

Hilton 2019

General Assembly

Committee Overview

The General Assembly's primary function is to debate, discuss, and make recommendations regarding international peace and security, disarmament, human rights, international law, and other international issues. Delegates participating in this committee should strive to collaborate with other nations in order to address the issues at hand and work to prevent it from occurring again in the future.

The General Assembly (GA) runs Harvard Style which simply means that resolutions cannot be written until the start of the committee itself. Delegates possessing resolutions written outside of committee will not be considered for awards. Furthermore, the chairs strongly suggest that each delegate comes to committee having written at least one position paper, as a minimum of one paper is necessary to be considered for an award. However, all delegates should remember that Model UN is not a competition and receiving an award should not be a delegate's main priority. Delegates should focus on working to solve the issues at hand while cooperating with other nations to achieve the committee's goals.

Committee Description

Regulating the Militarization of Artificial Intelligence

Debt Bondage in Sub Saharan Africa

Economic Repercussions of Venezuelan Emigration

Misuse of Private Data by Social Media Corporations

Chairs

Maheen Ahmed | maheena456@gmail.com

My name is Maheen Ahmed and I am a senior at Mercy High School. This is my second time chairing and I have been a part of Model UN since freshman year. Along with being the president of Model UN at my school, I play volleyball for both Mercy and several club teams, play viola, volunteer, and coach. I am so excited to meet all of you and have so much fun in committee. Feel free to email me anytime with any questions or concerns or just to say hi! Good luck delegates!

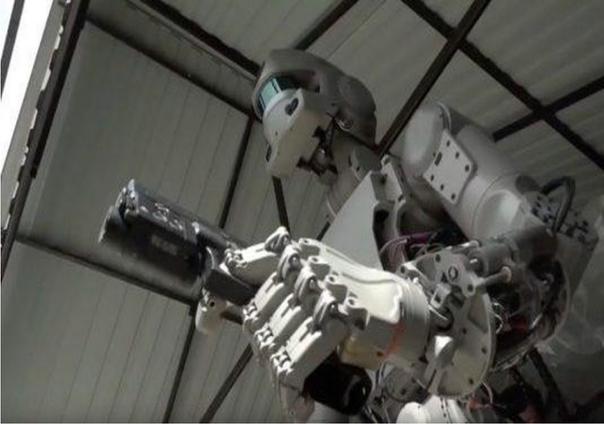
Andrew Guo | andrew.guo126@gmail.com

My name is Andrew Guo, and I'm currently a junior at Brighton High School. I've been in Model UN ever since I started paging, and I'm excited to be chairing for my first time. Outside of MUN, I participate in Science Olympiad, compete with Brighton's Speech and Debate team, and help edit my school's newspaper. I also play the violin and ultimate frisbee. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me anytime. I'm looking forward to an awesome committee!

Hilton 2019

General Assembly

Regulating the Militarization of Artificial Intelligence



As technology plays an increasingly fundamental role within our society, new discoveries and innovations are being made on a daily basis. While many of them have revolutionized the face of our earth, the creation of artificial intelligence continues to stand out as one of the most prominent developments.

A rapidly growing field of technological research, artificial intelligence gives machines the ability to learn from experience. In an effort to unlock its full potential, governments have started to implement artificial intelligence into a number of areas, one of them being the advancement of military technology.

Since artificial intelligence has the potential to significantly enhance operations such as training simulations, surveillance systems, and data processing programs, countries over the past several years have taken greater lengths to integrate this technology into their military fabrics. Currently, countries are focused on using artificial intelligence to automate combat missions as well as bolster and optimize weapon development.

Despite the potential benefits that could arise, the militarization of artificial intelligence has also raised many issues and concerns. Politically speaking, the assimilation of artificial intelligence into government-funded military could upset the delicate balance of power between countries by providing some nations distinct advantages over others. As it proliferates, the instability that it could spread could also become the fuel for future escalations within international tensions, propelling the world into another Cold War reality.

