



The Hague International Model United Nations

Forum: SPC 1

Issue: Measures to ensure equal access and use of Artificial Intelligence technology, products, and services by LEDCs

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Introduction

In our day, artificial intelligence (AI) has become a life altering force in shaping industries, economies, and societies worldwide. The addition of artificial intelligence in all aspects of our daily lives, healthcare and educational industries, agriculture and administration has the great opportunity of increasing untapped potential of improving certain qualities of life. On the other hand, the access to and usage of AI technology, products and services can differ from LEDCs and MEDCs. This significant disparity causes LEDCs to face many challenges, some of which may include; having limited access to resources, insufficient technological infrastructure, lack of skilled staff and employees, which, consequently, hinders their ability to harness the potential of AI. Addressing, putting pressure, and acting on this gap is vital in order to ensure global equity and prevent the widened digital divide gap. Focusing on identifying and fulfilling the needs required throughout a certain initiative to bridge this gap can create larger opportunities for LEDCs to have the privilege of having complete equal access to the AI advances MEDCs experience on a daily basis. Making sure that both, MEDCs and LEDCs, have equitable access to AI may be a matter of fairness, but in the long run, it can also be a critical step in the direction towards encouraging global economic growth, revolution, and the

common good of society, especially in MEDCs. Not only would this pressing issue increase the digital divide gap, but it also has the power to increase the economic gap within these countries. An imbalance of power could also result from unequal access to AI, whereby wealthier countries dominate international trade and decision making processes while undermining LEDCs.

From industrial machines all the way to the digital age, historically speaking, LEDCs have had difficulty accessing advanced technologies. Considering the larger costs from certain countries, artificial intelligence has gained an immense amount of attention, internationally, roughly over the last 20 years. Nevertheless, LEDCs lack the infrastructure that may be available for MEDCs, data access, and skills needed to take advantage of this growth.

Definition of Key Terms

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

is a group of technologies that make it possible for devices to carry out a number of sophisticated tasks, such as seeing, comprehending, and translating written and spoken language, analysing data, making suggestions, and more.

Digital Divide

“the gulf between those who have ready access to computers and the internet, and those who do not.” (Oxford languages)

Equity

Fairness and justice, which is different from equality: While equality is giving everyone the same, equity entails realising that we all begin differently and that inequities must be acknowledged and corrected.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

Goals set by the United Nations in order to cover a wide range of issues, some of which may include; ending poverty, protecting the environment and ensuring peace and justice.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

it aims to strengthen telecommunications infrastructure in underdeveloped nations, improves international collaboration in satellite orbit assignment, and supports the development and coordination of global technical standards.

The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

a multi-stakeholder project that supports innovative research and applied efforts on topics related to AI in an effort to close the gap.

Background information

Rise of the conflict

The issue of ensuring equal access to AI products, services and technology to LEDCs is rooted from the broader sense of history in terms of technological advancements and the inequality of it. Historically, the global digital divide has separated LEEDCs and MEDCs more than ever, but with AI's growth and recognition in the past few years, this has increased the gap. Starting off from where it all began, during the 20th century, the rise of electronics and technologies were taking over. In the 1990s, global reliance on technology and education through electronics has risen and the internet began to shape the global economy, however, for certain areas, this privilege was restricted due to factors including cost. With the progression of AI throughout the 21st century, the divide has been more pronounced and seen by all. The rapid development of AI throughout MEDCs such as the United States of America and China, began to shape the untapped potential for economic growth and changes in societal norms, however, it also displayed a great concern of the intense impact this would have on LEDCs, inequality. Throughout the 2010's known organizations, such as the United Nations and the World Economic Forum turned their attention to emphasizing on the fact that less economically MEDCs should be able to access AI tools, products, services, and technologies as much as MEDCs can.

Bridging the digital divide between LEDCs and MEDCs

Bridging the digital divide between developed and less economically MEDCs is a very critical task, it involves the need for many different countries to work together, create alliances and plan to change many different aspects of lives. The digital divide is when MEDCs already have access to the internet, google, Wi-Fi, and many other aspects digitally. While LEDCs don't have this privilege. Bridging the digital divide between such countries, developed, and developing, includes many attempts to narrow the inequalities which come with digital technology access and usage between the two different types of countries. This digital gap compromises the differences in the internet world, the technological infrastructure availability,

computer skills, and the available access to information and communication technologies, which are otherwise known as ICTs. Because of the influence that digital technologies have on several aspects of life, such as business, education, healthcare, and social inclusivity, the digital gap has dramatically increased attention over the course of a few years. Recently, due to many reasons regarding the digital divide which can be insufficient financial resources, lack of infrastructure, and inequality in socioeconomic status, LEDCs have had to face many challenges in closing the digital divide. Countries are divided into two groups; MEDCs and LEDCs. Developing economies are low-income or middle-income. LEDCs do not have the same financial or tax bases as rich, developed countries, so they often have poor power infrastructure and internet connectivity. The digital divide is growing due to the lack of easy access to the layers of infrastructure that society supports.

