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United Nations Human Rights Council

Background Guide

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Greetings of the day delegates! It is an honor and pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Human Rights Council at the New Millennium Model United Nations 2025. We, Khushi Gajria and Alisha Saif will be your chairs through this conference. This is a document meant to aid delegates in acquiring a basic knowledge of the problem at hand and form the base for their future research into the topic. We advise against depending solely on this guide for your research work for the conference. Considering the depth of the topic, it is imperative that each delegate conduct their own extensive research into the topic at earliest. One must delve extensively into their country's stance and foreign policy on the topic at hand.

There is no such thing as too much research, you will need every last bit of information you can find. Another thing to note is that MUNs are rather rule centric events. Delegates must be thorough with their Rules of Procedure (ROP) before attending the conferences and ensure that they maintain the decorum and stick to the rules throughout the occasion. Delegates must remember that they are representatives of the countries they have been assigned to, not representatives of their own personal views. Therefore, we expect delegates to stick to the views adopted by their countries, and act in their country's best interests. Finally, we are really looking forward to the prospect of conducting this event and seeing your response to one of the gravest issues faced by the world of the 21st century. We assure you that it will be a fantastic learning experience, and one where everyone can learn something new.

We wish you the best of luck in preparation for the conference and would love to see you soon!

Regards,
Khushi Gajria & Alisha Saif

Introduction To The Committee

The United Nations Human Rights Council is the most significant body within the UN for protecting human rights globally. It was established in 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly to replace the former 'United Nations Commission on Human Rights' and now consists of 47 member states, which are elected for three-year terms by the UN General Assembly. The UNHRC typically holds three regular sessions per year, generally in March, June, and September. During these sessions, member states meet to discuss pressing human rights issues, pass resolutions, and engage in debates. UNHRC is based in Geneva, Switzerland, where it conducts most of its sessions.

This council provides a platform for UN Member States to discuss human rights issues, situations, and emergencies. The UNHRC adopts resolutions at regular conferences that reflect the position of the international community on particular human rights issues or situations. Adoption of a resolution conveys a strong political message that could persuade nations to take action to resolve those problems.

The UNHRC also works in coordination with other UN bodies such as The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the UNHRC's decisions and providing the necessary support for investigations.

In a world which is constantly changed by accelerating technological change and economic globalization, the Council must address new challenges to the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals. Two concerns are especially urgent in this context. One is in relation to the impact of artificial intelligence and its implications thereof for privacy, autonomy, and indeed the very definition of human rights in the virtual sphere. Given how rapidly AI is advancing, it is now essential that we acknowledge its shortcomings in order to guarantee accountability, transparency, and fairness when this technology is used. The other is ensuring the rights of workers, especially minorities such as women, people of colour, immigrants & refugees within the framework of the global supply chain, where repeated reports of forced labor, exploitation, and discrimination illustrate the vulnerability of minority communities towards abuse.



ISSUE 1

**The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on
Privacy and Human Rights**

Background

Artificial intelligence which emerged from a niche branch of computer science is arguably the most significant invention of the 21st century. AI technologies are increasingly being incorporated in a lot of professions. AI and machine learning advancements in the healthcare industry are spurring innovation and changing operational models by making individualized patient care, disease prevention, predictive analytics, and effective resource management possible.

- For example, a startup founded in Belgium, has developed an AI solution, using deep learning algorithms for early detection of traumatic brain injuries.

Precision medicine is also made possible by the use of AI technologies to find patterns in genetic data.

- For instance, a South Korean business used its AI platform to create an anti-cancer drug. These developments may make it possible for medical professionals to detect illnesses early, which would benefit patients and lower expenses.

Artificial intelligence has adopted a bigger role in spotting fraud in the financial industry. By analyzing great volumes of data, AI systems are able to identify potential fraud incidents faster and more accurately than conventional methods. However, concerns about lost confidentiality and the potential for constant surveillance have been raised by AI's capacity to gather, examine, and process vast volumes of personal data.

In the financial sector, artificial intelligence is becoming increasingly important in the identification of fraud. AI algorithms can more quickly and precisely detect possible fraud situations than conventional techniques by evaluating vast amounts of data. But this ability of AI to collect, analyze, and mine massive amounts of personal data has raised alarm over the loss of privacy and the possibility of perpetual surveillance.

Large data sets, frequently containing personal information, are the foundation of AI systems. This enables the collection, storing, and processing of large amounts of data. Data brokers are companies that collect personal data from a variety of sources, compile it into profiles of individuals, and then sell or rent this information to other organizations. They acquire, merge,

analyse and share personal data with countless recipients. This breach of privacy is only marginally inhibited by current governing laws. Businesses like social media companies, rely on this personal data of their users to push personalized ads, generating a perfect algorithm catered to each individual. Not only are these practices a violation of privacy, it often leads to further breaches of data.

