Committee: united nation of general assembly (UNGA)
Country: Myanmar
Agenda: Regulating Artificial Intelligence to Prevent Digital Colonialism

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative forces of the 21st century. Around the world, nations are leveraging AI to revolutionize healthcare, education, security, agriculture, and economic planning. Countries such as the United States, China, and members of the European Union have taken the lead in AI development by investing in research, infrastructure, and innovation ecosystems. While these advancements hold immense promise, they also raise serious concerns about inequality, monopolization, and the risk of digital domination.

As AI systems become more influential in shaping decisions, data, and narratives, the global digital landscape is increasingly defined by a few powerful entities—often based in the Global North—who control the technologies, platforms, and data infrastructures used by billions worldwide.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar acknowledges the potential of AI for national development, especially in improving public services, boosting agriculture, and expanding access to information. However, Myanmar expresses grave concern over the rise of digital colonialism, where powerful foreign entities control the digital tools, infrastructure, and data of developing nations without respecting their local values, languages, or rights. As a developing country with limited technological infrastructure and digital literacy, Myanmar is highly vulnerable to:

- Data exploitation by foreign tech companies,

- Technological dependency on imported AI systems,

- Underrepresentation in global AI models that ignore local languages and cultures.

- The spread of misinformation and harmful narratives through opaque algorithms.

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Myanmar's Policies Related to AI Regulation & Digital Sovereignty

1. **Digital Economy Development Master Plan (2021–2025)**
   Focuses on building local digital infrastructure, promoting tech innovation, and reducing dependence on foreign technologies—key to protecting digital sovereignty.

2. **Cybersecurity Law (Draft)**
   Though still under discussion, this law is intended to protect national digital infrastructure and regulate data usage to prevent external exploitation.

3. **National AI Strategy (In Progress)**
   Myanmar is exploring a national AI framework centered on ethical AI use in education, agriculture, and healthcare, with a focus on inclusivity and local relevance.

4. **Support for ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025**
   Myanmar aligns with ASEAN's vision for inclusive, ethical AI and digital development, promoting regional cooperation and resisting digital monopolies.

Myanmar believes that AI must not become a tool for modern exploitation, but rather a force for shared progress and technological justice.

Therefore, Myanmar advocates for the following:

Regulation for Data Sovereignty– Every nation must have the right to control how its citizens' data is collected, used, and stored. Data should not be treated as a commodity for foreign profit.

Equity in Technological Development– International cooperation must support AI development in the Global South through funding, education, and infrastructure-sharing.

Cultural and Linguistic Inclusivity– AI systems should represent and respect the diversity of all countries, including minority languages like those spoken across Myanmar.

Transparency and Accountability in Algorithms– Global standards should require companies to disclose how their AI systems work, including how data is sourced, what biases are present, and who is responsible for harm caused.

Strengthening Regional Collaboration– Myanmar supports regional cooperation through ASEAN and calls for a Southeast Asian framework on ethical AI that reflects the values and needs of its people.

Conclusion

Myanmar believes that preventing digital colonialism is not just a technological issue—it is a matter of sovereignty, equity, and justice. AI should not deepen the gap between the powerful and the powerless, but instead be guided by **inclusion, fairness, and shared innovation**. Myanmar stands ready to work with the international community to build a digital future that empowers all nations equally.