Committee Guide

ECOSOC 2024

Envision · Engage · Empower

2024

Navigating a New Age

Balancing Economic Advantages and Social Disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence

OLMUN 2024

23rd International Session

Contents

1. Personal Introductions

1.1. Pia Linnenbrink

Dear delegates, welcome to this year's OLMUN!

My name is Pia and I will be one of your Presidents for the ECOSOC 2024.
I am 17 years old, but will be 18 in time for the OLMUN, and I am from Germany. Currently, I am stuck with studying for my upcoming Abitur in April and May. In my free time, I like to sing in a choir called "Chor Concret". I furthermore really enjoy being creative, cooking with friends, traveling and occasionally riding my (racing) bike.

My first time participating in an MUN was at the OLMUN 2022 where I was a delegate. I liked it so much that I went back in 2023 to participate again.
In November 2023 I chaired a committee at the MEP in Kerkrade, Netherlands.
This year will be my first time chairing a committee during an MUN, which I am very excited for and which I, together with Sören, will try to make a great experience for everyone.
With that being said, I am looking very forward to seeing all of you in June!

Best regards, Pia :)

1.2. Sören Demann

Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Sören and I would like to welcome you all to OLMUN 2024!
At the time of OLMUN I will be 19 years old, and I am from Germany. At the moment I am preparing for my last school exams like Pia. The rest of the time I spend riding my bike through the Ammerland, doing Genealogy research or reading irregularly fantasy or science fiction books.

I also regularly follow all kinds of geopolitical developments and international relations
This MUN will be my first time as a Chair, after I was a delegate in ECOSOC last year and really enjoyed it. Pia and I are both preparing everything for our committee and hope to create a memorable OLMUN experience for you.
Looking forward to meeting you all in a few months!

2. About the Usage of This Guide

Reading and understanding the Committee Guide is crucial, however you also need to do your own research and inform yourself about factors that concern the nation that you are representing in order to be fully prepared for this year's conference.

This Committee Guide is aimed to help you with some general and superficial information to start off (information for any nation in specific will not be provided). Furthermore you need to research several aspects such as culture, history, status, geography, relationships with nations etc. of your country. More information on details needed can be found in the OLMUN Handbook 2024.

Before and during the Conference, you will write a resolution with other nations in which possible solutions for the topic will be presented. The following information in this Committee Guide will provide you with basic knowledge about ECOSOC and the topic of "Balancing Economic Advantages and Social Disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence".

https://ecosoc.un.org/sites/default/files/styles/content_banner_full_width/public/contentbanner/2023/
UN7965362_20221207_LF_2037_.jpg?h=7c80414f&itok=zFkiETzx

3. About ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, established in 1945 as one of the UN's primary organs, serves as a crucial platform for coordinating global efforts, encouraging dialogue and creating solutions to multi-layered economic, social and environmental challenges.
The Council holds a central position in promoting the internationally agreed upon Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The ECOSOC features 54 voting member states, including 14 African states, 11 Asian states, 6 Eastern European states, 10 Latin American and Caribbean states and 13 states of Western Europe and other states.
As the parent organ for eight functional commissions, five regional commissions, three standing committees, nine expert bodies, and five other bodies, the ECOSOC is dedicated to the pursuit of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals outlined for the 2030 agenda.

4. About the Topic

4.1. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a topic of widespread debate in recent years.
As AI technolodgy continues to advance rapidly, there are increasing concerns about its potential negative impact. Although AI offers many economic benefits, it also raises concerns about job displacement and ethical implications.
This year's conference will attempt to strike a balance between economic benefits and social challenges in order to present these as proposals in the form of resolutions to the UN member states.

