HLCM Task Force on the use of AI in the UN System

Updates to the 77th FICSA Council - Joint HRM / Legal / Field session on Flexible Work and Use of AI in the UN System

Irwan Mohd Razali and Steven Eales

FICSA Information Officer and Member without Portfolio

FICSA Representation



Subgroup 1: to develop a normative guidance/model policy for the UN System on the use of AI, with the understanding that the guidance/model policy should be "operational", i.e. that organizations could actually use it to concretely guide their internal use of AI

Information Officer, Irwan Mohd Razali

Subgroup 2: to identify and promote mechanisms for pooling technical capacity and knowledge sharing on AI, and to explore the feasibility of developing a UN Generative AI platform – the latter could, if judged "feasible" by the Task Force, become a separate, stand-alone project, following completion of the work of the Task Force.

Member without Portfolio, Steven Eales

Composition



Co-Chairs –

Ms. Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR Mr. Guoqi Wu, Associate Vice-President, Corporate Services Department, IFAD

Mr. Bernardo Mariano Junior, Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO), Assistant Secretary-General, OICT, UN Secretariat.

Membership –

UN, FAO, UNESCO, WORLD BANK, IMF, IOM, ITU, WIPO, IFAD, IAEA, UNWTO, UNDP, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, UNWOMEN, UNOPS, UNFCCC, FICSA, UNISERV, CEB Secretariat

TOR of the Task Force



This Task Force is established to develop guidance that aligns with existing UN principles and standards on ethical AI use. Its mission is to facilitate the responsible adoption of AI technologies across UN entities, emphasizing adaptability to dynamic future needs.

This initiative seeks to cultivate a capable and ethical AI ecosystem across the UN system that complies with existing norms and anticipates and responds to emerging technological advances and ethical considerations. The overall work of the Task Force aims to contribute towards the safe and ethical use of AI across the UN system.

Progress report



Work is ongoing, the Task Force met twice and will have one more meeting, before providing a status report to the next HLCM in Nairobi. Then the work will continue until the second HLCM session.

Task Force looked into:

- a) Principles on the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the UN System;
- b) International Human Rights Law;
- c) UN Principles on Personal Data Protection and Privacy;
- d) International Data Governance Pathways to Progress;
- e) UN 2.0 Quintet of Change.

FICSA's Input So Far



- Input received favorably by the co-chairs and the task force members.
 - Impact on UN Staff Members
 - Capacity building, up-skilling and re-skilling programs priority
 - Task Force composition heavy in IT and Legal
 - Consultation with staff at large
 - Human in control principle being safeguarded
 - Impact of AI on managerial decision making, administrative/management review, appeals process, justice system, and all other existing policies.
 - Ensure to the extent possible that AI will do no harm, safety are taken into account, including avoidance of unfair bias and discrimination, sufficient oversight and checks to prevent errors in AI output being used in publication and normative work, therefore bringing reputational damage to the UN, and so on.
 - Prof Aditya Jain as FICSA's expert consultant also provided insight and feedback.



• Focus Area I – Existing international law, normative frameworks, and instruments within the UN System that could be applied or extended to AI

• Focus Area II – Institutional models that could inform an architecture for global AI governance

 Focus Area III – Learnings from existing governance structures, normative processes, and agile and anticipatory approaches from the UN System that could inform AI governance



INSTITUTIONAL MODEL

Model Archetype:

Advisory Panel of all member states. Rotating Bureau selected by Panel, and Secretariat for implementation

Model Archetype: Advisory Board, Executive Body, Independent Experts, Multistakehoder Focus Groups, Tripartite Structure Model Archetype: Assembly/Advisory
Board with voting rights for Member
States, Executive body comprised of
technical committees. Auditing function,
Submit security threats and reports to GA
and Security Council

Model Archetype: Rotating Executive Board, central administrator, country offices, regional bureaus

SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS BUILDING

NORM SETTING, POLITICAL ALIGNMENT

REGULATORY COORDINATION, MONITORING, ENFORCEMENT

DEVELOPMENT, DIFFUSION OF TECHNOLOGY

Monitoring, Normative Member assessments. Reporting Normative & Binding State audits INSTRUMENTS WHO ITU's Standards, UNGPs Business Guidance and capacity Human Rights WHO's Regulatory Pregualification of UNESCO AI Periodic and Human Rights development to translate Conventions, Considerations for Vaccines, IAEA reporting, UN Recommendations, instruments into national Assessment International AI, UNICRI Policy technical guidance, UNICEF Policy Global Compact, legislation Reports Humanitarian Framework on ICAO audits, UNESCO AI Guidance on Al Al strategy, DPI, Law Facial Recognition UNESCO RAM, EIA AI 4 SDGs Reporting **Capacity Building** Inspection NORMATIVE & GOVERNANCE Consensus Reporting to Specific Inclusivity Sandboxes, and audits building vs. independent development Policy Pilots International voting projects -Complaints Board/Experts tailored to Balancing + Mediation Member Committees for innovation with Anticipatory States monitoring governance and foresight instrument Taxonomy of Harms/ safety and adoption Standardized reporting planning Agile development, deployment and Harmonization & interoperability updating standards



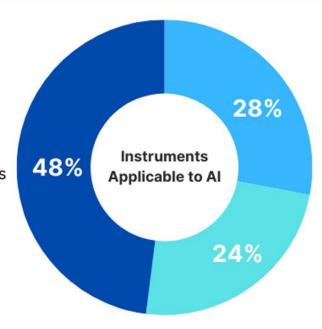








Legally binding
instruments enshrined in human
rights, also includes
examples from labor,
postal services, patents
and proposed
convention on online
criminal activities,
international
humanitarian law and
others



Normative & Nonbinding - includes recommendations on the ethics of AI, policy guidance, technical standards and others

Non-normative Instruments includes considerations, frameworks, preliminary guidance, non-normative declarations and others

Illustration - Instruments divided by type of Instrument

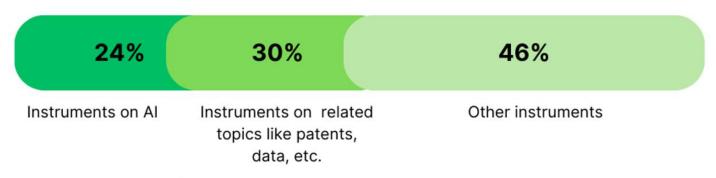


Illustration - Instruments divided by focus areas of Instrument

Illustration 3: Instruments within the UN System applicable to AI

Staff Rep Role



- Discuss with your management and provide input specific to your organization's needs, mandates and norms.
- Bring your concerns / input / suggestions to the Task Force through FICSA (<u>ficsa@un.org</u>)
- FICSA will provide updates during Heads of Delegations meetings throughout the year – actively participate

Thank you!

Any questions?