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Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights: Enabler or Disabler?

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Abstract

This study examines the implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the rule of law and the safeguarding of fundamental rights in Nigeria, contextualising the state within wider global and African technological advancements. Nigeria confronts opportunities and challenges related to AI adoption, requiring a thorough assessment of its institutional frameworks, and public policies. The paper identifies deficiencies in Nigeria's regulatory readiness by using comparative insights from the national AI plans of the United States, China, Canada, Germany, and India. Although AI presents considerable potential for economic expansion, innovation, and human advancement, with forecasts suggesting significant impacts on global and African GDP, it concurrently introduces risks such as workforce displacement, increased surveillance, cyber insecurity, and governance issues. Grounded in Amara's Law, the research highlights the propensity to undervalue the long-term effects of technology, hence emphasising the necessity for proactive regulation. The study examines ethical and legal issues related to AI implementation, including its capacity to infringe upon civil freedoms and intensify inequities. It further examines the sufficiency of current Nigerian legislative frameworks in mitigating these risks and highlights areas necessitating revision. The report advocates for context-specific regulatory strategies that harmonise innovation with strong protections for fundamental rights in Nigeria's developing digital environment.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Rule of Law, Human Rights, AI Governance, National Security, Nigeria

Introduction

The emergence of AI poses significant challenges to the rule of law and fundamental rights protection across many facets of Nigeria's national life. Being the largest black nation and Africa's largest economy, this threat is worthy of a national understanding on its mechanisms from an African and Nigerian perspective. This research work evaluates institutional frameworks, public policies, and legal mechanisms on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Nigeria to reflect their impacts on the fundamental rights of citizens in the state. This is imperative because Nigerians wish to unite with the world to ask critical

questions about strategies to better leverage on the opportunities provided by AI for national development while harnessing its potential to fuel innovation, bolster national productivity, and enhance human well-being. A lot of governments have created AI frameworks and regulations to support the advancement of technology and the economy. The frameworks include "AI Made in Germany" and the "Pan-Canadian AI Strategy, China's Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan, India's National Strategy for AI #AIforAll, and the United States' Executive Order on AI Leadership.[1]

The American AI initiative employs a multifaceted strategy to foster the US's national leadership in AI, and focuses on five main areas: international engagement, safeguarding America's AI advantage, investing in AI R&D, unleashing AI resources, establishing AI governance standards, and developing the AI workforce. China has defined goals and activities for research and development, industrialization, talent development, education and skill acquisition, standard-setting and legislation, ethical principles, and security in its next-generation artificial intelligence development plan. Canada introduced a national AI strategy called the Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy, in 2017. For this strategy, the Government of Canada appointed the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, which works in close collaboration with Canada's three national AI institutes. Japan, Singapore, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, the United Arab Emirates, India, and Singapore are also among other states that have advanced their national AI strategies. Egypt was the next country in Africa to adopt an AI strategy, after Mauritius. But now, South Africa tops the continent in terms of the total number of AI-focused businesses, followed by Nigeria.

The International Finance Corporation projects that the strategic adoption of Al could add up to $234 billion to Africa's GDP by 2030. According to PwC report, Al will contribute up to $15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, with $3 trillion from increased productivity and $9.1 trillion from new products and services.[2]A popular adage in Silicon Valley is 'Amara's Law' which holds that people tend to overestimate the effect of an emerging technology in the short run and underestimate the effect in the long run'.[3]Many experts have warned that the deployment of AI capabilities or systems can directly or indirectly, spark conflict, enable oppression, inflame tensions, or generate far-reaching governance challenges.[4]Some of the threats of concern to such observers include the imminence of large labour displacements and inequality, reinforced surveillance capabilities for authoritarian states, increasingly scalable cyberwarfare capabilities, an oligopolistic or mercantilist market structure dominated by a few leading companies or principals, disruptive shifts in the

[1] Chinwe, Michael. "AI Strategy: Nigeria in Global Hunt for Its Best Minds." Business Day, 2023. https://businessday.ng/technology/article/ai-strategy-nigeria-in-global-hunt-for-its-best-minds/.
[2] Chinwe, Michael. "AI Strategy: Nigeria in Global Hunt for Its Best Minds." Business Day, 2023. https://businessday.ng/technology/article/ai-strategy-nigeria-in-global-hunt-for-its-best-minds/.
[3]Roy, Amara. "Roy Amara 1925–2007: American Futurologist." In Oxford Essential Quotations, edited by Susan Ratcliffe, 6th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.
[4] Allan, Dafoe. "AI Governance: A Research Agenda." Research paper, Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford, August 27, 2018.

balance of national power or in the relative competitiveness of democratic and dictatorial states, a fundamental revolution in the decision-making character of warfare and tactical or strategic (nuclear) instability.[5][6][7][8]

This study therefore raises ethical as well as legal questions aimed at protecting the rights of Nigerian citizens on AI as relating to international legal mechanisms and domestic laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is true that AI can help save valuable time spent on work and it can also help humanity solve complex problems, but this study asks; what are the possible consequences of over reliance on AI technology in Nigeria? What is to be gained if we apply various AI technologies in Nigerian societies? What legal structures and institutions are in existence or should be designed to regulate the possibilities in Nigeria?

