



United Nations Security Council

Chair: Vedika Sharma '20
Rapporteur: Luka Willett '20

Topic: Artificial Intelligence and National Security

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the CAMUN 2019 Security Council! My name is Vedika Sharma and I will be the chair for this committee. I am a joyous Junior here at Concord Academy and I'm extremely excited to welcome you all to our conference! We will also have the industrious Luka Willett, a Junior at CA, as our rapporteur.

This committee promises to produce a fast-paced and intellectually rigorous debate. Our topic will be on the role of artificial intelligence in the modern world and how countries should regulate it. Developed countries around the world have struggled to design comprehensive yet pragmatic legislation to manage the powerful influence of artificial intelligence in their economies, making this topic a pressing issue on the world stage.

We chose this topic because we believe it will give you all the opportunity to implement creative solutions to a multifaceted problem. Needless to say, it will require cooperation between all of you. We will run the committee using the standard Security Council procedure as you work towards passing resolutions. This will also be a crisis committee, and crisis notes will be permitted. Please be aware of the special powers the Security Council holds, described below, in order to act most efficiently as crisis events arise.

If you have any questions about the conference or our topic, please do not hesitate to reach out. Also, in order to help debate be as productive as possible, all delegates should email us a researched position paper prior to the conference. If you would like feedback on yours, please submit it earlier.

We both look forward to seeing you soon,

Vedika Sharma '20, Chair, vedika.sharma@concordacademy.org
Luka Willett '20, Rapporteur, luka.willett@concordacademy.org

Role of the Security Council

As established by the United Nations charter in 1945, the Security Council is one of the UN's six primary organs. As outlined in the UN's founding document, the committee has four main objectives: (1) to ensure security and peace internationally, (2) to maintain relations between countries, (3) to solve international conflicts and protect human rights, and (4) to create harmony among the actions of member nations.¹ Since its first meeting in 1946, the Security Council has worked to uphold this mission while satisfying all countries represented. The committee has fifteen representatives at any given time, five of whom are permanent and ten who rotate. The five permanent members, with the power to veto any decision, are the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the Russian Federation. The ten rotating members currently are: Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, and South Africa. Non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly and serve two-year terms.

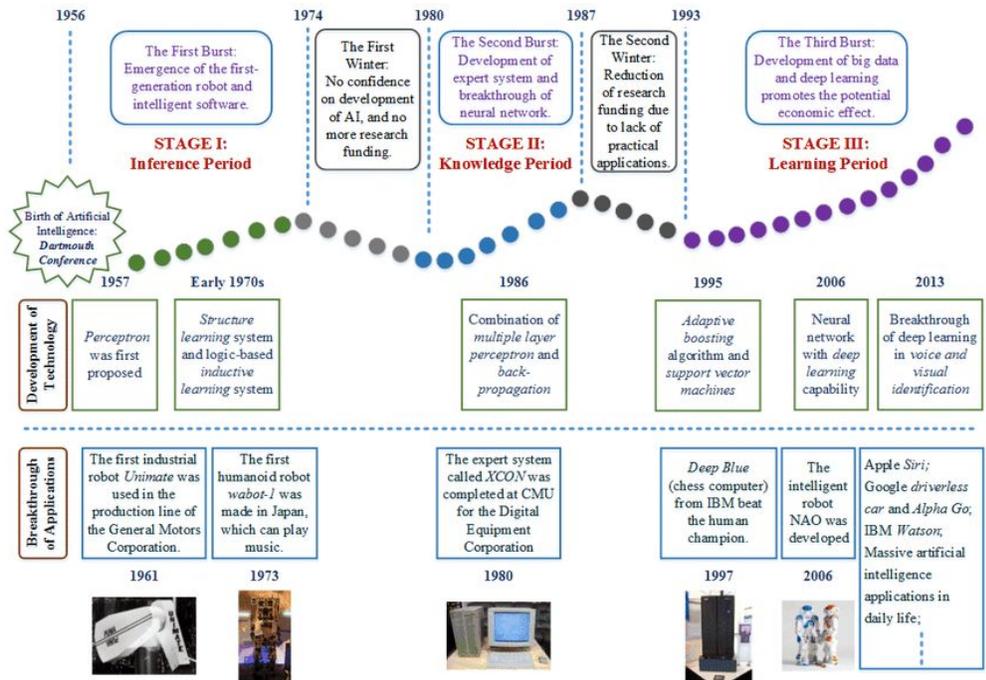
Artificial Intelligence: A Brief Background

