Forum: United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD)

Issue # 1: Measures to address the ethical use of artificial intelligence amid job displacement and national security.

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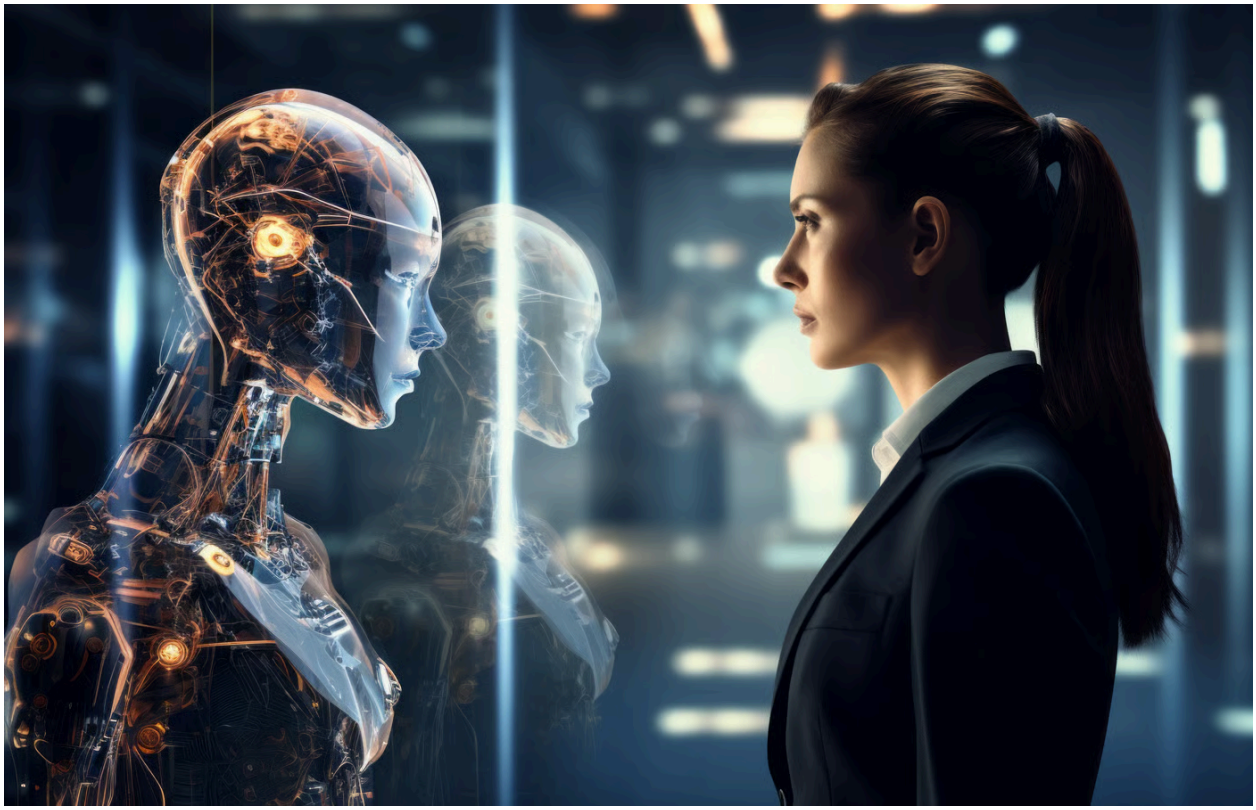

Rinko, Sam. "Will AI Replace Humans? Job Security Explored." eWEEK, 27 Aug. 2024, www.eweek.com/artificial-intelligence/will-ai-replace-jobs/. Accessed 20 June 2025.

Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming industries worldwide, enhancing sectors with numerous possibilities, including healthcare, surveillance, defense, education, and nearly every other industry (University of Cincinnati, 2025). Nonetheless, artificial intelligence (AI) raises significant ethical concerns, particularly regarding the

displacement of human jobs and the potential risks it poses to national security due to its unpredictable applications. As artificial intelligence (AI) develops, machines and programs replace workers in industries such as manufacturing, data-related tasks, and customer service, with many more to come shortly. Large job displacements will exacerbate unemployment rates globally, raising ethical concerns about equal access to artificial intelligence (AI) and training workers to work with AI. (University of San Diego, 2025)

Moreover, governments and malicious entities continue to develop artificial intelligence (AI) for surveillance or cyberattacks, creating additional challenges for governments and businesses across the globe. International collaboration and cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI) regulation are complex, as nations want to maintain flexibility in their AI development to compete economically against other nations. (World Economic Forum,2025)

Definition of Key Terms

Artificial Intelligence (AI): The theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages (Copeland, 2025).

