

Artificial Intelligence and the Maintenance of International Peace and Security

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Thank you Secretary Blinken for inviting me here today and thank you Secretary-General Guterres and Dr. LeCun for your remarks.

Distinguished members of the United Nations Security Council, I have spent my life working in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), with over 25 years dedicated to studying, developing, and understanding this transformative technology. One thing is clear: Never before have we stood at such an extraordinary intersection of scientific possibility and urgent global responsibility.

My area of expertise in AI is computer vision, deep learning, robotic learning, and AI for healthcare. Recently I have focused on a new technology called Spatial Intelligence in the age of GenAI — that is how AI systems perceive and interact with the 3D virtual and physical world.

This work has illuminated further promises of this technology, bringing us to some of the most exciting frontiers of innovation — for example, robots that navigate disaster zones to save lives, precision agriculture systems that address food insecurity, and advanced medical imaging tools that improve healthcare outcomes. These advancements highlight the incredible potential of this technology to help people, drive scientific discovery, and improve our world.

Yet, we must also remain vigilant. The same capabilities that hold such promise can be misused. This duality — the ability to profoundly help or harm — lies at the heart of AI's impact on peace and security. This is why public sector leadership and a human-centered AI approach are critical. I want to reflect today on how we — governments, researchers, and global citizens — can ensure that AI serves humanity rather than undermining it.

The Imperative for Public Sector Leadership

First, a vibrant and healthy AI ecosystem is essential to ensure that the transformative benefits of AI reach everyone. Right now, due to the vast amounts of compute and data required to train these systems, much of the innovation in AI is concentrated in the hands of a few large corporations and select nations. While that is one needed perspective, we must broaden the

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access and benefits of AI. We need to have a well-resourced AI public sector to ensure that AI's benefits are widely distributed and aligned with public interests.

Governments should take bold steps to address this gap. We need what I call a “moonshot mentality” for AI — a commitment to visionary public sector investment that goes beyond incremental reforms. The United States has already taken an important step with its National AI Research Resource pilot, which aims to democratize access to compute resources and government datasets. But this effort must be scaled globally, especially to ensure that no countries are left behind.

I urge governments to view AI not just as a technology to regulate but as a strategic asset to invest in. This means funding basic research, supporting education and workforce development, and creating inclusive platforms for global collaboration. Only with sustained public investment can we ensure that AI reflects the diverse needs and values of humanity.

A Vision for Global Collaboration

Second, global collaboration has been a cornerstone of my career, from interdisciplinary research teams to cross-country partnerships. It is also the cornerstone of effective AI governance.

I have had the privilege of serving on the UN Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board which studies how scientific and technological progress can support efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. I also appreciate the growing recognition of the need for global safety standards that ensure AI systems are designed and deployed responsibly. But we need to go further.

I envision a [Multilateral AI Research Institute \(MAIRI\)](#), a network of research hubs bringing together experts from across disciplines and pooling resources across nations. Such an institute would do more than advance technical innovation; it would set global norms for responsible AI development and deployment, rooted in democratic values and a commitment to international peace and security.

Global collaboration must also address the persistent digital divides that threaten to marginalize some regions of the world. The benefits of AI should not be reserved for wealthy nations. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that everyone has equitable access to AI tools, training, and infrastructure. This is not just a matter of fairness — it is a matter of global stability.

Science- and Evidence-Based AI Policymaking

Finally, AI's transformative potential is matched by its complexity, demanding careful and evidence-based governance. Policies grounded in rigorous research will pave the way for innovation and global progress. While we have identified risks such as algorithmic bias, disinformation, and misuse of autonomous systems, much remains to be understood about their scale and impact. These are hurdles we can overcome through collaboration and ingenuity.

A global research agenda is essential to fill these knowledge gaps and inform targeted interventions. This dedication to evidence-based governance bridges the gap between developers and policymakers, fostering an environment where AI is not only safe and equitable but also a source of inspiration and progress.

Conclusion

As a researcher, a teacher, and a mother, I often reflect on the world we are creating for future generations. Realizing the potential of AI requires vigilance, collaboration, and a shared commitment to human dignity and global stability.

I urge you to act with urgency and unity. By fostering public sector leadership, championing global collaboration, and advancing evidence-based policymaking, we can unlock AI's transformative potential while safeguarding its responsible development.

Thank you again Secretary Blinken and Secretary-General Guterres for allowing me the privilege of speaking to you today. I apologize that I must leave a few minutes early today due to a prior engagement but I appreciate your time and attention so much this morning.