

Chair, distinguished colleagues,

On behalf of the Netherlands delegation, it is an honour to address you at this General Assembly. We meet under a theme that speaks to the heart of our shared humanity: “Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis.”

Humanitarian values are not merely policies — they define who we are in moments of greatest fragility. Even in war, disaster, or despair, there must remain a line we do not cross — the line of human dignity.

Today, technology reshapes how we respond to crises. Artificial intelligence can guide relief, predict disasters, and reunite families torn apart by conflict. It can make our compassion more effective.

But without ethics and oversight, it can deepen suffering — spreading disinformation, enabling repression, and blurring the line between human and machine. At the same time, the line between truth and falsehood, fact and deception, grows ever more diffuse. Increasingly we see AI being used by state actors to influence and undermine democratic elections, eroding trust in institutions and weakening the very foundations of the rule of law.

Our duty as parliamentarians is clear: to ensure that progress serves humanity — never the reverse. That means committing to three principles: responsible innovation, guided by human rights and humanitarian law; transparency and accountability, keeping the human hand and conscience in the loop; and equal access, because solidarity must not depend on who owns the data.

At the heart of humanitarian action lies empathy — every life counts, every person matters. AI can support this mission, but it can never replace the moral courage it demands.

Colleagues, let us ask not what technology can do for us, but what together we can do — to ensure innovation strengthens the values that unite us. Let us build a future where human dignity and digital progress walk hand in hand — not in conflict, but in harmony.

The Netherlands stands ready to work with all of you — guided by conscience, compassion, and our shared humanity.

Thank you, Chair