INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

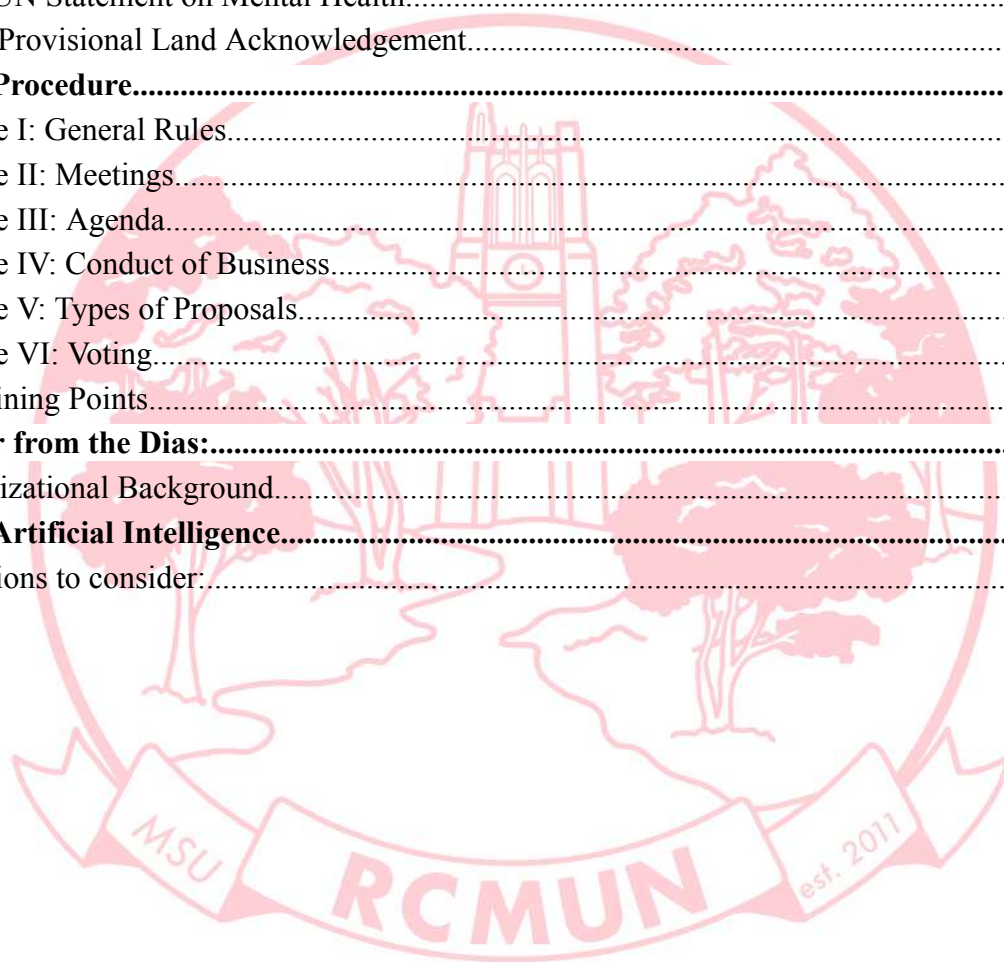RCMUN XIII
FEBRUARY 3, 2024

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RCMUN Notices

Committee Content Warning

While RCMUN values the discussion and awareness of most topics and a delegate's obligation to accurately represent their assigned role, all participants who engage in any bigoted, racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist, fatphobic, xenophobic, or other such comments or sentiments will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action at the discretion of RCMUN's Secretariat. Additionally, in all things, RCMUN pledges its Secretariat and staff to maintain approachability and inclusivity; if any participant has any questions, comments, or concerns they are encouraged to contact RCMUN's Secretariat or, in the case of delegates, its staff. If you have questions or concerns regarding this, please reach out to your committee's senior staff before conference weekend.

Red Cedar University Model United Nations (RCMUN) is committed to fostering a safe and secure environment for all delegates, staff, and advisors. In this, RCMUN operates with a zero-tolerance policy concerning any and all instances of harassment and discrimination. Further, RCMUN is committed to promoting the mental health of its participants and requires all participants to act with compassion, grace, and understanding. RCMUN encourages participants to step out of their committee room and/or speak with a trusted individual if they are feeling overwhelmed or are otherwise uncomfortable.