Conceptualising Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its Role in the Society

AI describes activities devoted to making machines intelligent, and intelligence is that quality that enables an entity to function appropriately and with foresight in its environment. AI can be understood as a general-purpose technology, for automating and improving the accuracy, speed and/or scale of machine decision-making, pattern-recognition, and prediction in complex or large environments, with the aim of substituting for, or improving upon, human performance in specific tasks. Many of the decisions made by designers, developers, and other stakeholders during AI systems development process have societal, legal, or ethical implications. Government regulation is necessary because, during the design process, numerous options and decisions are typically made, and there is frequently no apparent "right" choice, thus raising the question of morality; what is right or wrong in the society regarding AI.[9]These choices necessitate social awareness and intellectual debates because obviously, the engineers of the systems or those who consume or utilise the end products cannot be ignored by the state. A responsible approach will therefore have the duty of regulating or informing which judgements an AI system can make and how such systems should be designed.

[5]Brundage, Miles, Shahar Avin, Jack Clark, Helen Toner, Peter Eckersley, Ben Garfinkel, Allan Dafoe et al. "The malicious use of artificial intelligence: Forecasting, prevention, and mitigation." arXiv preprint arXiv:1802.07228 (2018).

[6]Noah H. Yuval. "Why Technology Favors Tyranny." The Atlantic, October 2018. https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/10/yuval-noah-harari-technology-tyranny/568330/.

[7] Michael C. Horowitz. "Who'll Want Artificially Intelligent Weapons? ISIS, Democracies, or Autocracies?" Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, July 2016. https://thebulletin.org/2016/07/wholl-want-artificially-intelligent-weapons-isis-democracies-or-autocracies/.

[8] Richard, Danzig. "An Irresistible Force Meets a Moveable Object: The Technology Tsunami and the Liberal World Order." Lawfare Research Paper Series 5, no. 1 (2017): 1.

[9] Virginia, Dignum. "The Role and Challenges of Education for Responsible AI." London Review of Education 19, no. 1 (2021): 1–11.

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) was created on the belief that human intelligence can be precisely described such that a machine can be designed to simulate it.[10] Artificial intelligence refers to developed software and hardware sensations endowed with some intellectual processes or capabilities of human beings, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalize, or learn from past experiences. Research in Artificial Intelligence focuses mainly on learning, reasoning, problem solving, perception, planning and communication. Intelligent robots are gradually getting featured in the public space in some parts of the world.AI capabilities appropriated in robotics are emerging at a very fast rate in various fields from hospitality and tourism, to manufacturing to engineering, logistics, medicine and surgery, etc. Self-driving cars are also possibilities afforded by AI. They rely heavily on deep learning and natural language processing.[11] Using these technologies, computers can be trained to accomplish specific tasks by processing large amounts of data and recognizing patterns in the data.

AI technologies have remarkable uses in the society. They have been used by experts to track natural disasters, deforestation, monitor ethno-religious violence, track issues on the internet and social media platforms, tool for expanding language access, tool for mitigating trauma exposure and mental health monitor, data analysis, etc. There are many kinds and uses of AI technology. In 2022, Chat GPT was introduced as a chatbot that uses Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback to answer questions conversationally. In 2023, Google announced Bard AI in response to (and in direct competition with) ChatGPT.[12]Since then, several other AI technologies have been introduced to perform different kinds of tasks. Some other popular AI that arose include perplexity, curipod, education copilot, Yipity, quillbot, Grammarly, Canva bkgrnd remover, YouTube Summary, Slides AI Adobe Bkgrnd Remove, speechify, DALL-E, Canva Magic Write, gotFeedback, Conker, Random Face Generator, Formative AI, Summarize.tech, Nolej, Otter, Parlay Genie, Runway, Hello History, Deepl. Translator, PDF Chatbot, QuestionWell, etc. Although many of these AI technologies are useful in the classrooms and work environment, there is still a wider range of artificial intelligence infused in mechatronic or robotics technology.

