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# STUDY GUIDE

United Nations General Assembly



**REGULATING THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF AI IN REGARDS OF  
THE DANGERS IT POSES TO HUMANITY**



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## 1.LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear delegates,

We are delighted to welcome you to the MegaMun's General Assembly. We hope to offer you a new and original experience, guiding you through our topic, which concentrates on the regulation of AI in military contexts.

Please make sure to be well prepared. You need to fully understand the topic in its depths, and you have to write a position paper. You will have to hand in your position paper by 11.59h on Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of January.

We're excited to see you all! In case you require any help, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Thomas and Elisabeth,

President and Vice-President of the General Assembly



## 2. INTRODUCTION

### a. To the committee

The United Nations General Assembly (GA) is the main policy-making organ of the United Nations Organization. The first session of the assembly was held in London in 1946, with 51 countries represented, although there are now 193 members represented.

The General Assembly is the only body of the UN, in which every member is both represented, allowed to vote and has an equal voice. It prides itself on the fact that all members have a platform to express their views and to contribute to international law, regardless of their size or economic strength.

While the GA exercises many functions, its main role is to discuss issues and make recommendations in the form of resolutions. There is a wide range of topics discussed each year in the annual GA sessions; peace, ensuring safety, economic development and human rights just being some of them.

### b. To the Topic

The rapid advancement of AI presents not only unparalleled opportunities for development and innovation, but also profound challenges and potential dangers, which are garnering significant attention at the level of global governance, like the United Nations General Assembly.

Peace, Justice and Strong institutions being one of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals, it is evident that the development of AI has to be regulated as quickly and precisely as possible, in order to protect humanity from potential harm.

Due to the fact that separate committees like the ILO or the HRC are discussing topics, focusing on unemployment and data protection, the GA will be concentrating on the militarization of AI and mainly be discussing the regulations concerning cyber warfare and espionage.



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## 3. HISTORY

Since the two world wars, enormous technological progress has been made; ever since then, people have been wondering about what would happen when „the machines take over “. How would they regulate their development? Think about Isaac Asimov’s famous „Three Laws of Robotics “, which were already introduced in 1942 and they very well might still apply. Said fear is also portrayed in movies like “The Terminator”, a 1984 science fiction blockbuster, where a “cybernetic” (basically a robot) kills a bunch of people (or something like that).

## 4. CURRENT SITUATION

Most people and lawmakers, uninformed and blind to the progress that had already been made, didn’t worry about the regulation of AI, in these past few years. Artificial Intelligence, which hadn’t got a lot of publicity before, has made the front pages almost daily, since the launch to the public of the very well-known chatbot “ChatGPT”.

Globally, the approach to regulating AI is diverse and very complex. While tech-moguls like Elon Musk are calling to the immediate regulation of AI and are insisting on its necessity, many others like Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg don’t agree; they see it as a limitation to creativity and human progress. Most countries are still in the early stages of developing comprehensive AI governance frameworks. However, the European Union has been at the forefront of this effort, and has already been proposing regulations focusing on transparency, accountability and protection of human rights. Said proposed AI Act is to become one of the first major legal frameworks regulating AI and emphasizing the regulation of high-risk AI.

### So, what is our problem?

While most countries are establishing their own, separate regulations, there remains a lack of unified international standards or agreements on AI governance. A severe lack of transparency poses challenges, especially given that there are no borders in digital technologies, and it raises the question if the development of AI should be more centralized.



## AI in warfare:

Currently, we are already witnessing drones being used in the Ukraine war. These drones are equipped with everything necessary to build entirely autonomous weapons, they are also capable of navigating the battlefields independently and attacking targets with no human input. While this already seems unbelievable to some, these drones are just the beginning of AI in warfare.

AI will revolutionize warfare and the emerging competition in technological advancement in this sector is unregulated and lacks definite boundaries and safeguards.

The militarization of AI will drastically change warfare and has severe implications for global security. Military capabilities are improved due to quicker factual analyses, just like AI-powered autonomous weapons lead to more precision in targeting and operating without human intervention, which could lessen the danger to soldiers.

Nonetheless, this progress brings about concerns over increased conflict intensity, the risk of autonomous weapons being hijacked or misused, and the potential for a competitive escalation in AI military technology.

Regulating the militarization of AI is fraught with challenges. AI's swift evolution and its intricate nature pose a challenge for regulatory measures to keep pace. Furthermore, achieving international agreement is tough; effective regulation demands a consensus among countries, which is complicated by differing national interests. Additionally, the dual-use characteristic of AI technologies, serving both civilian and military purposes, further complicates attempts at regulation.

## AI in espionage:

AI is increasingly infiltrating espionage, delivering more precise and efficient work than human spies and augmenting the work of secret services. It perfectly complements a world where decisions have to be based on vast datasets, in a matter of minutes.



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## POINTS TO CONSIDER

While writing the position paper, keep in mind the following points:

- Is your country in favour of regulating AI/ implementing laws that regulate AI?
- How do you envision regulating the development of AI? You have to be specific enough and answer the questions:
  - To what extend?
  - In which specific field? (Hint: it has to have something to do with cyber warfare or cyber espionage)
- Are any organizations already working on similar solutions?  
Could this work for you or even globally? You can use them as an example.
- **You have to represent your country's position, not your own!!! Be specific enough, other countries need to be aware of your position!!**

## 5. FURTHER READING

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20230601STO93804/eu-ai-act-first-regulation-on-artificial-intelligence>  
<https://unsceb.org/principles-ethical-use-artificial-intelligence-united-nations-system>  
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<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/04/11/ai-arms-race-artificial-intelligence-chatgpt-military-technology/>



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## 6. APPENDIX

- a. Please keep in mind that delegations are expected to write a position paper, the deadline for which will be announced by the Secretariat. Moreover, do not hesitate to contact fellow delegates, as a certain extend of cooperation will be expected. Finally, would help ever be required, do not hesitate to contact the chairs. Our DMs on Discord are open to any and all questions.

b. **Sources:**

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