All participants should be aware that RCMUN's Secretariat and staff are designated mandatory reporters with MSU's Office of Institutional Equity while operating within their roles before and during the conference.

RCMUN Statement on Mental Health

Red Cedar Model United Nations is committed to fostering a safe and secure environment for all delegates, staff, and advisors. In this, RCMUN operates with a zero tolerance policy with regard to any and all instances of harassment and discrimination. Further, RCMUN is committed to promoting the mental health of its participants and requires all participants to act with compassion, grace, and understanding. RCMUN encourages participants to step out of their committee room and/or speak with a trusted individual if they are feeling overwhelmed or are otherwise uncomfortable.

Moreover, RCMUN recognizes that some of its committees may include references to or discussions of sensitive topics. While RCMU values the discussion and awareness of these topics and a delegate's obligation to accurately represent their assigned role, all participants who engage in any bigoted, racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist, or other such comments or sentiments will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action at the discretion of RCMUN's Secretariat. Additionally, in all things, RCMUN pledges its Secretariat and staff to maintain approachability and inclusivity; if any participant has any questions, comments, or concerns they are encouraged to contact RCMUN's Secretariat or, in the case of delegates, its staff.

All participants should be aware that RCMUN's Secretariat and staff are designated mandatory reporters with MSU's Office of Institutional Equity while operating within their roles before and during the conference.

MSU Provisional Land Acknowledgement

"We collectively acknowledge that Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe,

Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the University resides on Land ceded in the 1819

Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan's

twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for

Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly

removed from their Homelands. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous

sovereignty and will work to hold Michigan State University more accountable to the needs of

American Indian and Indigenous peoples."[1]

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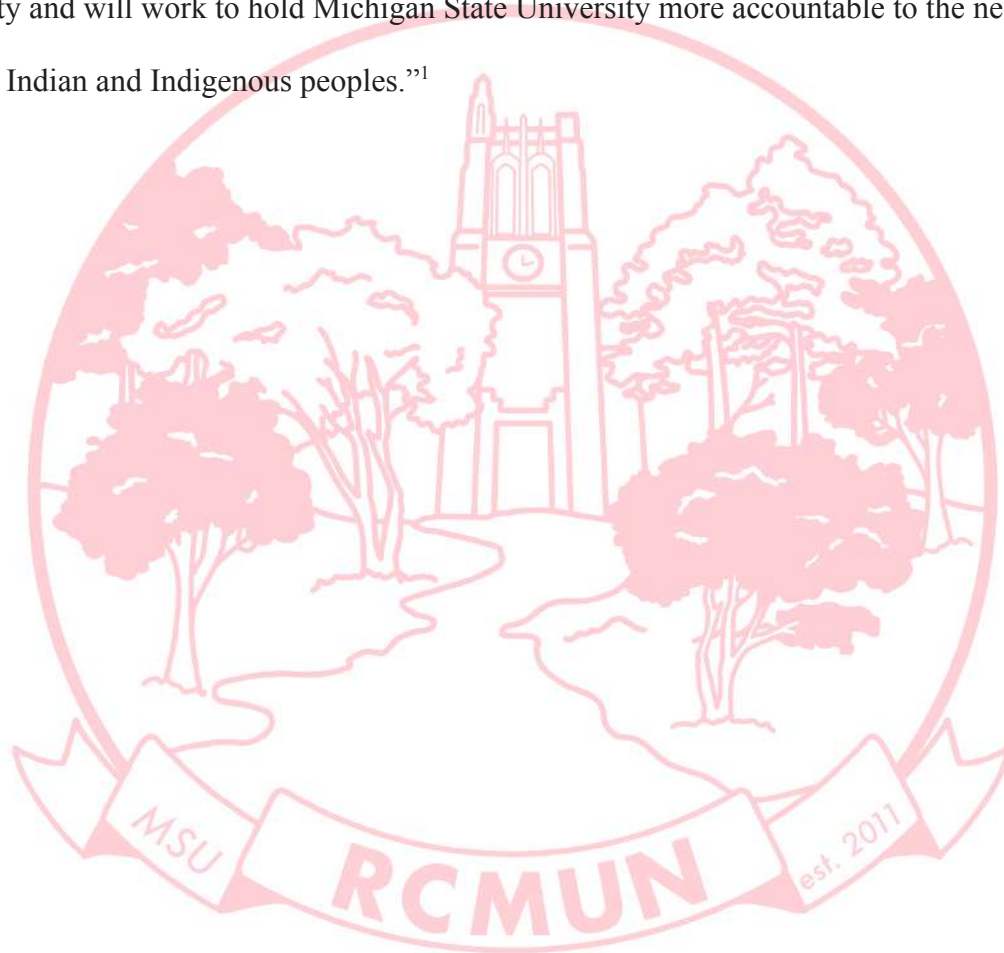
[1] "Land Acknowledgement," American Indian and Indigenous Studies, accessed December 5, 2021,
https://aiis.msu.edu/land/.

