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Human Rights Committee

"The Right to Privacy Threatened by AI"

<u>Chairs</u>:

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I. Context and Historical Background

Artificial Intelligence is the capacity of a machine to imitate intelligent human behavior. It appeared in the 1950s and has exponentially evolved. Nowadays, AI is progressing rapidly and is more topical than ever. There is a possible future in which artificial intelligence drives inequality, inadvertently divides communities, and is even actively used to deny human privacy. Acknowledging the importance of innovation and bearing in mind the astonishing amounts of money invested in research by governments, it is absolutely obvious that AI will shape the global future.

Social actors that regularly utilize AI, such as government agencies and corporations, are now in the position to identify, profile, and directly affect the lives of people without their consent. With the emergence of increasingly sophisticated artificial intelligent systems, the abilities to collect, analyze, and combine vast quantities of data from different sources, have increased. The potential impact of AI on privacy is then immense, which is why it is imperative to raise awareness on these issues.

Indeed, privacy is a fundamental right that is essential to human dignity, reinforcing the rights to freedom of expression and association. Many governments and regions do now recognize a fundamental right to data protection that can even be considered a part of the right to privacy within the UN human rights system.

Moreover, people are generally unaware of how much data their software and devices generate, process, and share. And as we become more reliant on digital technology in our everyday lives, the potential for exploitation will only increase. Al can be utilized to identify, track and monitor individuals whether they are at work, at home, or in public places. This means that even if your personal data is anonymized, once it becomes part of a large data set, an Al can reveal this data based on inferences from other devices. From another perspective, government surveillance has expanded with the growth of the internet and the development of new technologies, and AI is enabling more invasive surveillance tools than ever.

For example, although no fully centralized government facial recognition system is yet known to exist, China's work toward installing more CCTV cameras in public places and centralizing its facial recognition systems shows that this could soon change. In the U.S., half of all adults are already in law enforcement facial recognition databases.

Consequently, as some countries are already involved with this issue, the UN must find a solution that fits to the majority of the countries' policies worldwide.

II. Key Words and Terms

Artificial Intelligence: Al 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.

Privacy: Privacy is the power to seclude oneself, or information about oneself, in order to limit the influence others can have on our behavior.

Open Data: Data that is freely available for everyone to view, use, share, and re-publish without restrictions.

III. Questions to Consider

- Should we limit and/or deprive human beings from their right to privacy in order to maintain their security through AI ?

- Can we manage to have AI in our lives while preserving our privacy?

IV. Bibliography

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