4.2. Economic Advantages

In the past years, as AI development progressed, new technologies using AI have been continuously implemented in the economic sector. As of right now, there is a wide variety of advantages that AI provides for economies.
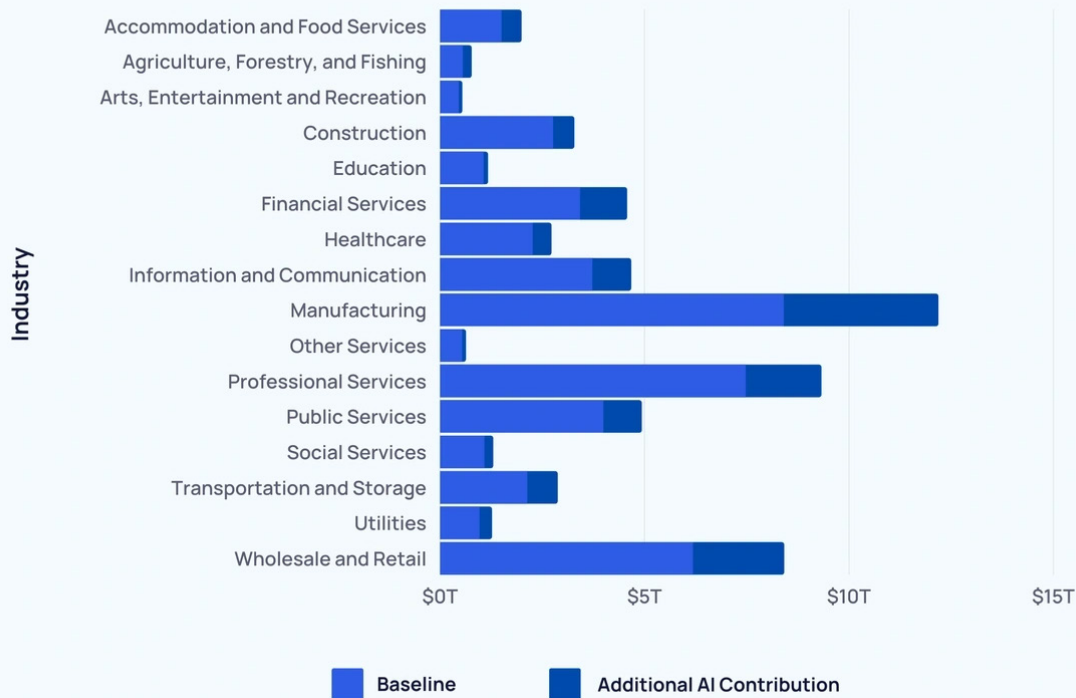To begin with, AI has increased the productivity of economies worldwide, as it is able to automate repetitive tasks. This saves recognizable amounts of money, as fewer workers are needed, and is more efficient than workers would be.
Furthermore, the amount of innovation and economic growth companies using AI experience, is worth mentioning. With its opportunities, AI facilitates the development of new products, services and business models. Using AI, companies experience new dimensions of economic growth and competitiveness on the global market.
Adding to the economic advantages, AI enhances decision-making, as algorithms can analyze vast amounts of data in shortened timespans. As a result, AI aids companies, enabling them to make more informed decisions.
Considering the state of jobs, it is safe to say that AI development has facilitated the creation of new jobs in its own field: developing, maintaining and overseeing AI.

AI gross value added (GVA) in 2035

https://explodingtopics.com/blog/ai-statistics#ai-challenges

4.3. Social Disadvantages

Opposing the many economic advantages, the effects AI development and implementation have had on humans and societies as a whole can be viewed as rather negative.
The social disadvantages AI has led to can be categorized as follows:
To start with, AI has caused a major trend of job displacement. While the previously mentioned automation of processes through AI has economic benefits, it leads to job losses that threaten the existence of individuals and families. Especially in industries where repetitive tasks are prevalent, this is an issue that can potentially exacerbate income-inequality.
Additionally, AI catalyzes a skills gap, as the implementation of AI requires workers to acquire new skills in order to still be of need in times of automation. As a result, a mismatch between the available jobs and the workers' capabilities is to be expected.

In the last few years, privacy concerns have been raised. As AI systems often rely on vast amounts of personal data, people are increasingly afraid of privacy breaches and surveillance.
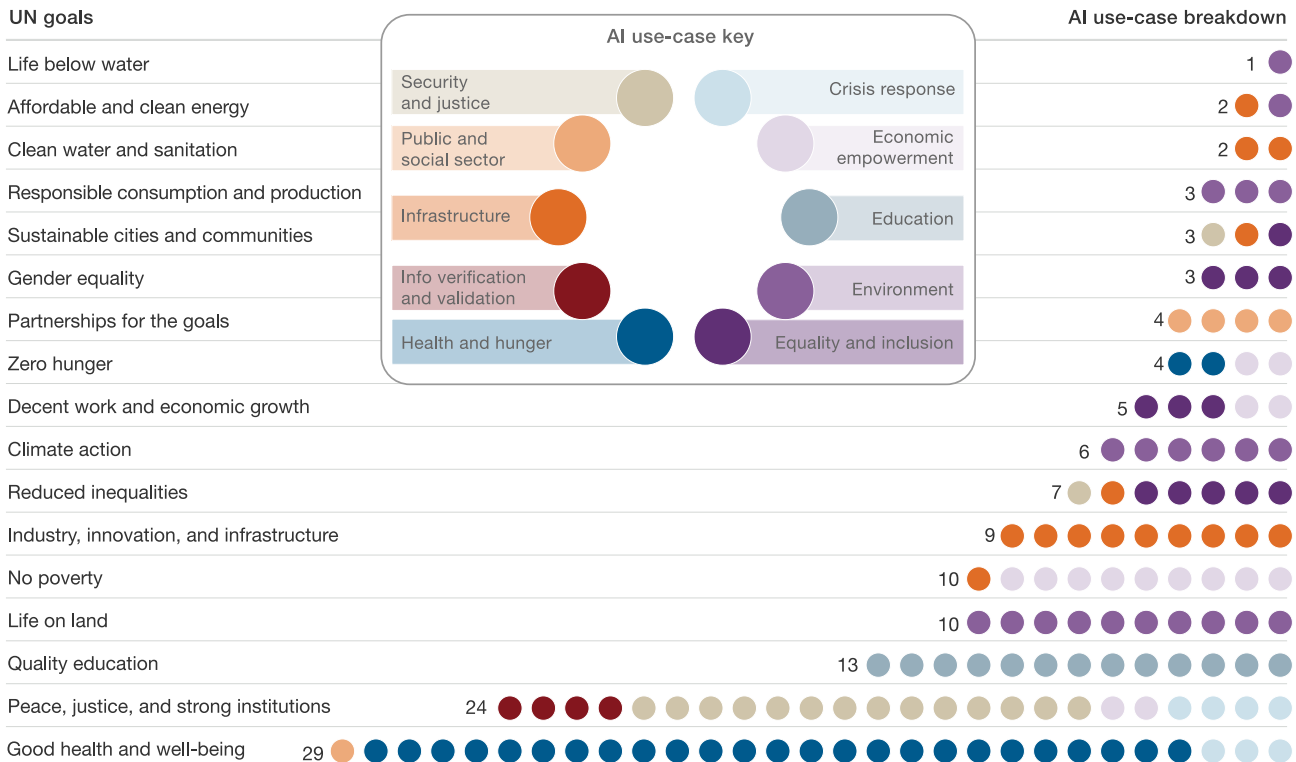
Also to be considered when talking about the social disadvantages of AI are bias and disinformation. Algorithms can inherit biases present in their training data sources, due to AI not