Rules of Procedure

Article I: General Rules

1. Delegates are expected to adhere to all regular RCMUN XIII rules and standards of decorum.

2. In the event of a dispute over the Rules of Procedure, either those of RCMUN generally or International Telecommunication Union, the RCMUN Secretariat will be the ultimate authority of appeal.

Article II: Meetings

1. All International Telecommunication Union meetings shall be attended by all specified members of the committee, unless otherwise authorized by the RCMUN Secretariat.

2. Unless otherwise indicated by the RCMUN Secretariat or International Telecommunication Union staff, all meetings of the committee will be held in the specified International Telecommunication Union room as designated by RCMUN.

Article III: Agenda

1. Items for debate may be pulled from the background guide, but are not limited to what is explicitly mentioned. Staff would like to see well-rounded and well-researched delegates bring new and relevant topics to the table.

2. Any Committee member may make a motion to restrict debate to one topic. If this motion passes, debate shall be limited to the topic specified until such time as another motion is made to either change the topic under consideration or return to general debate.

3. The Agenda is to be set at the beginning of committee, formal debate on committee topics may not begin until the Agenda has been set.

4. A Speaker's List may be opened at any time when motions are being entertained. Additionally, a delegate may request to be added to the Speaker's List at any time. If the Chair is not actively calling for speakers to be added, a delegate may send a note to the dias.

Article IV: Conduct of Business

1. International Telecommunication Union Aftermath proceedings shall be conducted in the form of a permanent Moderated Caucus until such a time that a committee member makes a motion to change this.

Article V: Types of Proposals

1. Working Papers: When initially proposing solutions, delegates must first draft and present working papers to the committee. These documents will not be subject to a vote by committee, but are merely a presentation of ideas. These will then be adapted into resolutions, as described below.

2. Resolutions: A resolution requires only one sponsor, though it may have more. The amount of required signatories is up to the discretion of the Chair. A committee member

need only move to introduce a resolution in order for it to be considered by the entire committee.

Article VI: Voting

1. Votes may be entered as For, Against, or Abstentions.

2. Any delegate who designates themselves as "Present and Voting" during roll call may not abstain on any matter.

3. Votes on non-substantive proposals or procedural matters will be passed by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of committee members. Abstentions are allowed on non-substantive proposals, but not procedural matters.

4. Votes on substantive matters will be passed by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of committee members.

5. In all cases, a simple majority constitutes more than half of the For and Against votes.

Remaining Points

1. Any rules and regulations are subject to change at the discretion of the Chair.

2. If you have additional questions, please visit the RCMUN Website

Letter from the Dias:

Greetings delegates,

Welcome to the International Telecommunication Union! My name is Jacob Cox, and it is my most esteemed honor to be your chair for this committee. I am a sophomore at Michigan State University, studying in James Madison College and our College of Social Science. I have majors in International Relations and Public Policy, with a minor in Science, Technology, and Environmental Public Policy. Throughout highschool, I was an active STEM student, being a 7 year participant in FIRST robotics, and planned on being a nuclear engineer. Obviously, this did not pan out, as it turns out advanced mathematics is rather challenging. With this new knowledge, I set forth pursuing a future in one of my other passions, that being civil service, and now am pursuing a career in public service and administration.

