RESOLUTION BOOKLET FOR THE COMMITTEE ABOUT ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Houses of Parliament Malta

23rd February 2024

The Wired Youth Science Committee on the Ethical Considerations in AI Developments submits the following resolution to the Maltese House of Representatives

Resolution on the question of:

Ethical considerations in AI development are paramount as technology advances. Developers and stakeholders must navigate the complexities of creating AI systems that align with moral principles and societal values. Addressing biases in algorithms, ensuring transparency, and safeguarding user privacy are critical aspects of ethical AI development. The responsible use of AI involves continuous scrutiny, open dialogue, and the establishment of frameworks that prioritize fairness, accountability, and the well-being of individuals and communities affected by AI technologies. A collective commitment to ethical practices is essential for shaping a positive and inclusive future with AI.

The Wired Youth Science Committee on Ethical Considerations in Artificial Intelligence refers to Article 8 of the European Charter for Fundamental rights, MIT News 'Study finds gender and skin-type bias in commercial artificial-intelligence systems', Study of Stanford University Human-centered Artificial Intelligence 'Introducing The Foundation Model Transparency Index', Cornell University 'Survey on Bias and Fairness Machine Learning'.

In which Issues are being highlighted as follows:

A. Deeply concerned of the biases present in historical datasets used for training artificial intelligence (AI) models exaggerating social inequalities.

B. Alarmed by the potential implications of biased algorithms in the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in decision-making.

C. Aware of the lack of control of the personal data.

D. Recognises the distinct nature of data and its potential impact on society if appropriated.

E. Deeply conscious of the high risks involved within the applications of AI and the intricacies relating to liability

F. Noting with deep concern the ineffective access to evidence and difficulty of tracing back that is necessary to build a case in cases of injury thus may lead to less effective redress possibilities.

G. Emphasising that the implementation of AI impacts the psychological well being of workers.

To this effect we the committee on Ethical Considerations in Artificial Intelligence recommend this Chamber the following proposals:

1. Recommends further work towards diverse and representative data collection. Ensuring that datasets used for training AI models include samples from various demographics, socioeconomic backgrounds, and cultural contexts to minimise such biases.

2. Establish a regulatory, scrutinity body tasked with overseeing, and enforcing the datasets inputted into Artificial Intelligence.

3. Endorse and strengthen robust cybersecurity protocols and encryption mechanisms to prevent unauthorised access or breaches that could compromise the confidentiality of users.

4. Initiate a regulatory requirement for organisations to conduct regular Privacy Impact Assesments (PIAs), a method for identifying and assessing privacy risks throughout the development lifecycle of a program or system whilst incorporating stakeholders' input and external audits to assess and mitigate evolving privacy risks associated with AI's data, and this must be done every year.

5. Calls for an EU fund to be created to encourage the development of user-friendly dashboards allowing participants to easily monitor, edit, or withdraw their consent at any stage, empowering them to exercise control over their data.

6. Institute enhanced and standardized, informed consent protocols specifically tailored to the intricacies of AI applications.

7. Reaffirms the requirement for all AI developers to obtain liability insurance, with coverage proportional to the risks associated with their specific AI applications, fostering a system of financial responsibility and extending the risk based approach as taken in the EU AI act.

8. Establishing a mandate that all organisations can be held liable for failing to provide transparent and understandable explanations for the decisions made by their AI systems.

Instructs the Speaker of the Maltese Houses of Parliament to forward the resolution to the Members of this Chamber

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INTRODUCTION - EMMA

Dear Mr. Speaker, honourable members of parliament and colleagues, we are here today to discuss the pressing issue which is Ethics in AI. Upon writing this resolution, we kept one aspect in mind, humanity. We kept humanity at the centre of our proposals to uphold ethical principles.

Ethics, as stated by renowned Greek philosopher Aristotle, "is the branch of study dealing with what is the proper course of action for man." It is therefore a guiding principle that shapes our actions and decisions and is the moral compass that navigates the complex landscape of human behavior and societal values.

