

Delegation from the Kingdom of Belgium
Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly

The topic presented before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly First Committee (GA1) is Technology and Development: Artificial Intelligence and the International System and Cybercrimes and Human Security. The Kingdom of Belgium looks forward to collaborating with other Member States to determine effective solutions to these critical issues impacting the global community today.

I. Artificial Intelligence and the International System

The development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has seen unprecedented progress within the past three years. The capabilities of AI have surpassed any previous levels, prompting exceptional innovation across several industries alongside increased political and ethical concerns over its usage. Indeed, introducing AI to the public sphere imposes several predicaments regarding how and when AI may be utilized ethically. Despite the promising capabilities of AI, one must acknowledge the necessity of oversight for the industry. Concerns over the spread of disinformation, consumer tracking, and autonomous weapon systems should be at the forefront of the conversation among governing boards. As is true with many significant technological advancements, AI has the capacity for advancement and destruction. Hence, the Kingdom of Belgium, as a nation established in the technological sector, commits to the development of global standards regarding the development, usage, and regulation of AI.

The Kingdom of Belgium formally acknowledges the joint efforts that will be necessary to conduct a proper and fair governing board for any policies or proposals regarding AI. AI is embedded within some of the world's largest economies and multinational corporations. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of all Member States who, as those who benefit from said economies and the development of AI, act responsibly and in partnership with fellow Member States in implementing AI regulations at national and international levels. The Kingdom of Belgium agrees with the High-Level Advisory Body on AI that AI governance must retain levels of flexibility to account for evolving technologies which are yet to meet a foreseeable limit. Moreover, the Kingdom of Belgium adheres to the fact that no single Member State or the United Nations as a whole possesses a universal remedy for AI governance. Hence, a collaborative effort is vital. The Kingdom of Belgium intends to lead by example in employing and suggesting AI governance recommendations which protect human rights while ethically harnessing the potential AI brings. AI will continue to develop capabilities far beyond human capacity. Yet, its usage has tremendous upside potential across several sectors. Hence, the Kingdom of Belgium intends to lead by example and has done so by developing the National Convergence Plan for the Development of AI. The plan foresees the development of a data-driven and efficient economy, promoting human-centred values and fostering a digital ecosystem for AI. Additionally, the Kingdom of Belgium intends to promote the reinforcement of human skills with AI at every educational level. Educational reforms are vital in ensuring proper usage of AI in the future as it continues to develop. These reforms, among others, will contribute to building human capacity and preparing for labour market transitions.

The Kingdom of Belgium believes in the positive potential of AI. However, the Kingdom of Belgium stresses the need for oversight and internationally agreed-upon guidelines for its usage. AI is continually developing, and its capabilities continue to grow. Accordingly, the United Nations' policies must allow for levels of self-governance for Member States and non-government bodies while retaining space for the amendment of said policies to accommodate AI's ongoing development. Indeed, AI presents significant opportunities but not without threats. Hence, fellow Member States must recognize the necessity of urgent policy integration, which lays the groundwork for AI research, development, and usage.

II. Cybercrimes and Human Security

According to the UN, reports of malicious uses of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by States and non-state actors have increased globally in scale, sophistication, and severity. This evolving cybercrime issue has grown exponentially since the COVID-19 pandemic, encouraging home-based working. Through home-based working, the victim pool of potential cybercrime has increased as people are more inclined to take greater online risks at home and enable malicious access to corporate systems. Cybercriminals will also take part in extortion, online child sexual exploitation, and the spread of misinformation, causing detriment to individuals' lives across the globe. To address these challenges, The Kingdom of Belgium is committed to collaborating with Member States and improving the security of the global cyberspace to protect the lives of individuals.

The Kingdom of Belgium has consistently acknowledged the expansion of opportunities with the growth of cyber technology; however, it has also promptly acted on the subsequent risks of cybercrime, causing harm to private systems, infrastructure, and citizens' lives. In response to these challenges, The Centre for Cyber Security Belgium (CCB) released a National Cyber Security Strategy 2.0 2021-2025, outlining the government's commitments to preventing cybercrimes, protecting citizens, improving national cybersecurity procedures, and creating an open, free, and secure cyberspace where individuals and companies can develop. Operating under the CCB, the Belgian National Cybersecurity Certification Authority (NCCA-BE) represents Belgium at the European Cybersecurity Certification Group (ECCG), working to ensure the implementation of the Cybersecurity Act (CSA) enacted by the European Union in 2019. The CCB is also an active representative of Belgium in the Global Forum for Cyber Expertise (GFCE), a global platform for states, organizations, and private corporations to exchange knowledge on cyber capacity-building. The Kingdom of Belgium is further represented by the CCB in the International Counter-Ransomware Initiative Task Force (ICRTF), which was initiated by the United States (US) in 2023. To further enhance security and responses to cybercrimes, the Federal Prosecutor's Office has implemented a Cyber Unit that focuses explicitly on the investigation of cybercrimes, including those that extend to large international cyberspaces. The Kingdom of Belgium also plans to further invest in creating and maintaining a secure network infrastructure by adopting more secure internet standards and safer ways of exchanging data to reduce the risk of cyberattacks. By 2025, the CCB plans to establish a Cyber Green House to test innovative cyber solutions and business models in a risk-free environment, which will enhance innovation in the cybersecurity sector.

The Kingdom of Belgium recognizes the importance of human security in responding to the risks posed by cybercrimes and, therefore, agrees with the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) in emphasizing the protection of human rights and aligning with the principles of human security when addressing issues of cybercrime. The Kingdom of Belgium encourages Member States to devote their efforts to implementing cybercrime prevention measures and work collaboratively to find innovative approaches to creating an open and secure global cyber environment in which individuals can freely develop. Furthermore, The Kingdom of Belgium emphasizes the necessity of sharing knowledge with international partners on issues regarding cyber threats and human security. The Kingdom of Belgium, therefore, encourages Member States to support international partnerships between academia, private actors, and States that aim to share knowledge of cybersecurity to fight off cybercrime. Close consultation between Member States can lead to ensuring open and secure cyberspaces for individuals across the globe.