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Human Rights Committee

**“AI’s Progress over the Rights
of Individuals”**

Chairs:

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I- Context and historical background

The field of artificial intelligence (AI), which refers to work processes of machines that would require intelligence if performed by humans, is evolving rapidly and is poised to grow significantly over the coming decade. If it creates new opportunities in health, education, transportation, and economy, it drives as well inequality and divides communities about its impact on the human rights.

Indeed, there is a real fear that increased machine autonomy will undermine the status of humans. This fear is compounded by a lack of clarity over who will be held to account, whether in a legal or an ethical sense, when intelligent machines do harm.

It has already been the case on March 22nd, 2018 when an Uber self-driving car hit a woman who later died at the hospital in Arizona, USA. This example shows that AI has deprived a human being from his most fundamental right: the right to life.

But it is not the only human right implicated by AI: as human rights are interdependent and interrelated, it affects nearly every internationally recognized human right.

The rights discussed here are largely those embodied in the three documents that form the base of international human rights law, the so-called “International Bill of Human Rights.” This includes the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**, the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**, and the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)**.

However, some rights are more affected by this issue than others, such as:

- The right to liberty, security and equality before the courts (a fair trial) :

The growing use of AI in the criminal justice system risks interfering with rights to be free from interferences with personal liberty. One example is in recidivism risk-scoring software used across the U.S. criminal justice system to inform detainment decisions at nearly every stage, from assigning bail to criminal sentencing, that can sometimes be unlawful or arbitrary.

- The right to freedom of movement :

The potential for AI to restrict freedom of movement is directly tied to its use for surveillance. In systems that combine data from satellite imagery, facial recognition-powered cameras, and cell phone location information, among other things, AI can provide a detailed picture of individuals' movements as well as predict future location. It could therefore easily be used by governments to facilitate more precise restriction of the freedom of movement, at both the individual and group level.

- The right to freedom of expression, thought and religion

On the one hand, Internet companies that host content use AI to flag posts that violate their terms of service. A law recently passed in Germany requires social media sites to remove a wide range of content within 24 hours after it has been flagged (or up to seven days in cases that are less clear-cut). Because AI is imperfect and companies are pressured to take down questionable content so quickly, much of the content is removed in error, even if it can serve as the only evidence of horrific crimes and human rights violations, such as the videos on Syria removed from Youtube.

On the other hand, authoritarian governments can also use similar technology to increase censorship. For example, the Chinese government is already replacing some of its human censors with AI.

From a religious perspective, AI could also be used to identify and take down religious content. This would constitute a direct violation of freedom of religion if people are not able to display religious symbols, pray, or teach about their religion online.

- The right to non-discrimination

AI models are designed to sort and filter, whether by ranking search results or categorizing people into buckets. This discrimination can interfere with human rights when it treats different groups of people differently.

For example, in criminal justice, this discrimination is often the result of forms of bias. Use of AI in some systems can perpetuate historical injustice in everything from prison sentencing to loan applications.

II- Key words and Term

Artificial Intelligence: AI is a growing set of autonomous and self-learning algorithms capable of performing tasks it was commonly thought could only be done by the human brain.

Machine Learning: ML is a sub-field of AI and is basically the ability of a machine to “learn” or improve in performance over time on some task.

Deep Learning: it is an artificial intelligence function that imitates the workings of the human brain in processing data and creating patterns for use in decision making.

III- Questions to consider

- Should the rights of individuals be favored by limiting the power of machines to evolve on their own, or should the progress of AI be favored over the rights of individuals?
- Can we accept collateral damages for the development of this technology?
- How can we manage to conciliate AI's progress with protecting the human rights?

IV- Bibliography

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