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CONFERENCE RESULTS ON "NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN IMPLEMENTING THE UNESCO RECOMMENDATION ON THE ETHICAL ASPECTS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE"

Ksenia Pankova

Abstract. This article examines activities aimed at implementation and promotion of UNESCO's fundamental documents in the field of regulation of artificial intelligence and, in particular, the "Recommendation on the Ethical Considerations of Artificial Intelligence" and other tools developed by this specialized agency of the United Nations. The article provides a detailed review of the conference "National experience in implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence", which was organized on October 27, 2023 by the MGIMO Centre for Artificial intelligence with the support of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Program (IFAP).

Keywords: artificial intelligence, UNESCO, ethics in AI, regulation of AI, MGIMO, international events, international standards

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Part 1

The rapid development of AI technologies and their implementation in various fields such as healthcare, education, business and entertainment are helping to accelerate the pace of global economic development. Today, artificial intelli-

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gence technologies are penetrating into all areas of human everyday life, and that not only provides great opportunities for improving its quality, but, at the same time, poses significant threats if used in bad faith. In this regard, ethical issues and issues of establishing boundaries in the use of AI technology, searching for limits beyond which the risks of using the latest technologies will be too high, are quite acute. Due to the global nature of the changes taking place, issues of AI regulation affect all countries of the world, but especially the poorest ones. In addition, AI regulation matters have become almost the only noticeable area of the global development agenda today, in which the UN and its structures can play a coordinating role [1].

UNESCO and its activities have a significant value in promoting the ethical and safe use AI, ensuring its use to maximize public good. The organization regularly promoted initiatives aimed at reducing the risks of using AI. The fundamental document in the field of AI ethics developed by UNESCO is the "Recommendation on the Ethical Aspects of Artificial Intelligence" adopted in November 2021, which is a set of rules for the ethical development and implementation of AI. The document was adopted by all 193 UNESCO member states and became the first ever global standard in this area. The stated goals of the document are to reduce risks in the area of inequality, including gender inequality, as well as negative consequences for human rights. Preparation of the document took two years. The document is based on the "Preliminary study on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" released in February 2019 by the UNESCO The World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) [12]. The study's authors formulated key principles for the final document:

- human rights;
- inclusivity;
- prosperity;
- autonomy;
- explainability;
- transparency;
- understanding and literacy;
- responsibility; accountability;
- democracy;
- good governance;
- sustainability [12].

The text of the Recommendations provides a definition of the concept of AI and also establishes the principle that ethical standards must be observed at all stages of the lifecycle, from research and development to commercial and non-commercial use. The principles specified in the Preliminary Study are also approved in the final document. The Recommendations formulate 11 policy areas that cover various areas related to AI. Among them are:

- data management while respecting human rights, privacy and security, as well as ensuring data quality, diversity and representativeness;

- the use of AI technologies for environmental protection and sustainable development, the impact of AI technologies on energy consumption and carbon footprint;
- eliminating gender bias and discrimination in AI, ensuring equal participation and representation of women and girls in the development and management of AI;
- conducting training activities and research to improve ethical literacy in the field of AI;
- using AI to improve public health and quality of life.

To ensure international dialogue with the participation of experts, as well as to promote the implementation of the Recommendations under the auspices of UNESCO, the organization's offices and government agencies in various countries hold international events on different levels. Thus, even during the development of the Recommendations, in November 2020, a panel discussion was held on the topic of AI ethics with the participation of high-ranking UNESCO officials, representatives of France, Japan, research institutes, non-governmental organizations and business [20]. The main topics included the impact of AI on politics and the global market, approaches to AI ethics at the level of various countries and regions, and fundamental principles for hedging risks when using these technologies.

UNESCO works closely with countries in the Global South, especially in Africa, which, at the insistence of French representatives, was included among the key regions of the world to which experts should pay special attention in order to ensure equal access for local populations to benefits brought by the spread of AI [1]. Through the organization, direct technical assistance in the implementation of AI technologies is provided, first of all, to African and small island developing countries. The UNESCO-South Africa Subregional Forum on AI, held in Namibia in September 2022, established a South African coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Recommendation [17]. In addition, UNESCO is actively working to assist a number of Latin American countries (including Colombia, Mexico and El Salvador) in preparing for the implementation of the Recommendation and the creation of regional structures responsible for AI regulation [18].

In November 2022, with the active participation of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, an expert round table was held [15]. During the event, the international cooperation on the protection of human rights in the online space in pursuance of the Recommendation and the fight against discrimination and incitement to hatred in cyberspace were discussed. In December 2022, the first international event dedicated to the implementation of the provisions of the Recommendations was the Global Forum on AI Ethics in the Czech Republic [10]. The forum was held in the format of a discussion aimed at sharing experiences. The main emphasis was on ensuring inclusivity in the context of large-scale implementation of AI in the world [9]. The key themes of the ministerial event were: ethical development and use of AI in the EU, global cooperation between the EU and UNESCO in process of the application of the Recommendations, gender inequality, etc.

