

SPECIALIZED BODY

Terms and Conditions: the Ethical
Dilemma of Artificial Intelligence



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Letter from the Secretary General

Delegates, Club and Team Advisors, Parents, and Any Other MUN Folks,

It is my esteemed privilege to welcome you all to Davis Model United Nations Conference XXIII! My name is Brody Andrews, and I am honored to serve as your Secretary-General for the 23rd DMUNC. On the weekend of May 2-3, 2026, delegates will have the opportunity to engage in fruitful debate and cooperation, and hopefully, make lifelong connections.

As a senior at UC Davis, this will be my final DMUNC and my final Model UN Conference. I've been to over 30 conferences in the eight years I've been doing MUN but nothing I've gotten to do in my Model UN career has been as rewarding as DMUNC. Last year I got the opportunity to serve as the Director General of DMUNC XXII and it brought me so much joy to watch a massive number of future leaders bring their imaginative ideas to important debates. Thank you all for the opportunity to watch the magic unfold again, I truly cannot wait to see and be inspired by all of you in May.

I joined MUN my freshman year in high school and I could not be more grateful for the experiences it has brought me. Having been in your position I know how simultaneously nerve-wracking and exciting a MUN weekend can be. Whether this is your first conference or your 100th I'm happy you chose to come to DMUNC. In college, MUN has only become a larger part of my life. Not only has MUN afforded me educational and competitive opportunities, but it has also brought me lasting relationships with incredible people who continue to push and support me every day.

As someone who has done Model UN for so many years, I've had all the classic MUN experiences. Every author's panel, crisis update, closing ceremony celebration, and moderated caucus speech led me to DMUNC and I couldn't be happier. As graduation looms large, I want to remind all of you of the amazing joys that MUN can bring and all of the exciting things college has in store for all of you. When you love MUN, it loves you back. The skills you will improve, friendships you will form, and knowledge you will gain from even one MUN conference is enough to make having to explain what a crisis committee is to your non-MUN friends worth it.

I have had the honor of serving as the Director General of DMUNC XXII and as the crisis director for DMUNC XXI's The Muppets committee and DMUNC XX's Star Wars JCC on the Rebels side. With three DMUNCs and countless more conferences under my belt, I feel confident that my experience and passion will help make DMUNC XXIII a truly memorable conference. However, none of this would be possible without the hard work of the CONSEC and staff members who have worked tirelessly for months to prepare for DMUNC XXIII. Running DMUNC is in *no way* a one person job and I am eternally grateful to every single DMUNC staff member. My greatest thanks goes to my Director General Mae Tyson who has stepped up at every turn in extraordinary ways. Thank you Mae, CONSEC, head chairs, crisis directors, and all the DMUNC staff.

Delegates, we have been planning this weekend since August of 2025 and we're so excited for you to enjoy it. I encourage you to read through your committee background guides thoroughly and formulate collaborative resolutions. I look forward to the thought-provoking ideas that each of you will bring forth to your respective committees. Good luck! We truly can't wait to share this with you.

Sincerely,

Brody Andrews | Secretary-General

Davis Model United Nations Conference XXIII

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Letter from the Head Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to DMUNC XXIII. This year, you have the exciting opportunity to participate in *Terms and Conditions: The Ethical Dilemma of Artificial Intelligence* in the annual Davis Model United Nations conference. This year's topic is especially relevant to us as students, and one I am particularly passionate about. I hope it presents you with the opportunity to think critically, innovate creatively and debate with strong stances. Please carefully consider the contents of this background guide whilst you begin to write your position papers. Please also go over committee procedure, which we will review on the first day of the conference.

I would urge you all to make the most of this experience. Whether this is your first conference, or you are a seasoned delegate, this conference will provide endless opportunities for growth. My own MUN journey started in freshman year of high school, and since then I've participated in countless conferences - including MUNUC, SEOMUN, BEIMUN, to name a few - both as a delegate and as a chair. Not only have I gained skills in research, academic writing and public speaking, I have forged genuine friendships and connections.

Contrary to popular belief, MUN does not revolve around being the loudest or most aggressive. MUN always has and always will thrive on collaboration, diplomatic talks and an ability to communicate above all. I look forward to seeing you all in May.

Best of luck,

Aditi Kumar | *Head Chair*

Committee Procedure

Throughout the conference, delegates should pertain all discussions and debates to the topic of Artificial Intelligence and the ethical dilemmas it presents. Although this background guide serves as a starting point to your research, it is heavily recommended that you look through other websites, read past UN resolutions and consider other resources as a whole. Preparation should revolve around the topics addressed in this background guide, *however*, I encourage you to also branch out and explore relevant sub-topics.

At the beginning of each session during roll call, delegates must select *present* or *present and voting*. This decision does not affect your likelihood for an award - only that if you select *present and voting*, you *must* vote for every procedure.

This committee will be completely technology-free. All resolutions, crisis notes and directives will be handwritten. Further, delegates must put away cellphones and laptops for the duration of the conference. Failure to do so will automatically disqualify you from awards and potentially have consequences to participation in future DMUNC conferences. Given the topic we are discussing, I highly recommend banishing AI from your preparation, and instead give yourself the opportunity to think critically, creatively and actually present your *own* ideas.

Introduction

Technology in the modern world takes shape in many ways, growing at an unprecedented rate. It has already penetrated various fields and will continue to infiltrate all aspects. One such technology is artificial intelligence, which has had significant developments in the past few years, notably with the introduction of AI chatbots like ChatGPT. AI has the potential to significantly improve various fields, such as diagnosis in the medical field or data analysis. However, AI also presents several ethical concerns, including but not limited to security and regulation threats.

