



**WSIS
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Session Outcome Document

(2 pages max)

The role of humans in the cyber age

EC MEDICI Framework

Monday, 6 July 2026, 13:00 – 13:45 CEST/UTC+2

Room H2, ITU Montbrillant Building

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/Agenda/Session/141>

Technology is usually considered neutral, neither good nor bad it is the purpose and use that humans choose to make the difference. For a long time, researchers in the technological sector didn't pose their attention both on ethical and ontological aspects nor on the mid- and long- term impacts of their discoveries on society.

The added value and results achieved thanks to digital technology, including of course artificial intelligence and quantum computing, are not in doubt, but it seems appropriate to carefully evaluate the concerns raised and the potential disadvantages.

Several novels and probably much more sci-fiction movies through time depicted some future societies based on full top-down control or completely anesthetised by pleasant goods, or completely unable to use critical thinking. Among the novels we can refer to George Orwell's "Big Brother - Nineteen Eighty-Four" (1949), Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 (1951), and last but not less relevant Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" (1932).

These three novels provide three different dystopic models of future society foreseen in a twenty-year period from 1930s to the 1950s. Looking to our society through these lenses we can find several aspects that recall these novels. All of them offer a dystopic world often dominated by technologies, totalitarian states, top-down centralised control sometimes managed by automatic non supervised machines, techno-surveillance, flooding of mainstream information, filtering and elimination of divergent thoughts, reduced human rights, eradication of culture and critical thinking.

His holiness Pope Leo XIV recently issued an encyclical letter entitled "Magnifica Humanitas" with specific focus, as stated in the heading, "On safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence". Section three is entitled "Technology and dominance. the grandeur of humanity in light of the promises of AI" the set of paragraphs "The technocratic paradigm and digital power" recall Pope Francis Encyclical "Laudato Si" "denounced the growing dominance of a technocratic paradigm in our globalised world: the tendency to let the logic of efficiency, control and profit alone shape personal, social and economic decisions. This makes it clear that technology is not simply a tool. Do we consider some of these scenarios realistic for the near future? Which will be the role of humans in the cyber age?

Key Issues discussed:

• Digital transformation	• New Normal
• Artificial Intelligence	• Agentic AI
• Human Right	• Ethics

Key Outcomes of the session (concise bullet points capturing the concrete results of the session)

- AI lack of “Asimov’s Laws”, potential dual use both “political / top down control” and military.
- AI and Agentic AI must be kept always under human control, even if the quest for efficiency considers humans the weakest link in the decision chain.
- Risk to fall into “AI generated” moral philosophy principles.
- In different areas of the globe AI must comply with cultural models and related ethical principles.

Initiative: to publish a book on main impacts of AI on society.

Agreements: extend the team in cooperation with some session’s attendees.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Actions

- Establish interdisciplinary team to foresee from different perspective the future scenario.
- Setup and promote AI services citizens’ awareness
- Identify concrete models to keep AI and Agentic AI under human control.
- Collecting some of the contribution from the floor improve the studies on AI impact on society based on concrete experiences / case study.
- Identify the impact of AI outcomes on the different class of age (youth, mature, seniors)