This will be my second year working with MSUMUN, where last year I served as an assistant crisis director for the SpaceX crisis committee. I also am a member of the MSU International Relations Organization, our competitive MUN team. I enjoy video games of many varieties(Outer Wilds, Hollow Knight, and Halo are personal favorites), reading the occasional book, and am an avid fan of tabletop games, even if I don't have the time or resources to play them. Warhammer(from Fantasy to Horus Heresy), Battletech, Infinity, the like. I am also incredibly passionate about space knowledge and exploration, and am always eager to talk about it.

But all that has little to do with our lovely committee that me and my junior staffers have worked hard to lay out here for you. As I mentioned earlier in the letter, I have a STEM background, and as such, have always been passionate about science and technology and how that impacts the way we live. I am currently taking a minor in the subject. As such, I am often on

the frontlines of debate when it comes to the many bleeding edge technologies we find ourselves facing today; such as Artificial Intelligence. While these technologies could be some of the most impactful technologies since the printing press and nitrogen fixation, there are also serious risks they pose as well. As the future leaders and policymakers of our society, it is our responsibility to garner understanding of these boons and banes, and develop policy to best shape our society surrounding them. There is no greater calling than service to humanity, and here, we must remember that technology exists to serve mankind, never rule over it. I trust you delegates to come with bright and promising solutions to the issues we face, and hope your experience here can help shape your understanding of these issues for wherever your futures may lead.

If you need anything from me pertaining to this committee or anything else you think I'm capable of answering, I am available to reach at GA1@msumun.org. Our committee would love to hear from you.

Best Regards,
Jacob Cox

Assistant Chair Information

Hello! My name is Nidhi Kundargi, and I am a first year student at Michigan State University majoring in Statistics, with a minor in global public health and epidemiology. I am from Canton, Michigan, and this is my first year in MSUMUN – I'm super excited to get to work with everyone! I love literature, listening to music, and playing video games with my friends (though I'm terrible).

Organizational Background

The International Telecommunications Union will be serving as this committee's body. The debates held within the committee will be compiled into resolutions for this body to organize and work with, but in order to do that, it's important to understand what the International Telecommunications Union is. The ITU is one of the United Nation's 16 specialized agencies, organizations within the UN network that operate independently, but exist under the blue and white blanket. The ITU operates under the UN Economic and Social Council.

The International Telecommunications Union is the UN's foremost authority on information and communication technology(ICTs), in areas from regulation and development, to advocacy and equity. The ITU is dedicated to "connecting all of the world's peoples-wherever they live and through whatever means"[2]. Every phone call made, every text or email sent, is done thanks to the efforts of the ITU. Without them, our global communication and technology network would be significantly less connected, less regulated, less developed, and less understood.

However, it's not the ITU's name we see in the upper left corner in a mobile phone telling someone their service provider, but rather one of the many telecommunications companies that dominate the world economic ecosystem. In which case, how does the ITU influence the capabilities of world ICTs? This is because the ITU is an incredibly unique organization within the United Nations, in that they directly interact with the private sector, without having to go through national governments own authority.

The ITU prides itself on being a focal point of public-private partnership within international space. The organization has around 900 non-state entity members, from private

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[2] "About ITU." , International Telecommunication Union, www.itu.int/en/about/Pages/default.aspx.

corporations to research organizations and universities. These organizations have the opportunity to shape policy by meeting and expressing their interests and concerns to the nation-states charged to participate within the ITU's organizational council, although they are not direct participants within the organization's decision making structure.[3] That is to the nation-states that sit on the current council. Or, rather, the delegates present at this conference.

With that, it's important to express that the ITU has access to a larger amount of resources than many other UN organizations, primarily in the form of private regulation, the ability to directly encourage development in certain areas by private members, and with just funding itself. Not only does the ITU have access to their appropriated UN 5th committee budget, they also collect membership dues and donations from the private sector representatives, along with assorted cost recovery methods such as filing fees[4].