The human brain is the most complex, essential and identifiable organ of the human body, acting as the center of the nervous system in all vertebrates. The most complex networks and powerful systems designed by humanity today cannot match it. The ultimate goal of AI is to change that, creating a computer mind that can think like a human. This field of study was founded on the claim that human intelligence can be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it. AI is what gives computers the ability to learn, think, reason, and even understand human emotions, allowing computers to do more than just repetitive tasks. AI gains its ability to think through a continuously growing collection of self-learning and independently functioning algorithms, allowing for powerful predictive reasoning.

AI raises philosophical questions about the nature of the mind and the ethics of creating artificial beings endowed with human-like intelligence, issues which have been explored in myth, fiction and philosophy since antiquity. Questions such as: can an artificially intelligent computer have feelings? Should it have morals, and if so, what morals? I implore you to consider these questions carefully as you look for comprehensive solutions to the threats AI poses to humanity.

Knowing what AI is, and the ethical questions behind it, are essential to be able to discuss the applications of AI in today's world, and, in particular, to discuss its possible uses in order to preserve peace and stability so strongly pursued by world leaders on the UN Security Council.

¹<http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>



A brief history of AI

The Dangers of Artificial Intelligence

Some believe AI will save humanity, while others feel it could be our downfall if it progresses unabatedly. The latter viewpoint, although distressing, has ample amounts of evidence throughout history. The human drive for supremacy, security, and power has been shown throughout history to be nearly impossible to quench. Nations across the globe are constantly searching for any advantage, economic or military, that allows them to further flex their geopolitical strength. To the Greeks over two thousand years ago, the Phalanx was the advantage that allowed them to strive, expand and thrive at the expense of others. In a more modern context, the United States believed that during World War II they had created the most destructive weapon of all time: the atomic bomb. Yet, with the rise of AI, how long will the atomic bomb retain the title as “the world’s most destructive weapon?”²

The turn of the 20th century brought with it an incredible surge in humanity’s technological abilities. For the first time in human history, a weapon with virtually an unlimited range, with potential for exceptional stealth and destruction, had become a reality. Nations such as Russia, China, and the United States have allocated billions of dollars in resources and time to developing their digital arsenals, which have largely remained unnoticed by the public. When nuclear technology arose in the 20th century, a number of political and academic leaders stepped forward, publishing research and

² <https://www.britannica.com/list/7-deadliest-weapons-in-history>

initiating discussions about the ethics and impact of nuclear war. People spoke out on the streets and in the media. Governments were pressured to consider the complexity of such a volatile and dangerous weapon, which resulted in carefully-written agreements, most notably between Russia and the US as they faced the prospect of mutual destruction.³ Yet, with the development of AI and its potential to elevate cyber warfare to an entirely new plain, there has been little international response. As of now, there are no internationally recognized agreements explicitly on AI, especially in regard to the manipulation of AI for remote physical destruction; the rules of the game are currently “do whatever you can get away with.” In order for us to be able to call our Security Council meeting a success, it is vital to create a resolution that not only addresses the many issues regarding the weaponization of AI by nations but also AI that can operate outside of state agencies.

Many AI experts consider it plausible that this century will witness the creation of AI whose intelligence is capable of operating outside the control of any governmental body. With these capabilities, is it possible that an advanced artificial lifeform could decide humanity is its greatest threat? As the United Nations Security Council, it is your obligation to consider the troubling threat AI poses to humanity and account for all possible scenarios involving AI that might threaten human civilization.