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think and mimic human behavior. It represents a paradigm shift in how we perceive and interact with machines and empowers us to push the boundaries of what is possible, unleashing a wave of innovation that has the potential to transform every aspect of our lives. But amidst this awe-inspiring potential, we must not lose sight of the profound impact that AI can have on society. It is not just a tool or a technology; it is a force that has the power to shape the course of human history. Thus, by implementing ethical considerations into AI, AI can become a catalyst for positive societal change, where innovation is synonymous with responsibility, and where the benefits of technology are shared by all.

Ethics, as the guiding force behind human actions and decisions, serves as the bedrock upon which responsible AI development must be built. The words of the ancient Greek philosopher resonate even more strongly today, urging us to contemplate not just the proper course of action for individuals but the collective responsibility we bear in shaping the course of AI's integration into our world.

In an era where AI systems are increasingly influencing our daily lives, from healthcare to finance, from transportation to entertainment, we must pause to reflect on the ethical implications of these innovations.

We cannot ignore the serious ethical concerns that arise as AI becomes more developed, from concerns about data privacy and algorithmic bias to questions surrounding liability and transparency, the ethical dimensions of AI demand our careful attention and proactive action.

Today, my colleague and I, gather not only to acknowledge these issues but also to propose solutions to tackle them. The resolution we are here to discuss emphasizes the critical need to establish ethical principles in the design, development, and implementation of AI technologies. We cannot afford to overlook the potential ethical ramifications of AI systems, which have the power to influence decision-making processes, shape societal norms, and impact the lives of individuals across the globe.

At the heart of our resolution lies a commitment to fostering a culture of responsibility and accountability within the AI community. By promoting transparency in AI algorithms, ensuring fairness and equity in their outcomes, and safeguarding user privacy and liability, we can strive towards harnessing the full potential of AI for the greater good of humanity.

Picture a world where AI-driven solutions are not only cutting-edge but also equitable, where technologies prioritize safety and security, and where every individual, regardless of background, benefits from the positive impacts of AI. This vision is not utopian, it is achievable through a steadfast commitment to ethical AI practices.

As we stand at the precipice of an AI-powered future, we must recognize the profound impact of our choices and actions. By embracing ethical principles, we can steer the trajectory of AI towards a future that is accountable and aligned with our shared values.

As a committee, we urge you to pick a future where humanity prevails over unethical machines. This is the future we desire; this is the future we all deserve. Therefore, let us look ahead and take on the innovative ideas presented in our resolution. Let us stride boldly into the future, where the heartbeat of AI resonates with the rhythm of our shared and ingrained values, for the sake of our children.

Thank you.

BODY – GABRIEL

Dear Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members of Parliament and colleagues, In an age defined by incredible leaps in technology, the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands as a monumental achievement. As a committee we recognise the profound impact AI can have on society and thus, we gather here with a solemn duty: to ensure that as we embrace AI, we do so with integrity and fairness. Our mission is clear—to forge a path where AI serves humanity equitably and ethically. This resolution is our commitment to shaping a future where innovation uplifts rather than undermines the Maltese values we hold dear.

We pinpointed and tackled the main worries within the realm of AI. Everywhere from bias to privacy and consent concerns, to the critical issue concerning liability. As a committee we committed towards reinventing our future and tackling these issues keeping EVERYONE in mind, from the biggest businessman to the smallest child aspiring of their future, and therefore it is truly a testament of ethical innovation.

Therefore, we are proud to have formulated a step towards an ethical future.