Ethical AI: Ethics is a set of moral principles that help us discern between right and wrong. AI ethics is a multidisciplinary field that studies how to optimize the beneficial impact of artificial intelligence (AI) while reducing risks and adverse outcomes (IBM, 2024).

Job Displacement: Job displacement refers to the involuntary loss of employment due to various factors such as economic downturns, technological advancements, company restructuring, or offshoring. Displaced workers often face challenges in finding new employment, especially if their skills are no longer in demand. (AllVoices, 2025).

National Security:

National security refers to the protection of a nation's stability and well-being from

various threats, including military, economic, social, and environmental factors that can significantly impact the quality of life and choices available to the government and its people. (ScienceDirect, 2001).

Automation: The use of technology to perform tasks with minimal human assistance or intervention. (IBM, 2021).

Cybersecurity: Cybersecurity refers to any technologies, practices, and policies for preventing cyberattacks or mitigating their impact. Cybersecurity aims to protect computer systems, applications, devices, data, financial assets, and people against ransomware and other malware, phishing scams, data theft, and other cyberthreats (IBM, 2024).

Gathering intelligence: Intelligence gathering refers to the essential task of collecting information from diverse sources to preserve life and property (ScienceDirect, 2013).

Wages: A payment usually of money for labor or services, usually according to contract and on an hourly, daily, or piecework basis (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2025).

Mandate Governments: In a government, mandates refer to any constitutional, legislative, or executive statutes that authorize certain government offices, officers, and institutions to exercise regulatory activities over some governance regions, such as elections and taxation (Study.com, 2023).

Upskilling: Upskilling refers to the process of learning new and advanced skills that enhance your current role. It involves deepening your knowledge and expertise in your industry, often through gaining experience or additional training (National University, 2021).

General Overview

The Big Picture

The rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming industries, governments, and everyday life in profound ways. From automating a task to supporting complex decision-making, AI is reshaping how economies function and how national security is developing. On the one hand, AI technology holds great potential for increasing efficiency, innovation, and safety, potentially driving economic growth, and improving quality of life. On the other hand, it also raises some serious ethical questions about AI's impact on the workforce, the distribution of opportunities, and its responsible use in sensitive areas such as national security. Among the most pressing concerns are job displacement and the ethical dilemma of AI usage in national security. As technology continues to evolve, we must develop a clear and balanced universal framework that supports technological progress while protecting workers and human rights. (HillPublishing, 2023)

AI's Impact on Job Displacement

AI is transforming the workforce fundamentally, with automation and algorithmic decision-making increasingly replacing human labor in a wide range of industries. According to research published in Hill Publishing, weak AI systems designed to perform specific, repetitive, and predictive tasks are already displacing jobs in manufacturing, logistics, retail, and administrative support (139). This impact has hit low-skilled workers the hardest, particularly those without access to retraining or the resources needed to shift into new roles created by technologies. The authors also highlight that as AI continues to evolve, especially with the possibility of artificial general intelligence (AGI), even highly skilled and professional jobs may become vulnerable to automation, as AGI systems could potentially perform complex analyses across multiple domains with greater speed and accuracy than humans (140). The rapid technological shift risks widening societal and economic inequalities, as those unable to adapt may face long-term unemployment and financial insecurity. (Liu, Meng, Li, 2023)

AI's Impact on National Security

The deployment of AI in national security is reshaping the global security domain, as it offers powerful capabilities for intelligence gathering, cyber defense, surveillance, and

military operations. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) highlights that AI technologies can process and analyze vast amounts of data faster than human capacity, allowing for governments and security agencies to identify threats, terrorist activities, predict risk, and respond to crises with greater precision and agility. For instance, AI-driven systems can sift through satellite imagery, social media feeds, and communications data to detect patterns and anomalies that might indicate emerging security threats, terrorist activity, or geopolitical instability. However, the UNSC also warns of the significant ethical and legal dilemmas arising from the use of AI in national security. The potential of autonomous weapons systems' operation without human oversight raises questions about accountability and the risk of unintended escalation or civilian harm. Moreover, the use of AI in surveillance and data analysis can threaten privacy rights, particularly due to the lack of government transparency and risk of misuse (UNSC, 2023).