While the militarization of artificial intelligence is still in its earlier phases, nations like Russia, the United States, and China, have already started testing newly-built autonomous weapons and have already drafted plans to divert more funds towards developing this area within their militaries. For instance, at least two Chinese regional governments have pledged since 2017 to invest more than \$15 billion into reaching goals surrounding artificial intelligence, including for military purposes.

Although the UN has attempted to control the proliferation of militarized artificial intelligence in the past by calling on member states to take measures such as banning lethal autonomous weapons systems, some nations are refusing to place these restrictions. Given the potent nature of this issue and the consequences that could arise, people must quickly address this issue from an inclusive and global perspective in order to effectively tackle this matter.

What long-term framework should be instituted by the United Nations to prevent the further militarization of artificial intelligence? To what extent should the United Nations restrict the militarization of artificial intelligence? How will the United Nations be able to effectively implement these measures without infringing on national sovereignty?

Sources:

<https://www.politico.eu/article/killer-robots-overran-united-nations-lethal-autonomous-weapons-systems/>

<https://thehill.com/opinion/technology/433603-robocop-the-ai-race-and-ethics-of-creating-killer-robots>

<https://towardsdatascience.com/the-ai-arms-race-in-2019-fdca07a086a7>

Hilton 2019

General Assembly

Debt Bondage in Sub Saharan Africa



Although the common form of slavery known to many has been abolished for many years, there are other forms of forced labor, known as modern slavery that are detrimental to human rights. Debt bondage, also known as debt slavery, is the promise of forced labor in return for someone's services, and often the repayment measures are not always clearly or reasonably stated. Although often many offer their work in exchange for services, they then become stuck in a cycle of poverty, and are forced to remain

there with no definite end, it then becomes a form of debt bondage. Due to the lack of regulation, there is an abundance of control over the laborers, sometimes making the laborer dependent on their "owner" for their daily needs while also being faced with violence and mistreatment.

Debt bondage is not a rare occurrence. According to the International Labor Organization, over 8.1 million people are specifically bonded to labor illegally across the world. In Sub-Saharan Africa specifically, there is no reliable estimate to the number of bonded laborers due to the lack of resources. However, the most recent estimate puts the number of enslaved people close to 4 to 6 million.

In many of these nations, the wages for many workers are so small that they must take out a loan from their employers which they are often unable to pay, placing them at increased risk for debt bondage that is very common in the area. Due to many women and young girls being unskilled, debt bondage often leads to forced prostitution in which these women and girls face illegal confinement, forced labor, rape, physical assault, and many more abuses in order to merely pay off their debt or even in order to obtain food.

In 2016, the United Nations Special Reporter on Contemporary Forms of Slavery presented a report regarding debt bondage, bringing it to the attention of many nations. However, due to the lack of reliable sources and control over the area, effective action has not been taken yet in order to resolve the detrimental issue at hand. Although there is increased awareness, debt slavery continues to have a detrimental affect on the people in Sub Saharan Africa. Without proper action, human rights will continue to be violated, which will delay certain area's development, and have a detrimental effect on a global scale.

What measures can be taken to decrease the number of people experiencing debt bondage? Can preventative measures be taken to ensure that modern slavery can be avoided? How can measures be implemented in undeveloped areas without infringing upon national sovereignty?

Sources:

<https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/bonded-labour/>

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20504&LangID=E>

<https://www.antislavery.org/special-rapporteur-prompts-un-member-states-action-debt-bondage/>

Hilton 2019

General Assembly

Economic Repercussions of Venezuelan Emigration



Emigration has been common in many areas of increased tension, specifically Venezuela. The socioeconomic and political crisis in Venezuela has led to a massive emigration from the nation. It is estimated that since the beginning of the crisis 2 million Venezuelans, over 6% of the country's population, have emigrated to other countries including Colombia, Trinidad, and other Latin American and European nations. Although many countries want to help these immigrants, they are experiencing detrimental economic repercussions due to this mass emigration.