Firstly what is the bias within AI? According to the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) "AI systems that produce biased results, reflect and perpetuate human biases within a society, including historical and current social inequality" and this is directly tarnishing our modern principles of equality as carved in Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental

Rights? Joy Buolamwini, a researcher at MIT, discovered that some facial analysis software were unable to detect her face until she covered her dark skin with a white mask. How can we let AI take us back into the 60's? She concluded that this was due to AI systems' being solely trained on white faces. Therefore our first proposal was to be proactive and further and expand representative and diverse data collection, preventing future biases from being inputted. Therefore we kept humanity at the centre of our decisions, truly protecting EVERYONE as we carefully balanced innovation and ethics. We remained concentrated in improving its capabilities while defending our rights and therefore proposed the creation of a specific scrutiny body tasked with overseeing the datasets inputted into AI to mitigate any biases present.

As a committee we also recognised data protection as an essential theme to enforce to ensure the safety of users when using Artificial Intelligence applications by endorsing robust cybersecurity protocols and encryption mechanisms to prevent the confidentiality of users from being compromised. This gives ease of mind to several users when using an AI application that, as stated by the notorious newspaper Reuters, they are able "to infer sensitive information, such as a person's location, preferences, and habits, poses risks of unauthorized data dissemination. Coupled with the potential for identity theft and unwarranted surveillance". Therefore as a committee we went the extra mile by upholding and enforcing current requirements, making it a regulatory requirement that organisations are to conduct annual Privacy Impact Assessments in order to mitigate any privacy risks present assuring everyone's safety. This is an essential step to work towards a safe future where we are truly able to co-exist safely with AI.

As a committee we continued to work towards making our resolution truly holistic. We innovated and reinvented current regulations to truly better our society. We highlighted the need for a revision of our current consent protocol to specifically tailor them to the intricacies of the AI ensuring users are well-informed during the consent stage due to AI's unpredictable nature. As a committee we didn't shy away from truly giving humanity control, and thus we called for an EU fund to be created to encourage user friendly dashboards to allow participants to monitor, edit or withdraw their consent at any stage, truly empowering them. This mirrors our unwavering approach towards placing humanity at the centre.

Finally, we insured that all AI developers are to obtain liability insurance with coverage based off of their specific AI applications, in order to foster responsibility and offer ease of mind towards users, this will act as an extension of the risk based approach taken by the EU AI Act. However we understand that every wrong action cannot go unpunished and thus any organisation failing to provide transparent and understandable explanations of their AI application can and will be held liable. Ensuring accountability across the spectrum. Protecting you and your families.

These proposals are the plan forward towards a safe and ethical future truly allowing AI to advance and develop whilst keeping it true to our values. Vote in favour of such a resolution, to truly place humanity at the centre. Don't let them convince you otherwise, this IS the way forward. We feel obliged to ask those parents present with us, if they want their children to be able to grow up with the safe and ETHICAL use of AI. We must not take it for granted. Vote in favour of this resolution. Vote in favour of innovation. Vote in favour of OUR values. Vote for a world with the ETHICAL USE OF AI.

THANK YOU!

CONCLUDING SPEECH- GABRIEL

Dear Mr Speaker, Hon. Members of Parliament, Distinguished Guests and colleagues,

We currently find ourselves at the intersection between innovation and responsibility, as the rapid use of artificial intelligence intensifies. After constructive dialogue and collaboration, as a committee we proudly presented a formidable and holistic resolution protecting and reinventing current regulations on AI, although supporting innovation we kept humanity in the centre of our approach.

Our resolution holistically tackled and embraced the values we believe in to protect our rights and progress into a future which we are proud of.

Point of Rebuttal- As stated by Ms. Cassar from the committee of Jobs, Artificial Intelligence does indeed create jobs HOWEVER according to the World Economic Forum in the next five years, 83 million jobs are to be lost and only 69 million are projected to be created. Therefore there is still an overall LOSS of jobs. The creation of new jobs will ensue up skilling which will leave the current workforce struggling to keep up, with them being unemployed for a certain time, although this may be short, this will cause instability, stress, loss of opportunities for children and forcing the family to choose whether to buy medicine or food.