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United States of America

The United States workforce faces significant job displacement. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, researchers estimate that 9 to 47 percent of jobs could become automated in the future. Forrester suggests that by this year, 16 percent of jobs will end up being replaced, and only 9 percent will be created, resulting in a net loss of 7 percent of jobs. As profitable as AI can seem for large companies, an increased unemployment rate can lead to many negative repercussions. High unemployment could lead to crime, poverty, and social unrest as people can't make ends meet due to the low opportunities. (Forrester. Robots, AI Will Replace 7 % Of US Jobs By 2025) The signing of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law in 2024, by the U.S., UK, and EU, secures the ethical use of AI technology. According to Emma Roth, writer for "THE VERGE", while the treaty touches on many broad AI issues, its principles allow for the protection of workers' rights, as it ensures AI is used with transparency and accountability, which is vital when employing workers. The U.S. also views AI as a critical factor in maintaining national security and global leadership, emphasizing the need to accelerate AI adoption to counter adversarial threats. "AI is not entirely new, but advancements in

computing power and big data are transforming how we think about processes — not just acquisition, but our daily operations," Bianca Herlory, Joint Staff AI lead of the US Department of Defense, explained(Herlory, Defense Officials Outline). She noted that early experimentation, practical deployment of AI capabilities, and training and education programs are essential to responsibly integrate AI into military operations (Wes Shinego, 2025).

Russia

Russia's National AI Strategy (2019) sets its sights on global leadership by 2030 while also including rights to work and retraining (Kremlin, 2019). In 2021, the key companies agreed on a voluntary AI Code of Ethics, which includes obligations around responsible use and algorithmic transparency, but enforcement from the law remains weak. Russia is pushing STEM education and investing significantly in AI training at universities to reskill its workforce, but with no formal job protection measures in place. 80% of Russians are confident that AI will generate more jobs than destroy them, according to surveys (Levada Center, 2025). According to CNAS, Russia heavily invests in AI-enhanced cyberwarfare and surveillance and is often in constant confrontation with Western countries. For instance, improving uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV) capabilities with AI as a mechanism for command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) is a key emphasis in both academic writing and research and development (R&D) across Russia's defense-industrial complex. The use of AI for data collection and analysis is also a significant part of the ministry of defence (MOD) impending "intellectualized" warfare as a natural evolution from the current "digital" combat technology and systems development, with AI envisioned as a data analysis enabler and a decision-making aide to operators, commanders, and deployed forces (Benedett, 2024).

European Union

The European Union (EU) leads globally in regulating AI use and development, prioritizing the well-being of EU citizens. In 2024, the EU passed an AI Act regulating AI applications(apps) by the level of risk, banning apps that threaten each user's rights, like surveillance or discriminatory algorithms when hiring (European Commission, 2024). To

minimize job displacement, the EU's skill agenda and AI skills academy help workers to reskill, aiming to train up to 20 million information and communication technology experts by 2030. Such retraining programs narrow the digital skills gap that affects 13% of EU workers (European Commission, 2023).

Germany

Germany aligns with the EU, embracing their ethical control policies that focus on the protection of workers and human well-being. They have improved their AI strategy in 2023, maintaining a clear guideline that AI made in Europe must be made with fairness, accountability, and civil rights. In 2021, Germany passed the Betriebsrätemodernisierungsgesetz act, giving the work council a say in companies' AI usage, especially when hiring workers (Bundestag, 2021). According to Statista, even though only about 13% of German firms utilized AI in 2023, there is still a high sense of concern within the German workforce, with up to 61% fearing a possible job loss. (Statista, 2024). Aligning with the strategy of retraining workers, Germany invested in the Skilled Labor Strategy, where workers are retrained and offered apprenticeships. (Germany Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs). Additionally, Germany's Ministry of Defense has outlined a concept that views AI as a tool to support, rather than replace, human control in military applications. The Federal Government will also boost cooperation with the industry in the relevant international bodies (Federal Foreign Office, 2023).

