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Potential risks and challenges of science, technology and in-novation

Mrs President, ladies and gentlemen, fellow parliamentarians

the global **digital divide** is not merely a technological issue—it is a social and economic chasm that affects the very fabric of societies. For over 2.7 billion people globally, **reliable access** to the internet still remains a distant reality, affecting their potential for innovation, education, healthcare, and business.

In order to fulfill this potential many things are needed, but first and foremost the willingness of all states to provide **free, open and secure access to the internet**. However, a rising number of countries are **censoring** online content that does not correspond with their own political narrative or ideology. Many are even **restricting** their population's **access** to the internet as a whole and thus not only their freedom, but their development prospects. Here at the **IPU** we are already one step further, not only debating basic access to the internet but to much younger technologies, like **artificial intelligence**, that will shape the economic, social and political development of states for decades to come.

I call on all of you, my fellow parliamentarians, to make a **conciuous effort** to implement the **resolution** on „The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law“ as a clear commitment to **human rights** must always be the foundation of technological advancement.

International accountability, exchange, and advice are crucial to achieve this, which is why I observe with great **concern** how especially autocratic states deliberately chose to **decouple their data access and AI development** from the international community. These restricted AI models are by definition **less culturally nuanced, prone to propaganda and undermine the collaborative nature of this technology**. I encourage everyone of my peers to support open and international exchange on these topics and to counter any protectionist tendencies held by some of the states present.

Thank you.