The United Nation (UN)'s perspective on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The topic of artificial intelligence (AI) and other developing technologies expands the existing multidisciplinary subject of international law by providing opportunities for new interdisciplinary interactions. AI generates new legal

[10] Reagan N. Robinson. "Artificial Intelligence: Its Importance, Challenges and Applications in Nigeria." Direct Research Journal of Engineering and Information Technology 5, no. 5 (2018). p37. https://directresearchpublisher.org/drjeit/files/2018/12/Robinson.pdf.
[11]Brian, McGuire. History of AI Applied to Chess. Washington: History of Computing CSEP 590A, 2006.
[12] Anne, Dulka. "The Use of Artificial Intelligence in International Human Rights Law." Stanford Technology Law Review26, no. 2 (2023). https://law.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Publish_26-STLR-316-2023_The-Use-of-Artificial-Intelligence-in-International-Human-Rights-Law8655.pdf.

situations by creating new legal entities or by enabling new behaviour.[13] Indirectly, AI may shift the incentives or values for states interacting with international law. Out of this, we may distinguish three types of legal impacts effected by any sufficiently disruptive technology such as AI. The first is legal development (change of elements leading to a need for legal change to accommodate or address the new situation), the second is legal displacement (systemic substitution of regulatory modality; the 'automation' of international law) and the third is legal destruction (systemic disruption of key premises; erosion).

The UN has realized that a significant part of the rapid changes in the world have been and will continue to be due to the pervading influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI), which has become more powerful and flexible.[14] There is now a clearer realization that AI technology is more omnipresent in people's lives than ever. The development of AI so far has been going hand in hand with swift technological advances in electronics, telecommunications, and robotics, with the result being that the number of tasks hitherto considered as requiring human operators have been inexorably decreasing. A significant outcome of AI advancements will be sustained growth in wealth creation, unhindered by constraints imposed by human limitations, human rights, political objectives, ideological precepts, national rules and regulations, and labour union power.

To commemorate the 75th Anniversary milestone, United Nations Academic Impact asked academics, educators, and leading figures in the fields of science, technology, and innovation to share their views on the multilateral experiment born of war to foster peace. While AI technology has many positive applications, it also has the potential to replicate prejudice and discrimination in the real world, dividing society and endangering basic human rights and freedoms. AI business models are heavily concentrated in a small number of nations and companies. To address this, UNESCO developed the most extensive international framework in the world to regulate the development and application of AI technology, under the direction of its Director-General.[15] Member States enthusiastically embraced the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence during UNESCO's General Conference in November 2021. This extensive tool took two years to design and was the result of the most extensive worldwide consultation process involving developers, experts, and other global stakeholders. The four core values of the recommendation include:

1. Respect, protection and promotion of Human Rights, Fundamental Freedoms, and Human Dignity
2. Living in peaceful, just, and interconnected societies
3. Ensuring diversity and inclusiveness
4. Environment and Ecosystem flourishing

[13] Matthijs M. Maas. "International Law Does Not Compute: Artificial Intelligence and the Development, Displacement or Destruction of the Global Legal Order." Melbourne Journal of International Law 20, no. 1 (2019): 29.
[14] United Nations (UN). "UN75: AI in the Next Century of the United Nations." 2023. https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/un75-ai-next-century-united-nations.
[15] UNESCO. "Artificial Intelligence." 2023. https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence.

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With these facts in mind, the recommendation made further elaborations on desirables from AI technology. In September 2022, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination endorsed the Principles for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the United Nations System. Developed through the High-level Committee on Programs (HLCP) Ethical Principles on Artificial Intelligence were approved at an intersessional meeting in July 2022.[16] These principles are grounded in ethics and human rights that aim to guide the use of artificial intelligence (AI) across all stages of an AI system lifecycle. The principles were developed by a team co-led by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the United Nations Secretariat (OICT), in the HLCP Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence. They are based on the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence adopted by UNESCO's General Conference at its 41st session in November 2021.

The human rights approach to AI proffered on behalf of the United Nations is firstly concerned with Proportionality and Doing No Harm because the use of AI systems must not go beyond what is necessary to achieve a legitimate aim. Risk assessment should be used to prevent harm which may result from such uses. To the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination issues of safety and security of the public, unwanted harms (safety risks) as well as vulnerabilities to attack (security risks) should be avoided and addressed by AI actors.[17] People have the right to privacy and data protection, so privacy must be protected and promoted throughout the AI lifespan. Adequate data protection frameworks should also be established. International law & national sovereignty must be respected in the use of data. Additionally, participation of diverse stakeholders is necessary for inclusive approaches to AI governance. AI systems should be responsible and accountable; therefore, they must be auditable and traceable. There should be oversight, impact assessment, audit, and due diligence mechanisms in place to avoid conflicts with human rights norms and threats to environmental wellbeing. The ethical deployment of AI systems depends on their transparency & explainability (T&E). The level of T&E should be appropriate to the context, as there may be tensions between T&E and other principles such as privacy, safety, and security. Member States should ensure that AI systems do not displace ultimate human responsibility and accountability.

