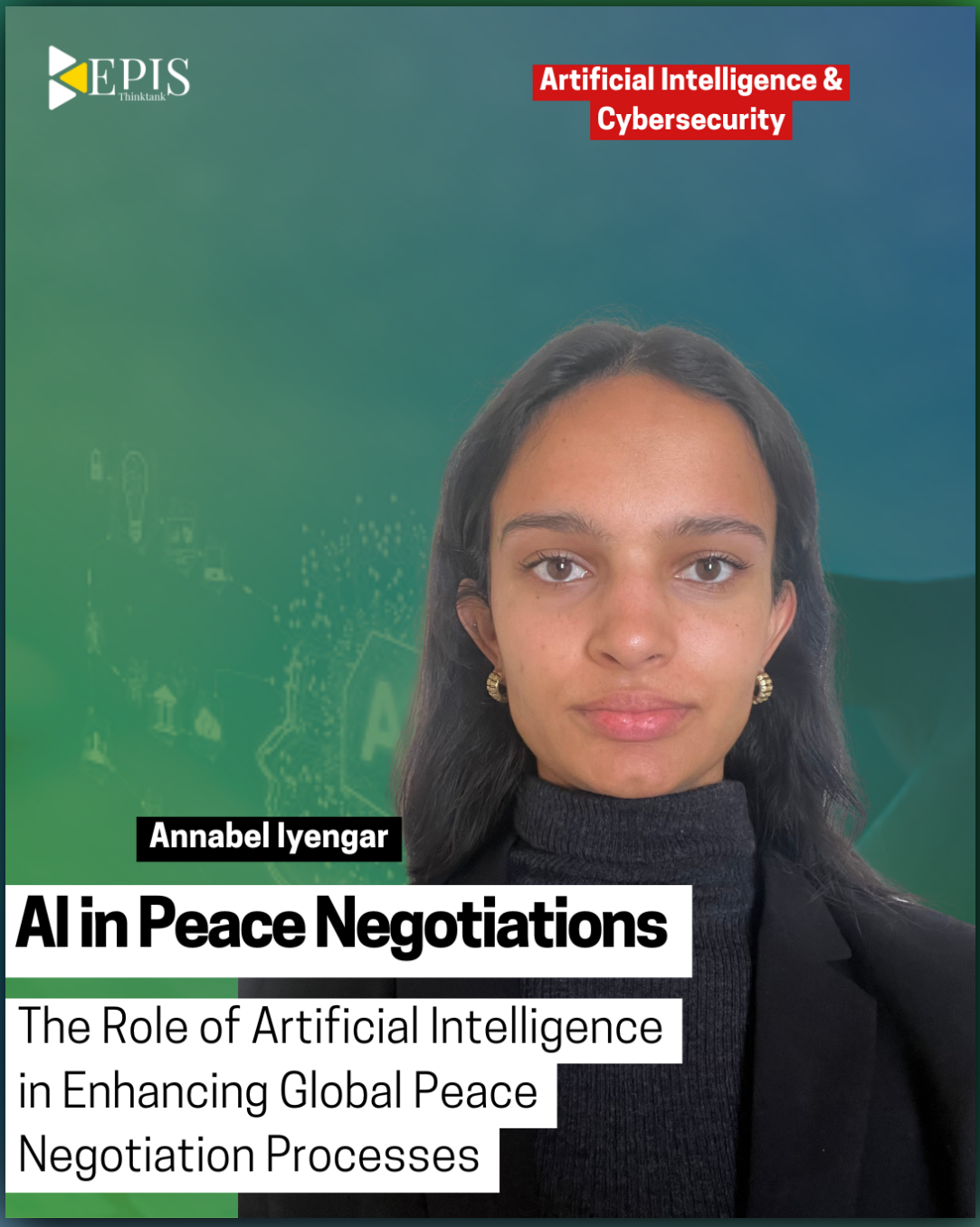

About the Article

Main question: How can AI support peace negotiations? Argument: AI can enhance conflict analysis, translation, and decision-making, addressing key challenges in co plex peace processes. Conclusion: AI offers significant benefits but must remain a supportive tool under strict regulatory frameworks.