UNESCO regional offices showed parallel activity. The Beijing Office took on the responsibility to coordinate the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy on AI Ethics [13]. On August 25, 2022, representatives of the UNESCO Beijing Office presented detailed information about the Recommendations at the seminar "Principles of using AI for biodiversity conservation" [13], and at the third International Seminar on Intercultural Interaction in the Field of Ethics and Governance of AI. The Chinese representative office of UNESCO actively interacted with the countries of Southeast Asia region. In particular, in Bangkok in August 2022, at the King Mongkut University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUNTB), the representative office held an online lecture on the Recommendation and their connection to the Declaration of Ethical Principles on Climate Change. Later, a conference on the use of AI in education sphere was held in China (shortly before the international forum in the Czech Republic). This event was attended by representatives of UNESCO, commercial and international non-profit organizations, government bodies in the field of education, as well as heads of universities from 17 countries. The topics of the forum included strategies for using AI to ensure the digital transformation of education, involving teachers in the use of AI technologies and transforming the teaching and learning system, as well as global partnerships to help lagging states, with a focus on African countries [10].

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Many significant international events were also held in 2023. In May, a Roundtable of Education Ministers on the Use of Generative AI was held in Paris under the auspices of UNESCO, and in August two documents were published - the Readiness assessment methodology: a tool of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (RAM) and the Ethical Impact Assessment: A Tool of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence [1; 5; 11]. RAM assesses the readiness of countries based on compliance in 5 dimensions (legal, sociocultural, scientific-educational, economic) [14]. The main focus is on the institutional aspect. The results of the assessment will allow UNESCO to tailor its efforts to suit the needs of specific countries. These activities are aimed at collecting data on institutions, legislation, the situation with gender equality, environmental sustainability and cultural diversity of different countries. Ethical impact assessment tools are expected to help those involved in the procurement of AI systems to ensure that the AI systems they purchase comply with the ethical standards set out in the UNESCO Recommendation [5]. The tools are designed to assess the degree of compliance of AI systems with ethical standards.

In July, UNESCO held a conference on ethics in neurotechnology in Paris. The event was attended by representatives of the organization itself, the academic community, business and government. The main conclusion was the need to respect human

rights, as well as the requirement to ensure transparency and non-discrimination in research [6].

From November 7 to 9, 2023, a round table "Empowering the Mind" on generative AI and education in the Asia-Pacific region was held in Bangkok under the auspices of UNESCO [21]. In addition, on November 17, the UNESCO Beijing Office also presented the Recommendation of the Asia-Pacific National Bioethics/Ethics Committees (APNEC) Network, focusing on its relevance for AI in healthcare [13].

In addition to above-mentioned events on the level of international organizations, work to develop ethical principles of AI and bring local conditions and standards into compliance with the Recommendations is also carried out at the level of individual states and regional associations. For instance, in October, under the auspices of UNESCO, a Latin American and Caribbean summit on AI-related issues was held in Chile [3]. As a result of the ministerial meeting, the "Declaration of Santiago" was signed on joint efforts to develop ethical AI in the region [4]. Participants emphasized the need for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to make joint efforts to implement ethical AI standards to raise the region's international profile in the global AI regulatory process.

Due to the increased activity of Chinese representatives in international events on AI under the auspices of UNESCO, the United States began to lose influence in the development of relevant norms and regulations. In this regard, President J. Biden decided to return the United States to UNESCO in July 2023, after the country left the organization in 2017 [8]. The stated goal was to ensure American leadership in harnessing the power of AI and reducing the risks of its use [16].

On the same days, a decree was issued in the United States. The purpose of the document was to strengthen government control over developments in the field of AI (the main focus is on the most advanced models, which are classified as dual-use models) [7]. After the issuance of the Decree, the National Institute of Standards and Technology initiated creation of a consortium to solve security problems and ensure human-centered management of AI [2].

It is worth emphasizing that efforts to develop recommendations for regulating AI are being carried out not only at the UNESCO level, but also throughout the UN. In October 2023, UN Secretary General A. Guterres announced the creation of the UN multi-stakeholder High-level Advisory Body on AI to undertake analysis and advance recommendations for the international governance of AI. It included 39 representatives of government authorities, the academic community, and commercial organizations from various countries. The Advisory Body is faced with the task of ensuring the broadest possible interaction with various stakeholders in order to agree on a joint position on this issue. A. Guterres called for a global, interdisciplinary, multilateral dialogue on the governance of AI, so that the benefits of AI for all humanity are maximized and the risks are contained and reduced.

