



Disarmament and International Security Committee

Topic 2: collecting worldwide data with the aim of neutralizing international security threats.

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1. Definition of key terms

Worldwide: a topic known, understood and discussed all over the world.

Data: it is a set of values of subjects with respect to qualitative or quantitative variables. Data and information are often used interchangeably; however, data becomes information when it is viewed in context or in post-analysis. While the concept of data is commonly associated with scientific research, data is collected by a considerable range of organizations and institutions, including governments (e.g. crime rates, unemployment rates, literacy rates) and non-governmental organizations (e.g. censuses of the number of homeless people, collected by non-profit organizations).

International Security threats: Anything that may cause damage to the security of a country.

Battalion-sized: A battalion is a military unit. The use of the term "battalion" varies by nationality and branch of service. Typically, a battalion consists of 300 to 800 soldiers and is divided into a number of companies.

2. Introduction

Over the most recent years, there have already been different security threats which have endangered our whole planet. They are mainly caused by military crashes, as a consequence of disagreements between countries. We should distinguish between the following:

- Intentionally caused threats: There is the clear intent of damaging another country.
- Unintentionally caused threats: There is not any intent of aggressing a country. Nonetheless, they may follow a misunderstanding between cultures or the misunderstanding of statements by a political figure of the state. The final result does not change, most of times.



Another kind of international security threat is the terrorist attack, as many know. During the last few years (2016-2018), the 57% of the security threats all over the world have been caused by various terrorist attacks: the 23% by armed assaults, the 8% by assassinations and the 12% by infrastructure attacks or by hostage taking.

Security threats obviously may be caused by problems in work fields, mainly for workers who have to deal with harmful substances or the ones being used in nuclear plants. Evidently, this kind of threats is mostly caused by the lack of attention of workers and entrepreneurs.

The volume of data in the world is increasing exponentially. Expert estimate that 90% of today's world data has been created last year. By some projection, this figure will rise by about 40% annually. One of the most important shares of this output is the so-called "data exhaust". These are data deriving from everyday interactions with digital products or services, such as, but not limited to mobile phones, credit cards, and social media. The data deriving from the data exhaust are defined as big data. The volume of data available worldwide is increasing exponentially because it is gradually being gathered by inexpensive and innumerable information-sensing mobile devices and because the world's capacity for storing information has doubled every 40 months since the 1980s.

The data revolution, which is made of the open data movement, the rise of crowd sourcing, new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for data collection, and the explosion in the availability of big data, together with the continuous development of artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things, is already shaping a new society. Advances in computing and data science now make it possible to analyse big data in real time: governments will have to elaborate on how to take advantage of this in the best way. Official statistics and survey data may be completed by the information gathered through big data analysis, deepening the information and therefore sensibly improving the resulting statistic and reports. The integration of this new data with traditional data should produce high-quality information that is more detailed, timely and relevant and, as a consequence, more useful. Of course, to do this, fully qualified people are needed.

3. Background Information

Data collection is defined as the ongoing systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data necessary for designing, implementing, and evaluating everyday as well as great problems programs. To develop effective prevention strategies, countries need to increase their amount of information. Fundamental human rights have to be safeguarded to enjoy the advantages of big data collection and analysis: privacy, ethics and respect for data sovereignty require us to assess the rights of individuals with the benefits of the collective. Much new data is collected passively – from the 'digital footprints' people leave behind and from sensor-enabled objects – or is inferred via algorithms. Since big data is the product of particular areas of behaviour of individuals, removal of explicit personal information may not fully protect privacy. Combining multiple datasets may lead to the re-identification of individuals or groups



of individuals, subjecting them and their privacy to potential and serious harms. Proper data protection measures must be taken in order to prevent data misuse or mishandling.