AI developers, as a matter of ethical principles should promote social justice, fairness, and non-discrimination while taking an inclusive approach to ensure AI's benefits are accessible to all. In addition, there is a gender sensitive approach to AI that recognizes the urgent need to rebalance the situation for women in AI to avoid biased analysis and to build technologies that consider the

[16]Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). Principles for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the United Nations System. New York: United Nations, 2022. https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/CEB_2022_2_Add.1%20%28AI%20ethics%20principles%29.pdf.

[17] UNESCO. Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. 2025. https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics#:~:text=Member%20States%20should%20ensure%20that,ultimate%20human%20responsibility%20and%20accountability.&text=AI%20technologies%20should%20be%20assessed,the%20UN's%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals.

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expectations and needs of all of humanity.[18]AI technologies should be assessed against their impacts on 'sustainability', understood as a set of constantly evolving goals including those set out in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Public understanding of AI and data should be promoted through open & accessible education, civic engagement, digital skills & AI ethics training, media & information literacy. Sustainability is also a crucial ethical standard when debating on AI. Artificial intelligence should be designed to promote environmental, economic, and social sustainability. To this end, the human, social, cultural, political, economic, and environmental impacts of such technologies should be continuously assessed, and appropriate mitigation and prevention measures should be taken to address adverse impacts, including on future generations.

Some other crucial considerations towards a framework for AI include right to life, data protection and data governance, human autonomy and oversight, transparency and explain ability. Inclusion and participation are equally important because an inclusive, interdisciplinary, and participatory approach, that also promotes gender equality will be more meaningful to the growth and development of mankind. Artificial intelligence systems automatically process information and data in a manner like intelligent human behaviour. These systems usually incorporate elements of perception, learning, reasoning, planning, and control.

Nigerian Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In October 2023, the Nigerian government, through the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy introduced an Artificial Intelligence Research Scheme designed to facilitate the widespread utilization of AI to drive economic advancement. The government intends to grant 5 million naira ($6,444) to 45 artificial intelligence (AI)dedicated startups and researchers.[19] The areas of relevance for the AI innovations to explore include agriculture, education and workforce, finance, governance, healthcare, utility, and sustainability. Applicants were obliged to form a consortium comprising of a startup or Tech Company and a researcher from a Nigerian university or a foreign researcher. Nigerians have always demonstrated interest in technological advancement, even though it does not currently have a complete AI policy. The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), for instance, released studies on the social effects of artificial intelligence (AI) to give decision-makers a better understanding of the potential of this technology.[20]

One of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)'s special purpose entities is the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR). This agency was established to advance research and

[18] Angela, Priestley. UNESCO's urgent call for gender equality in AI. Women's Agenda. 2023. https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/eds-blog/unescos-urgent-call-for-gender-equality-in-ai/

[19] Binance News. "Nigerian Government to Grant $6,444 to 45 AI Startups and Researchers." 2023. https://www.binance.com/en/news/flash/7841281.

[20] Bolu, Abiodun. "AI in Nigeria Has Not Even Started Crawling: Tech Experts on the State of Artificial Intelligence in Nigeria." 2023. Accessed July 19, 2023. https://techpoint.africa/2023/07/19/state-of-ai-in-nigeria/.

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development on cutting-edge technologies and their useful implementation in areas of national importance to Nigeria.[21] In accordance with the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS), NCAIR is a digital innovation and research institution that focuses on artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and drones, the Internet of Things (IoT), and other new technologies with the goal of revolutionising the Nigerian digital economy. In addition, NCAIR is committed to fostering a vibrant environment for national growth, job creation, and innovation-driven entrepreneurship (IDE). NCAIR does not have an institutionalized policy framework besides the broader ones it shares with NITDA as an agency of the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy.[22]

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Nigeria still has a long way to go, according to experts. While the country has AI startups such as Uniccon Group, the creators of Nigeria's first humanoid robot, the state of AI in Nigeria is still very much in its infancy. Making the right AI policies in Nigeria needs to start with creating awareness about the opportunities and risks that are associated with AI and, at the same time, promoting responsible usage of the technology. Nigeria's Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) furnishes a robust legal framework for the orchestration and exchange of electronic data, and this may have an implication in the country.[23] The framework is like the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The NDPR not only aligns with international standards in safeguarding individual data privacy but also safeguards the integrity of transactions involving personal data exchange. Its overarching objectives encompass the prevention of personal data manipulation, the fortification of Nigerian businesses in global trade through equitable data protection mechanisms and the alignment of the Nigerian data protection authority with global best practices.

Nigeria's Cybercrimes (Prohibition and Prevention) Act of 2015 also has significant influence on the deployment of AI in Nigeria. The act provides a comprehensive blueprint encompassing legal, institutional, and regulatory dimensions to counteract cyber threats in the country. It renders cybercrime illegal, fostering detection, prosecution, and retributive measures against offenders. The legislation shields Nigerian computer systems, networks, electronic communications, data, and software. It stands unwavering in upholding intellectual property rights, privacy, and the protection of vital national information infrastructure.