In many of these nations, specifically bordering nations like Guyana and Colombia, there have been significant effects of Venezuelan emigration. In Colombia alone, over 4,500 Ven-

ezuelan immigrants arrive every day, with a majority of them attempting to find permanent residence in the country. Many are in need of resources and come to the country malnourished and suffering from diseases that were thought to be eradicated in the area.

Venezuelan emigration has differed from that of other nations like Syria due to the fact that these nations do not receive modern well-fare, schools, or medical assistance for these refugees, making the effect on the economy of these nations that much more drastic. Many are without healthcare and are entering nations in which the resources are already limited. This creates issues when it comes to supplies and money in the areas. Due to the fact that only 40% of the refugees in these nations are enrolled in schools, the unemployment rate has increased, creating more economic repercussions.

With the assistance of the United Nations Agency for Refugees, along with a few other organizations, the issue has begun to be addressed. The agency was able to help the emigration issue and helped many of these nations grow economically. However, this merely addresses the short term issue for care of the refugees and the assistance for the nations suffering detrimental effects from the emigration. There continues to be a lack of resources and increased violence due to escalating tensions within Venezuela. Due to this, economic stability is at risk in many of these nations.

What measures can be taken to help maintain economic stability while also properly caring for the emigrants? How can the United Nations create a long term solution for the nations to properly deal with massive emigration? Is it possible for the United Nation to address the cause of massive emigration without infringing on national sovereignty?

Sources:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2018/02/20/587242391/venezuelas-deepening-crisis-triggers-mass-migration-into-colombia>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/02/1033361>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/world/wp/2018/03/02/feature/i-cant-go-back-venezuelans-are-fleeing-their-crisis-torn-country-en-masse/?utm_term=.1bd4bcf4954c

Hilton 2019

General Assembly

Misuse of Private Data by Social Media Corporations



Having evolved over the past decade to become a multi-billion dollar industry, social media has established itself within the heart of society. Ever since its inception, social media has continued to grow its influence around communities across the world. In a 2019 study, researchers reported that the number of social media users tallied up to around 3.5 billion people worldwide, a 9% uptick from the previous year. This increase in the prevalence of social media, however, has also given rise to many concerns surrounding privacy, one of them being the misuse of consumer data by corporations.

As social media companies continue to thrive, many have begun to worry about the security of their identities online and of the growing vulnerability of their personal information. According to a 2014 survey done by the Pew Research Center, 80% of Americans were concerned about how businesses and advertising agencies were accessing the data they were sharing on social media platforms. These fears were validated during a recent scandal involving two companies – Facebook and Cambridge Analytica, a political consulting firm. On March 17th, 2018, news agencies uncovered that Cambridge Analytica had purchased the data of 87 million Facebook users without their consent. What was perhaps most concerning, however, was that this harvested data was used to create politically motivated advertisements geared towards helping Donald Trump get elected in 2016. As the word got out, boycotts against Facebook were enacted almost immediately and movements arguing for the security of privacy sprung up overnight.

The controversy not only exposed the malpractices surrounding the utilization of personal social media data, but also drew attention to the need for laws aimed towards addressing this issue. However, in considering the ambiguous nature surrounding the dispute between expression and security, a framework designed to place government controlled regulations on social media platforms may set a precedent for the further implementation of security measures, which could eventually lead to the infringement of individual rights through means such as censorship.

What regulations and laws can be implemented by governments to prevent any further misuse of personal social media data? What role does the United Nations play in holding social media companies accountable for their actions? How can these laws be practically implemented without infringing on individual expression?

Sources:

<https://unchronicle.un.org/article/government-policy-internet-must-be-rights-based-and-user-centred>

<https://www.wired.com/story/cambridge-analytica-facebook-privacy-awakening/>

<https://slate.com/technology/2018/05/state-level-data-privacy-laws-are-leapfrogging-congress.html>