Ricardo Baptista Leite, Chief Executive Officer at I-DAIR

Moderator: **Lucie Potuckova**, Chair of the OSCE PA General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

15:00 – 16:30 SESSION III: Regulating Artificial Intelligence - The Role of National Parliaments

Carlos Zorrinho, Member of the European Parliament

Thorhildur Sunna Aevardottir, Council of Europe's Rapporteur for the Opinion on the draft Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law

John Whittingdale, Head of the Delegation of the United Kingdom to the OSCE PA

Moderator: **Azay Guliyev**, Chair of the OSCE PA General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

16:30 – 17:00 CLOSING SESSION

Luís Graça, Deputy Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE PA

Roberto Montella, Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Paulo Rangel, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal

Marcos Perestrello, Vice-President of the Assembleia da República, Vice-President of the NATO PA

PRESS RELEASE

LISBON, 20 May 2024 – Governments, parliaments, and international organizations must enhance co-operation and develop robust, comprehensive policies to address the multifaceted challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), said participants today at the 2nd Lisbon Conference of the OSCE PA. Organized by the Portuguese Parliament (Assembleia da República) and co-hosted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the event aimed to raise awareness about AI's profound security implications, facilitate dialogue among policymakers and key stakeholders, as well as to explore effective policy frameworks and international co-operation avenues to mitigate AI-related threats.



Family Photo, Lisbon, 20 May 2024

The conference, titled “Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence,” brought together around 170 participants, including 70 parliamentarians from 27 OSCE participating States and numerous experts from academia, international bodies, such as the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, and the private sector.

"It is essential that Parliamentarians play a pivotal role in shaping AI policies that strike a balance between innovation and security, guided by ethical principles and democratic processes," said President Pia Kauma (Finland) in her opening remarks. "AI is a priority within our Assembly," she added, citing the recent debate of the OSCE PA General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment at the Assembly's Winter Meeting and the activities and discussions of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism.

José Pedro Aguiar-Branco, President of the Assembleia da República of Portugal, highlighted the need to stay ahead of AI's rapid advancements. "As profound changes unfold quickly across many domains of our daily lives, it is urgent that parliaments address this issue," he said. "The decision by the OSCE PA to dedicate the second Lisbon conference to 'Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence' underscores the significance of these questions in fulfilling the core mission of the OSCE: enhancing co-operative security by promoting democratic values, the rule of law, and sustainable development."

The opening session also featured a speech by Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE PA Paula Cardoso and a prerecorded video-message by Helga Maria Schmid, OSCE Secretary General.

The conference included three main sessions. Chaired by Gudrun Kugler (Austria), Rapporteur of the OSCE PA second committee, the first session delved into the threats stemming from AI, emphasizing the challenge of finding common standards at global, regional, and local levels while balancing innovation with safety. Concerns over digital manipulation, disinformation, privacy and copyright infringements, swarming technology, mass jobs displacement, autonomous decision-making, as well as brain-computer interaction were highlighted, urging the development of mechanisms for independent monitoring and coherent policy-making. Participants emphasized the need for a unified global approach to AI governance.



Lisbon Conference of the OSCE PA, Assembleia da República of Portugal, 20 May 2024

During the second session, chaired by Lucie Potuckova (Czech Republic), Chair of the OSCE PA General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions,

panellists and participants discussed AI's dual role in enhancing democracy and development while highlighting potential pitfalls. The debate focused on the need for coherent global regulations to prevent misuse of AI and uphold human rights, as seen in the recent Council of Europe's Framework Convention on AI - the first international treaty in this domain. They underscored the importance of transparency, accountability, education, and international co-operation to harness AI's benefits while mitigating risks such as corruption and inequalities. Participants praised the transformative impact of AI on healthcare but also raised concerns about surveillance and ownership, underscoring the need to ensure responsible AI use and safeguard democratic processes

Moderated by Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan), Chair of the OSCE PA General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, the last session explored the regulatory challenges surrounding AI. Participants and panellists examined the EU's approach, learnt more about the recently adopted Council of Europe's Convention, and shared national experiences. They highlighted the pivotal role of national parliaments in navigating AI's regulatory complexities, stressing the importance of adopting forward-looking regulations which need to be, and remain, fit-for-purpose in a world which is changing very fast. They advocated for a cohesive global approach, emphasizing the necessity for synchronized efforts among all key stakeholders.

The conference concluded with remarks from Portugal's Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Paulo Rangel, Deputy Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE PA Luís Graça, Vice-President of the Assembleia da República and Vice-President of the NATO PA Marcos Perestrello and OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella.

Montella highlighted the exceptional track record of the OSCE PA in addressing security implications of AI. "Looking ahead, we must recognize the need for continued dialogue and collaboration on AI-related issues within the OSCE framework, possibly also through the creation of new structures which can continue to explore and offer recommendations in this fast-evolving field," he said.

The Lisbon conference has set the stage for continued discussions at the OSCE PA's upcoming Annual Session in Bucharest, where recommendations in the field of AI governance and security are expected to be adopted.