[21] National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA). "National Center for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics." 2023. https://nitda.gov.ng/ncair/.
[22] National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR). "About Us." 2023. https://ncair.nitda.gov.ng/?page_id=2584.
[23] Josephine, Uba. "Artificial Intelligence (AI) Regulation in Nigeria: Key Considerations, Recommendations, Legal Framework, and Policy Development for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Nigeria." Olisa Agbakoba Legal (OAL), 2023. https://www.mondaq.com/nigeria/new-technology/1373830/artificial-intelligence-ai-regulation-in-nigeria-key-considerations-recommendations-legal-framework-and-policy-development-for-artificial-intelligence-ai-in-nigeria.

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Towards an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy for Nigeria's National Security

In 2021, the National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA, signaled an intention to work with Nigerian security forces to develop locally manufactured military equipment to combat banditry and other forms of insecurity through the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, NCAIR.[24][25]The goal of the partnership was to gather firsthand intelligence to improve the nation's security architecture using technology and digitally driven methods aimed at putting an end to the country's ongoing security threats, but no feedback has been provided on this project. If the Nigerian government will leverage on international partnerships for peace and security, three centers of AI leadership have emerged across the global security landscape in the military domain: China, Russia, and the United States. In fact, given AI's potential military applications ranging from cyber defense, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to logistics and medicine, all three countries are competing to capitalize on it for a relative advantage.[26]

Many of the key innovations now poised to catalyze military development, from artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics to fifth generation (5G) telecommunication networks and the Internet of Things (IoT), have a science and technology nexus. With the increasing relevance of AI in national security and defence politics, there has been an increased call for the operationalization of AI potentials in various internal security operations in West Africa and the Sahel. Being a regional superpower, Nigeria ought to lead other Africans in effectively deploying the security capacities of AI in her war against terrorism, banditry, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, human trafficking, smuggling of drugs and other contraband goods across West African borders, piracy, cyber fraud, poaching, etc. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is critical to enabling timely security action, which will be far faster than the human ability to process and act on incoming data. AI empowers national security agencies to support their agents at the tactical edge by simplifying data collection and analysis while transforming logistics.

Nigeria has three important policy documents for security, and it is sad that none of them has provisions on the application of AI in the security sector. The policies include the National Security Strategy (NSS) (2019), National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) (2016) and the National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy (NCPS) (2021). They were specifically created to protect the country's territorial integrity. The field's rapid advancement and the potential use of disruptive or emerging AI technologies by non-state actors remains a major concern. The United States National Security Council Intelligence Agency

[24] Na'ankwat, Dariem. "NITDA, Nigerian Army to Tackle Insecurity with AI." Voice of Nigeria, 2001. https://von.gov.ng/nitda-nigerian-army-to-tackle-insecurity-with-ai/

[25] Sahara Reporters. "Nigerian Army Partners IT Agency to Adopt Robots, Drones, Digital Grenades for Fight Against…" 2021. https://saharareporters.com/2021/11/04/nigerian-army-partners-it-agency-adopt-robots-drones-digital-grenades-fight-against.

[26]Daniel, Araya. Artificial Intelligence for Defence and Security. Special Report. Waterloo, ON: Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), 2022. https://www.cigionline.org/static/documents/Araya_AI-for-Defence_SpecialReport_Q4fjNfp.pdf.

(NSCIA) warned that state criminals and terrorists will be able to conduct AI-powered attacks sooner than later.[27] Countering these security threats will thus necessitate, among other things, effective intelligence gathering, and the ability of the state to weaponize some Artificial Intelligence themselves. In response to the country's prevailing security threats over the last decade, successive Nigerian governments have implemented policies to stem the tide. Therefore, observers of Nigeria's national security wonder what a national policy on the use of AI in the security sector would look like. AI is in its early stages in Nigeria, and as such, there are some obstacles to full implementation. AI and machine learning are extremely complex and intricate technologies. The technicalities involved in harnessing them necessitates a specific skill set and expertise, both of which are currently insufficient in Nigeria. The dearth of military hardware for possible AI systems integration and lack of ready workforce to develop them constitute setbacks in this regard.

Nigeria relies heavily on conventional human-directed weapons in her interactions with criminals and terrorists.[28] Artilleries, rocket propelled guns, small arms, and light weapons such as rifles, machine guns, handguns, etc. are examples of the conventional weapons that are actively deployed by Nigeria's security agencies. There are AI weapons that can be introduced by the security chiefs, most especially in the Nigerian Customs Service, Navy, and Airforce in securing Nigeria's territorial integrity. The Police, Customs, Immigration and Correctional Services in addition to other agencies like the Federal Fire Service, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) and the Department of State Service (DSS) will also find the possibilities immensely satisfactory to the execution of their specific roles and security mandate. AI systems for security agencies are usually appropriated in advanced weapons and surveillance systems such as automated guns, drones, cruise missiles, robots, etc. Despite their suitability in the battlefield, they are insufficient or completely unavailable in the Nigerian government's arsenal. So far, it is only the Airforce that may have some semblance of AI weaponry in some of the aircraft and drones they deploy in their operations around the country.