- For example, in a settlement between Equifax (a data broker company) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) of America, The FTC alleged that Equifax failed to secure the massive amount of personal information stored on its network, leading to a breach that exposed millions of names and dates of birth, Social Security numbers, physical addresses, and other personal information that could lead to identity theft and fraud.

Facial recognition technology and predictive policing software are already being implemented in several states in ways that limit civil liberties and target vulnerable communities. Remote biometric recognition is linked to deep interference with the right to privacy. One of the most important aspects of a person's personality is their biometric data, which exposes distinctive traits that set them apart from other people. Additionally, the ability of state authorities to systematically identify and track people in public places is greatly increased by remote biometric recognition, which compromises people's ability to live their lives without being noticed and has a direct detrimental impact on the exercise of the rights to free speech, peaceful assembly, association, and movement.

Current Situation

The current state of privacy protection may need to be reviewed due to the growing usage of AI, but this does not imply that privacy will no longer exist or become obsolete. Information privacy is important because it provides a solid basis for determining how to use new technology in an ethical way. Every tier of governance has a responsibility to address distinct facets of AI development and deployment, in order to make a contribution to the overall system. At an international level, in order to provide a coordinated approach to addressing AI's global ramifications, international organizations should aim to establish global standards to promote international cooperation.

AI in today's world not only violates the right to privacy with frequent data breaches in different sectors such as health and finance, it also strips away the autonomy of an individual by using their personal images and content without consent to train generative AI. There are several lawsuits against companies like OpenAI, claiming that their copyrighted material was used without authorization to train Generative AI models. For example, ANI, a news agency in India sued OpenAI for using their news articles for the same, illegally, seeking 20 million rupees in damages. Another notable example is *The New York Times vs. OpenAI*. The news organization sued Microsoft and OpenAI in 2023 in the Southern District of New York for illegally utilizing its content to train AI models.

A number of nations have started drafting legislation to regulate AI and safeguard individual privacy. China has laws governing AI, such as the Algorithm Regulation and Deep Synthesis Provisions, which require algorithms and generative AI to undergo security evaluations. In order to encourage responsible use, the US has sector-specific restrictions and the AI Executive Order from 2023, although not having a complete federal AI law. To guarantee the safe and responsible use of AI, Canada proposed the Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA).

Governments and businesses are vastly increasing their deployment of AI systems that are subject to minimal regulatory control. Although areas such as the European Union are trying to bring in all-inclusive legal structures through laws like the Artificial Intelligence Act, most parts of the world still have no binding regulations. Such a patchy situation has led to the danger of a race to the bottom on an international scale, whereby safety measures for human rights are given up for the sake of technological superiority. There have been involvement of biased

algorithms to aggravate discrimination in hiring and even restrict the access of certain groups to public services, i.e. the technology sector is advancing without the presence of ethics and safety precautions in place.

Human Rights Concerns

The right to privacy is acknowledged as a fundamental human right by various international and regional human rights documents, including Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The right to privacy is an essential part of a democratic society and is crucial to the distribution of power between the state and the individual. In a society that is becoming more and more data-centric, its significance for the exercise and enjoyment of other human rights both online and offline is growing.

The right to privacy is probably the one most severely impacted by AI, since personal data is being sold and used more and more. But it is important to note that it is not the only aspect of human rights affected by the use of AI. AI raises many questions concerning other rights, such as the rights to freedom of thought and of opinion, the right to freedom of expression, and the right to a fair trial and related rights. AI not only collects personal information, but also analyzes data to find patterns in human behaviour. By categorizing and ranking their created profiles, AI systems can be used to profile people and that information can be used to make judgments regarding individuals. This profiling can be used to infer personal information that would not otherwise be disclosed to the organizations running AI systems, such as sexual orientation, emotional states, personal relationships, and health concerns. In addition to having detrimental effects on individual liberty and the civil and political rights that go along with it, this profiling and inference can also expose individuals and communities to discrimination when they try to exercise their economic and social rights such as protests opposing the government or other organizations in power.

AI can cause job discrimination in hiring because its algorithms can learn and replicate existing biases present in the data they are trained on. This can lead to systems unfairly favoring or rejecting certain groups, such as when an AI at Amazon was under scrutiny for having

algorithms biased towards hiring men than women or when an iTutor Group system was found to automatically reject older female and male job seekers.