The formation of the Advisory Body is an important step for the development of multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation in the field of AI, as well as increasing trust in AI and its further application while respecting human rights. As part of its work, the Advisory Body is expected to issue preliminary recommendations by the end of 2023, and final recommendations by the summer of 2024, ahead of the UN Future Summit scheduled for September 2024.

In the context of the above, responding to the current international agenda, the MGIMO Centre for AI conducts research and outreach activities, contributing to the development of principles of ethical AI, and is a discussion platform for experts in the field of AI from around the world. As part of cooperation with UNESCO, an international conference "National experience in implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" was held on October 27, 2023. Representatives of UNESCO, government agencies and academic circles of Russia and foreign countries took part in it. Experts unanimously recognized the need to ensure fair access to technologies, paid attention to the development of ethical principles and the experience of various states in developing regulatory measures for AI technologies.

The Second UNESCO Global Forum on AI Ethics is planned for early February 2024, where progress in the implementation of the Recommendations, best practices and key events in this area will be discussed [19].

Part 2

The organizers of the "National experience in implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" conference were MGIMO Centre for AI, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Program (IFAP). As noted above, the event became a communication platform for members of UNESCO National Commissions, government officials, representatives of the scientific community from universities and think tanks studying AI issues, business representatives and officials involved in the development and implementation of AI-based technologies.

At the opening ceremony, a welcoming speech was read from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation S.V. Lavrov. The appeal noted: "Our common goal is to ensure a harmonious, the one that is not non-undermining the foundations of society and the state, introduction of the latest technologies into everyday life through the creation of a common regulatory environment and the management of any risks of their use." The minister also emphasized that Russia "will continue to promote international cooperation in this area on the principles of equality, mutual consideration of interests and common responsibility for the future of humanity."

During the plenary session of the conference, speeches were made by the Executive Secretary of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO T.E. Dovgalenko, Referent of the Office of the President of the Russian Federation for the De-

velopment of Information and Communication Technologies and Communications Infrastructure S.A. Zakharova, Chairman of the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Program, General Director of the Interregional Center for Library Cooperation S.D. Bakeikin and Deputy Chairman of the Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO Information for All Programme, Chairman of the working group of the UNESCO Information for All Program on information accessibility, Executive Director of the Jamaica National Broadcasting Commission Cordel Green. The speakers placed emphasis on the combination of international and national approaches to ethical regulation.

Executive Secretary of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO T.E. Dovgalenko made a welcoming speech to the participants of the event. In her opinion, AI is a new topic for international relations, and the conference represents a timely and necessary initiative. Ethical understanding of scientific and technological progress is traditionally a priority area of the organization's activities, and was formulated long before the development of modern ICT infrastructure. The organization has already developed ethical principles regarding the fight against climate change, space exploration, etc. In the current context Russia has actively supported the development of new ethical principles for AI. The development of the principles itself took a long time, but the main thing is that as a result it was possible to consolidate a human-centric approach, since human well-being should be the measure of the value of any innovation. The UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics was adopted in 2021 and remains the only universal guideline on ethical AI today, as it has been signed by the organization's 193 member-states. This document is not mandatory, its use is voluntary, but Russia began to implement it even before its official adoption as part of the development and implementation of the national Code of Ethics in the field of AI [22]. T.E. Dovgalenko also drew the experts' attention to the fact that, at the same time, the UNESCO Secretariat has developed two documents – the Readiness Assessment Methodology and the Ethical Impact Assessment, which are designed to facilitate consistent practical steps to promote the Recommendation. Also, as part of this work, the first report on the process of implementing the Recommendation will be prepared, its release is scheduled for 2025.

Referent of the Office of the President of the Russian Federation for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies and Communications Infrastructure S.A. Zakharova noted that nowadays we are witnessing the rapid development of technology, and above all, AI. Over the past year (2023), there has been a new leap due to the proliferation of large generative models in the field of natural language (LLM), image, and audio processing. In fact, according to the speaker, this is a breakthrough. And humanity is not fully prepared for that: we understand that there are advantages for economic growth and improving the well-being of citizens, but on the other hand, there is a risk of losing man as an entity. Therefore, the UNESCO Secretariat and the Russian Federation thought about the ethical aspects of AI in advance.

