

Background

In recent years, digital progress has brought significant opportunities and challenges, with serious implications in all spheres of society. In this era of rapid technological change, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most powerful tools with the potential to transform societies, advance peace, and achieve sustainable development. However, its ethical implications remain subjects of intense debate.

Pope Francis has expressed his views on the ethical implications of artificial intelligence on several occasions, in particular during His message for the 57th World Day of Peace on 1 January 2024. Pope Francis emphasized that AI should be conceived, designed, developed, deployed, and used ethically and responsibly to promote human dignity and the common good. While underscoring the potential of AI to contribute positively to the future of humanity, Pope Francis cautioned about the challenges and risks it poses in the technical, social, political, educational, and especially anthropological domains. AI, then, ought to be understood as a “galaxy of different realities” that are not neutral. Its development and use will make a beneficial contribution to the future of humanity only if we show ourselves capable of acting responsibly and respect such fundamental human values as “inclusion, transparency, equity, privacy, and reliability.”

Objectives

A number of urgent questions – at the interplay between technical, ethical, political, legal, and economic considerations – need to be asked. What will be the consequences, in the medium and longer term, of these new digital technologies? What impact will they have on individual lives and on societies, on international stability and peace, and on integral human development? This event aims to foster a comprehensive dialogue on these critical issues, building on Pope Francis’ message on the 57th World Day of Peace on the theme of AI, with a view to direct techno-scientific research towards the pursuit of peace and the common good, in the service of the integral development of individuals and communities.

Session

Opening remarks: H.E. Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations

Keynote Address: An overview of AI’s current status and its ethical implications, drawing on Pope Francis’ message on the 57th World Day of Peace [*Fr. Philip Larrey??*].

Panel Discussion: A multi-stakeholder dialogue on the ethical challenges posed by AI and strategies to mitigate them

- Laura Gherlone, researcher in semiotics of the National Scientific and Technical Research Council, Argentina
- Fr Philip Larrey, Professor of Philosophy at Boston College, previous Dean of Philosophy at the Pontifical Lateran University, Chairman of Humanity 2.0

Good Practices

Q&A

Event details

Date: 21 February 2024

Time: 1.15-2.45pm

Location: UN Headquarter, New York, Conference Room 6

Please note: a limited number of special events passes will be available for those without UN grounds passes.