Automated decision-making systems almost always lack transparency to the point where those affected by them are unable to understand how to request a reevaluation of their jobs or freedoms. The aforementioned risks to human rights are made worse by a lack of procedures for holding people accountable for their deeds, which makes it possible for human rights abuses to occur covertly.

International Response

While some nations—like Argentina, Colombia, and Uruguay—have already created national AI policies, others—like Brazil, Chile, and Mexico—are still in the process of doing so. In actuality, the majority of efforts are more typically a response to market pressures to provide regulatory frameworks that can promote the adoption of AI products and services, even though they have stated that they are open to addressing ethical challenges in AI. Convention 108 of the Council of Europe on the Protection of Individuals with respect to Automatic Processing of Personal Data has been ratified by Uruguay, Argentina, and Mexico.

Furthermore, in May of 2024 the first-ever legally binding international agreement was adopted by the Council of Europe to guarantee that human rights, the rule of law, and democratic values are upheld when using artificial intelligence systems. It's a legislative framework that addresses the threats that AI systems may pose, all the while encouraging responsible research. It is also open to non-European nations. The convention takes a risk-based approach to AI system design, development, use, and decommissioning, which calls for giving serious thought to any possible drawbacks.

To help with the challenges, the United Nations is starting to hold talks with the Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted two key AI-related resolutions:

- Resolution A/78/L.49 (March 2024), the first global resolution on AI, establishing principles for safe, secure, and trustworthy systems for sustainable development; and

- Resolution A/RES/79/325 (August 2025), which established the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence and the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance.

The first resolution, led by the United States, called for global consensus on AI, stressed human rights, and aimed to close the digital divide, while the second aims to further advance global cooperation on AI governance.

However, there is still no overall agreement among the world members regarding the specifics for the governance of AI, as they differ greatly in their concerns. Quite a few of them look at the development of AI from the position of the possible benefits of the technology, while others concentrate on the dangers of AI. So the decision is still open as to whether the international laws should require that AI development is bound by certain directives or if it is enough to rely on voluntary codes of ethics.

Questions Moving Forward

- Should there be universal standards for AI development and deployment?
- How can transparency and accountability be enforced across borders?
- To what extent should the right to privacy be protected in an era where data is seen as the most valuable commodity?
- How can AI be utilized for good, without infringing on basic human rights such as free speech, privacy and political rights?

Topics For Unmoderated Caucus

- Should Governments Ban Facial Recognition AI in Public Spaces?
- Does AI Automation Justify the Displacement of Human Labor?
- Are AI-Powered Social Media Algorithms a Threat to Freedom of Expression?

Topics For Moderated Caucus

- How to ensure transparency in AI Decision-Making Processes
- The Human Cost of AI-Driven Job Automation
- Balancing AI Innovation with the Right to Privacy

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ISSUE 2

**Enforcing Global Supply Chain Accountability: Protecting
Minorities**

Background

A Supply chain, a common idea in this world of consumerism, is the sequence of processes involved in the production and distribution of a commodity. Globalization has led to a United World Economy where companies can source their raw materials - and even labor - from any part of the planet. Although it allowed the Earth to become wealthier and the peoples to access what was once considered luxuries, the network has unveiled rights violations all over the world.

In the contemporary world, the goods and services provided to common people travel through innumerable invisible hands called intermediaries. The most commonly known are distributors, agents, wholesalers, and retailers. Even though more often than not, these middlemen are financially stable and have the security of brand deals and documentation promises, there is still a large population of these unseen intermediaries that don't get the satisfaction of a steady and secure livelihood. Socially marginalized groups, the indigenous peoples, and the migrants are usually the least protected actors of the global supply chains, as they are more than the others subjected to the coerced labor, discriminations and terrible working conditions. While supply chains facilitate greater economic growth and better international communications and cooperations, they also conceal grave human rights abuses, particularly against minorities who face systemic exploitation, discrimination, and exclusion. From child labor in mining operations to forced labor in textile production, big companies largely benefit from weak regulatory frameworks, opaque labour contracts, and lack of proper accountability and checks across borders.

The issue at hand is not a gradually emerging one, in fact it has been persistent for a long period of time and is extremely pressing. Transparency in states' supply chains continues to be one of the most significant human rights issues of the contemporary world. While the United Nations Human Rights Council has taken drastic measures to ensure the safety of all individuals employed in the various steps of a supply chain, these may not and are not always followed by nations claiming sovereignty. It is important for the security of the intermediaries and the reliability of consumers on the producers, that all nations come together to adopt a set-in-stone framework for supply chain and take complete accountability for the same. The question here stands; no doubt, globalisation has led to worldwide interconnectedness, but is this mutual dependence really worth stripping minorities of their culture, religion, and basic human rights?

