

24th session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Written statement by Pirate Parties International

Agenda item 6: Role of Governments in ensuring transparency and accountability of artificial intelligence systems in public administration.

Pirate Parties International applauds this CEPA initiative to improve public administration in line with SDGs 16 and 17.

Our statement is about artificial intelligence in public administration. As digital advocates, we support the use of AI to improve the functioning of the public sector. However, as privacy advocates, we fear actors with malicious intent, including corrupt governments, will utilize personal data or sensitive information to restrict our rights. Open-source algorithms and clear multinational regulatory frameworks can help protect individuals from a government's opaque decision-making processes. Post-conflict nations may also rely heavily on such transparent systems to rebuild trust.

We advocate for a decentralized, inclusive approach, whereby international organizations will host local communities that can gain access to AI resources and guidance. Multinational committees within the UN must be tasked with drafting treaties to protect digital rights that governments must ratify and abide by.

We are concerned about governments that seek to eliminate or substantially reduce public-sector employment. We face a challenge of retaining talent when many jobs will be lost to automation. It is necessary for the public sector to create professions that will keep people employed and earning a fair wage. Otherwise, we face corporate monopolies collaborating with authoritarian regimes who will exacerbate economic inequalities.

We are optimistic that we can foster advanced technological working environments in the public sector that utilize AI, as well as funded educational programs about AI that will welcome young people who can drive innovation. We must ensure that there is public funding for education and research.

With the dawn of AI in public administration, we can create new opportunities for people to study, work, and prosper more in life around the world. We look forward to working with other NGOs within ECOSOC and local governments towards incorporating AI in public administration in a manner that fosters growth and preserves digital rights.