"The report finds that nearly a quarter of all jobs (23%) globally will change in the next five years. Across 45 economies, covering 673 million workers, 69 million new jobs are expected to be created and 83 million to be eliminated, a net decrease of 14 million jobs, or 2% of current employment."

"A privacy impact assessment is not absolutely necessary if a processing operation only fulfils one of these criteria. However, if several criteria are met, the risk for the data subjects is expected to be high and a data protection impact assessment is always required. If there is doubt and it is difficult to determine a high risk, a DPIA should nevertheless be conducted. This process must be repeated at least every three years."-The GDPR regulation according to the EU-Therefore the need for it to be annually to truly protect our privacy.

We must not shy away from artificial intelligence, but excel into the future with these high ethical standards. This vote decides the position of Malta and whether we enter the new era, truly protecting the values and rights we believe in or we regrettably remain bystanders and watch the world evolve without our valuable contribution. This resolution prioritises the prosperity of families, endorses communication, protects the data of users, mitigates discrimination, maintains those organisations liable for any harm and endorses innovation as we continue to strive to place humanity at the centre of our work.

You must all sense the gravity of this vote, the profound significance that this singular choice carries. Let the pulse of this decision resonate within you. This is more than a call for innovation; it's a plea to protect the very essence of humanity in the face of technological evolution. Let your vote resound with a defiant declaration: for dreams, for families, for humanity—vote in favour of this resolution and look AHEAD into a world with the ethical use of AI.

Thank you and let us stand together for the ethical use of AI!

AGAINST SPEECH -JOBS

Dear Mr Speaker, Hon. Members of Parliament, and esteemed guests,

As the committee of Ethical Considerations in AI Development, we recognise AI's distinct benefits within various aspects of our society however we also recognise the pressing issue of Job displacement which several families face. This is a real and intimidating force which currently faces our reality. According to a report by McKinsey Global Institute, up to 800 million jobs worldwide could be automated by 2030. This staggering figure represents around one-fifth of the global workforce. This is why we need a concrete and holistic way forward.

The resolution formulated by the committee on the impact of Artificial Intelligence and employment although has several good points it is not capable of effectively tackling the issue, and ensuring food on families' plates. As a committee we wholeheartedly believe in safeguarding our children's future in order for them to aspire and achieve the professions they want to fulfil. Therefore we highlight the lack of measures taken by the committee to ensure that traditional jobs such as doctors, engineers, and teachers are still run by humans. As a committee we feel obliged to ask what proposals were made to ensure that these traditional jobs will not be lost and whether the only vision the committee has, is completely shifting our workforce to be modelled around Artificial Intelligence truly limiting our children's choice and taking away their aspirations BUT as long and I quote we offer them the necessary "counselling programmes" once it's done.

Artificial Intelligence should be used as a tool to help our professions and it must NOT dictate our future. We must not move towards AI but bring it to us.

We are pleased that both our committees recognised the need to tackle the critical issue of liability however we remain preoccupied by the ambiguity and lack of vision within the proposal of the Committee on Jobs and how it proves no real solution. However, as a committee we remain concentrated in truly offering the best towards families as outlined in our resolution by employing liability insurance with coverage according to the risks associated with their specific AI applications.

As a committee, we are extremely unsatisfied by the resolution formulated due to its sheer ambiguity. When going through it, you realise there is no clear vision. They hide behind vague terms reflecting their lack of vision. How can you trust this resolution with such a sensitive topic?

As a committee we recognise the importance and sensitivity of such a topic and therefore we understand the importance of a holistic and formidable approach. Therefore we cannot accept the mediocre approach proposed as we must strive for the BEST for Maltese Families and not side-line them to place heartless machines. We must keep in mind struggling families trying to make ends meet and how with the resolution formulated by the committee on jobs, **we will be forcing our children to work for AI as the machine can do a better job at their aspirations than them. As a committee we remain steadfast in our human-centric approach. To truly place ETHICS into AI.**