In addition to this, LEDCs may go through many challenges when there are significant gaps in the ability to access and use technology. The LEDCs capacity to engage in any electronic activities that connect them closer to people all over the world is a lot less than developed countries. The difference between their connectivity can lead to economic opportunities being lost, their productivity and global competitiveness decreasing. Closing the digital divide between MEDCs and LEDCs can bring about a significant economic transformation. It drives economic growth for both types of nations, encourages innovation, and generates a multitude of job openings. When LEDCs gain increased access to technology, it opens doors for more individuals to find employment, which in turn boosts their economy. Moreover, it sparks the initiation of new projects, encourages fresh ideas, and generates additional work prospects. As a result, bridging the digital divide empowers these countries to make strides forward and reap the benefits of digital technologies, thereby fueling their economic wealth. The digital divide has a negative overall economic impact and exacerbates income inequality. People who don't possess digital skills and expertise in modern technology find it difficult to advance in their careers and make a lesser contribution to the economy of their country. As a result, the economy loses competitiveness.

Capacity building and education in AI

Healthcare, education, and sustainable development are among some of the major issues that AI has the potential to entirely impact. Globally, it is changing sectors and economies. But this opportunity is not distributed equally between developed and LEDCs, LEDCs frequently lack access to or use of AI technologies, however, MEDCs are drowning in them. Because of this disparity, MEDCs improve quickly while others lag further

behind. By providing balanced access to AI, LEDCs are able to take part in and gain from these developments, encouraging a more equitable distribution of opportunities worldwide and teamwork in addressing common global issues.

Partaking in the action of providing equal access to AI products, services and technologies will be able to promote excess economic growth in LEDCs by providing them with AI services to take advantage of, as well as use AI advancements for increased local entrepreneurship, productivity, and competitiveness in international markets. Fintech technologies improve financial inclusion, while AI solutions in agriculture, for example, can assist increase food security. Second, by enhancing vital services like healthcare, education, and disaster relief in LEDCs, equal access to AI promotes social fairness. Third, these actions promote international cooperation, allowing LEDCs to actively participate in tackling problems like public health emergencies and climate change. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN are in line with these activities, especially SDGs 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

The gap in access to and usage of AI between MEDCs and LEDCs is worsened by an array of issues. Lack of technological facilities which includes expensive technology, inconsistent electricity, and restricted internet connectivity, is an ongoing issue mainly faced by LEDCs. The "brain drain" occurrence, in which talented individuals leave developed countries in search of better opportunities, contributes to the lack of education and expertise in AI-related sectors.

Economic limitations also delay development because LEDCs frequently lack the financial resources necessary to invest in AI research and development. Effective adoption of AI technologies is further restricted by inadequate legal frameworks and a lack of inclusive leadership structures. Last but not least, developing nations are disadvantaged by their restricted access to and control over data, a vital resource for the advancement of AI. Large international firms' domination in data ownership and collecting discourages local creativity and restricts the potential for independent AI development.

Access to Global AI Networks and Collaboration

Humanity is being reinvented by AI, which has an impact on fields including healthcare, education, and environmental preservation. But its advantages are not shared fairly, frequently benefiting LEDCs with strong technology infrastructure. To solve this disparity, cooperation and

access to international AI networks are crucial. LEDCs run the danger of missing out on solutions that are mainly driven by AI to pressing issues like managing sickness and reducing poverty if they fail to be included. These areas can be strengthened by collaborative AI projects, which will allow them to use technology to promote global fairness and long-term prosperity.

It is essential to guarantee fair access to AI services, products, and technologies in order to spur global development and reduce socioeconomic gaps. AI has the potential to greatly increase production, maximise public services in neglected areas, and improve the distribution of resources. AI-powered machinery for agriculture, for instance, can increase food security, and AI-powered educational applications can increase access to high-quality educational resources. Encouraging cooperation also fosters creativity in local settings, allowing for solutions that are suited to particular problems.

