

FSD - AN ISRAELI PERSPECTIVE

Germany-Israel Strategic Forum, December 2, 2020

Panel 2: AI as a factor in global geopolitics: Common challenges and opportunities

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a fast-developing field with far reaching potential implications for national security, international relations and stability, warfare, cyber warfare, ethics, human rights, the future of the democratic system and more. It is already an important factor in the superpower competition, especially between the U.S. and China - each believing that gaining the upper hand in the race for AI superiority may grant it global geopolitical dominance.

Given its unique security challenges Israel is tuning in to AI with a focus on its potential security advantages, especially in the fields of intelligence, cyber warfare (defense and offense), autonomous weapon systems, and command and control. However, it has yet to develop and define an AI national strategy and translate it into a multi-year, budgeted national plan¹.

AI raises numerous challenges, not only technological ones. These include among others a potentially dangerous "arms race," threats to global stability including the usage of nuclear weapons, challenges to international arms control regimes, the integration of values and ethical considerations into automated decision-making processes, and new levels of "fake news." It is therefore time for well-developed, like-minded nations such as Germany and Israel to enhance cooperation in order to address some of these challenges and help develop international norms and cooperation to better cope with them.

¹ See: Inbar Dolinko and Liran Antebi, "Artificial Intelligence and Policy: A Review at the Outset of 2020", INSS, Strategic Assessment - Academic Survey, Volume 23, No. 1, January 2020; <https://strategicassessment.inss.org.il/en/articles/artificial-intelligence-and-policy-a-review-at-the-outset-of-2020/>;

Liran Antebi, "Artificial Intelligence and National Security in Israel", INSS, Memorandum No. 205, September 2020 (Hebrew)