Unitar Online Catalogue

Non-proliferation of AI: A Road to Action - A side event organized by UNIDIR, UNITAR, UNODC, and Austria

Multilateral Diplomacy

Deadline: 8 Oct 2026

Type:	Briefing
Location:	New York City, United States of America
Date:	21 Oct 2026
Duration:	1 Hours
Thematic Area:	Peace, Security, Law and Multilateral Diplomacy, , Conflict Prevention, Mediation and Peacemaking, , Risks, Data, Technology and Geospatial Intelligence, , Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Digital Policy
Website:	http://www.unitar.org/ny
Price:	$0.00
Event Focal Point Email:	nyo@unitar.org
Contact Number:	2129634611

BACKGROUND

Artificial intelligence is becoming increasingly relevant to international peace and security. Rapid advances in AI capabilities and their broad accessibility create

opportunities for development and innovation, but they also increase the risk that powerful tools may be acquired, adapted or misused by actors seeking to cause harm. Of particular concern is the potential use of AI by malicious non-State actors to support cyber operations, disinformation, autonomous or remotely enabled systems, and other activities with destabilizing consequences.

Existing non-proliferation regimes, expert networks and export-control frameworks offer a valuable foundation for addressing some of these risks. However, AI differs from many traditionally controlled technologies: it is largely software-based, develops rapidly, relies on globally distributed infrastructure and expertise, and often has legitimate civilian and commercial applications. These characteristics complicate conventional approaches to controlling access, transfer and end use.

Dedicated dialogue is therefore needed to identify where existing instruments remain useful, where gaps persist, and how future measures can balance security concerns with the benefits of peaceful and responsible AI development. Convened during the First Committee, this side event, organized by UNIDIR, UNITAR, UNODC, and the Permanent Mission of Austria, support a multidisciplinary exchange focused on realistic and implementable policy options.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

The event aims to:

- Examine the principal proliferation pathways and misuse risks associated with advanced AI technologies, with particular attention to malicious non-State actors.
- Assess the relevance and limitations of existing non-proliferation regimes, export controls, expert networks and related governance mechanisms.
- Identify policy, technical and institutional gaps that require stronger national, regional or international cooperation.
- Generate concrete and implementable recommendations for risk reduction, capacity-building, information-sharing and responsible governance.
- Strengthen dialogue among Member States, the United Nations system, technical experts, research institutions and the private sector.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The 60-minute event will combine short opening remarks, focused interventions from a multidisciplinary panel, a moderated discussion and questions from the audience. The session will move from problem definition to practical recommendations.

Breakfast will be provided from 8:30 AM-8:45 AM.

METHODOLOGY

The event will use a moderated, multidisciplinary panel format. Speakers will be invited to provide concise interventions grounded in their respective areas of expertise, enabling the session to integrate diplomatic, policy, legal, security and technical perspectives. The moderator will use a common set of guiding questions to draw connections among the interventions and maintain a clear focus on implementable action.

Audience participation will be incorporated through a dedicated question-and-answer segment. The moderator’s closing summary will capture areas of convergence, outstanding policy questions and potential avenues for follow-up. The discussion will be conducted in English.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

The event is intended for delegates of the First Committee. Participants attending the First Committee, including those from industry and civil society, are welcome, as are other valid UNHQ badge holders.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Venue: UNCA Room, S-308

UNITAR will not be providing UN visitor passes for this event.

Insurance Waiver: By applying to this Workshop, all participants confirm that they are aware that the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

(UNITAR) does not insure participants for this course. All participants are advised to arrange at their own expense insurance against sickness, accident, permanent or temporary disability, death and third party risk for the period of the meeting including travel time.

Disclaimer: By submitting an application to this workshop, applicants acknowledge and confirm their commitment to upholding the principles and values of the United Nations and UNITAR. UNITAR maintains a zero-tolerance policy regarding conduct that is incompatible with its mission, including but not limited to abuse of authority, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, and all forms of discrimination.