



BSAMUN 2023

# Addressing the Social Implications of Artificial Intelligence and Automation

**Dharmil Savla**

President of ECOSOC

**Maksym Burmistenko**

Deputy President of ECOSOC

---

# Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a rapidly growing field that has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives. From healthcare and education to transportation and entertainment, AI has the ability to improve efficiency, increase productivity, and enhance the quality of life for many people. However, with the benefits of AI come significant social implications that need to be carefully considered. It is important to consider some of the key social implications of AI, including job displacement, bias and discrimination, privacy and surveillance, safety and security, and ethical considerations. Through an examination of these issues, we can better understand the potential impacts of AI on society and develop strategies to address them. It is crucial for delegates to consider the social implications of AI in our discussions and seek to promote the responsible and ethical use of this technology.

## Definition of key terms

**Social Implications:** Social implications refer to the ways in which technological advancements, cultural shifts, and political policies affect society as a whole, including individuals, communities, and institutions.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a field of computer science that focuses on developing systems that can perform tasks that would normally require human intelligence, such as recognizing speech, making decisions, and learning from experience.

**Automation:** Automation is the use of technology to perform tasks or processes that would normally require human intervention, such as manufacturing, transportation, and communication. This can lead to increased efficiency and productivity, but also has social implications such as changes in employment opportunities and workforce dynamics.

**Privacy:** Privacy refers to the ability of an individual or group to control their personal information, limit access to it, and prevent its unauthorised use or disclosure. It is the right to be left alone and to make decisions about how personal information is shared with others. Privacy is an essential aspect of personal autonomy, dignity, and freedom of expression.

---

**Surveillance:** Surveillance refers to the monitoring or observation of individuals, groups, or activities to gather information or maintain control. It can be conducted by individuals, organisations, or governments using various methods such as cameras, tracking devices, or data collection. The purpose of surveillance may vary, ranging from ensuring security and safety to gathering information for marketing or law enforcement purposes.

**Social Inequality:** Social inequality refers to the unequal distribution of resources, opportunities, and benefits among individuals or groups within a society based on factors such as race, gender, socioeconomic status, and other forms of social differentiation. This can result in certain individuals or groups having advantages or disadvantages that affect their life chances and opportunities for success.

## General Overview

The issue of social implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been a concern since the early days of computing. In the 1950s, pioneers in the field of AI, such as John McCarthy and Marvin Minsky, were already discussing the potential social and ethical implications of their work. In the following decades, as AI became more sophisticated and widespread, these concerns grew and evolved.

In the 1970s and 1980s, debates around the social implications of AI focused largely on the impact it could have on employment. This was a time of significant technological change, with the widespread adoption of computers and automation technologies in many industries. Concerns were raised about the potential for AI to automate many jobs, leading to job losses and a shift in the nature of work.

In the 1990s and 2000s, discussions around the social implications of AI expanded to include issues like privacy, surveillance, and bias. As AI systems became more capable of collecting and processing vast amounts of data, concerns were raised about the potential for these systems to infringe on civil liberties and perpetuate existing inequalities.

In recent years, with the rapid growth and development of AI, the social implications of this technology have become even more pressing. From concerns about the safety and security of autonomous systems to questions around the ethical use of AI in warfare and policing, the issues surrounding AI and society are complex and multifaceted.

Today, discussions around the social implications of AI are ongoing and involve a range of stakeholders, including policymakers, technologists, and civil society organisations. As AI continues to transform many aspects of our lives, it is essential that we address these implications in a thoughtful and proactive manner.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is changing the world in many ways. AI has revolutionised various industries like healthcare, finance, manufacturing, and transportation, but it also has social implications that need to be considered. Here are some social implications of artificial intelligence:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming various aspects of modern society, from healthcare to finance, transportation to entertainment, and more. As AI becomes increasingly sophisticated, it is likely to have significant social implications that affect individuals, communities, and institutions. This summary will explore some of the social implications of AI and provide statistics and references to support these implications.

1. **Job displacement:** The automation of tasks once performed by humans is one of the most significant social implications of AI. According to a 2020 study by McKinsey Global Institute, up to 375 million workers worldwide may need to switch occupational categories and learn new skills due to automation by 2030. While AI will create new jobs, it may lead to significant job displacement in the short term. According to a report by the World Economic Forum, by 2025, machines and algorithms in the workplace are expected to displace 85 million jobs, but also create 97 million new ones, leading to a net increase in jobs.
2. **Bias and discrimination:** AI is only as unbiased as the data it is trained on. If the data contains inherent biases, the AI system will likely perpetuate those biases. For example, facial recognition systems have been shown to have higher error rates for people with darker skin tones, which could have serious consequences for people of colour who are misidentified by these systems. This issue is particularly important in applications of AI to criminal justice and employment, where biased algorithms could lead to unjust outcomes.
3. **Privacy and surveillance:** AI has the potential to enable widespread surveillance of individuals and communities. For example, facial recognition systems could be used to track people's movements, and algorithms could be used to analyze social media posts for information about individuals. These applications of AI raise significant concerns about privacy and civil liberties.
4. **Social inequality:** AI has the potential to exacerbate existing social inequalities, particularly in access to healthcare, education, and other essential services. For

---

example, AI-powered healthcare systems may not be accessible to people without reliable internet access, which could disproportionately affect low-income communities.

