



Delegation from the Republic of El Salvador

As we recognize the potential for Artificial Intelligence and cybersecurity measures to revolutionize industries and our daily lives, El Salvador looks forward to discussing the topics of Artificial Intelligence and the International System, as well as Cybercrimes and Human Security, with the General Assembly's First Committee.

1. Position Paper on Artificial Intelligence and the International System

As AI technologies increasingly permeate various aspects of society and governance worldwide this impact is felt across different regions, industries, and communities. In our global interconnectedness, it is a reality that organizations are already working on implementing AI for various purposes, including improving processes and the way they do business. According to the World Economic Forum, AI could increase global trade by 15% by 2030, contributing to economic growth and prosperity. As AI advances, its role in shaping global governance, security, and socioeconomic development will become increasingly prominent, necessitating collaborative efforts to maximize its benefits while addressing potential risks and challenges.

As stated by Secretary-General António Guterres who emphasized the potential of AI to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), "Artificial Intelligence is a frontier technology with the potential to accelerate progress towards a dignified life, in peace and prosperity, for all people." AI has transformative powers to revolutionize and innovate industries, under the World Bank Group's Digital Economy for Latin America and the Caribbean (DE4LAC) initiative identifies challenges and opportunities to promote widespread access to digital technologies and provides actionable policy recommendations that would accelerate the pace of digital transformation. However, there are issues presented by AI for example, Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International "The development of autonomy in weapons is accelerating, and the growing application of new Artificial Intelligence and machine learning technologies is a deeply worrying development". There is room for ethics and regulation of Artificial Intelligence within international standards while taking into account the autonomy of sovereign states.

With this in mind, the Republic of El Salvador acknowledges the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its significance for economic development, healthcare advancement, inclusive prosperity, and sustainable infrastructure. With the establishment of AI Management and Development headquarters specializing in various AI-related fields, El Salvador has seen substantial job creation and foreign investment, leading to economic prosperity. Recognizing the potential of AI to advance healthcare in developing nations, El Salvador aims to leverage AI-powered solutions to improve medical diagnostics, treatment planning, and patient care, thereby enhancing healthcare outcomes and addressing disparities. Moreover, the country prioritizes inclusive prosperity by ensuring that the benefits of AI-driven growth are shared equitably across society, investing in education, skills training, and entrepreneurship initiatives. El Salvador advocates for strict guidelines on AI to mitigate risks while supporting international efforts to establish ethical frameworks, regulatory standards, and accountability mechanisms for AI governance. Additionally, El Salvador emphasizes the importance of allocating resources towards promoting AI for positive purposes, such as global development and prosperity, and would support UN policies that prioritize responsible AI use and international collaboration for sustainable global development.

El Salvador emphasizes the importance of recalling commitments made in the UN 2.0 policy brief and urges the United Nations to provide technical assistance, policy support, and capacity-building initiatives to address digital infrastructure challenges. This includes bolstering international connectivity, modernizing legal frameworks, and promoting digital literacy. Additionally, El Salvador calls on Member States to prioritize investment in digital infrastructure, undertake legal and regulatory reforms, and promote digital skills development within their own countries. These actions aim to accelerate digital transformation and unlock the benefits of the digital economy for all citizens while respecting the autonomy of sovereign states.

2. Position Paper on Cybercrimes and Human Security

Cybercrimes have become increasingly sophisticated, pervasive, and damaging, with far-reaching consequences for individuals, businesses, governments, and societies. Cybercrimes can also exacerbate existing inequalities, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations and marginalized communities. Addressing cyber threats is essential to safeguarding human security, protecting fundamental rights and freedoms, fostering trust in digital technologies, and promoting peace and stability in the international community. Cyberissues have become strategic foreign policy issues of urgent concern as such, developing effective strategies, policies, and mechanisms to combat cybercrimes and enhance human security is critical for ensuring a safe and secure cyberspace for all. Cyberspace must remain open, free, stable, safe, accessible and resilient for everyone.

"Cybersecurity is a central issue of our time. Every aspect of the work of the United Nations — peace, sustainable development, human rights — is affected by it. And, it is also a central issue for international security. Terrorist groups are increasingly using the Internet to coordinate their activities and spread propaganda, but cybercrime is also growing exponentially and it affects individuals, businesses, and even states" This quote by UN Secretary-General António Guterres states the case for increasing discourse on cybersecurity. The interconnected nature and significance of cybercrimes and human security is also expressed by the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/74/247 on Combating Cybercrime and UN Security Council Resolution 2341 (2017). This topic involves a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, law enforcement agencies, international organizations, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and individual internet users establishing its significance.

El Salvador acknowledges the increasing importance of cybersecurity in safeguarding both national security and individual privacy. However, the country criticizes the United Nations for its failure to create a functional draft for a Global Cybercrime Treaty, emphasizing the urgency of the matter amidst rising cyber threats. Despite the adoption of certain resolutions, El Salvador believes that these measures are insufficient to adequately address the complexities of cybercrimes. While El Salvador recognizes the importance of protecting Human Rights, in particular the right to privacy, we believe that it is necessary to forgo a degree of these protections to ensure the safety of innocents, as well as imposing more substantial punishments to those who would commit cyber crimes. It would be nearly impossible to balance human rights safeguards with security concerns promptly with action needing to be taken sooner rather than later.

As such, El Salvador proposes the establishment of a dedicated UN office for cybercrimes, separate from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to enhance effectiveness in addressing cyber threats. This initiative aims to streamline efforts, prioritize cybercrime prevention and response, and provide better protection for individuals and nations against cyber attacks. The policy includes specific objectives such as coordinating cybersecurity efforts, raising awareness through educational campaigns, adopting good practices, analyzing laws to develop a comprehensive legal framework, and promoting international cooperation. Implementation will involve all entities within the executive branch, with encouragement for official institutions, autonomous bodies, and private entities managing critical infrastructure to participate.