

# THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## Draft Resolution on the Topic of Facial Recognition

**Sponsors:** Australia, Germany, Greece, Japan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain

**Signatories:** Canada, Ecuador, Finland, France, Iceland, Mexico, Netherlands, Switzerland, United States of America, Uzbekistan

The UN General Assembly,

*Acknowledging* the potential of facial recognition technology systems for security,

*Aware of* the dangers of unregulated uses of facial recognition technology systems,

*Bearing in mind* the racial bias in the field of automated facial recognition technology (AFR),

*Believing* in the citizens' right to know what is done with their data,

*Deplores* the intrusion into national sovereignty by the illegal collection of personal data on other nations' territory,

*Emphasizing* that the human right to privacy is crucial for the realization of the right to freedom of expression and freedom of association, and is one of the foundations of a democratic society,

*Noting* with deep concern the negative effects mass surveillance and the collection of personal data on a large scale may have on the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Reaffirming* that facial images are considered to be personal information,

*Recalling* Article XII of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guaranteeing the right to protected private sphere,

*Recognizing* each state's right to regulate the usage of facial recognition technology on a national level,

1. Emphasizes the need for transparency towards the general public by:
  - a. Indicating to the public where and when surveillance is taking place,
  - b. Informing the public when they are being monitored by CCTV or any other type of device used to film in public and private spaces;
2. Suggests that the UN Human Rights Council establishes an international set of standards for the application of facial recognition technology in accordance with human rights;
3. Urges Member States to update their national data protection laws to cope with the technological progress by:
  - a. Drafting laws transferring ownership of personal data to the individual in question by:
    - i. Assuring citizens' right to view and propose corrections to their personal information,
    - ii. Periodically deleting outdated information with the exception of:
      1. Information concerning indicted criminals and terrorist suspects,
      2. Biometric information used by national governments,
  - b. Prohibiting the sharing of personal data with any third party without the consent of the affected citizen;
4. Recommends caution when using facial recognition technology in the field of social media and market research;
5. Urges the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to promote proportionate representation of all nations and to establish human rights guidelines in connection to facial recognition technology;
6. Encourages technology-driven enterprises involved in the development of facial recognition technology to improve existing technology in order to get rid of racial bias;
7. Welcomes further research in the area of commercial application in the field of biometrics, forensics, and security, such as:
  - a. Security controls at airports and border crossings,
  - b. High-risk targets of terrorist attacks in public spaces;
8. Endorses limitations and prohibitions to the access and import of citizens' personal data concerning the use of facial recognition technology by entities in the private sector by:
  - a. Allowing access to facial recognition technology,

- b. Regulating the ability of private entities to store personal data within the country where the information has been collected,
- c. Prohibiting the sharing of personal data with entities in foreign countries without the consent of the citizen that the information is concerning,
- d. Encouraging governmental transparency pertaining to the use of data of facial recognition technology,
- e. Endorsing the formation of a multilateral transparency agreement, encouraging the participating countries to ensure that human rights protection is prioritized.