China

China sees AI as a national development and security pillar. Its New Generation AI Development Plan (2017) and 14th Five-Year Plan (2021–25) aim to be world-leading by 2030. Ethical frameworks like the 2021 AI Ethics Guidelines require fairness, transparency, and public welfare (MOST, 2021). Regulatory actions include the Generative AI Interim Measures (2023), which require algorithmic accountability and censorship alignment. Job displacement is tackled through massive reskilling programs—over 90% of companies are investing in worker training (WEF, 2024). China is the world's leading country in factory automation, with half of the world's industrial robots (IFR, 2024). Additionally, China is also the world's biggest AI surveillance state. Its Skynet and Sharp

Eyes programs use over 500 million CCTV cameras—many with facial recognition—to monitor citizens and detect "suspicious behavior" in real time (Carnegie Endowment, 2023). These are most intense in places like Xinjiang, where AI tracks minority populations, raising global human rights concerns. In 2023, the Cyberspace Administration of China introduced regulations requiring facial recognition to be "necessary and justified," but enforcement is limited. (Hunton, Privacy & Information Security Law Blog, 2025)

Timeline of Events

	Description of Event
Date: 1956	Dartmouth Conference, organized by John McCarthy, Marvin Minsky, and others, created the term "Artificial intelligence" and established the first plans for the beginning of the research
1966	Eliza was programmed at MIT by Joseph Weizenbaum. ELIZA simulated a physiotherapist using scripted responses.
1980	Newly developed systems like XCON dominate the AI sector. XCON simulates human decision-making with programmed instructions.
1997	IBM Deep Blue (chess-playing computer) defeated chess world champion Garry Kasparov, the first glimpse of AI's capacity to outperform humans. It showed the power of narrow AI, sparked global interest and investment.
2009	Google launches self-driving car project utilizing deep learning to navigate through roads. Marks the emergence of autonomous systems in public infrastructure. This project raised questions about possible job displacement in public transport and ethical questions about safety in life-or-death situations.
2018	

	OpenAI develops and introduces the first GPT model, pushing AI to a larger and improved capacity. This set the stage for AI to enter sectors like customer service and journalism, replacing jobs.
2020	OpenAI releases GPT-3, now capable of developing essays and coding, gathering a larger public interest. GPT-3 raised concerns about the reliability of AI and its possible use to spread disinformation.
2023	The release of a potent GPT-4 now capable of developing high-quality programming, texts, and images. The US, among many nations across the globe, is beginning to work on AI regulation laws. The U.S., EU, and China initiated plans on AI use and development regulation to manage their impact on national security, labor markets, and civil liberties.
2024	U.S. and EU Sign AI Treaty on Ethics and Human Rights. In September 2024 (U.S. Department of State 2024), the U.S. joins the Council of Europe's AI Treaty, a collaborative agreement ensuring AI development considers human rights, democratic integrity, and fair labor practices.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

UN Involvement

On March 21st, 2024, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted its first-ever resolution on artificial intelligence, titled "Seizing the Opportunities of Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence Systems for Sustainable Development". Led by the United States and co-sponsored by over 120 countries, the resolution calls for the responsible development and use of AI, emphasizing the protection and promotion of human rights throughout the AI lifecycle. It urges all governments, states, private sectors, AI developers, and organizations to refrain from using AI systems that cannot comply with international human rights law or that pose undue risks to human rights. The

resolution recognizes AI's potential to accelerate progress toward the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, while stressing the need to close the digital divide and support developing nations in accessing and benefiting from AI technologies. It encourages national cooperation, regulatory frameworks, and inclusive governance to ensure AI is developed and deployed ethically and equally. The resolution also emphasizes that all rights individuals have in the physical world must also be equally protected in the digital world. This landmark action sets a global precedent for guiding AI towards advancing sustainable development, human dignity, and international collaboration. (UNGA, document A/78/L.49, 2024).

Relevant Solutions

The UN General Assembly adopted resolution 79/239 on the 24th December 2024, focusing especially on the application of AI in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security. This resolution affirms that international law, including the UN Charter and international humanitarian law, applies to every use of AI in military settings. The resolution highlights the importance of keeping AI in military applications responsible, human-centered, and guided by strong principles of accountability, safety, and trustworthiness. The resolution also emphasizes the acknowledgement of the global digital divide and calls for efforts to ensure that developing countries are not left behind in the conversation around military AI. It promotes a multistakeholder approach that not only brings UN bodies together but also regional organizations, civil society groups, researchers, and industries. The goal is to foster inclusive dialogue, build technical capacity, and encourage responsible innovation that prioritizes global peace and security (UNGA, 2024).

