



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ESTONIA TO THE UN



Permanent Mission of Finland
to the United Nations



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime



BTF 푸른나무재단

**The Permanent Mission of Estonia to the United Nations
& The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations
& The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
& The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
& The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
& The Blue Tree Foundation (BTF)**

CSocD64 Side Event

**Shaping the AI Future:
Ethical and Inclusive AI Governance for Youth and All**

Date & Time: 11:30 – 12:45 EST on February 6th, 2026

Place: Conference Room 12, UN New York Headquarters

Concept Note

● Overview

Digital transformation has become integral to advancing social development and social justice, accelerating progress toward the 2030 Agenda and the commitments made in the Copenhagen Declaration of the 1995 World Social Summit. However, as highlighted in the

Doha Political Declaration¹, uneven technological advancements between and within countries are reversing hard-won development gains and deepening inequalities, underscoring the need for coordinated, equitable, and inclusive approaches that ensure no one is left behind.

Building on this momentum, the Second World Summit for Social Development (2025) recognized artificial intelligence as an emerging technology that is reshaping economies, education systems, and labor markets. The world is now witnessing a shift from digital transformation to artificial intelligence transformation – an even more rapid and complex phase of innovation with the power to either bridge or widen existing divides. At this critical juncture, artificial intelligence can either advance social development or deepen disparities, depending on whether governance frameworks keep pace with its rapid evolution.

These dynamics particularly expose widening protection gaps for youth, who face distinct vulnerabilities in environments driven by artificial intelligence that current governance systems have yet to adequately address.

● Key Issues

1. Evolving AI-enabled Risks to Youth (Individual Level)

Youth are facing rapidly increasing risks in artificial intelligence-mediated environments. While they actively navigate and shape these spaces, their sensitive period of ongoing cognitive and emotional development can influence how they assess risks and respond to challenges. This raises concerns about emotional dependence², misinformation, and exposure to harmful content.

Artificial intelligence-mediated abuse is also increasingly targeted at youth, including deepfakes³, identity manipulation, voice cloning, and cybercrime recruitment. These risks place youth in an especially vulnerable position within emerging artificial intelligence ecosystems.

2. Ethical and Inclusive Gaps in Current AI Systems (Technical/Systemic Level)

Developers, regulators, and users of artificial intelligence systems often face challenges in ensuring alignment with ethical principles, protections, and inclusive design standards necessary to safeguard human dignity and human rights. These gaps contribute to new forms of inequality, exclusion, and digital injustice. Many artificial intelligence systems do not yet fully adhere to internationally agreed ethical frameworks, including the UNESCO

¹ UN General Assembly, Resolution 80/5, Doha Political Declaration (4 November 2025).

² Talk, Trust, and Trade-Offs: How and Why Teens Use AI Companions. Common Sense Media. 2025.

³ Into the Light Index. Childlight, Global Child Safety Institute. 2025

Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence⁴ and the UN CEB Inter-Agency Working Group's UN System White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Governance⁵, resulting in persistent protection and accountability gaps across AI ecosystems.

At the same time, many artificial intelligence models reproduce or amplify bias that disproportionately affects developing countries and marginalized groups due to unrepresentative data and their exclusion from system design processes. For instance, the President of the UN General Assembly⁶ has underscored how algorithms continue to reinforce systemic patterns of bias.

3. Need for Coordinated Global AI Governance (Multilateral Level)

As suggested by the Report of the United Nations High Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence⁷, despite the proliferation of artificial intelligence governance documents across sectors, their piecemeal implementation has prevented the emergence of common standards or definitions, contributing to ongoing gaps in representation, coordination, and implementation. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres⁸ emphasized that all nations must have space to shape the future of artificial intelligence, yet large parts of the world remain excluded from major governance initiatives⁹.

This lack of coherence contributes to inconsistent protection across regions. In response, Member States have increasingly recognized the importance of international cooperation on digital and artificial intelligence-related issues, as reflected in the Global Digital Compact¹⁰, which underscores the need for shared principles, inclusive participation, and strengthened global coordination in the digital age, alongside initiatives such as the establishment of the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence and the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance¹¹, which seek to strengthen the evidence base and coherence of global AI governance. While important progress has been made, the global landscape continues to reflect uneven levels of coordination and inclusion.

In this context, existing multistakeholder platforms provide important entry points for more inclusive and coordinated global dialogue. Initiatives such as the International

⁴ Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, UNESCO, 2021.

⁵ UN System White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Governance, UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), 2023

⁶ President of the General Assembly Statement at the Plenary Meeting of the Second World Summit for Social Development. 2025.

⁷ Governing AI for Humanity: Final Report, UN High Level Advisory Body on AI, 2024.