being able to differentiate between useful and harmful information. When bias and disinformation spread through AI, increased discrimination in hiring, lending and decision-making processes might be a result.

Many artificial-intelligence (AI) use cases support the most frequently cited societal challenges.

Where AI use cases fall within the UN's sustainable-development goals,[1] number

Note: This chart reflects the number and distribution of use cases and should not be read as a comprehensive evaluation of AI's potential for each sustainable-development goal (SDG); if an SDG has a low number of cases, that is a reflection of our library rather than of AI's applicability to that SDG. The chart also does not reflect all use cases in the library, more than 20 of which do not map to any SDG. These mainly focus on effective management in the public and social sectors, or belong to the issue types of disaster response and search and rescue in the crisis-response domain.
[1]Chart is a partial list of use cases, as 21 of the 156 identified use cases do not target any of the UN's sustainable-development goals.

McKinsey&Company | **Source:** McKinsey Global Institute analysis

https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/artificial-intelligence/applying-artificial-intelligence-for-social-good

5. Possible Solutions

There are many approaches to create future use of AI that does enhance economic growth and does not harm individuals. A useful starting point could be investments in education and reskilling to make sure that everyone has access to AI and knows how to handle it effectively and ethically. Simultaneously, ethical standards could be developed by a collaboration of industry experts, ethicists and stakeholders for AI development and deployment. By implementing regulations mandating transparency, fairness, and accountability in AI algorithms and systems, bias and privacy concerns could be addressed.

6. What's Next?

This Committee Guide provides a basis for this year's topic that will be debated and discussed in the Economic and Social Council.

We highlight that the Committee Guide should not be the only source for your research on this topic and is not meant to be an all-inclusive analysis.

On the contrary, this guide merely serves as a thought provoking impulse to introduce every delegate to the topic and is a starting point for your research.
Indeed, you will have to acquaint yourself with further information to be well prepared for the discussions and debates. This can be done by consulting scholarly materials, international news and by learning more detailed background knowledge.
Find out how your country is currently progressing in establishing AI regulations. What goals did your country set? What difficulties might your country be facing? Are there any measures?

All these questions and many more may guide you through your research. However, in order to keep guiding you through this process, we included some links down below to make your research easier.

7. Helpful Links

- https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2024/01/the-urgent-but-difficult-task-of-regulating-artificial-intelligence/

- https://www.cbsnews.com/news/godfather-of-artificial-intelligence-weighs-in-on-the-past-and-potential-of-artificial-intelligence/

- https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/18/world/un-security-council-ai.html

- https://towardsdatascience.com/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-artificial-intelligence-182a5ef6588c

- https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/Fandd/Article/2023/December/FD1223.ashx

- https://www.infosysbpm.com/blogs/business-transformation/how-ai-can-be-detrimental-to-our-social-fabric.html

- https://thesocialshepherd.com/blog/ai-statistics

- https://explodingtopics.com/blog/ai-statistics#ai-challenges

- https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/artificial-intelligence/applying-artificial-intelligence-for-social-good

Please check out the **Rules of Procedure** and the **OLMUN Handbook** during your preparation too, as they are the basis for the OLMUN's procedures, and therefore crucial to your research! You will find them on the OLMUN Website (https://www.olmun.org) in the Downloads section.