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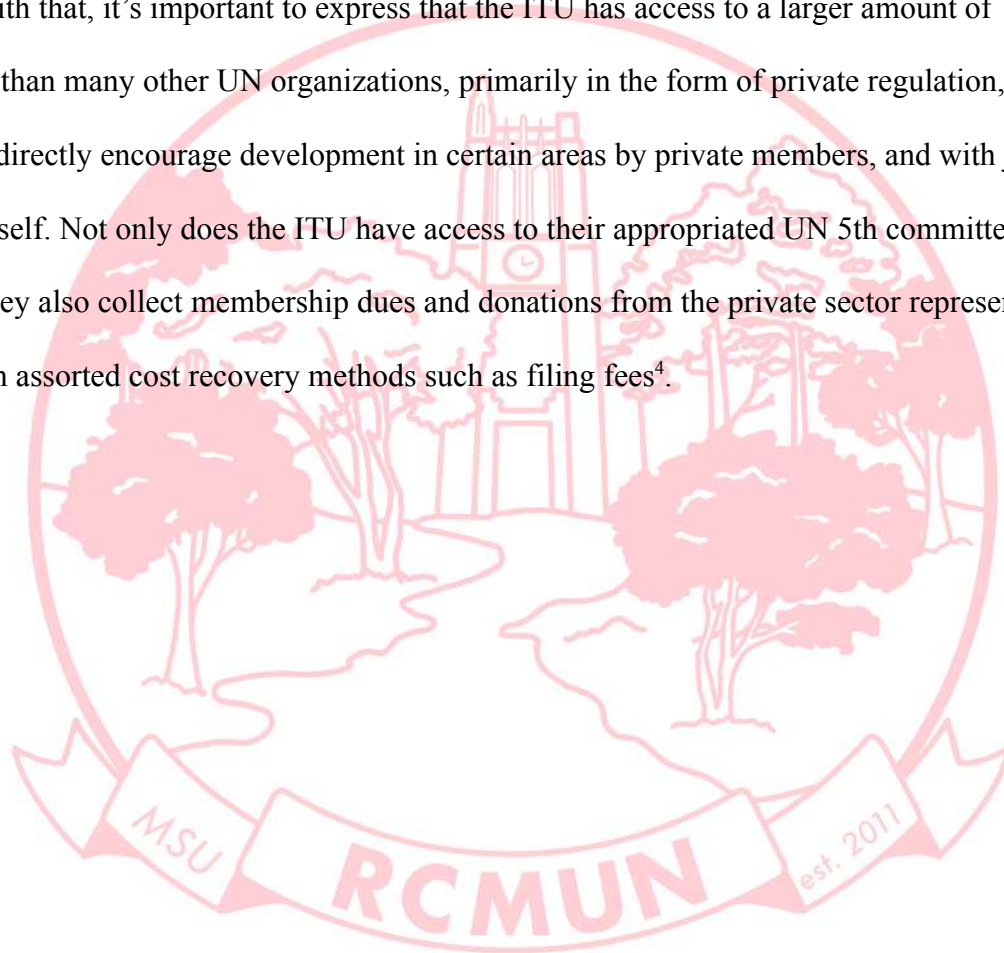
[3] "Membership in the ITU." , International Telecommunication Union, www.itu.int/hub/membership/.
[4] "How we are funded." , International Telecommunication Union, www.itu.int/hub/membership/how-we-are-funded/.

Topic 1: Artificial Intelligence

When people think of Artificial Intelligence, there are many different things that come to mind. Some might think of the all-destructive Skynet, the rampant Cortana, or HAL 9000. Maybe the helpful TARS, or the kind Wall-E comes to mind. The chair of the committee thinks of ALEPH, the Human Sphere's premiere artificial assistant, regulator, and economic facilitator. More contemporary, and less fantastical, individuals might think of ChatGPT or MyAI. However, the name of a programming instance does not sufficiently explain the intricacies of AI. So what is it?

The term itself derives from computer scientist John McCarthy, who says that Artificial Intelligence is "the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs."[5]. Effectively, it is using human intellectual methodology on the scale and speed of a highly advanced computer. As such, it has become incredibly useful for much of society.

With the ability to find detailed information incredibly fast, and the ability to deliver it in a humanistic manner, AI has become prevalent in many domains. From students to scientists and business people, AI can be used to procure information in almost an instant. It can pull from a plethora of sources to develop facts and figures on most given topics. It can also solve advanced mathematical equations in a matter of seconds, or even develop artistic projects based on nothing more than a text prompt. There are many a use for Artificial Intelligence, but at the same time, many a risk, for no advancement comes without cost.

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[5] McCarthy, John. "What is Artificial Intelligence?." Computer Science Department, Stanford University. Last modified November 12, 2007. https://www-formal.stanford.edu/jmc/whatisai.pdf.