⁸ 'Humanity's Fate Cannot Be Left to Algorithm,' Warns Secretary-General in Security Council Debate on Artificial Intelligence. UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. 2025.

⁹ UN AI Advisory Body (n 3).

¹⁰ Global Digital Compact, United Nations General Assembly, 2024.

¹¹ Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 26 August 2025 [without reference to a Main Committee (A/79/L.118)] 79/325.

Telecommunication Union's AI for Good platform have demonstrated the value of bringing governments, industry, academia, civil society, and youth together to advance ethical, inclusive, and development-oriented approaches to artificial intelligence. By linking technical innovation with policy dialogue and capacity-building, such platforms help translate global principles into practical solutions that respond to social development priorities.

● Objectives

1. Protecting Youth Dignity and Rights in Artificial Intelligence-Driven Environments

This side event will explore how artificial intelligence-driven environments impact the dignity, rights, and autonomy of youth, who are often the first to adopt new technologies and, while benefiting from emerging opportunities, remain among the least protected. Participants will analyze emerging risks and discuss how policies, safeguards, and design standards can better uphold youth rights.

Examples may include: integration of developmental science into artificial intelligence policy, youth privacy protections, inclusion of youth voices, and frameworks for preventing artificial intelligence-facilitated exploitation.

2. Exchanging Best Practices for Ethical and Inclusive Artificial Intelligence

This side event will highlight successful approaches to developing ethical and inclusive artificial intelligence systems by sharing solutions from various regions, sectors, and institutions. Participants will examine diverse experiences and approaches, creating space for mutual learning and ongoing dialogue.

Examples may include: inclusive design models, bias-mitigation practices, safety-by-design interventions, educational programs, and accountability mechanisms that have shown measurable impact.

3. Advancing Multistakeholder and Global Artificial Intelligence Governance

Recognizing the fragmented nature of today's artificial intelligence governance landscape, this event will highlight the need for stronger coordination across countries and among governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, and the UN system. Participants will explore how to foster globally representative dialogue and improve coherence in global artificial intelligence governance standards, while respecting local contexts and capacities.

Examples may include: models for multistakeholder cooperation, cross-border knowledge-sharing platforms, processes for identifying shared core standards, and mechanisms to improve representation of the Global South in governance initiatives.

● Program

	Content	Speaker	Min
Opening	○ Meeting Overview and Opening Remarks	Eunseo Hwang (Moderator) (UN Youth Delegate / BTF)	2'
	○ Opening Remarks (Co-host Organizations)	Katri Lõhmus (Deputy Permanent Representative / Permanent Mission of Estonia to the UN)	4'
		Cevor Tikerpuu (UN Youth Delegate / Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN)	4'
		Ursula Wynhoven (Director and Representative to the UN, Head of UN Affairs / ITU)	4'
		Yu Ping Chan (Head of Digital Partnerships and Engagement of the Digital, AI and Innovation Hub / UNDP)	4'
		Gilberto Duarte (Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer / UNODC)	4'
Panel	○ Panelist Introduction	Eunseo Hwang (Moderator) (UN Youth Delegate / BTF)	1'
	○ (Panel① AI Governance) Assessing Youth-Centric AI Governance and Safety Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examining how AI-driven emotional dependence, social media dynamics, and deepfake technologies exploit the development stages of young users Highlighting risks to youth well-being arising from emotionally manipulative and deceptive AI-enabled digital environments Advocating for a shift from passive monitoring to proactive, youth-centered safety standards in global AI governance frameworks 	Var Shankar (Executive Director / Council on AI Governance)	5'
	○ (Panel② Technology) Responsible AI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible AI and algorithmic accountability through the lens of human agency 	Julia Stoyanovich (Institute Associate Professor of Computer Science & Engineering and Director of the Center for Responsible AI / NYU)	5'

