

**Security Council**

Distr.: General  
19 December 2024

Original: English

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**Letter dated 19 December 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a joint statement by the Nordic and Baltic countries – Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden – in relation to the meeting of the Security Council dated 19 December on artificial intelligence, in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” (see annex).

We would like to respectfully request that the present letter and its annex be shared with the esteemed members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Sanita Pavļuta-Deslandes  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations



**Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Security Council briefing**

**Artificial intelligence and the maintenance of international peace and security**

**Nordic-Baltic statement**

The immense potential of artificial intelligence has sparked notions of emergence of the age of artificial intelligence. Some even call this the golden age. Indeed, artificial intelligence opens vast opportunities in many fields, including health, education, environment and the economy, to name a few. However, let us recall that the power of artificial intelligence has been unleashed by human intelligence. And human intelligence will need to perform at its peak to steer the rise of artificial intelligence in a beneficial and responsible manner. Therefore, in fact, we should think of this as the age of artificial intelligence-enhanced human intelligence.

Considering its cross-cutting implications, artificial intelligence must be developed, used and governed inclusively and in the interest of all, in a way that respects human rights, democracy and the rule of law. There is no other more inclusive multilateral platform than the United Nations. Deliberation and collective action through the United Nations, firmly rooted in the multi-stakeholder approach, that includes civil society, scientific communities and the private sector, is essential to ensure that artificial intelligence serves the interests of humanity.

There have already been many “firsts”. In 2023, the Security Council held its first discussion on artificial intelligence. This year, the General Assembly adopted the first ever resolution on artificial intelligence, followed by another resolution on artificial intelligence capacity-building. Meanwhile, the First Committee of the General Assembly recently adopted a resolution on the implications of the military use of artificial intelligence.

The Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact (Assembly resolution [79/1](#) and annex) provide important guidance on the next steps. The upcoming consultations on a global dialogue on artificial intelligence governance and the establishment of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI will provide a platform for all delegations to express their views and vision on the governance of artificial intelligence. Existing work, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI, can provide useful contribution to those deliberations. An outline of three key principles for our countries is given below.

First, the governance of artificial intelligence must be rooted in international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Human rights must be respected and protected – online and offline. While it is a novel technology, artificial intelligence must operate within the established framework of what is acceptable and what is not.

Second, artificial intelligence has to be human-centric and human rights-based. Human oversight and control, but also accountability, has to be preserved across its life cycle in order to mitigate safety and security risks. From existing experiences, we see that artificial intelligence can produce harmful effects in several areas, especially if used with malicious intent and in the absence of proper regulation and oversight.

Of particular and urgent concern to us is the impact of artificial intelligence on information integrity. The increasing malign use of artificial intelligence by State actors and non-State actors for information manipulation and interference in electoral processes presents a grave risk to security and stability of our societies.

Third, we need a harmonized approach. A patchwork of parallel and even overlapping efforts will not lead to better governance. In fact, it will cause fragmentation and hamper innovation. Effective governance requires clear goals, inclusivity and buy-in not only from States, but all stakeholders.

The potential application of artificial intelligence in the military domain demands particular attention. As demonstrated by history, technological breakthroughs can provoke military opportunism. In addition to misuse, there are also risks related to the unpredictability and lack of accountability of artificial intelligence systems, especially fully autonomous ones.

At the same time, artificial intelligence can offer benefits, such as improved protection of civilians, which can also be relevant in the context of United Nations peacekeeping. Even more, artificial intelligence can help prevent conflicts by improving early warning regarding the risks of violence in specific regions and by identifying vulnerable populations. Further reflection is therefore necessary to assess all factors associated with military applications of artificial intelligence.

An important track in this regard are the efforts to address the issue of lethal autonomous weapons systems, in particular within the Group of Governmental Experts under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Through those efforts, we must ensure that the development and use of such weapons systems is in full compliance with international humanitarian law.

Furthermore, we support multilateral initiatives aimed at formulating wider principles and norms for responsible military use of artificial intelligence, including through the Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain Summit process. We need to advance this discussion to ensure that all relevant aspects, especially legal and ethical considerations, are properly addressed.

To conclude, let us underline that the path that the development of artificial intelligence will take is not predetermined. This technology can amplify our best intentions – or the worst. It will be our collective task and responsibility to shape it in a creative, sustainable and safe way.