As such, it is important to be aware of the moral conduct surrounding AI[6]. AI ethics is a multidisciplinary field that studies how to optimize AI's beneficial impact while reducing risks and adverse outcomes. This is to help users know how to use AI in a responsible manner. Some examples of ethical concerns relating to AI include transparency, moral agency, technology misuse, fairness, and data responsibility. Despite these issues AI does not work on its own, but is rather a creation of human beings. As such, in order to ensure that it is being used in a way that is considered "moral", there needs to be some generalized agreement over AI usage. A successful governance program when it comes to AI will include making sure the people working on the AI are aware of their roles and responsibilities, educating people who are part of the AI's life cycle about how to build AI in a responsible manner, and establishing procedures that help you monitor and communicate about AI and its risk. However, in order to gain a better understanding of when these ethics could come into play, it's important to look into some of the more specific roles that Artificial Intelligence can play in our technological world.

Artificial intelligence plays an important role in the economy in that it is responsible for revolutionizing it. It is impossible to speak on AI's involvement in the economy without discussing it in conjunction with the "Internet of Things", which "is a network of interrelated devices that connect and exchange data with other IoT devices and the cloud"[7]. This sort of technology can range from a smart watch that measures heart rate, to a home thermostat that automatically adjusts temperature, to advanced manufacturing technologies that measure industrial outputs and inputs in real time. To illustrate this, a common example of the two topics' interconnectedness – or specifically AI in IoT – is self-driving cars, predicted to soon enter the market: self-driving cars use a combination of user interface and artificial intelligence to make

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[6]"AI Ethics." IBM. https://www.ibm.com/topics/ai-ethics.
[7]"What is the Internet of Things?." IBM. https://www.ibm.com/topics/internet-of-things.

predictions on human behavior and will obviously heavily influence the automotive market. Other examples of products in the market that employ a combination of the two concepts are self-monitoring healthcare devices, such as trackers, and automated home security systems.

Artificial intelligence creates a convoluted ethical dilemma concerning both privacy and copyright standards. Because AI creates content from a vast database of content, largely human-created original content, it is difficult to assign the concept of total originality to anything created by AI. Furthermore, the question of whether or not one can credit authorship to an AI engine itself remains a question longstanding in the ethics of technology and art – one must question if by using AI to create art and writing by itself the value of purely human-created art becomes devalued. Another question is of privacy: though the internet contains protected sensitive information concerning individuals, AI machines can be trained to breach data and create internet surveillance[8]. Preserving privacy in the age of AI requires intricate and creative solutions, including but not limited to data anonymization and more intricate encryption.

As far-fetched as all of this technology seems, it is far from science fiction. Despite this, it still has yet to be fully actualized, and many of the benefits that could be felt, or risks that could harm our way of life, require a much broader development of AI to see come to fruition. As this committee is tasked with mitigating these possible risks, it is also fitting that this committee be dedicated to seeing the development of Artificial Intelligence technologies encouraged sustainably and effectively.

Artificial Intelligence development is a very resource heavy and intensive process, requiring a sustainable digital ecosystem, a healthy policy environment, and access to funds to further research. Of course, none of this comes for free. For starters, funds for research are

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[8] Kerry, Cameron F. "Protecting privacy in an AI-driven world." Brookings. Last modified February 10, 2020. https://www.brookings.edu/articles/protecting-privacy-in-an-ai-driven-world/.

obviously not cheap, considering the monetary nature of the resource. Although much of the current research effort surrounding Artificial Intelligence is backed by private sources, that is not an absolute. Governments and other public institutions have on occasion involved themselves in supporting these technological innovations, and some argue that doing so is an integral part of developing AI technologies that support the general public. [9]

However, ensuring there is money for any research is not the only thing required for Artificial Intelligence development in the economy. In fact, it is arguably the simplest. In order for machine learning to learn, it requires learning materials. This means that it must have access to a data set to learn from. Traditionally, these have been developed by just pulling off the internet. However, concerns have also been raised surrounding this, as it can lead to copyrighted material and other content that individuals don't want being used, such as personal messages and art, to be utilized as well. In addition, it can also lead to harmful and hateful material being utilized, creating a biased data set for the algorithm to pull from.

