

Delegation of Türkiye
Position Paper for the Economic and Social Council

The topics before the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) are Artificial Intelligence and International Systems, and Cybercrimes and Human Security. Türkiye recognises the importance of peace and security for its nation in terms of technological advancements. As well as, the significance of international cooperation for the betterment of its global relations through the use of technology.

I. Artificial Intelligence and International Systems

The promotion of an ethical adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the United Nations (UN) is outlined within the UN 2.0 Policy Brief as per the Secretary-General. As a result of the Joint Session of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the High-level Committees on Management (HLCM), a task force under the HCLM and two objectives emerged in regards to the adoption and usage of AI within the UN. The two objectives are as follows: i) to develop a system-wide normative and operational framework on the use of AI in the UN system and ii) to identify and promote mechanisms for pooling technical capacity and knowledge sharing on AI, including exploring the feasibility of developing a UN Generative AI platform. Once ethical practices are established within the UN citizens of Member States will receive equitable access and treatment to technology. Türkiye is committed to cooperating with Member States in the ethical development and usage of AI in an effort to create a more interconnected global village.

Though the development of AI dates back to the early 1950's, its popularity to be used and adopted by governing powers and its citizens have only increased in the recent decades. As AI is developed through programmed algorithms and collected data, it poses ethical questions in regards to its capacities to foster human needs, and individuals rights to privacy. On 18 November 2014, the 36th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners was held. The conference led to Resolution 68/167 - The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age, addressing the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The resolution itself has five clauses, all of which are based on concerns in regards to the ethics or lack thereof of mass surveillance, compliance to general protection and privacy principles, and advocating for open dialogue between the supervisor and those being surveilled. Türkiye supports resolution 68/167 as it aligns with what is expected of Türkiye as it is a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPIA). Resolution 68/167 aligns with the GPAI's goals to foster human rights, inclusion, and economic growth. Evidence of Türkiye's support does not stop at its membership of the GPAI. Its support can also be seen through its array of NGOs that are dedicated to disseminating AI technology within the nation and ensuring the cooperation of individuals and institutions. Regional peace and security is one of Türkiye's top priorities for its nation and citizens. Through following ethical practices and usage of AI Türkiye stands true to this priority. Ethical AI practices not only promote a secure and trusting relationship between the government and its people, it also promotes economic growth of nations as it can create jobs increasing a country's overall productivity leading to a positive growth in GDP.

Türkiye urges that all Member States set an example in increasing the ethical usage and adoption of AI for the betterment of other nations, as well as improving countries global relations to create a more efficient and interconnected international village. Türkiye recommends that Resolution 68/167 be considered as nations adopt and utilise AI on a larger scale. Consideration of such a resolution would indicate to citizens that their best interests, personal security and privacy, continues to be their government's top priority. After considering the resolution and all of the ethical components of AI and putting the people first, increased support from NGOs should be expected as a government implements the usage of and distributes AI. As ethical AI is made more readily available for both institutions and individuals, national growth can be achieved, and global recognition of a nation's economic growth could further increase a country's prosperity. Additionally, this prosperity may result in a higher standard of living for a nation's citizens.

II. Cybercrimes and Human Security

Turkiye's foreign policy aims to protect Türkiye's interest, both regional and international whilst promoting favourable conditions for sustainable peace and development. Since the coup in 2016, the Republic of Türkiye has prioritised the process of strengthening its fundamental institutions and legal framework to ensure basic fundamental rights, freedoms, and security are granted to everyone. New laws have been passed to provide legal protection and consequences for the violation of human security. Furthermore, with the collaboration and provisions from the Council of Europe (CoE), European convention on human rights (ECHR) and the European court of human rights (ECtHR), ensures Türkiye has been able to make the proper amendments to their current laws.

In more recent years, the Republic of Türkiye has focused on the protection of human security on the web. Cybercrimes, prior to 2010's were not able to be punishable by law, to the same extent as other crimes were. In 2016, the Turkish government passed the Personal Data Protection Law. The fundamental purpose of this law was to protect individuals' right to privacy in accordance with their personal data and to highlight the consequences of those who violate their privacy. The law discusses various other topics relating to protection of privacy, such as the proper way to do the erasure of personal data from the internet and emphasises the role of consent when it comes to exposed personal data and the erasure of it. In 2014, major provisions relating to privacy were made to the Turkish criminal code. With these amendments, it showed the first major step Türkiye has taken in the criminalization of cybercrimes step and showed the major consequences it had. Article 134 states "violating the secrecy of private life is an offence punishable by imprisonment or fine". The Turkish government experienced a major setback in their process of assuring human security from 2016-2019 due to the State of Emergency (SoE) was placed under due to the coup. Since then, the process has slowly regained it to what it was prior to the Coup.

Turkiye understands, and acknowledges that the level of human security they provide might not be up to the standards of other member states. However, the Republic of Türkiye ensures that it is taking the appropriate measures required to reach that level, and to be confident that their country can provide the privacy and the security people need.