Current Situation

Contrary to popular belief, Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) doesn't exist yet. This would be an AI system that can perform human tasks with the same performance level as humans. However, narrow AI is implemented in many businesses, meaning AI that can perform a narrowly defined set of tasks. *Machine learning* is a notable subset of AI, and *deep learning* is a subfield of machine learning.⁴ These systems can create algorithms capable of learning through experience (just as humans) and amass this knowledge over time. So while a symbolic program acts upon data and rules, machine learning uses data and experience to produce rules, which allows for a form of self-sufficiency. In some deep learning systems, the more data presented to the network, the more knowledge it gains.

Deep learning systems have advanced AI by achieving near human-level speech recognition, autonomous driving, image classification, text translation and digital assistance from websites such as Google and Amazon. These companies have impressed us with their personal assistants and how closely they can imitate a human. It makes us wonder where these systems are heading.

³ 10 Zero Days, dir. by Alex Gibney (Magnolia Pictures, 2016 video)

⁴ <https://medium.com/infinicog/current-state-of-artificial-intelligence-3d351a464425>

A prominent way that AI is present in our lives is in computer vision. Banks use it to allow customers to deposit checks remotely. Computer vision is "concerned with the theory and technology for building artificial systems that obtain information from images or multi-dimensional data."⁵

The main contenders in the race to dominate the field of AI are China and the US. A number of sources, such as The Economist, argue that the West is on its way to win this race, since companies like Google and Amazon are more open to innovation.⁶ However, many believe that China will soon hold the most power in this industry. The Chinese tech companies Baidu, Alibaba, and Tencent often use emerging technologies like AI to tackle fields such as urban infrastructure or personalized medicine. For a great example of Baidu's work: after performing tests on an expressway, they made agreements with the local Xiong'an New Area government to build an AI city comprised of autonomous cars, new traffic systems, facial recognition and more.⁷ The race to dominate the AI field is well underway, and it will be up to the Security Council to ensure that all nations uphold UN expectations when implementing AI.

Note from your chair and rapporteur

We have decided to leave the discussion as open as possible in order to allow for delegates to decide which aspects of artificial intelligence they believe to be most important to discuss. Will you decide to solely explore how the weaponization of artificial intelligence could revolutionize modern warfare, or will you also decide to consider the ethical issues surrounding AI? We're open to whatever routes you choose to explore, but we ask that you explore those routes thoroughly while keeping in mind the obligations of the UN Security Council. Furthermore, we highly encourage submitting a position paper prior to the conference, and it will be factored into our decisions regarding awards.

Questions to Consider

1. Will AI threaten or benefit national peace and security?
2. How might the development of AI exacerbate existing power inequalities?
3. How can policies be developed that are thorough enough to account for the threats posed by AI, yet be pragmatic enough not to inhibit global economic growth?
4. Will AI strengthen global development or increase inequality among countries?
5. How might countries want to direct the conversation around AI and cyber-warfare using AI, given their future ambitions?
6. What would it look like for countries if global AI policies were put into place?

⁵ https://www.sciencedaily.com/terms/computer_vision.htm

⁶ <https://www.economist.com/business/2017/12/07/google-leads-in-the-race-to-dominate-artificial-intelligence>

⁷ <https://hackernoon.com/the-state-of-ai-in-the-world-56be75b51887>

Sources for further research

1. <https://futureoflife.org/background/benefits-risks-of-artificial-intelligence/> (Consider the articles and videos linked at the bottom of the article)
2. <http://sitn.hms.harvard.edu/flash/2017/history-artificial-intelligence/> (The history of AI)
3. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2018/03/01/14-ways-ai-will-benefit-or-harm-society/#78ec5cb34ef0> (Benefits and dangers of AI)
4. <https://futureoflife.org/ai-policy-united-nations/> (UN policy on AI)
5. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertadams/2017/01/10/10-powerful-examples-of-artificial-intelligence-in-use-today/#63d40f71420d> (Examples of AI today)
6. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2017/12/05/these-seven-countries-are-in-a-race-to-rule-the-world-with-ai/#445861c14c24> (What are countries are doing)
7. <https://hbr.org/2018/01/artificial-intelligence-for-the-real-world> (Economic discussion)
8. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/09/learning-from-one-another-a-look-at-national-ai-policy-frameworks/> (Countries on working together)
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10. https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Development-history-of-artificial-intelligence-AI_fig8_323591839