

Module 3: The use of Artificial Intelligence to detect harmful practices during elections

[00:00:18] **Speaker 1** Hello. My name is the family chapter and I'm very happy to be here with you today. I am the digital democracy specialist at UNDP, regional hub for the Arab States. So in the first module of the MCC, you heard about issues brought up by the use of A.I. for social media. I'm going to briefly summarize its impact online in today's session before talking about the use of A.I. to detect harmful practices such as misinformation, hate speech and online propaganda during elections, but also how national authorities can fight back against these harmful practices. So in 2020, we created every day 2.5 trillion database. And in the last 11 year, the volume of data generated, copied and consumed worldwide grew by almost 5400. The the big data environment is one of the ways to look at the issue of the information overload. We are experiencing the resulting in a chaotic news environment and increasing the chances of viewing misinformation, hate speech, etc.. Nevertheless, it also gives big tech companies access to large amounts of data to power their own A.I. module, including but not limited to their own content. Moderation algorithms. Algorithms that can predict the content. You will engage with them and target you back with targeted advertisement. While social media platforms rely on different AI powered algorithms for content moderation, they are limited in many ways, mainly due to the accuracy and reliability of these algorithms and sometimes their pilot. I development has promoted many discussions regarding how national authorities utilize machine learning to tackle the challenges they face, especially during election as misinformation during electoral campaign. The weaponization of hate speech and the targeting of voter to fake accounts and both represent critical challenges to the electoral integrity that they also contribute to undermining and distorting public debate and informed decision making during election. This can be very much dangerous, especially for young people who can be manipulated during elections. It's one thing that, well, I'm choices on the Election Day. Care for national stakeholders, including electoral management bodies, civil society organizations, community based organization and media institutions can assess whether they should and can take advantage of AI in their work and mandate to help combating information disorder online, including misinformation, hate speech and online violence against disadvantaged group. However, one of the main questions that always comes up when talking about you would think is if we can really trust the judgment and results of an AI system, especially with acknowledging that technology may inherit the human biases due to the biases in the training dataset. And there are many, many examples of that, but also other questions related to what AI systems can do and what they cannot do. Who should use their AI to address harmful content? Whether it can support the core mandate of an institution or AI group? Who has the human and financial capacity to use the AI without preventing other core activities? And finally, how to to really navigate ethical discussion surrounding A.I.. Electoral management bodies in general have extensive tasks and managing the electoral process and may or may not be in the best place to take up such a such an extensive sensitive task. Or they might they may not have even the legal mandate to monitor the electoral campaign. However, the electoral management bodies who have the supervisory power to regulate the environment or the elections might benefit from these enhanced capacity, provided that they strictly abide by the international and national laws. It's also important for national stakeholders to examine all of these questions before deciding on whether to build their own model and potentially their own strategy. Also, it's important, too, to ensure safe, trusted and inclusive AI systems by enhancing collaboration between government, industry, academy and civil society organizations. AI systems development should ensure three main key principles which are fairness, accountability and transparency. For an open air system means the national stakeholders need to examine clearly what they can bring to the table. If it's really fair to apply machine

learning in the context of the first place, and if the system could violate the privacy and rights of a specific individual race, gender and group. Accountability, on the other hand, is another essential principle, especially in ensuring a comfortable system with an AI system going in the wrong direction, but also an AI outcome contradicts citizen opinion and interests. Finally a transparency, a citizen need to know really that an AI system is being used, but also there is a need to have transparency about the algorithms themselves. It's always important to remember that the quality of a AI system output depends very much on their input data. Hence, cleaning the training sets from conscious and unconscious bias assumptions allowed to make better data driven decision. In this sub module, the Supervisory Commission for Elections in Lebanon will introduce you to monitor blood. Which is an AI powered algorithm that you and the people to monitor digital media as part of a wider electoral support and assistant to the to the to the electoral process. As part of its core mandate. The judge, the judges of the of the Supervisory Commission for Elections in Lebanon, supported by a team of technicians and monitors, detected electoral violations, political polarization, misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, online violence against women and campaigning. Finance online. In addition to their observation of online.