The difference in MEDCs and LEDCs access to AI technologies is caused by a number of variables. These consist of inadequate technology infrastructure, such as erratic internet access and restricted availability of reasonably priced equipment. Due to a lack of AI-focused education opportunities and qualified specialists in LEDCs, educational disparities make the inequality more severe. Investments in AI research and innovation are also constrained by financial issues. Furthermore, ownership and access to data continue to be major obstacles since international AI firms frequently own these resources, limiting the ability of developing countries to innovate domestically. International collaboration and focused policies are needed to address these issues.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

The United States of America

The United States played a pivotal role, addressing this issue by emphasizing the advancements of AI in order to unlock its complete potential to address significant global issues, such as healthcare and education. To guarantee fair advantages for all countries, particularly developing ones, important initiatives the United States has conducted include promoting public-private collaborations and harmonising international AI governance standards. In the past, the United States worked with international bodies, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, in order to try to make AI more efficient and trustworthy. This collaboration was also a way to back frameworks and enhance capacity building initiatives

which allows LEDCs to be able to use modern technology without sacrificing their security or putting themselves in any danger of any kind.

South Korea

South Korea is a developed country that can have an intense effect on this issue, some of their transformative efforts related to this issue may include the establishment of high-quality data collecting technologies in order to guide AI platforms while simultaneously ensuring the public to have complete access. Through public platforms, whether that be school or online platforms accessible to all, South Korea presents AI training programs, specifically for people within the workforce, to ensure anyone employed or not, knows how to use AI professionally and to be able to keep up with the advancements. In addition, it has created national ethics rules for AI with an emphasis on privacy, openness, and justice. This system encourages fair AI integration and may serve as a model for similar regulations in developing nations. In an effort to make sure LEDCs are not forgotten throughout the AI revolution, South Korea has also participated in international AI discussions and offered technical support in exchange for knowledge. These initiatives support international calls for responsible technology use and AI equity.

The European Union

The European Union has had a significant impact on addressing AI access and development in both, MEDCs and LEDCs. Its strategies emphasize maintaining a balance between innovation and ethics in the global use of AI. The European Union has implemented an initiative called “The AI Act”, This initiative calls for the classification of AI risks while ensuring transparency, justice, equality, and most importantly, safety. Not only has the European Union supported LEDCs in this sense, but it is also supportive on a global scale, it assists, globally, through the corporations and partnerships, such as; the Coordinated Plan on AI, as well as the partnership alongside “OECD AI Policy Observatory” that overlook strategies to further advance originality. These strategic cooperations and partnerships had a significant impact on this arising issue, as well as an effort to increase access to AI, using it responsibly, inclusive growth across LEDCs.

The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

This partnership was established in 2020 between Canada and France, focusing on ensuring that the use of AI remains reliable and responsible, while avoiding as many risks as

possible, addressing the danger of irresponsible use such as bias and underrepresentation, especially in LEDCs. In the past, this partnership has acted on this issue; some of the actions taken are partnering with OECD creating an AI initiative to make more efficient efforts to provide a source for LEDCs to participate in the AI resources. Another action that GPAI has taken is putting most of their efforts and focus on LEDCs using Senegal and Argentina and Africa as significant countries for the expansion of AI.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

By hosting the World Summit on the Information Society in 2003 and 2005, the International Telecommunication Union was essential in tackling the digital divide, which further leads to the unequal access of AI technologies and services. . The ITU created frameworks like the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda to close gaps in technological access and inclusion, funded capacity-building programs in underdeveloped nations, and encouraged international cooperation to improve the digital economy. The goals of these initiatives were fair access to technology and universal internet access.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
December 10th, 2003/ November 18th, 2005	The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), was a UN-led initiative that identified the digital divide as a critical global issue and aimed to promote universal digital inclusion.
September 25th, 2015	The SDGs, which include objectives including lowering inequality (SDG 10) and creating resilient infrastructure (SDG 9), were adopted by the UN, laying the groundwork for closing the disparities in technological access.
November 12th, 2019	International organisation, UNESCO, started to stress the importance of AI for sustainable development and the necessity of granting LEDC's access.

