Massive Open Online Course on

Artificial Intelligence & the Rule of Law

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) has unprecedented potential to improve lives and livelihoods across the world, as well as to make remarkable progress towards achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. However, while the socio-economic opportunities of AI are huge, they are inextricably connected to risks and challenges.

The massive open online course (MOOC) on AI and the Rule of Law is an introductory course on AI's adoption and impact for the rule of law, defined as a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights, norms and standards.

The course's scope is twofold. First, it explores the digitalization of justice systems and, specifically, the opportunities and risks with the increasing adoption of AI technologies across justice systems and contexts such as online courts. Second, it highlights AI's impact in the administration of justice, particularly in regard to human rights and evolving AI ethics and governance issues increasingly preoccupying judicial operators. Although an important topic on its own, the course does not consider AI's impact on substantive law and whether or how legal doctrine needs to be addressed.

Leveraging examples and cases from around the world, the course engages judicial operators in a global and timely discussion around AI's impact and implications in respecting and upholding the rule of law.

It will be accessible in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Portuguese.

MODULES

The course will be delivered through six modules, designed to promote reflection and discussion around key issues related to AI and the rule of law. Each module will be led by a facilitator, a relevant subject-matter expert, and also feature 1 to 3 guest speakers. The six modules the course unpacks are:

● An Introduction to Why Digital Transformation and AI Matter for Justice Systems
● AI Adoption Across Justice Systems
● The Rise of Online Courts
● Algorithmic Bias and its Implications for Judicial Decision Making
● Safeguarding Human Rights in the Age of AI
● AI Ethics & Governance Concerning Judicial Operators

OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the course are to:

● Stimulate a participative dialogue with judicial operators and other relevant stakeholders on the adoption of responsible AI in the judicial system
● Promote knowledge of digital innovations in the justice system
● Facilitate knowledge exchange and experience sharing among judicial operators and other relevant stakeholders on AI, existing norms and standards (hard and soft law) in the field, and its implications for human rights
● Highlight existing case studies and best practices that translate legal and ethical principles into practice both in terms of the use of AI in justice systems and in cases involving AI impacting human rights

OUTCOMES

The teaching and learning objectives of the course are to:

● Strengthen capacities of judicial operators to address AI's impact in their domain
● Ensure that judicial operators are equipped with the necessary information and knowledge concerning AI-based applications in justice systems
● Ensure that prosecuting services, in AI-related cases, are aware of the rule of law as it concerns AI technology and correlated risks
● Provide an opportunity for other relevant stakeholders, including policymakers, academics, social workers, and non-profits, to build an understanding of AI issues and the rule of law