S.A. Zakharova noted that the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin in 2020 addressed the expert community with instructions to develop a set of ethical rules in the field of AI. This served as a driver for the development of the AI Code of Ethics, in which representatives of science, business, government, public, cultural figures, and international experts participated. The Russian Code of AI Ethics is an important contribution to the UNESCO Recommendation. Moreover, he was prepared ahead of time. Signatories of the Code are large corporations, leading universities, foundations and innovation clusters. Their number exceeds 250, and 19 of them are foreign organizations from 16 countries. This fact indicates that the provisions of the Code are recognized and responded to in foreign countries. The peculiarity of the document is that it is not just a set of ethical standards, but also a detailed practical tool for assessing their implementation. A commission was created to implement the Code, and an innovative institute, an "ethics commissioner," appeared in all signatory organizations. Today in Russia, conditions have been created for developing a comfortable regulatory environment, which is based on regulation, experimental legal regimes, as well as ethical standards developed by society. We move from theory to practice, and the next stage is certification for safety, trust in the technology and its ethics. This practice will be of an applied nature; it will become partly voluntary and partly mandatory practice. This experience may be useful for the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation, as well as for many countries that are on the way to similar forms of regulation. In Russia, an updated AI Development Strategy is now being prepared for signing.

Chairman of the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Program, Director General of the Interregional Center for Library Cooperation S.D. Bakeikin emphasized that in the last decade, technological development has been taking place at an unprecedented pace and scale. Information technology is an increasingly powerful force in the modern world. Its influence is felt in all areas of public life, from business and education to politics and international relations. In this regard, there is an acute problem of ensuring free access for every inhabitant of the planet to the new opportunities that are opening up. Issues related to the use of technology and the building of what is today called the information society are of extreme importance to UNESCO. Therefore, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, UNESCO's intergovernmental Information for All Program (IFAP) was created, through which participating governments committed to seizing the new opportunities of the information age to create equitable societies by increasing access to information technology and reducing inequalities in this area. Russia became the first country to create a national committee of the IFAP Program, within which active activities are carried out in the priority areas of the program, which include topics such as:

- information for development;
- preservation and accessibility of information;
- media and information literacy;
- multilingualism;
- information ethics.

Technology can be used not only to promote human rights and dignity, but also to limit them. The goals of the program include not only promoting the dissemination of information and knowledge, the development of media and information literacy skills, and continuing education in the field of ICT using advanced information technologies, but also promoting international discussion of legal, social and ethical issues arising from the use of technology. In today's world, technology and, in particular, AI, can influence the processes of human thinking, interaction and decision-making, as well as the spheres of education, science and culture.

As for the risks, the use of some technologies is fraught with violation of key human rights and can become a barrier to the spread of new ideas if they are used to harm people. AI-led technologies also threaten the existing intellectual property regime and, as a result, the protection of the interests of copyright holders. Moreover, the use of AI-based technology can lead to discrimination, inequality, digital divide and marginalization, threaten cultural, social and biological diversity, and exacerbate social or economic stratification. This is why the emergence of the UNESCO Recommendation is so significant. AI systems at all stages of the life cycle should be inextricably linked with human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as moral values and principles, moral and ethical views that ensure respect, protection and promotion of diversity and inclusivity. The information society should stimulate the use of such technologies, the negative impact of which is minimized. This requires large-scale interaction and combined efforts of all stakeholders at all levels.

Vice-Chairman of the Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO Information for All Programme, Chairman of the UNESCO Information for All Programme's Working Group on Information Accessibility, and Executive Director of the National Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, Cordel Green noted that while we are striving to chart a course towards a future in which AI will indeed serve the well-being of humanity, in fact, serious problems arise against the background of growing public awareness of generative AI. Technology is developing at a time when the future is being shaped under the influence of a whole pool of factors, including new opportunities, instability, uncertainty, and the complexity of global processes. AI is developing in an environment of very low levels of trust around the world. Thus, UNESCO's AI Ethics Recommendation comes at a very opportune time to create a governance framework that will, in turn, help build public trust over time. This is a framework based on ethical principles, and therefore we, according to the speaker, will demand standards of behavior that are higher than those prescribed by law. Therefore, cooperation is now underway in the field of developing approaches to AI management. Cordel Green called for serious attention to be paid to the principles of proportionality and non-harm. The development of AI will transform areas such as media, politics, healthcare, education, and will also have an impact on food security, national security and will contribute to the success of the fight against climate change.

In session No. 1, "Session 1: AI ethics as the essential element for creating global governance system: challenging issues" participants discussed ethical principles and standards for working with AI technologies, since they are the most important element in creating a global AI governance system.

The moderator of the session was Doctor of Sciences, Professor, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director of the Russian Academy of Science's Institute for Problems of Information Transmission (named after. A.A. Kharkevich) M.V. Fedorov. In his opinion, it is important that AI remains an object of law, since if it becomes a subject, human subjectivity will be jeopardized. AI is a technology invented by man; there can be no subjectivity, but today representatives of not all countries and not all experts in the world agree with that idea, since there are interests of individual corporations and other interested parties. It is important to discuss the issue from the perspective of global and international matters in order to understand what is really contained between the lines.

The speech of the President of the International Institute of Scientific Research (Morocco) Fatima Roumate was devoted to the ethical aspects of AI and technological sovereignty. The professor highlighted issues of AI and new types of sovereignty, and considered issues of sovereignty and law in the context of the ethical aspects of AI.

