

FORUM: UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

QUESTION OF: Performing Risk Assessments of Emerging Technologies and their Potential Hazards

SUBMITTED BY: Finland

CO-SUBMITTED BY: France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, The Republic of Austria, Ukraine.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Committee,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, wherein the integration of disaster risk reduction in national policies and decision-making processes, including identification, assessment, and management of risks, received emphasis,

Recognizing the fact that emerging technologies have probably the greatest potentials in enhancing humane welfare, economic development, and disaster resilience while introducing risks that would not be fully known or anticipated,

Realizing that the pace of developments in most rapidly emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and automation are moving at a speed requiring their review in relation to the anticipated hazards that could arise thereby reducing risks to human health, safety, or environment,

1. Calls for the constant development of technology while assessing and safeguarding threats to ensure safety while utilizing emerging technology, by ways such as but not limited to:
 - a) the development of a United Nations fund that encourages the qualification of specialists that can address the issue with great attention, providing a specialized and qualified opinion regarding the topic of, such as but not limited to:

- i. technology in the medical, environmental, marine, plant and pharmaceutical biotechnology,
 - ii. cybersecurity breaches,
 - iii. identity theft,
 - iv. issues related to automation and real-life data based analysis,
 - b) recommending for all relevant members of the United Nations to:
 - i. collaborate in developing solutions,
 - ii. exchange efficient methods, in order to resolve the issue and mitigate its effects;
2. Encourages all Member states to adopt the measure of conducting risk assessments, on emerging technologies to:
 - a) ensure the elimination and prevention of risks and potential hazards that might cause harm, by extensively testing the new means of technology,
 - b) provide the knowledge and organization, which will be necessary, in order to understand each new technology and the way it operated,
 - c) inform the users with information through international public awareness raising campaigns, created and funded by the UN, that will include:
 - i. the upcoming dangers of technology,
 - ii. the measures that should be enforced in order to be protected;
3. Emphasizes the importance of accurate results that will be achieved by ways such as but not limited to:
 - a) establishing a framework, which will mainly focus on:
 - i. the development of a structured approach to risk assessments,
 - ii. standardized processes for identifying, analyzing and prioritizing risks,
 - b) documenting and reviewing assessments, which will provide valuable insights for improvements;
4. Requests for the meaningful and long-term cooperation of states with the establishment of a summit which will discuss emerging technologies and their potential hazards, to be held somewhere in the future, in which all member states will:
 - a) provide transparency for test results regarding emerging technology assessments to create a safer global environment,

- b) assist less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCS) through providing funds, in resolving hazards associated with technology, as they do not have the means to prevent hazards, such as:
 - i. system failures,
 - ii. data breaches,
 - iii. operational disruptions;
5. Proposes nations to implement infrastructures dedicated to testing emerging technologies in order to:
- a) ensure the safety of employees by:
 - i. obtaining operating systems dedicated to the testing of emerging technologies,
 - ii. creating regulations and guidelines such as the ones provided by the NHS (National Health Service),
 - b) increase work productivity by:
 - i. creating a specialized work environment, fostering fast commute, and allowing employees to work in appropriate conditions,
 - ii. having specialized supplies dedicated to testing technology, allowing employees to find the necessary equipment.