Current Situation

Labour exploitation was and still is one of the largest human rights issues facing the world. From children mining for the making of electronics we use, to factory workers in mainly South-East Asia being paid less than a normal living wage, the matter in question remains important. Worker exploitation does not only persist in rural areas but also in high-end urban areas. Closer to home, labourers in your local logistics centre may endure unsafe, exploitative working circumstances, and informal domestic workers who care for your house may have considerably less freedom than you realise.

Human rights violations follow a similar pattern everywhere in the world. In an irregular situation, migrant domestic workers are subjected to sexual and gender-based abuse, discrimination, and exploitative working circumstances. They also lack access to fundamental economic, social, and cultural rights. They may be restrained by force if they reside at their place of employment, lack privacy, be denied access to food and sleep, and frequently be forbidden from getting in touch with their loved ones. In certain nations, they may be subjected to intrusive medical examinations and face termination if they become pregnant. In addition, if they run away from abuse, they might be arrested for not having the proper paperwork and denied access to legal, social, or medical assistance. Many may be scared to disclose their suffering to the police or other authorities for fear of deportation since they are at danger of xenophobia and violence in the community and at work.

Some high-profile cases have been attracting the world's eye to these violations. News about forced labor of the Uyghur ethnic minority in the Xinjiang region, rumors of migrant worker exploitation in the Gulf area, abuse of indigenous peoples in Latin America as well as the exploitation of well-known brands like Shein and Hersheys, have taken over the world by a storm and are increasingly catching the publics' attention. These are just examples of how global supply chains may be the vehicle to continue discriminating against the system.

However, the authorities are doing very little in terms of enforcement. Although the UN Human Rights Council has addressed the forced labor of the Uyghur ethnic minority in the Xinjiang region, the problem still remains and is extremely persistent in the locale. Many UN organisations as well as national frameworks have been put in place to set up labour laws and ensure protection of small and marginalised communities, however this problem has not seen its end. Especially due to the absence of a solidified global framework, numerous multinational

corporations take advantage of labor protection loopholes in different jurisdictions put in place by regulatory bodies and continue exploitation. What's even more concerning is that, due to this information not being public, consumers in rich countries are still largely oblivious to the suffering that produces the goods they buy. Lack of transparency in the working of supply chains is unfortunate not only for the labourers directly being affected, but also on the trusting consumer base that relies on these products for the working of their daily lives.

The increasing demand for consumer goods and luxury products have years and years of suppression, generational trauma, exploitation, and trafficking attached to it. With the pressure of producing and supplying more of these goods and services, violence against ethnic communities, indigenous population, and other minorities only increases tenfold. If not kept in check and called to action now, we would only be aiding the ripping of education and basic human rights from deserving children and adults.

Human Rights Concerns

The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) imposes labor rights in various forms. Guiding principles regarding freedom of association, collective bargaining, abolition of forced and child labor, non-discrimination, and safe work conditions have been put in place by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Many different organizations and frameworks have addressed issues like precarious working conditions, exploitation, and forced labour.

Minor exploitation in supply chains endangers the basic rights of the people, such as the right to equality, the rights to security and fairness at work, and the right to be free from discrimination. For the most defenseless people, engagement in such systems may turn into an ongoing abuse of the community. The absence of clarity in complicated, multi-tiered supply chains hides the ones responsible for the breach of rights, which makes it very hard to carry companies to courts of law or compel them to correct their wrongs. The sovereignty demanded by every state over their own labour force and the laws governing them, makes them in turn vulnerable to the wrongdoings of the major businesses and large organisations. Promises of a secure livelihood and financial stability by bigger powers fall onto hopeful ears, but in vain.

Minority and indigenous children in developing countries - usually West Africa, India, Bangladesh, Africa, and Latin America - are usually the most employed in child labour which clearly violates rights in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as well as the ILO. Many minorities - especially stateless people - are the recipients of coerced labour such as debt

bondage, passport confiscation, visa denial, and other threats and violence. Moreover, these minorities also lack legal protection, majorly because they don't have immediate access to regulatory authorities. Global supply chains (especially agriculture, mining, forestry) tend displacing indigenous and tribal populations without prior and informed consent. This flagrantly violates the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). For example, the working of the Western Mining Corporation (WMC) and the consequent protests advocating for indigenous rights in Australia. Furthermore, weak regulatory frameworks, conventions, and UN organisation documents like the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) are not legally binding.