New types of sovereignty include technological sovereignty, cyber sovereignty, data sovereignty and digital sovereignty. The expert noted the dual impact of cyber sovereignty and technological sovereignty are based on sovereignty in the field of public international law. This sovereignty is explained by competition between states at three levels: AI and investment in robotics, 5G technologies and research and development in the field of AI. The top 5 competitors in the development of relevant legislation are the USA, China, Russia, South Korea and the EU. China is leading in 5G technology advancements and the US is leading in innovation. Technological sovereignty in the field of public international law implies political, economic and social independence. Legal regulation is necessary because AI is transforming the areas of international security, conflict resolution, political change, democracy and the social sector (education, culture, healthcare). At the same time, technological sovereignty has an impact on the labor market, healthcare system, and education.

New strategies are needed that can provide strategic autonomy in the field of economics, public relations, democracy, infrastructure and approach to risk management. The approach should include diagnostics and monitoring, real-time analysis.

The governance system, both within and outside the country, must be based on certain principles (accountability, sustainability, transparency) and specific values (respect, inclusion, assistance, protection), which are based on international law, human rights, international humanitarian law and supranational regulation. Thus, it is necessary to rethink the relationship between states and BigTech, between international organizations and transnational corporations, between states and citizens, between authorities, business and the scientific community. This is the cornerstone that will allow humanity to achieve the future we strive for.

Doctor of Philosophy, Professor of the Engineering Academy of Patrice Lumumba Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Scientific Secretary of the Scientific Council under the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences on the methodology of AI and cognitive research A.Yu. Alekseev made a presentation of on the topic "AI: the problem of trust. Methodological principles for constructing an expert system for ensuring trust in AI systems." The speaker noted that at the level of conceptual modeling there are several forms of implementation of philosophical and methodological knowledge: as embodied philosophy and methodology of science according to J. McCarthy, as exact epistemology according to V.K. Finn, as Turing and post-Turing methodology according to A. Turing, H. Putnam, V.S. Stepin, as a methodology for interdisciplinary research at the Scientific Council of the Russian Academy of Sciences on the methodology of artificial intelligence and cognitive research. Moreover, the categorical functions of the complex Turing test include coordinating, interrogative, definitive, critical, constructive and constitutive.

Head of the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy of Yerevan State University J.S. Manukyan spoke about the possibilities of using AI in education and, in particular, about the training of future international relations scholars. In his opinion, through the use of impartial, verifiable, transparent mechanisms, AI can become an important tool in resolving international disputes and conflicts.

The use of AI in international relations carries a number of risks, including the possibility of widening the technological gap between less developed countries and those with more advanced economies. Ultimately, however, AI is unlikely to replace diplomats because the importance of international diplomacy is too sophisticated to be left to robots or neural networks. The interdisciplinary nature of the international affairs profession limits the use of AI, but this cannot prevent the use of AI as an effective tool in the field of international relations and diplomacy, especially in this particular era of science and technology.

Diplomatic agencies of the world's leading countries are increasingly using certain AI-based technology products in their work. The introduction of AI elements into the educational environment to train a new generation of international relations scholars is becoming increasingly important both in terms of supporting the educational process and for further professional activities. The use of AI in courses such as "modeling international relations", "informative analysis of foreign policy", etc., would allow masters to conduct research and obtain more accurate results, especially if the work is related to a large scale, with database analysis, allowing for savings budget and time.

On the other hand, there are certain risks: the use of AI elements may affect the student's future ability to fully demonstrate the abilities and skills of a specialist not only in the above-mentioned areas, but also in the field of professional translation.

Deputy Chairman of the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Program, Deputy Director General of the Interregional Center for Library Cooperation A.V. Parshakova presented some important aspects of AI ethics and information ethics in general through the lens of the UNESCO Information for All program. Ac-

cording to the speaker, in the modern world, information is the key to successful development and the key to sustainable growth. It is in this connection that the concept of the information society arose. Created in 2001, the intergovernmental UNESCO Information for All Program was UNESCO's response to the risks posed by the information society and the opportunities that this era provides. The concept of the program assumes that every person should have access to information and technologies that are important to them. This condition is key to being able to build a more perfect and sustainable society.

UNESCO's Information for All Program recognizes the enormous potential of information technology to promote global peace, human rights, progress and genuine understanding, which are at the core of UNESCO's mandate and vision of humanism. Therefore, information ethics was chosen as one of the priority areas of our activities.

The primary task and priority of information ethics, aimed at implementing the principle of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the information society, is to put technology at the service of protecting human rights. This is the right to freedom of expression, to general access to information; the right to education, the right to participate in cultural life and much more. International discussions on information ethics are aimed at addressing the ethical, legal and social issues that arise from the use of information technologies and, in particular, AI.