	<p>○ (Panel③ Policy)</p> <p>Building an AI Policy Ecosystem for Youth Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing victim protection and prevention policies in AI-mediated environments • Strengthening access to support services for youth, women, and victims of domestic violence • Models for multistakeholder policy coordination involving cities, NGOs, international organizations, etc. 	<p>Saloni Sethi (Commissioner / NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence)</p>	5'
	<p>○ (Panel④ Multilateral)</p> <p>Global Dialogue, Mutual Learning, and the Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Models for multistakeholder cooperation across governments, industry, civil society, and youth • Mechanisms for cross-border knowledge-sharing and capacity-building • Identifying shared priorities and next steps toward more coherent global AI governance 	<p>Luke Champion (Program Manager / Microsoft Global UN Affairs Team)</p>	5'
	<p>○ (Panel⑤ Youth)</p> <p>Youth Perspectives on AI Risks, Autonomy, and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lived experiences of youth in AI-driven environments • Gaps between existing safeguards systems and youth realities • Pathways for meaningful youth participation in AI governance 	<p>Sua Bae (UN Youth Delegate / BTF)</p>	5'
Open Discussion	<p>○ Discussion Introduction</p>	<p>Eunseo Hwang (Moderator) (UN Youth Delegate / BTF)</p>	1'
	<p>○ Discussant Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant remarks on the side event's theme and the panel 	<p>Insun Her (Counsellor / Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN)</p>	2'
	<p>○ Youth Discussant Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each youth discussant will be given two minutes to share their reflection of the side event's theme and highlight key points for collective reflection. 	<p>Yunha Seo Jaeu Choi Ayeong Kwak Dohyun Lee (UN Youth Delegate / BTF)</p>	8'
	<p>○ Audience Comments and Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite one to two members of the audience to share their comments and questions, within two minutes each 	<p>All panels and audience</p>	7'

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Panelist Responses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Optional) Panelists who wish to respond to the preceding comments or questions will be given one minute each to deliver their final remarks 	All panels	5'
Closing	○ Closing Remarks	Eunseo Hwang (Moderator) (UN Youth Delegate / BTF)	2'
	○ Group Photo & Blue Promise Campaign	All panels and audience	2'
Total			75'

● Co-hosting Organizations

The Republic of Estonia has played a leading role in advancing digital cooperation, inclusive governance, and human-centered technology policies at the global level. Widely recognized as a pioneer in digital transformation and e-governance, Estonia has consistently promoted the principles of transparency, trust, and accessibility in digital public services. Within the United Nations system, Estonia actively contributes to intergovernmental discussions and multilateral efforts to strengthen digital rights, cybersecurity, data governance, and artificial intelligence governance, with a strong emphasis on equitable participation among all Member States. Through its commitment to multilateral dialogue and evidence-based policymaking, Estonia supports initiatives that advance social development, narrow digital divides, and safeguard vulnerable populations, including children and youth, in rapidly evolving digital and AI-mediated environments.

The Republic of Finland plays an active role in advancing international cooperation on education, social development, and inclusive digital policies within the United Nations framework. Finland is widely recognized for its leadership in media literacy and digital education and became the first country in Europe to adopt a national media literacy education policy in 2013. Building on this national experience, Finland contributes to multilateral efforts that promote critical digital skills, resilience, and informed participation across all age groups. Through its engagement in UN processes, Finland supports policy discussions that emphasize education, equity, and human-centered approaches to digital transformation.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), established in 1865, is the oldest UN specialized agency responsible for promoting and regulating the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) worldwide. ITU fosters smooth communication between member countries through telecommunications standardization, rational distribution of radio communication resources, and support for ICT infrastructure development. In particular, ITU is actively working on various projects to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive digital society. Additionally, ITU leads efforts to address the new challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution by collaborating with governments, the private sector, and academia, while also playing a key role in creating a global ICT environment for sustainable development.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's lead development agency mandated to advance sustainable development, reduce inequalities, and strengthen institutional capacities across Member States. UNDP provides global leadership on digital transformation by helping countries harness technology to improve governance, public services, and inclusive development outcomes. Through its technical expertise and partnerships, the Office supports Member States in developing rights-respecting digital ecosystems, enhancing digital public infrastructure, and strengthening national capacities in areas such as data governance, digital inclusion, and the security of digital systems.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the UN system's lead entity mandated to strengthen the rule of law, prevent violence, and protect vulnerable populations, including children and youth, from exploitation, abuse, and emerging forms of crime. UNODC provides global leadership on issues such as cybercrime, online child sexual exploitation and abuse, technology-facilitated trafficking, and the misuse of digital tools for criminal purposes. Through its normative, operational, and research mandates, the Office supports Member States in developing comprehensive prevention frameworks, enhancing victim-centered responses, and promoting safe and rights-respecting digital ecosystems, while fostering international cooperation to address rapidly evolving criminal threats.

The Blue Tree Foundation (BTF) is the first NGO established in the Republic of Korea to prevent school violence, raise public awareness, and provide treatments for those involved in school violence and cyberbullying since 1995. The ultimate goal is to make a happy and peaceful world for youth to dream of hope. The Blue Tree Foundation calls on attention and actions for governments, private enterprises, schools, local and international communities to combat all types of youth violence. To prevent and eradicate violence, it strives to spread nonviolent values through victim care and healing support; education for all, including teachers, parents, and students; legislation and revision of relevant policies; research and campaigns; and global networking and solidarity.