5. **Autonomy and accountability:** As AI becomes more sophisticated, it will increasingly make decisions that affect people's lives, such as in autonomous vehicles or medical diagnosis systems. This raises questions about who is accountable for these decisions and how they can be held responsible. It also raises questions about the degree of autonomy that should be granted to AI systems.
6. **Education:** AI also has the ability to affect the education system. With more and more students using AI software such as OpenAI in order to learn, there is definitely the potential for drastic changes to take place in the education system to change the way that students of all ages and levels learn their subjects. According to an article by USA Today, 30% of college students use ChatGPT which clearly shows the rapidly rising popularity of the program for educational use.

In conclusion, AI has significant social implications that will affect individuals, communities, and institutions in a variety of ways. These implications highlight the need for careful consideration of the development and deployment of AI systems to ensure that they are designed to benefit society as a whole.

## Countries Involved

**United States:** The US is a leader in AI and automation research and development. It has a strong regulatory framework and initiatives to address ethical and social implications of these technologies. It also has active private and public sectors working on AI and automation policies.

**China:** China is investing heavily in AI and automation research and development. The Chinese government has launched initiatives to become a world leader in AI and is implementing regulations to address social implications, including ethical and privacy concerns.

**European Union:** The EU is working on a comprehensive regulatory framework for AI and automation, including ethical considerations. It has also launched initiatives to

promote social inclusion and address employment challenges arising from these technologies.

**Japan:** Japan has been investing in AI and automation for many years and has a strong regulatory framework in place. The Japanese government is also working on initiatives to address social implications, including ethical and privacy concerns.

**Canada:** Canada has a strong focus on ethical AI development and has launched initiatives to address social implications, including the establishment of an advisory council on AI. It also has a robust regulatory framework and a thriving AI startup ecosystem.

**United Kingdom:** The UK has a strong regulatory framework for AI and automation, including ethical considerations. The government has also launched initiatives to address social implications, including the establishment of a Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation.

## Possible Solutions

Addressing the social implications of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation is a complex challenge that requires a multi-faceted approach. Here are some possible solutions to this problem:

1. **Develop comprehensive ethical guidelines and regulations:** Governments and industry leaders need to work together to develop ethical guidelines and regulations that address the social implications of AI and automation. This includes issues such as data privacy, employment impacts, and bias in algorithms.
2. **Invest in education and workforce development:** As AI and automation continue to transform the workforce, it is essential to invest in education and workforce development programs to ensure that workers have the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in this new landscape.
3. **Foster collaboration and inclusivity:** Collaboration between different stakeholders, including government, industry, and civil society, is essential to address the social implications of AI and automation. It is also important to foster inclusivity and involve diverse voices and perspectives in the conversation.

4. Encourage responsible innovation: Encouraging responsible innovation means prioritising the development of AI and automation systems that are aligned with ethical and social considerations, and that are transparent and accountable.
5. Engage in public dialogue: Engaging in public dialogue and education about the social implications of AI and automation is critical to ensure that the benefits and risks are understood by all stakeholders. This includes raising awareness of the potential impact of these technologies on employment, privacy, and other social issues.
6. Develop collaborative international frameworks: As AI and automation are global phenomena, it is essential to develop collaborative international frameworks that address the social implications of these technologies, and that promote responsible innovation and ethical practices.

## Bibliography

1. World Economic Forum. (2020). The Future of Jobs Report 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-future-of-jobs-report-2020>
2. Buolamwini, J., & Gebru, T. (2018). Gender Shades: Intersectional Accuracy Disparities in Commercial Gender Classification. Proceedings of the 1st Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency, 77–91.
3. Manyika, J., Chui, M., Miremadi, M., Bughin, J., George, K., Willmott, P., & Dewhurst, M. (2017). A future that works: Automation, employment, and productivity. McKinsey Global Institute.
4. Buolamwini, J., & Gebru, T. (2018). Gender shades: Intersectional accuracy disparities in commercial gender classification. Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency.
5. Dobbe, R., Espinoza, J., & Van Rooij, A. (2019). Automated decision-making and fairness: A literature review. *Data & Policy*, 1(1).
6. Mittelstadt, B. D., Fairweather, N. B., Shaw, M., & McBride, N. (2019). The ethics of algorithms: Mapping the debate. *Big Data & Society*, 6(2), 2053951719875694.

7. Floridi, L., & Cowls, J. (2019). A unified framework of five principles for AI in society. Harvard Data Science Review, 1(1).

8. Article from USA Today:  
<https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2023/03/01/what-teachers-students-saying-ai-chatgpt-use-classrooms/11340040002/>