Twenty years ago, during the first stage of the World Summit on the Information Society, ethical aspects were identified as a separate area of action. This direction involves, inter alia, promoting research in the field of ethics in the use of information technology and further analysis of current and emerging problems, searching for opportunities, as well as constantly increasing the level of protection of the confidentiality of personal data. In addition, legislative measures are expected to be taken to prevent the inappropriate use of technology. Even then, experts warned that, alongside with the advantages provided by information technology and digital communications, which make it possible to cover the whole world, there are also threats of abuse, therefore the information society must be based on generally accepted values and focus on the common good, as well as create mechanisms to protect citizens from the risks associated with the introduction of the new technology. This requires a comprehensive effort from all stakeholders. UNESCO's Information for All Programme, together with its partners, is committed to supporting these efforts in every possible way.

Thus, in 2011, the intergovernmental council of the Program developed a Code of Ethics for the Information Society. It is emphasized that ethical principles apply to all participants in the information society, both collectively and individually, and the existence and application of ethical principles at all levels is essential to ensuring a truly inclusive information society. The Information for All program called on all member states to take preventive measures and coordinate strategies to ensure Internet safety, protect society from cybercrime, human rights violations through a combination of legislative measures, provide training to users in media and information literacy skills, self- and participatory regulation measures, as well as corresponding technical

solutions. Discussions on cyber and information ethics involving government officials, academia, civil society, and intergovernmental organizations focused on how the evolution of the way technology is developed, used and applied influences the dynamics of social change. This interconnection changes human understanding, as well as the way we think about technology and how we interact with it.

As it became clear that freedom of expression and privacy on the Internet were being threatened by new technological means of mass surveillance, infiltration, exclusion and censorship, UNESCO and the Information for All Program emphasized to government officials the need to take ethical principles into account when formulating specific regulations. framework within which the technological and social aspects of the information society will be regulated. Even then, the need was emphasized to improve the qualifications of specialists in the field of ethics of information technology, the development of specialized international documents, through the creation and implementation of educational programs in information ethics in various countries of the world, since the accelerated pace of technological development leaves insufficient time for forecasting and analysis.

After 2015 the agenda of the World Summit on the Information Society highlighted the ethical dimensions of the information society as a priority issue. And at the present stage, the main emphasis is also on high-level interaction on the issue of global implementation of ethical AI.

AI has revolutionized almost every field and sector. As a cutting-edge technology whose adoption has fundamental implications for people, culture, society and the environment, it can be an ally in the fight for a more just and sustainable future. AI systems are being integrated into the operating models of businesses in various industries, and by 2030, these technologies are expected to contribute $13 trillion per year to the world's GDP. However, it must be understood that today's AI, known as "narrow" or "weak" AI, is used to perform very specific tasks, and the so-called "general" or "strong" AI that will potentially emerge in the long term will potentially be able to mimic human ability think, understand and solve intellectual problems that raise new questions. And these questions concern, among other things, a person's self-awareness, his interaction with the environment, autonomy and freedom of action, value and dignity. This is where much more serious contradictions and problems associated with AI arise.

Undoubtedly, AI algorithms open up new opportunities and improve existing ones. Even at the current stage of development, they can provide greater access to quality medical services, which is important for residents of remote areas; predict the consequences of climate change; predict socio-economic trends, enabling the development of evidence-based poverty reduction strategies; democratize access to education by tailoring learning programs to individual needs to bridge the education gap. However, we must always remember that these technologies carry significant risks, especially in terms of deepening existing disparities, exacerbating gender inequalities,

violating dignity and violating human rights. We are already seeing a lot of cases of privacy violations, the emergence of deepfakes, radicalization of content and other negative consequences that arise as a result of the introduction of technology. This is why there is a growing number of international initiatives aimed at reducing the existing and potential dangers of using AI. UNESCO's efforts, and in particular the Information for All Programme, are designed to help assess the strengths and weaknesses of AI systems, develop ethical principles, legal frameworks and international standards to ensure its responsible and transparent implementation, and promote fair access to it.

That is why UNESCO developed the first global Recommendation on AI ethics, which notes the need to ensure transparency and clarity of the work of algorithms and data on the basis of which intelligent systems are trained, to take into account the potential consequences of their use, in particular from the point of view of supporting democracy, participation in social -economic political and cultural processes, respect for human dignity, gender equality, security and law and order, as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, privacy, non-discrimination. Compliance with relevant ethical principles is of great importance for building an inclusive knowledge society and raising awareness of ethical aspects and principles is key to preserving fundamental values such as equality, solidarity, tolerance. AI models are inherently neutral, but can unintentionally propagate and reinforce biases that are present in the data itself, thereby perpetuating existing inequalities. This is why rigorous testing and the use of diverse, representative data sets are so important when creating these models.