Finally, it is important to remember that any technological development doesn't occur in a vacuum. It exists within a space of commerce and governance, and as such, the commercial and governmental environment must be healthy enough to incorporate it. It is important that any policy environment, national or international, adopts a flexible and adaptive stance. Although it is important that it encourages development, it also needs to be strong and establish a clear legal standing surrounding any issues within the environment[10].
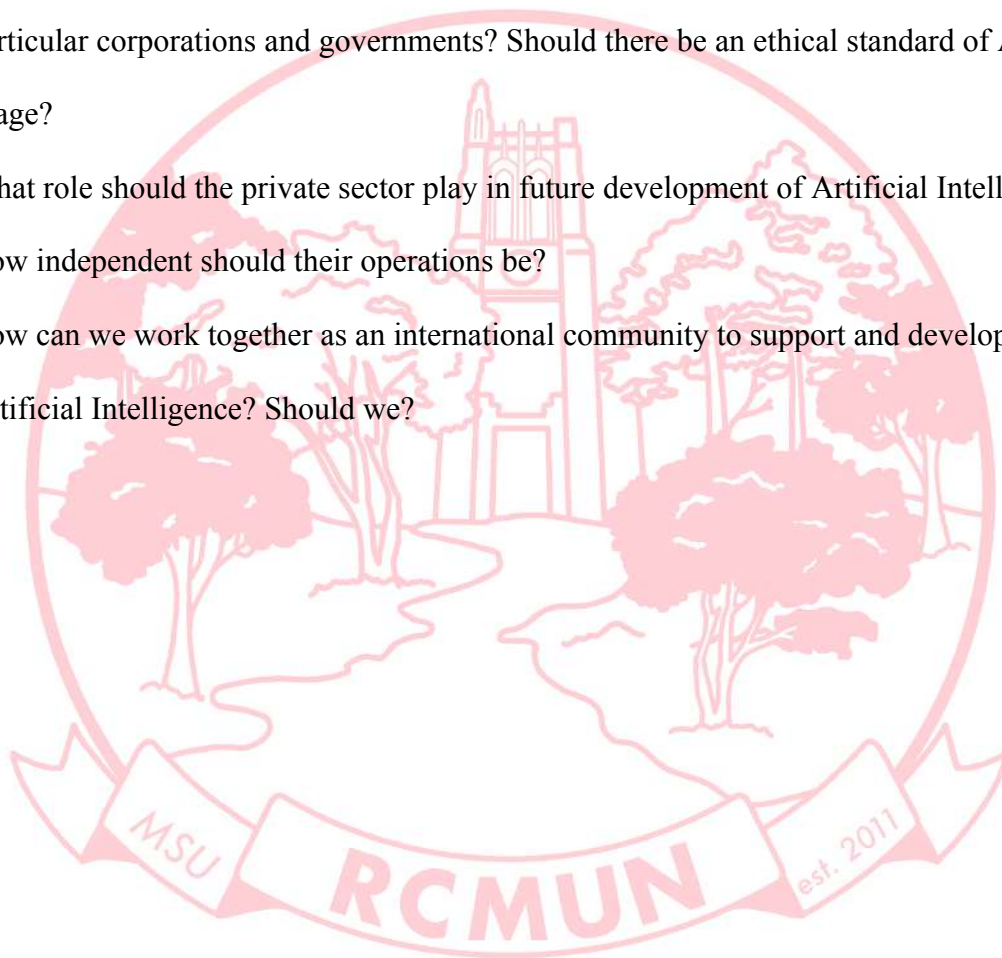
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[9] "Investing in AI research and development (Principle 2.1." Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/ai-principles/P10.

[10] "Shaping an enabling policy environment for AI (Principle 2.3)." Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/ai-principles/P10.

Questions to consider:

1. What benefits does innovation in Artificial Intelligence bring to society? What costs?

2. How can we ensure that less developed countries are not left behind by the development of Artificial Intelligence?

3. How can we ensure individual actors use this technology responsibly and ethically, in particular corporations and governments? Should there be an ethical standard of AI usage?

4. What role should the private sector play in future development of Artificial Intelligence? How independent should their operations be?

5. How can we work together as an international community to support and develop Artificial Intelligence? Should we?

References

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"What is the Internet of Things?." IBM. https://www.ibm.com/topics/internet-of-things.