March 11th, 2020	The COVID-19 pandemic increases global reliance on AI for healthcare and education, showing the gap between developed and LEDCs.
June 7th, 2022	“AI for good initiative” was launched by the ITU, bringing stakeholders together to discuss solutions for AI.
December 11th, 2023	GPAI emphasised collaboration between developed and developing countries while extending efforts to develop foundations for inclusive AI.
January 23rd, 2024	Global leaders at the UN Summit of the Future and the World Economic Forum emphasized the need to address the "AI divide" by enhancing technological capacity and infrastructure in LEDCs.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

“Enhancing International Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence Capacity-Building for LEDCs” A/RES/78/311 (2024)

This resolution was adopted by the general assembly on July 1, 2024. Its main focus is to enhance international cooperation, especially the use of AI in LEDCs. This creates an inclusive global environment through the use of increased access to AI to bridge the digital divide between MEDCs and LEDCs, as well as achieve the SDG’s set. The main contents of this resolution encourage international alliances to increase their access to use of AI to grant access to LEDCs. Calling for greater connectivity and access to new technologies in order to enable complete inclusivity for all. Many more ideas and solutions were implemented into this resolution in order to help bridge the gap.

“Science, Technology, and Innovation” A/RES/76/233 (2021)

This resolution was adopted by the general assembly on December 24, 2021. While not completely related to the topic of AI, it mainly addresses issues relating to science, technology, and innovation, especially in the case of easing international access to these technologies in LEDCs. The resolution presses for greater strength in measures to fill the digital gap and highlights the importance of technology in accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development. The issue of guaranteeing developing nations equitable access to AI technology and services is directly related to this resolution. It draws attention to worldwide initiatives to reduce gaps in access to technology and seeks to establish a more welcoming international environment where all nations can profit from developments in artificial intelligence and related sectors.

Possible Solutions

Bridging the digital divide

One potential option is to improve and extend LEDCs telecommunications and internet infrastructure. To overcome the digital divide, poor countries must focus on strengthening and expanding their telecommunications and internet infrastructure. This requires laying fiber optic cables, increasing broadband connection availability, and investing in dependable and inexpensive internet services. Public-private partnerships can be crucial in providing the cash and expertise required to successfully finance and implement these significant infrastructure projects.

Promoting affordable access is critical for closing the digital gap. Governments and organizations may help LEDCs lower the cost of internet access and digital devices by financing internet services and providing inexpensive alternatives for smartphones, tablets, PCs, and a variety of electronic devices. This strategy guarantees that digital tools are available to a larger population.

Capacity building and education in AI

Early exposure and the development of core knowledge in AI are ensured by integrating AI-focused disciplines into K–12 and postsecondary educational institutions. In order to guarantee balanced education, UNESCO highlights the significance of developing government-approved AI educational programs, incorporating project-based learning, and integrating contextual ethics. For these courses to be implemented successfully, teacher training is essential.

AI may also be able to solve the lack of skilled teachers in remote or LEDCs by offering adaptive learning systems and personalised educational content. LEDCs can establish more inclusive learning environments by using AI-powered technologies and virtual teachers. This method improves student involvement and guarantees fair access to high-quality education.

Access to Global AI Networks and Collaboration

Strategic partnerships with private sector businesses, research institutes, and international organisations with innovative AI skills can help LEDCs. Working together can give access to modern facilities, tools, information, and knowledge. LEDCs can customize AI solutions to local problems by participating in international AI research consortia, guaranteeing that developments worldwide are relevant to their particular requirements. Global cooperation may foster equitable AI development, as demonstrated by initiatives like GPAI. Through these kinds of initiatives, LEDCs, with limited resources, can access international knowledge networks, take part in AI related conversations, and contribute to improvements.

Another effective strategy for reducing the gap between MEDCs and LEDCs is to make AI tools, platforms, and datasets publicly available. Anyone may access the tools needed to create AI applications through open-source projects like TensorFlow and OpenAI, regardless of their financial situation. Furthermore, developing nations may educate AI models by using a variety of datasets through promoting a culture of data sharing between countries. This lowers bias and guarantees that AI technologies are inclusive. Supporting open-source AI projects, particularly those aimed at industries like healthcare, education, and agriculture, can help guarantee that advances in AI are applied globally to better the lives of people in LEDCs.

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Appendix

- I. Safeguarding the Network of Networks: <https://rb.gy/ifvtw>
- II. Digital divide (social differentiation): <https://www.britannica.com/topic/digital-divide>
- III. What is the digital divide: <https://www.closesthegapfoundation.org/glossary/digital-divide>
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