About the Author

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1. Introduction

Several global entities have begun the process of incorporating AI into their operations. Examples of this include the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recommendations on AI, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) AI principles, the G7 statement on the Hiroshima AI process, and the European Union (EU) AI Act (Giovanardi, 2024). As part of this global adoption of AI, it has begun to be established as a potential tool for peacebuilding, standardly divided into three primary domains of opportunity:

- As an assist to conflict analysis
- As an early warning system predicting tensions before they erupt
- To support human communication (Mäki, 2020).

Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG):
AI method combining LLMs with external data for context.

Present studies find that around 60% of all wars conclude through some form of compromise (Reynolds & Jensen, 2025). However, peace negotiations traditionally suffer from a host of challenges which obstruct their success in both conflict resolution and establishing policies for long-term stability. Challenges for peace negotiations typically include: dilemmas of resolution enforcement, identity differences, ideology incompatibility of warring parties, vulnerabilities of parties and a general lack of credible guarantees (Walter, 1997). It is in recognition of such challenges to the success of peace negotiations that AI has begun to be introduced as a diplomatic aid, such as the 2020 and 2021 deployment of the Ramesh AI platform used as a dialogue tool in Yemen and Libya by the UN Innovation Cell in DPPA (Alavi, et al., 2022). This article will examine to what extent AI can be of aid to obstacles in peace negotiation processes and identify some issues that may arise from such implementation. From this analysis, recommendations will then be constructed aiming to maximise the benefits of AI for peace-negotiation processes whilst minimising the risks this may incur. Negotiations among warring parties are some of the most critical and sensitive of all bargaining procedures (Wanis-St.John, 2008, p. 1). Even when such negotiations result in agreement, this alone does not guarantee resolution of the underlying conflict and despite on-going efforts towards the structural enhancement of peace negotiations, they continue to evade predictability (Wanis-St.John, 2008, p. 1). Given their importance and notoriously challenging nature, it is worth outlining exactly how 'peace negotiations' should be understood and traditionally what structural elements compromise processes generally constitutive of 'peace negotiations.' Standardly, "an agreement or accord is a formal commitment between hostile parties to end a war" (Anderlini, 2012, p. 1). Furthermore, traditional attempts at achieving this goal through peace negotiations involve three key phases: pre-negotiations, negotiations and post-negotiations implementation (Anderlini, 2012, p. 2). Within said stages, important issues to establish include: logistics, location, security for each party involved, participants, time frame, meditators and their responsibilities, setting achievable goals, building trust and agreement on agenda topics (Anderlini, 2012, p. 2). Despite this generally established structure peace negotiation processes remain non-linear and messy, with talks regularly commencing just to break down and be restarted (Farquhar, 2024). Peace negotiation processes habitually involve several rounds of talks, ceasefires and agreement revisions, for example there were 39 ceasefires in the Bosnian conflict from 1992-1995 (Farquhar, 2024).

Major Historical Peace Negotiations (1815-2016)

Figure 1: Timeline of Major Historical Peace Negotiations (1815-2016)

Furthermore, during the extensive process of these discussions, negotiators can often lack means of effectively gauging the responses and opinions of the superiors for whom they act (Economist, 2025). A further challenge is therefore the maintenance of steady and effective communication channels between the represented and their representors as discussions progress or alter rapidly. At present, pauses often need to be made to regularly inform the represented of developments, which can break momentum and gives other parties time to regroup (Economist, 2025). AI could prove a tool for overcoming this inconvenience. Lastly, translation is one of the fundamental aspects of peace negotiations as "conflict zones are characterised by linguistic diversity" (GSI, 2023). This can be a source of opportunity for strength but also poses an on-going trigger for conflict as misunderstandings could aggravate and even escalate existing violence (GSI, 2023). Therefore, as linguistic diversity often characterises conflict zones for which peace negotiations are necessary, translation comprises a key factor of success and possible further conflict. Some of the key limits and challenges of peace talks, as with those in the above diagram, are thus: informational requirements, cultural and linguistic assimilation and communication within parties. The following section will outline how the emergence of AI as a peace negotiation aid can be of benefit to challenges in standard peace negotiation processes.