The dedication of the Nigerian Airforce to remain at the vanguard of technological progress, was emphasised by Abubakar who stated that 'the ability of the NAF to harness the power of technology will determine its success in ensuring the highest levels of operational effectiveness and efficiency'.[29] In November 2023, Air Marshal Hasan Bala Abubakar, the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of Nigeria addressed the importance of augmenting AI within the military

[27] Mohammed, Manoochehri. Addressing AI-Driven Cyber-Terrorism Within the Framework of International Law. Global Journal of Politics and Law Research, 13 (3), 48-66, 2025. https://eajournals.org/gjplr/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2025/07/Addressing-AI-driven-cyber-terrorism.pdf#:~:text=A%20terrorist%20could%20exploit%20AI%20to%20control,networks%20and%20systems%20faster%20than%20human%20hackers.

[28] Falode, Adewunmi James, Babajimi Oladipo Faseke, and Chukwuma Ikeanyichukwu. "Artificial intelligence: the missing critical component in Nigeria's security architecture." LASU Journal of History and International Studies (LAJOHIS) 3, no. 1 (2021). p28

[29] NAN. "AI Will Shape Future of Nigerian Air Force: Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar." People's Gazette, 2023. https://gazettengr.com/ai-will-shape-future-of-nigerian-air-force-air-marshal-hasan-abubakar/.

sector, with a specific focus on the Nigerian Air Force (NAF). The potential positive effects of AI and its applications are not just associated with the Nigerian Air Force (NAF), but also extends to the Nigerian Army and Navy. Thus, there should be some discussion about the use of AI and other cutting-edge technology in Nigeria's contemporary military branches. The Nigerian Navy on the other hand is hoping to improve its efficiency with the help of AI. According to the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ogalla, the Nigerian Navy will seek to incorporate AI and emerging technological innovations into its forces to strengthen its capacities during both peacetime and in times of potential conflict (Aregbesola, 2023). For the future of Nigeria's naval forces moving into the future, leveraging innovative technologies is essential to its multifaceted operational activities, according to the Naval chief. The speech he delivered at Course 31 of the National Defence College (NDC), entitled "Strategic Options for the Nigerian Navy by 2035: Artificial Intelligence and Ship Maintenance," serves as an emblematic expression of the country's enduring aspirations to develop multi-role operations force that is more contemporary and AI-powered. Prospective plans to strengthen AI capabilities in the navy include through various ship systems, weaponry, networks, and command and control.

Discussions

In the Nigerian case, the most pressing threat of AI to the society is in terms of academic and work integrity because students and workers in Nigerian institutions are adopting the use of AI bots to conduct various research tasks. For researchers and practitioners working with AI-related activities or systems, there are many obstacles to overcome even if AI holds the potential to completely transform education.[30] The application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education has been featured as one of the most pivotal developments of the century.[31][32] Academic misconduct may occur when unreported or unauthorised use of AI tools is applied to produce work, assignments, theses, or dissertations for academic credit or career advancement in educational or work settings. Academic or work ethics committees may characterise such actions as attempts to compromise academic or work integrity and could give any member of the academic community or the public an unfair advantage or disadvantage.[33] The wide accessibility of AI may exacerbate existing academic integrity threats, such as essay and paper mills, fabrication, and falsification of data, etc. An umbrella expression for all types of unethical use of AI in the academic space can be referred to as unauthorised content generation. Unauthorised Content

[30] Judy, Kay and Bob, Kummerfeld. "From Data to Personal User Models for Life-Long, Life-Wide Learners." British Journal of Educational Technology 50, no. 6 (2019): 2871–2884.
[31]Becker, Samantha Adams, Malcolm Brown, Eden Dahlstrom, Annie Davis, Kristi DePaul, Veronica Diaz, and Jeffrey Pomerantz. "NMC horizon report: 2018 higher education edition." Louisville, CO: Educause (2018): 2018-09. https://library.educause.edu/~/media/files/library/2018/8/2018horizonreport.pdf
[32] Anthony,Seldon and Oladimeji, Abidoye. The Fourth Education Revolution. London: Legend Press Ltd., 2018.
[33]Tauginienė, Loreta, Inga Gaižauskaitė, Irene Glendinning, Július Kravjar, Milan Ojsteršek, Laura Ribeiro, Tatjana Odiņeca et al. "Glossary for academic integrity." (2018). https://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/EN-Glossary_revised_final_24.02.23.pdf.

