

149<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly and Related Meetings

Geneva, 12-17 October 2024

General Debate

*Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future*

15/16 October 2024, Amfiteatrul D, nivel 1

**Address by Mr. CUPȘA Ioan, MP**

**On behalf of the Romanian IPU Group**

**Head of the delegation**

*Dear Mr. (Vice) President,  
Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,*

We come together today at a **key moment** in human history— an era marked by rapid technological advancements and an urgent need for solutions to global challenges.

Science, technology, and innovation (STI) are not only shaping our present but **will also define our future**.

**How we utilize these powerful tools** will dictate whether we move toward a **peaceful, sustainable, and equitable world**, or one that **deepens divisions and conflict**.

The SDG goals, particularly in the fields of science and innovation, underscore the **necessity of cross-sector collaboration** between **parliaments, governments, scientists, and civil society**, ensuring that STI serves in benefit of humanity.

Romania is determined to advance AI and foster innovation. The Government, with parliamentary support, has established a Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation (R&I) Talent Development. This strategy is focused on educating people, economic growth, smart specialization, and fostering public-private collaboration on this sector.

At the same time, at the EU level, **Romania promoted and supported** the adoption, in August this year of the **European AI Regulation**. This very important law provides AI developers and deployers with clear requirements and obligations regarding specific use of AI, and **the goal** is to ensure that AI systems **respect** fundamental rights, safety, and ethical principles and address specific risks.

Dear colleagues, **STI offers remarkable opportunities** to address **global challenges** like climate change, disease eradication, and sustainable growth **through** advances in AI, renewable energy, and biotechnology.

To fully harness these benefits, we must ensure **they reach all sectors of society**, particularly **vulnerable groups**, and **marginalized communities**. For instance, strengthening research and innovation in the Global South is crucial for closing the development gap and promoting global peace.

However, AI/STI also presents a lot of **risks, such as:**

1. National, international and personal security risks,
2. Jobs lost,
3. Possible Financial crises related to AI algorithms used,
4. Broader economic and political instability,
5. Increasing criminal activity ,
6. Loss of creativity and human influence ,
7. Weakening Ethics and Goodwill ...

And the final question: AI **will become sentient**, and **act beyond humans' control** ?

We need to **keep regulations in step** with rapid technological advancements like AI and automation, addressing issues such as the risks shown above.

**The importance of collaboration** among **parliaments, governments, civil society**, the **scientific community**, and the **private sector** cannot be overstated in ensuring that STI serves the greater good and safeguard future generations.

The **challenges** we face today are substantial, yet the **opportunities to leverage STI for positive change** are equally significant.

As parliamentarians, we hold an important role in shaping legislation that prioritizes ethical, inclusive, and sustainable practices in the domain of STI.

**The phenomenon of AI is the quintessence of STI!**

**Regulating AI is essential, and it's our duty as legislators.**

**The first step is ensuring decision-makers have full access to accurate information.**

**Without transparency, effective regulation of AI is impossible and lacks social value.**

**We cannot legislate or standardize a phenomenon we don't fully understand. Currently, secrecy around AI dominates, with information held by a small fraction of people. This lack of transparency is often driven by financial interests, creating a speculative bubble.**

**We must legislate to enforce transparency and ensure access to AI information for all.**

**Regulation of the AI phenomenon is mandatory, it is our duty as legislators.**

**The first stage is the regulation of the access to information of the legislators, of the social decision-makers!**

**Without concrete and complete information, the proper regulation of the AI/STI phenomenon is impossible, or more precisely devoid of any social utility!**

We cannot regulate, legislate, **we cannot legally standardize a phenomenon that we do not know well**, whose limits and exact content we do not know!

Now, and around the world, **we must all be aware** that secrecy, keeping information only for the use of a tiny fraction of humanity, hence lack of information, is the rule regarding the AI phenomenon!

**The first and very important step** is to legislate in such a way that transparency, and total access to information becomes an obligation for those who hold this information. **An obligation to be respected!**

**The punishment and reward**, from the Law we will adopt, **must make it inevitable that** (all those who have information about this phenomenon) **all submit to this requirement!**

And so, **Informed and dedicated legislators** will be able to regulate the phenomenon **protecting the essential interests of each human being, of mankind!**

Let's take this opportunity to use science and technology to create a **better world** that is more peaceful, fair, and sustainable **for us and for future generations.**

**Thank you!**