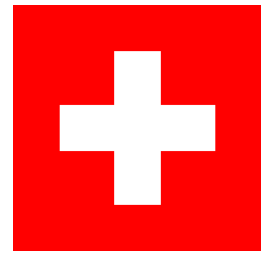


**Country:** Switzerland

**Committee:** United Nations Commissions on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD)

**Topics:** Regulations of Artificial Intelligence Regarding Potential Human Rights Violations, Net Neutrality and its Impact on Free Speech, The Issue of Technological Inequality Between Nations



*The Swiss Confederation* believes in the importance of artificial intelligence to move a country forward, while acknowledging the possible dangers regarding human rights violations, and is in favor of regulation in AI policies. We believe that for AI to benefit the common good, its design should avoid harm to fundamental human rights. However, there have been several cases of artificial intelligence agents violating human rights in recent years. Switzerland, being the country with most AI-related publications, has been involved in discussions at the international level and believes in a balanced approach that allows innovation while doing so legitimately and responsibly to protect human rights. With our Big Data and Digital Switzerland projects, we came one step closer to our humanitarian AI technology goal. We believe in transparent, verifiable, and regulated algorithmic decision-making systems that respect the binding codes and mitigate the discriminatory effect, and we encourage other states to acknowledge their human rights obligations and consider this in their AI policies and regulations with maximum transparency and communication about the steps in AI development processes.

Switzerland has a citizen-centered, knowledge-based digital policy that values equality and freedom of expression, and therefore supports an internet that enables citizens to access information freely and encourages small businesses to enter the market. We believe that this can be possible with a net neutrality policy. On 18 May 2019, the government approved the net neutrality proposal handed by the parliament, inspired by the EU legislation. Switzerland believes that net neutrality provides openness on the internet, disables governments to suppress minority opinions and control the information citizens can reach, and therefore is highly crucial when protecting citizens' freedom of speech and right to access information. We strongly encourage the States to ensure their telecommunication regulators provide consumers access to a neutral network, prevents ISPs from discriminating against specific content or services, provide a resource to complaint in the case of failure of ISPs to fairly present content or services, and that their ISPs inform their customers about limitations on Internet service plans.

We believe in the 4th Industrial Revolution and its possible positive effects on humanity, therefore support automation and artificial intelligence to move Switzerland forward. We are also aware of the possible dangers regarding an increase in international income and opportunity inequalities. AI and such technologies may widen development gaps between nations by providing economic and intellectual opportunities to people living in developed countries. Switzerland believes that regional and international cooperation to utilize technology dividends is required.

We believe that change and innovation are inevitable. They are also promising and exciting. However, they come with possible dangers that we believe should not be seen as denigrators of the innovation itself, but rather obstacles we should overcome to create a better, safer, different future. Switzerland is confident to solve the problems on our agenda with the democratic spirit of the UN and with the contribution of all states.