Generation (UCG) also includes other unethical practices such as contract cheating and inappropriate use of AI.[34]

The creation of unifying ethical guidelines for AI in education opens a new avenue for this study's research agenda to address the needs of the growing digitalization of education in Africa's largest economy (Nguyen et al, 2023).[35] Unquestionably, the widespread adoption of AI in educational practices has opened a multitude of options for teachers or lecturers on the one hand and their students on the other hand. This disruptive technology has had and continues to have a significant effect on the professional and personal growth of many users.[36] The use of AI in education is possible in tasks ranging from teaching to non- teaching aspects. Driven by an applications-based viewpoint that supports the position of AI as an intelligent teacher, tutee, learning tool/partner, or advisor for policymaking, Hwang et al. highlighted the major roles of AI in education. [37]At the individual level, challenges ranging from critical social drawbacks such as systemic bias, discrimination, inequality for marginalized groups of students, and xenophobia have affected the use or deployment of AI possibilities in knowledge production.[38] Complex moral dilemmas with prejudice, and privacy concerns in the gathering and use of AI data has also discouraged many from exploring the possibilities embedded within it.[39] There is a persistent demand for strong moral standards and transparent communication with those who stand to gain from AI technology. This category of people includes legislators, educators, students, parents, and AI developers. The paradoxical applications of artificial intelligence technology in various teaching and learning situations has been a challenge for Nigeria's education system because of the level of integrity attributed to some works.

In addition to mitigating emerging societal abuses rooted in algorithmic injustice, embedding AI ethics principles and ethical issues such as responsibility, inclusion, fairness, security, and explainability in educational research will have a significant impact on the governance and policy-making landscape of AI for the long-term development of significant industries. Countries like Nigeria must set up an independent agency of the government,

[34]Foltynek, Tomas, Sonja Bjelobaba, Irene Glendinning, Zeenath Reza Khan, Rita Santos, Pegi Pavletic, and Július Kravjar. "ENAI Recommendations on the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in Education." International Journal for Educational Integrity 19, no. 1 (2023): 1-4.

[35] Nguyen, et al. "Ethical Principles for Artificial Intelligence in Education." Education and Information Technologies 28 (2023): 4221–4241.

[36]Xu, Weiqi and Ouyang Fan. "A Systematic Review of AI Role in the Educational System Based on a Proposed Conceptual Framework." Education and Information Technologies (2021): 1–29. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10639-021-10774-

[37]Hwang, Gwo-Jen, Haoran Xie, Benjamin W. Wah, and Dragan Gašević. "Vision, challenges, roles and research issues of Artificial Intelligence in Education." Computers and Education: Artificial Intelligence 1 (2020): 100001.

[38]Hwang, Gwo-Jen, Haoran Xie, Benjamin W. Wah, and Dragan Gašević. "Vision, challenges, roles and research issues of Artificial Intelligence in Education." Computers and Education: Artificial Intelligence 1 (2020): 100001.

[39]Holmes, Wayne, Kaska Porayska-Pomsta, Ken Holstein, Emma Sutherland, Toby Baker, Simon Buckingham Shum, Olga C. Santos et al. "Ethics of AI in education: Towards a community-wide framework." International Journal of Artificial Intelligence in Education 32, no. 3 (2022): 504-526.

created by an act of parliament, to scrutinize AI technology to weigh the pros and cons on behalf of the citizens and provide an oversight function in regulating which ones are approved and under which circumstances. Drawing from Dulka's model, the main functions of this agency would be to evaluate the actors involved in creating and deploying the AI, evaluate how the AI is being used in the present and what it might become in the future, evaluate how the AI will be designed and developed, evaluate the potential for harm and risks, evaluate what mechanisms exist to ensure that the AI is used properly.[40] This agency will also have the duty of engaging in a cost-benefit analysis to get more insights into the technology being introduced to society. All these agendas can be developed into a framework that can be passed into law through an act of the parliament to ensure the safety of citizens and society.

In a policy brief, it was discovered that prioritizing respect for Nigeria's democratic values, adhering to the country's constitutional principles, and assisting in addressing the socioeconomic requirements of the Nigerian populace should be the top priorities of any national AI strategy.[41] The policy ought to uphold norms for algorithmic accountability, data security, machine learning model explainability of decisions, and the defence of citizens' human rights against violations. The core human rights guaranteed by the Nigerian constitution, in particular the rights to privacy, nondiscrimination, and the preservation of Nigerians' dignity, ought to be the focus of Nigeria's AI strategy. Additionally, the policy ought to be in line with international AI norms and standards that uphold human rights and advance equality, diversity, inclusion, safety, justice, openness, and algorithmic accountability. Policy considerations are therefore necessary considering the problems with algorithmic bias, privacy loss, lack of transparency, and the general difficulty of helping Nigerians comprehend how they are interacting with AI. Because AI assessments are probabilistic, they should not be used as the only foundation for judgements. Nigeria should restrict or justify the use of AI technology in areas related to immigration, criminal justice, law enforcement, and national security. It should also critically evaluate the degree to which AI systems can be trusted in specific public sectors.

