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Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Opportunities for greater inclusion and independent living

Challenges and risks

A/HRC/49/52: Artificial intelligence and the rights of persons with disabilities - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, 28 December 2021





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The Special Rapporteur provided several recommendations to states, such as

- including human rights principles in AI regulations;
- explicitly prohibiting discriminatory and harmful AI use against persons with disabilities;
- ensuring that digital inclusion strategies consider the need for human rights-compliant AI tools;
- considering imposing a moratorium on high-risk AI systems, especially those with potential for discrimination;
- ensuring comprehensive human rights due diligence legislation that includes disability considerations;
- insisting on the obligation of reasonable accommodation in the operation of artificial intelligence systems;
- supporting capacity-building of representative organizations of persons with disabilities to effectively monitor the impact of artificial intelligence on the rights of persons with disabilities.



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Businesses and the private sector should:

- operate with transparency and provide information about how artificial intelligence systems work;
- implement disability-inclusive human rights impact assessments of artificial intelligence to identify and rectify its negative impacts on the rights of persons with disabilities;
- actively consult persons with disabilities and their representative organizations when building technical solutions from the earliest moments in the business cycle;
- undertake corporate human rights due diligence to proactively identify and manage potential and actual human rights impacts on persons with disabilities;
- ensure that data sets become much more realistic and representative of the diversity.



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National human rights institutions should:

- Inform national artificial intelligence policy debates using the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other human rights standards, and increase their engagement on policies related to artificial intelligence, so that national policy can be based on the best understanding of international human rights law including the Convention;
- Consider appointing members specifically charged with examining the broad human rights impact of artificial intelligence, including the rights of persons with disabilities.



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