One major threat is that AI can be utilized maliciously. One example of such technology is *deepfake*. Deepfake is a type of technology that allows for the creation of very realistic photos/videos, as well as audio recordings. The risks of this technology are clear and foreseeable - the developers of deepfakes should have anticipated it could be used to violate people's autonomy and image - it is easy to create fake celebrity endorsements, spread misinformation, amongst other things. Apart from deepfake, it is important to consider the implications of any company or business holding your sensitive data. For example, if doctors start utilizing AI for diagnosis, does this mean that it's possible that your medical scans could be leaked?

Artificial intelligence is also further being integrated into the workplace, resulting in major challenges. Automation powered by AI has the power to make clerical/secretarial tasks much quicker and efficient. Still, the introduction of this technology poses the issue of unemployment, as humans are being replaced. Rising unemployment exacerbates social differences, like income inequality. Furthermore, it's important to note that in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), these clerical/secretarial tasks are usually occupied by women, and by introducing AI, it would reduce the participation of them in the labour force.

Another major ethical dilemma involved with AI, that is recently being highlighted more, is the environmental impact. The training process for ChatGPT, even before it is shared with users, can utilize tens and thousands of gallons of water, roughly equivalent to 100+ households in America. As per the Harvard Business Review, "Furthermore, AI model training can lead to

the evaporation of an astonishing amount of fresh water into the atmosphere for data center heat rejection, potentially exacerbating stress on our already limited freshwater resources.”

A major cause of these ethical dilemmas is the fast pace of technological growth. At the moment, the rate of technological growth is far higher than the rate at which quality regulations and standards can be set into place.

Key Terms

Artificial Intelligence: “the ability of a digital computer or computer controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings.” as per the United Nations. However, some countries disagree with this definition.

Generative AI: This is the type of AI that can generate new content based on an input prompt. It does this by extracting key information from sources on the internet and creating a new product. Notably, artists, writers, photographers are reacting negatively to this.

Human in the Loop (HITL): This is used to describe the process of humans in the technological process. Essentially, if humans are a part of the process in any way, such as monitoring the AI’s work, they are “in the loop”. This suggests that the AI is not fully autonomous, and can only function under human command. This is particularly relevant with increasing security concerns, as it helps prevent unnecessary mistakes.

Human out of the Loops (HOTL): This is the opposite of HITL, and humans are not part of the process at all (apart from creation). Hence, they are “out of the loop”. This means AI is fully autonomous, making key decisions that can function without human interference. As it stands, this is not the case with most AI, apart from generative types.

AI Assurance: The sets of regulations, rules and policies created for each AI technology. They are product specific.

AI Audit: An AI audit is a thorough check of an AI assurance. This would include checking that it operates as necessary while following the rules and regulations. This is an imperative step in reducing ethical concerns.

Intrusion Detection System (IDS): As aforementioned, AI is being utilized to analyze large data sets, such as MRI scans in hospitals. An IDS is a system that monitors the network traffic for any type of suspicious activity, alerting the AI or human observers if there could be a breach.

Historical Context

To fully understand this agenda, it is important to comprehend the background and timeline of AI's growth. Although it has taken off in recent times, its journey began in the 1950s. At this point, computing was a largely human process. However, Alan Turing, a British mathematician, theorized the invention of a machine that could complete these duties for us. Of course, at the time, no such machine existed, but his vision served as a model of the future. From there, the history of artificial intelligence began. For nearly the next two decades, scientists and researchers laid the groundwork of this technology through a multitude of research conferences.

In 1966, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) researcher developed ELIZA, widely considered to be the first human chatbot. This is where the idea first arose of inputting data, such as conversation transcripts, to train a machine to take on a human persona. Over the next 15 years, various colleges and institutions began a deep dive into AI, but it wasn't until the 1980s that the American Association of Artificial Intelligence (now the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence) was founded. This organization facilitates further research and the exchange of key ideas. Since then, there are many forms of AI which have arisen including Google's Waymo, Alexa, Siri and ChatGPT.

When COVID-19, or coronavirus was first detected in 2019, no one knew that it was the beginning of a global pandemic that caused severe economic crises in countries around the world. Generally, it slowed down financial development and industrial growth. So, with the pandemic coming to an end, countries and companies were eager to rebuild economies quickly. Therefore, they resorted to AI.

Past U.N Involvement

In November 2021, UNESCO came out with its recommendations on the ethics of Artificial Intelligence, which has been adopted by all 193 UN Member States. At its core, these recommendations revolve around “the protection of human rights and dignity”, “advancing fundamental principles such as transparency and fairness”, and “always remembering the importance of human oversight in AI systems.” These recommendations revolve around detailed policy action measures in several areas such as data governance, environment and ecosystems, gender, education, research, health etc.

Also in 2021, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched to guide the responsible development and use of AI. It brings together governments, industry and civil society on AI-related issues. There are many stakeholders involved, including 28 countries and the EU. The primary goal of GPAI is to support cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI related priorities.

On March 21 2024, the General Assembly passed one of the first resolutions on AI. Mainly, this agenda focused on maintaining human rights alongside new development. There have not been various solutions offered to combat the ethical dilemma of AI, but this resolution provided a solid starting point. It is important to note that this agenda passed unanimously, demonstrating each country’s recognition of the issue.

Questions to Consider

Q1: How can the international community enforce global standards that balance the technological innovation possible with AI (such as medical diagnosis) with the ethical risks involved?

Q2: What long-term strategies can be implemented to address the widening gap in automation via AI between MEDCs and LEDCS, while also ensuring employment and participation of women in the workplace doesn't decrease?

Q3: Given that AI utilizes drinking water, what efforts can be taken by the UN to mitigate this environmental impact?

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