The question of equitable access to and development of AI

“The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) raises important questions around ensuring equitable access and development of these powerful technologies. There are concerns that AI could exacerbate existing inequalities if its development and deployment is dominated by a small number of companies, nations, or demographic groups.”

This is a passage generated by Claude, Anthropic’s AI, and is one example of an accessible Artificial Intelligence chatbot based on a large language model that can make workloads substantially easier to manage. AI can be a powerful and accurate tool, with the potential to contribute $15.7 trillion to the world economy by 2030, but a lack of equity in “development and deployment” can exacerbate existing inequalities.

One should make the effort to define AI, given there are many misconceptions regarding what AI actually is. The most key aspect to AI is machine learning i.e. AI systems can learn from data, identity patterns, and make decisions with minimal human intervention. Other aspects to what an AI can be and the forms it can take include natural language processing

There are fears that access to AI would be hindered for individuals of lower income levels and poorer backgrounds - a so-called “AI divide”. AI, for instance, is often dependent on internet access, which is unavailable to about 2.3 billion people globally. These disparities can also be seen on a larger scale between the “Global North” and the “Global South”, given the structural limitations for implementation in the South compared to the North.

Your resolution may also seek to tackle bias in the development of AI - given that AI is often trained on sets of data that is reflected in societal norms that are not necessarily equitable, minorities often suffer at the hands of AI that is given autonomy in decision-making. For instance, a report by ProPublica found that AI was more likely to convict black criminals that white ones, having been trained on a data set that was vastly unrepresentative.

Regulation is also a key issue when it comes to the development of AI - currently, a handful of large companies control AI and access to AI, and may use it to their benefit at the expense of the people, for instance. There may also be issues regarding the autonomy and decision-making of AI, and the moral code. Countries need to speculatively regulate to constrain and shape the development of AI, and perhaps provide incentive for more companies and startups to involve themselves in the industry, creating a more equitable and fair environment for AI.

Of course, a delegate must consider their countries’ own interests - if they believe that their country stands to benefit from a lack of equitable access to and development of AI, they should aim to preserve the current system.

Key Questions:

How can a country regulate AI?

How can bias be eliminated in AI decision-making?

How do we solve the “AI divide”?

How do we create a more even playing field for companies engaging in AI?

Should the definition of AI be limited?