Ministry of Education, Science and Culture/ Finland
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Session 5: Emerging science and technology trends, challenges and the SDGs

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Your Excellency Mr Ambassador, Distinguished panel member and participants

- Emerging science and technology trends are a way for a better future for the whole globe, if succeeding in building a socially responsible development of the technologies and societies.

- Artificial intelligence has brought, and will bring even more, autonomous systems capable of performing complex tasks before believed not to be possible. The question is, however, how all people can benefit of this development, how to ensure inclusion in this respect.

- We need rules and descriptions for the development of AI. We do acknowledge that there are already several frameworks for AI ethics. This could be an architecture between society and AI. In this way, we believe that AI can complement the human intellect. We can do much more and much better.

- AI can support decision makers in policy-making, at the same time we have to recognise the fact that AI is not there to decide for us. Machines are run, algorithms designed and decisions made by people, based on ethical values and critical thinking. Fundamental questions are: What to do to preserve humanity, how to save our planet.

- We would like to refer, once again, to the Declaration of Montreal on AI Ethics. This declaration states the following: *(quote)* "*development of artificial intelligence does pose major ethical challenges and social risks. Indeed, intelligent machines can restrict the choices of individuals and groups, lower living standards, disrupt the organization of labor and the job market, influence politics, clash with fundamental rights, exacerbate social and economic inequalities, and affect ecosystems, the climate and the environment*" *(quote ends).*

- While acknowledging these risks, the declaration nevertheless focuses on important principles, namely well-being, respect for autonomy, protection of privacy and intimacy, solidarity, democratic participation, equity, diversity inclusion, prudence, responsibility and sustainable development. These principles in mind we can expect the future to be brighter and we can do much more and much better for our well-being.

- Thank you very much for your attention.

- Reference: https://recherche.umontreal.ca/english/strategic-initiatives/montreal-declaration-for-a-responsible-ai/