Treaties

The Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law is the world's first legally binding international treaty dedicated to AI governance. Opened for signature on September 5, 2024, and adopted by the Council of Europe on May 17, 2024. The treaty aims to enable AI systems to comply with fundamental principles such as human dignity, individual autonomy, equality, non-discrimination, privacy, transparency, accountability, and safe innovation. The treaty applies to both public and private sectors, but excludes national

security. The treaty was negotiated by 46 Council of Europe member states, the European Union, and 11 non-European parties, including the United States, Canada, Israel, and Japan, with broad multi-stakeholder participation from civil society, academia, and industries (Council of Europe Treaty Series - No. 225, 2024).

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

AI and Society: Ethics, governance, and the future of work

In March 2024, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)adopted its first global resolution on AI, backed by over 120 countries. The resolution called for stronger protections of human rights, privacy, and data, and encouraged countries to monitor AI systems for potential risks. But because it's nonbinding, it relies on voluntary action, which limits its real-world impact. Other efforts like the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) AI principles, the EU's guidelines for trustworthy AI, and ethical standards from groups like the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)), have helped set a moral compass for AI development (UNGA, UN press 2024)). Still, the lack of global rules and wide differences in values and regulations between countries make it hard to come to a unified approach, an approach where all stakeholders have a coordinated, consistent framework and principles agreed upon collectively. Governments and companies have launched programs to retrain workers, support those displaced by automation, and spark innovation, because automation is changing the workforce. Many jobs are at risk of becoming obsolete, and without support, many would struggle to find employment, so programs are essential to help workers adapt to new roles created by AI. According to IJNRD, these programs include reskilling and upskilling initiatives, policy interventions to support displaced workers, and fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. (IJNRD, 2024)

Possible Solutions

Measures to Address Job Displacement

Mandate Governments and the private sectors to collaborate on creating accessible retraining and upskilling initiatives. These reskilling programs should be designed to help

workers adapt to new roles created by AI technologies, focusing on sectors most affected by automation, such as manufacturing. The focus shouldn't just be on learning new technologies but also on developing critical thinking and creativity, skills AI can't replace easily. Also, ensuring that these opportunities reach vulnerable and marginalized populations is essential to reduce inequality. Examples would be low-income workers, older adults, and rural communities. Governments and companies could offer tools like free internet or devices, and open free learning centers in the areas that are most needed.

Measures to Address AI's Involvement with National Security

To address the concerns of ethical and responsible use of AI in national security, it's essential to establish an organization for monitoring and enforcing global standards. Such governance will ensure that AI applications in defense and surveillance respect human rights and international norms. International cooperation among states and corporations is also encouraged, as transparent reporting and accountability measures can help mitigate risks like misuse, bias, and unchecked autonomous militarization. This organization is critical for preventing an AI arms race and ensuring that AI technologies enhance security without disturbing global stability.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

SDG#8, Decent work and economic growth:

This goal aims to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, as well as good and productive employment. Taking into account the growing job displacement due to AI efforts, like retraining programs and labor standards, should be taken into account, minimizing the negative impacts of AI. AI could enhance productivity and economic growth, while also jeopardizing work, mainly by threatening jobs that are dependent on simpler tasks. By implementing inclusive policies concerning AI's ethics, societies might be able to reduce the negative downside pressures of AI while also benefiting from the positive upside of AI on innovation and inclusive economic development.

SDG#16, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

SDG 16 works in hopes of more peaceful and inclusive societies, by promoting fair access to justice and accountable institutions. Seeing as AI is now a priority in many sectors, such as defense and surveillance, ethical regulation needs to be applied. Regulations in key sectors protect against abuse of power and guarantee innovation for democracy and human rights. If not properly supervised, AI systems could cause systematic bias and promote mass surveillance. Ethical regulation of AI should prioritize human rights and well-being. Regulation could help AI gain public trust and endorsement. SDG 16 and responsible AI practices are both concerned with the same aim: building AI systems that serve all people equally, minimize harm, and promote sustained peace and justice.

Appendix

The appendix contains sources with helpful information for delegates. The Appendix enhances your understanding of AI's impact on job displacement and national security.

https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12588.doc.htm

https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/03/21/un-ai-regulation-vote-resolution-artifical-intelligence-human-rights/

Source A: Information about the UN General Assembly "Seizing the Opportunities of Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence Systems for Sustainable Development" resolution

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqFqWIqOB1g&t=68s

Source B: Video to inform the delegates about the challenges and ethical use of AI

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQX_wIW9Nh0&t=154s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5onz3nj0gA

Source C: Videos of AI's impact on the workforce

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNOyXtwbI7E&t=407s

Source D: Podcast about AI's implementation in national security

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