International Response

Several international as well as national initiatives have been implemented to deal with the problem.

OHCHR invokes supply chain accountability through mandatory human rights due diligence that demands enterprises to make them see, prevent, mitigate, and be accountable for human rights impacts across their whole value chain. The frameworks include the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), which express the concept that business corporations have a duty to assure the human rights of individuals are respected in all actions they undertake, including those of supply chains. Adherence to this, however, is inconsistent, especially in countries with weak enforcement or political resistance to regulation. The UN Human Rights Council has also reached out to companies infamously for their lack of adherence to labour laws and supply chain accountability. They have sent out written letters to a number of multinational firms, particularly those in the garment and textiles industries, regarding the possibility of forced labour in China, particularly the Xinjiang region, after they acquired evidence that these corporations may be implicated, through their supply networks, in suspected forced labour, arbitrary imprisonment, and human trafficking. They continue asking corporations to perform supply chain audits. Moreover, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights also adopted a treaty called 'The International Convention on Migrant Workers', to promote and preserve the human rights of all migrant workers and their families, ensuring that they are treated equally and work under the same circumstances as native workers. The UNHCR Supply Strategy (2024-2030) focuses on ensuring a simple, swift, and sustainable supply chain to provide life-saving aid to refugees and displaced people. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their

Families (CMW) has also been established as a body of independent experts that works to protect the rights of the millions of migrant workers around the world. All these global frameworks are solidified and put in place, however, adherence to these are not checked by the UN on a regular basis. As a result of this non-compliance, workers are stripped of their basic human rights.

Some countries have also introduced laws at the national level that require companies to carry out a human rights impact due diligence exercise. Some notable frameworks include the 'Duty of Vigilance Law (2017)' by France that requires major corporations to prevent human rights and environmental breaches in supply chains, the 'Modern Slavery Act' in the United Kingdom, the German 'Supply Chain Due Diligence Act' and the Netherlands 'Child Labour Due Diligence Law', the former relating to demands of assessments of risk and preventative measures. As well as applying to human rights violations such as forced work, discrimination, and a lack of remedies, while the latter focuses more on child labour in supply chains, and so on.

Many developing countries are also increasingly taking stands and adopting systems to ensure supply chain responsibility. Countries like Brazil, India, and South Africa are all engaged in consultations or early drafting phases for due diligence frameworks.

However, compliance goes from one end of the spectrum to the other, and enforcement is often reliant on political will. The UNHRC has called for tougher international frameworks many times, yet the member states are still arguing about how far corporate accountability should be made mandatory.

Questions Moving Forward

- Should there be a binding international treaty on business and human rights?
- How do reporting and transparency get enforced in a globe where supply chains often pass through dozens of countries?
- How can the rights of minorities and vulnerable populations be prioritized without creating disproportionate burdens on developing economies?

Moderated Caucuses

- AI and Automation: A Threat or Solution for Minority Workers in Supply Chains?

- How can supply chain policies be made more inclusive of vulnerable minority populations?
- Should countries use trade tools to block imports linked to minority abuse?

Unmoderated caucuses

- Will the imposition of strict labor protections for minorities in supply chains hinder economic growth in developing nations?
- Is quiet diplomacy or public exposure the better approach to pressure supply chain reforms that safeguard minorities?
- Are developing countries victims of global supply chain pressures or active enablers of minority exploitation?

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Conclusion

AI is a rapidly advancing technology that is revolutionising industries across the globe. But the reliance on AI for things such as data analysis and facial recognition raises multiple ethical concerns like biased algorithms, privacy, and lack of accountability. Additionally, as AI becomes more integrated into decision-making processes, there is growing fear about the loss of human oversight and the consequences of relying on algorithms without ethical safeguards.

Workers rights in global supply chains are under constant scrutiny, as many companies take advantage of countries with weak labour laws. They often face unsafe working conditions, poor wages, and basic benefits like healthcare are not guaranteed. The UNHRC must work towards improving the conditions of these workers, ensuring there is no disparity among minorities.

Artificial intelligence and global supply chains are two of the most prominent features of the modern world. While they offer opportunities for growth and development of the economy, it is crucial to draw the line between what is “for the greater good” and what is actively an infringement on basic human rights and creating new weaknesses and gaps in international law. The responsibility to not only set global standards for human rights, but also ensure that they are followed worldwide, falls on international bodies in power, such as The United Nations.

The Human Rights Council will have to face such issues by balancing the conflicting priorities of different nations and suggesting mechanisms that would help maintain the respect for human dignity while acknowledging all aspects of the problem.

