



Oral Statement by the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural rights (GI-ESCR) during the Informal Presidential discussion on the impact of new technologies, artificial intelligence and the digital divide on human rights

3 September 2024

We welcome this important debate on the impact of new technologies, artificial intelligence and the digital divide on human rights.

We wish to draw your attention to the profound impact that artificial intelligence is having on education worldwide. While AI and digitalisation at large holds great promise, it also presents significant risks, including the deepening of existing inequalities, the commodification of education, and the potential erosion of its status as a fundamental human right. We underscore the urgent need for robust regulatory frameworks that ensure transparency, accountability, and the integration of human rights principles at every stage of digitalisation and AI development and deployment in educational contexts.

Moreover, we are deeply concerned about the phenomenon of digital colonialism, where data from the Global South is harvested by corporations from the Global North, exacerbating global inequities. It is imperative that AI in education is developed and implemented ethically, inclusively, and with a commitment to the public good, rather than driven solely by private profit.

We respectfully call upon the international community to prioritise the protection of human rights in the context of digitalisation and AI in education, ensuring that it serves to advance, rather than hinder, the right to education for all.

Thank you.

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Bibliography:

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