Developing strong data protection measures, anonymization methods, and privacy practices are necessary to protect user privacy and maintain public trust. The most important ethical consideration is to ensure that these technologies are developed and implemented for the benefit of all, rather than exacerbating inequality or concentrating power in the hands of a select few. AI has the potential to make significant contributions to sustainable development by providing innovative solutions to complex global problems. By aligning advances in technology with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, we can use them to create fairer and more sustainable societies. At the same time, it is necessary to develop cooperation between government officials, scientists, specialists, practitioners, and the public in order to harness the potential of AI while minimizing its risks, ultimately shaping a future that will benefit all of humanity. It is critical to ensure that developments in advanced information technologies do not create new forms of exclusion and that people are empowered to reap and equitably share their benefits, both individually and globally. Therefore, the experience of implementing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethical Aspects of AI at the level of individual countries, taking into account their specifics, is especially interesting.

During Session 2: "National experience of the Eurasian Economic Union in creating and improving concepts for the development of ethics - strategies, codes and indices" participants discussed the experience of the EAEU countries in developing

strategies, codes, regulations for regulating interaction with AI, potential and possible areas of cooperation. Representatives of Russia, the Republic of Belarus and Kyrgyzstan spoke at the session.

Director of the National Center for AI Development under the Government of the Russian Federation S.Yu. Nakvasin thanked the organizers of the event for the discussion and discussion of ethical issues and issues related to the development of AI.

The National Center for AI Development under the Government of the Russian Federation is holding a series of events on the development of AI ethics, including the Ethics Forum in the Field of Artificial Intelligence (November 2023). The results of expert discussions and proposals should form the basis of the agenda for speeches by members of the Government at the AI Journey 2023 forum, which is visited annually by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. Moreover, the work on updating the national AI development strategy is now being completed, and it is necessary to reflect in the adjusted national strategy the tasks, promises and basic principles of taking into account ethical standards in the development of new AI solutions and their large-scale implementation in all areas of the economy. Those ideas that were announced at the conference on October 27 at MGIMO and those that should be declared on November 16 at the forum "Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: GPT Generation. Red Lines" as well as at the AI Journey event will likely be included in the Russian National AI development strategy and will become mandatory for use in practice, in the regulatory field, in the standardization field, in the technological field as a guide for developers.

The speaker emphasized an important phenomenon - Russia is one of the leaders in the field of AI ethics, since more than 40 federal executive authorities have confirmed their commitment to the ethical principles of AI and, most importantly, special control is carried out at the government level through a system of indexes and ratings to ensure that this activity is implemented on practice. The activity of both federal executive authorities and business is taken into account. These are different ratings in integral assessments, and that encourages companies and federal executive authorities to monitor how they apply ethical principles.

As for the current problems that need to be solved, it is necessary to focus on discussing issues that are related to the social consequences of the deployment of AI. There is a very large number of matters connected to the technological safety of the solutions that are being implemented. A separate topic is devoted to the growing dependence of both the individual and society as a whole on new technologies, including intelligent technologies in the field of AI.

Head of the Investment Department of The Kyrgyz National University, named after Jusup Balasagyn M.M. Tynystanova noted that the main problem of algorithms can be formulated as a paradox: they have a powerful predictive ability, but at the same time they are not able to look at least one step ahead.

Indeed, today not only mathematicians and developers must understand AI, but analysts, business leaders and government officials should also have a general understanding of this new technology. Nowadays, scientists, business and society in general must and should work together to ensure safe social adaptation of AI. And in this regard, it is necessary to start with schools and universities to train strong developers and generally increase literacy in the field of AI. Today, various research centers are being created in Kyrgyzstan: an AI Research Center has been created at the Kyrgyz State National University and an AI Institute has been created at the High Technology Park. Apart from that, a natural language processing technology laboratory has been opened at the Kyrgyz State Technical University. An AI-based computer vision research center has also been opened at the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University. The National Committee for the State Language is currently working on creating an AI-based chatbot (analogous to the Russian "Alice").

The expert believes that a national strategy should be developed at the state level, and that would allow Kyrgyzstan to jointly formulate a structured holistic vision of AI development, taking into account ethical standards and frameworks, and identify key tasks and activities for inclusion in subsequent government and industry digitalization programs. A national council should also be created that will conduct an examination of the implementation of AI and popularize AI in the professional community, that will involve schoolchildren and students, and develop national regulations in the field of AI.

The system of higher technical education should integrate various training programs in the field of AI, machine and deep learning, neural networks, big data, as well as various specialties (data analyst, data engineer, etc.). According to M.M. Tynystanova, a high-performance computing center should also be created for research and development in the field of AI. At the government and state level, a lot has to be done to stimulate executive authorities that want to implement systems and solutions for data analysis, automation and monitoring that is based on AI technologies.

