QUESTION OF: The role of science and technology in the context of international Peace and Security.

Committee: DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE

A new wave of technology is driving rapid global change. This technological change has created new opportunities for multilateral cooperation, but the UN has at times struggled to keep up with the pace of change. This struggle results in part because private sector and civil society actors are often in the lead when it comes to technological innovation. Another challenge is that new technologies present not only opportunities but also new threats to humans and their freedoms. To effectively keep up and adapt, the UN must determine where it can play a useful role and where existing mechanisms and other actors are better placed.

New technologies present opportunities for multilateral cooperation across a wide range of areas. The potential of new technologies to support sustainable development is widely recognized, and this is the area where the UN has come the farthest in integrating them into its discussions and work. The ten-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10) drew a strong link between new technologies and sustainable development, including in the 2030 Agenda. Though far from a panacea, these technologies also provide opportunities for preventing conflict and for responding to humanitarian needs. The UN recognized the potential for new technologies to enhance peace operations in the 2015 reports of the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in UN Peacekeeping and the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. Technology can also transform the relationship between governments and their people, though not always for the better.

What is international peace and security?

The United Nations was established in 1945 "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and one of its main purposes is to maintain international peace and security. The Charter of the United Nations gives the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Developments in science and technology are fundamentally altering the way people live, connect, communicate and transact, with profound effects on economic development, as well as on international peace and security, health systems, education and infrastructure.

Ways in which developing countries can promote tech advance:

➢ quality education for youth
➢ continuous skills training for workers and managers
➢ encourage businesses to carry out scientific research, innovate and apply advanced technologies
➢ expand knowledge of society members who intend to create their own businesses in the area of innovation, promote entrepreneurship, boost creativity and increase interest in innovation.

Organizations that help create an environment of international and national peace and security

- International Peace Institute (IPI): independent, international, non-profit (policy research, convening, publishing and outreach.)
- Science and Technology for Peace and Security (PEASEC) (deals with the significance of IT for safety, security and peace)
- Security Council Report (SCR): independent non-profit (consistent, high-quality information about the activities of the UN available to a wider group of stakeholders and the general public.)
- Foundation for Global Collaboration and Peace, Inc (a basis for on-going dialogue between communities worldwide, in order to better collaborate on a global scale to achieve and maintain peace holistically.)
- Creative Response to Conflict (CRC): global non-profit (educates individuals and groups to transform conflict into positive and constructive experiences)
- Peace Direct (helps the local people find their own solutions to conflict and build their own futures)
- Outward Bound Center for Peace Building: experience-based outdoor leadership organization (provides active learning expeditions that inspire character development and leadership.)
- NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security (provides services and facilities to hundreds of citizens' groups concerned with the peace and disarmament activities of the United Nations)
- The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)( builds a worldwide network of leaders with the professional tools and the personal commitment to prevent genocide.)


Ways in which technology affects the countries:

- Heathcare (Cell phones provide knowledge and awareness. Mobile health technologies give people unprecedented access to resources on life-threatening diseases such as HIV, AIDS. Portable sensors that monitor health conditions have revolutionized care for people who don't have easy access to hospitals.)
- Environment (Engineers build piped connections or other sanitary sources such as public taps, protected wells, and boreholes, thus improving drinkable water sources.)
- Economy (Access to financial services can be a path out of poverty, and technology has made great strides in creating economic sustainability.)
- Education (Many tech companies have created tools, which have helped improve the quality and access to education.)
- Electricity (Affordable electricity to thousands in sub-Saharan Africa, by harnessing solar energy to power communities.


Interactive and collaborative technologies in the context of peace, security and crisis research

- Safety-critical human-computer interaction (Social media and collaborative technologies in conflict and crisis situations, Usable security and privacy)

- Information technology for peace and security (Information warfare, opinion manipulation, fake news, Cyber War, Cyber Peace,)
- Resilient IT-based (critical) infrastructures (communication, agriculture, energy)

Science for Peace

- The equitable and sustainable management of natural resources is essential to avoid conflicts and to promote peaceful development
- The preservation of scientific capacities, threatened by global migration trends, is key to peace, sustainable development, resilience and recovery
- The excellence in science, technology and innovation and is essential to optimise its relevance and impact
- the fulfilment of the universal right to science

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