Conclusion

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed detailed African leaders do not want African youths to watch from afar and simply adopt what the rest of the world has produced.[42] This statement is very important on issues relating to AI and the experience of African states like Nigeria. There is a pressing need to adopt policy frameworks on AI in Nigeria to avoid negative effects such as gross

[40] Anne, Dulka. "The Use of Artificial Intelligence in International Human Rights Law." Stanford Technology Law Review26, no. 2 (2023). https://law.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Publish_26-STLR-316-2023_The-Use-of-Artificial-Intelligence-in-International-Human-Rights-Law8655.pdf.

[41] Jake O. Efoduh. Towards a Rights-Respecting Artificial Intelligence Policy for Nigeria. Policy Brief. Lagos: Paradigm Initiative, 2021. https://paradigmhq.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Towards-A-Rights-Respecting-Artificial-Intelligence-Policy-for-Nigeria.pdf.

[42] Anne-Helene, Mai. "Artificial Intelligence, African Style." IDRC-CRDI. 2023. https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/stories/artificial-intelligence-african-style.

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violations of human rights and civil liberties in the nearest future. Egypt, Mauritius, and Rwanda were the first African countries to publish national AI strategies.[43]This body of work therefore, encouraged a legal and institutional framework instituted by an Act of Parliament for the sole purpose of providing AI sector governance in the country. This study recommends that such a framework should convene stakeholders frequently to answer salient questions such as what does AI mean for Nigeria? What are the risks and benefits for Nigerian societies? Can the deployment of these technologies undermine democracy in the country? How can stakeholders build on African value systems, traditions, and cultural codes to set ethical guidelines? And what would an AI by Nigeria and for Nigeria be?

AI presents several challenging socio-technical issues because such algorithms are used in high-stakes industries like education, transportation, banking, healthcare, and security. These sectors are highly sensitive, thus ethical biases, transparency, job-automation, and privacy issues are starting to surface. Furthermore, Nigerian experts and policymakers agree that a human-centered approach is necessary to guarantee that Al systems are equitable and answerable to everyone, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. The utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) must align with the national agenda on human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. This necessitates the establishment of a robust institutional as well as legal framework. This framework should adopt a risk-based strategy to cultivate a regulatory atmosphere that encourages positive AI innovation. The government and the developers of the technology in Nigeria must make sure they adhere strictly to the principles of human dignity and human rights in all their AI systems. Their AI solutions must also represent Democracy and have due regard for Rule of Law. Both the regulators and the regulated about AI in Nigeria must make sure that human freedom and autonomy is respected and much as possible. Adherence to Non-discrimination, Gender Equality, Fairness, and Diversity in the AI systems must be checked to meet up with national requirements. The developers must ensure that their creations promote transparency, explain ability and clarity. The welfare of the citizens is the utmost responsibility of the government. And since global development trajectories have embraced Artificial Intelligence systems in various renditions, they must uphold data protection and the citizen's right to privacy. The people want AI to help them with so many tasks, but developers must ensure that those systems are accountable and responsible to avoid conflicts with or between the users and the government. Lastly, AI regulatory mechanisms, whether institutional or legal, must make sure that AI companies always safeguard Democracy and Rule of Law.

As regulators work in this regard, they should pay attention to the possibilities afforded by AI in the security sector. Considering Nigeria's large spectrum of insecurity, the increasing proliferation of AI applications in the military can change the traditional nature of warfare forever. The ICRC argued that "AI and machine-learning systems could have profound implications for the role of

[43] Samantha Adams Becker, Malcolm Brown, Eden Dahlstrom, Annie Davis, Kristi DePaul, Veronica Diaz, and Jeffrey Pomerantz. NMC Horizon Report: 2018 Higher Education Edition. Louisville, CO: EDUCAUSE, 2018.

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humans in armed conflict, particularly with regard to new forms of cyber and information warfare; growing autonomy of weapon systems and other unmanned systems; and, more broadly, the nature of decision-making".[44] In high-violence regions of Africa, artificial intelligence (AI) is arguably most frequently applied to improve the skills and coordination of domestic security and law enforcement agencies. Apart from its increasing application in surveillance systems throughout Africa, artificial intelligence has also been incorporated into armament systems. Most notably, lethal autonomous weapons systems can "select and engage targets without further intervention by a human operator" by utilising AI and machine learning algorithms in conjunction with real-time sensor data.

[44]Nathaniel, Allen and Marian, Okpali. Artificial Intelligence Creeps on to the African Battlefield. Brookings. 2022. https://www.brookings.edu/articles/artificial-intelligence-creeps-on-to-the-african-battlefield/

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