Chairman of the Commission for the Implementation of the Code of Ethics in the Field of AI A.V. Neznamov indicated that Russia has built a unique system in which ethics in the field of AI has become almost the dominant way of regulating technology and, among other things, the "common language" for discussing current issues.

Firstly, Russia was one of the first to adopt a national Code of Ethics in the field of AI, and when UNESCO adopted ethics recommendations in 2021, Russia and China clearly indicated that they have their own national framework for working with AI ethics and should be taken into account .

Afterwards, a national AI ethics commission and working groups were created. All this was formed at a general meeting of ethics officers. The process of forming a community of people involved in AI ethics was also launched. This, in the speaker's opinion, is also significant, as often ethical declarations remain just declarations. In the case of the Russian Code of Ethics in the field of AI, a completely different situation arises: throughout the country, numerous signing procedures of this document take

place every year. In 2022 alone, 12 rounds of this event were organized, during which companies operating in various regions joined the Code. In 2023 foreign companies also began to sign the Code: at the moment there are more than 20 signatories, and the corresponding round was recently held in Belarus. The growing number of international participants shows that the formation of a global approach to AI ethics is attracting interest beyond Russia. In addition, some countries seek to develop their own initiatives, and Russia helps them in this work This was the case, for example, with Uzbekistan.

The activities of working groups are very important. In 2023 another working group was created – the one on recommendation services, which prepared relevant recommendations that included part of the original provisions of the bill. In Russia, a flexible system has developed - there is basic regulation at the legal level, many decisions are attributed to the level of ethics.

Associate Professor of the Department of Public Health and Healthcare at the Institute for Advanced Training and Retraining of Healthcare Personnel of the Belarusian State Medical University, Head of the Republican Center for Bioethics V.N. Sokolchik said that the Republic of Belarus also started to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics. There are also many private initiatives that are united by the Joint Institute for Informatics Problems of the National Academy of Sciences.

Today, Minsk is on the verge of developing an AI code and developing a serious legal framework. The first step has been taken within the Commonwealth of Independent States platform; a model law on the regulation of AI is being prepared. However, all this is in the hands of narrow professionals.

The speaker spoke about research being carried out in the healthcare sector, which is a leader in the use of AI technologies.

An interdisciplinary initiative project on this topic is being developed at the Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences. It was joined by the Republican Center for Bioethics (Republican Center of Bioethics), IPK (Institute for Advanced Studies), Belarusian State Medical University, Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Medical Expertise and Rehabilitation. This initiative is part of the international project "European Open Science Cloud" and the Research Data Alliance (EOSC-Future & RDA AI / Data Visitation). The research began with a study of most of the available recommendations, including those prepared by World Health Organization. Moreover, work was carried out with citizens, namely, interviewing specialists. For instance, a pilot survey was organized among experts working in the healthcare sector, especially among information specialists - those who are related to developments in the healthcare sector. And as a result of the study, it became clear that, on the one hand, classical ethical challenges remain in Belarus, which have received new content (AI ambivalence, informed consent, data confidentiality, discrimination and prejudice). At the same time, new challenges also arise, which include problems of new subjectivity, the triad of relationships between developer-user-AI system, determination of who makes the decision and who is responsible, etc.

Further V.N. Sokolchik focused on the principles of using AI in healthcare and medicine: new tasks were outlined, including the development of guidelines for researchers, members of ethics committees, medical workers on the ethics of using AI in medicine and biomedical research, as well as the development of strategies and tactics for the formation and work research ethics committees outside the healthcare system, incl. tactics for reviewing research using AI. It is necessary to provide ongoing training in the ethical rules of working with AI for young scientists and healthcare professionals and also to formulate proposals for inclusion in the national code of ethics and legislative standards for working with AI.

At the end of the event, employees of the MGIMO AI Center discussed the development of the "Methodological foundations of the Business subindex in the Russian Federation." In this document experts presented their methodological approach used to assess the level of development of ethical aspects of AI in business at the national and international levels. Such an approach will allow to assess (at the application level) the possibilities and limitations of the use of ethical regulation in the context of the rapid expansion of the use of generative AI.

Thus, this conference became an important step at the national and international level in discussing the first results of the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on Ethics in AI, made it possible to sum up intermediate results and outline options for the development of regional cooperation in this area. It must be taken into account that in recent years, in the field of international regulation of AI, active work has been carried out at all levels - in the form of ministerial meetings, conferences, round tables and panel discussions with the broad involvement of all stakeholders within the lifecycle of AI systems. This conference has become the first step in building a system of scientific interaction in the EAEU on the issues of AI regulation matters with an emphasis on self-regulation based on ethical principles and approaches. As part of the activities of the MGIMO Centre for AI, this initiative will be continued in various formats, involving a wide range of specialists presenting different stakeholder groups.

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