However, there is also a concrete risk of growing inequality and bias. Major gaps are already rising between the data haves and have-nots. Without any concrete action, a whole new inequality frontier will divide the world, between those who know and those for whom it is unaffordable to know. Many people are excluded from the new world of data and information because of language, poverty, lack of education and alphabetization, lack of technology infrastructure, remoteness or prejudice as well as discrimination. There is a wide range of actions needed, including the implementation of the capacities all over the world, particularly in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

“New sources of data, new technologies, and new analytical approaches, if applied responsibly, can enable more agile, efficient and evidence-based decision-making and can better measure progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a way that is both inclusive and fair.”

4. Major Countries Involved

Functioning governments require large and growing amounts of data. For instance, we could outline birth and death rates, crime and weather patterns, demographic and traffic changes. Governments, since at least Roman times, have always sought better data. Civil society organizations, the private sector, media outlets and governments refer to official statistics for accurate and actionable information. Governments that are democratically responsive to their people want increasingly better information.

As they become wealthier and freer, societies invest more money in tracking important things. For example, in Myanmar there are approximately 500 people carrying out basic statistics countrywide, compared with approximately 5,300 and 16,000 in Vietnam (little higher income) and Indonesia (middle income), respectively. Naturally, as new technologies emerge, the number of people may not be an accurate way to measure a country's commitment to gathering accurate and actionable data.

In China, the government is developing a system to track citizens' life round the clock, and some South American dictatorial regimes they are seriously taking into consideration this idea as well. Moreover, both in America and in Asia, governments have proposed to put microchips into immigrants' skins, so as to control over their activities. North Korea has been putting many countries in danger with the idea of missiles throwing, as it might create a serious threat to human security and health; countries are worried that this situation might transform into another world war, since one of their priorities is to collect worldwide data to gain a better place in the world, and they do not hesitate to use the worse means.



As far as the US is concerned, being the most powerful nation, politically and physically it is dividing many countries because of different points of view and different perspectives on political and cultural factors. PRISM is the name for a program under which the United States National Security Agency (NSA) collects internet communications from various U.S. internet companies. PRISM collects stored internet communications based on demands made to internet companies such as Google Inc. The NSA can use these PRISM requests to target communications that were encrypted when they travelled across the internet backbone, to focus on stored data that telecommunication filtering systems discarded earlier, and to obtain data that is easier to handle.

On 23 and 24 February 2017, the first ESSnet Big Data Dissemination Workshop took place in Sofia. Within the ESSnet, national statistical offices affiliated to the European Statistical System (ESS) conduct joint research on the possibilities of implementing big data for official statistics production. It has a highly diverse group of participants: interested experts, representatives of Eurostat and other parts of the European Commission, international organisations such as the OECD and the United Nations, the scientific community and the Bulgarian private sector.

5. UN Involvement

The United Nations Statistics Division collects, compiles and disseminates official demographic and social statistics on a wide range of topics. Data have been collected since 1948 through a set of questionnaires dispatched annually to over 230 national statistical offices and have been published in the *Demographic Yearbook* collection. On the *Demographic Yearbook* statistics on population size and composition, births, deaths, marriage and divorce, as well as respective rates, are published on an annual basis. The *Demographic Yearbook* census datasets cover a wide range of additional topics including economic activity, educational attainment, household characteristics, housing characteristics, ethnicity, language, foreign-born and foreign population. The available Population and Housing Censuses' datasets reported to UNSD for the censuses conducted worldwide since 1995, are now available in UNdata.

This latest update includes several datasets on international travel and migration inflows and outflows, and on incoming and departing international migrants by several characteristics, as reported by the national authorities to the UN Statistics Division for the reference years 2010 to the present as available.

Currently neither the United Nations, World Bank nor the U.S. government has a full grasp on how much is spent on improving data collection and utilization in developing countries — a seemingly obscure but actually very important topic. Responsible uses of data involve balancing political considerations and privacy concerns. Groups like the Responsible Data



GeMUN
Genoa Model United Nations

Affiliated with



Forum offer excellent resources on how and when to use data. Ultimately, data should not only measure progress, it should inspire it. Collectors must balance the potential value of data versus the risks of misuse, and the UN has to work towards this aim.



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