2. How AI could be of aid to challenges in traditional peace negotiations

As highlighted above, one of the key challenges and limits in existing peace negotiation processes are the intricate and extensive informational requirements needed to appropriately navigate generating solutions which are realistic, sustainable and mutually beneficial to involved parties. It is this first challenge which has been identified as an area for which AI can be an aid, since AI can hold vast quantities of data and use said data to provide AI-assisted data-analytics (Giovanardi, 2024). Specifically, AI can process data-driven decision-making through data analysis of across social media, vast datasets, diplomatic texts and speeches as well as fact-checking discussion material (Giovanardi, 2024, pp. 41-48). Diplomatic strategy is enhanced by machine-learning algorithms which can analyse geopolitical data, historical treaty negotiations and the content of real-time diplomatic engagements (Pasupuleti, 2025, p. 4). In doing so, optimal negotiation tactics can be identified, and strategies can be established that best align with national interests whilst mitigating the interests of other interested parties (Pasupuleti, 2025,4). Negotiators therefore have a tool for monitoring and staying up to date with the ever-shifting dynamics of geopolitics and can incorporate this information into peace negotiation processes. Such methods were employed in the analysis of negotiations prior to the establishment

of a peace deal in early 2022 for Yemen (Arana-Catania, et al., 2022, p. 4). Yemen's regionalised war involved increasingly fluid and fractured coalitions, national and international actors, divergent goals and continuously shifting party positions (Arana-Catania, et al., 2022, p. 4). To aid future consensus building, 177,789 words from dialogue sessions between Yemen's key stakeholders were systematically analysed and used to generate significant contextual information which could then guide conflict analysis and mediation strategy (Arana-Catania, et al., 2022). This data collection and analysis can not only keep involved parties updated on global political dynamics in the present, but through extensive data analysis AI can also provide predictive scenario modelling through risk forecasting and analysis of potential outcomes concerning a range of actions. In peace processes characterised by uncertainty and instability, scenario planning becomes a powerful tool for navigating uncertainties through providing holistic projections of future outcomes generated by present-day decisions (Hao, et al., 2024, p. 1). In existing research on peace negotiations for Ukraine and Russia retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) techniques of large-language AI models were prompted to generate various versions of peace agreements with distinct parameters as an assist to for analysts in projecting the impact of various deals and the comprehensiveness of each potential option (Reynolds & Jensen, 2025). In another Ukraine-Russia Peace Agreement simulator, outcome preferences could be entered under groups including territory and sovereignty, economic conditions and justice and accountability (Economist, 2025). A draft agreement is then output according to the input parameters along with scores 1-10 for how acceptable such a deal would be to Russia, Ukraine, America and Europe (Economist, 2025). AI is therefore emerging as a tool not only for informing present negotiations but also for solutions formation and analysis. AI is also proving to be of considerable aid as a dialogue assist to the translation aspect of peace discussions. The UN and its partners have begun to use natural language processing and machine learning techniques for dialogue across thousands of individuals in local dialects and as a means of identifying points of agreement in conflict settings such as Libya and Yemen (Brown, 2021). In 2020 and 2021, the UN innovation cell in DPPA deployed the Ramesh AI-platform as a dialogue tool through which up to 1000 participants could anonymously engage in 'large-scale digital-dialogues' (Alavi, et al., 2022). Dialogue can take place in local dialects to enable greater inclusivity in peace negotiation processes as moderators can gauge opinions on actions and outcomes across demographics (Alavi, et al., 2022). AI assist in translation can also reduce translation times, handle greater documentation volume and diminish the traditional costs of manual translation (Farquhar, 2024, p. 1). Additionally, AI's role in translation can provide an intuitively unbiased analysis whilst facilitating communication between parties, as found in efforts by the 'Carnegie Endowment for International Peace" to study how digital technologies such as AI can benefit complex conflict mediation processes.

AI-assisted data analytics:
AI can process vast datasets to guide negotiators in strategy

3. Risks of AI implementation in peace negotiations

However, the benefits that AI could offer existing peace negotiation processes bring with them risks and concerns for exactly how AI aids will be implemented and how this could undermine or complicate peace negotiation efforts. Three main areas of AI-risk to peace and security are identified as: miscalculation, escalation, and proliferation (Giovanardi, 2024). Debate continues over whether the use of AI in negotiations is even a desirable step towards increased rationality or a disputable move away from unique human wisdom (Zia & Waks, 2025). Relying solely on information from past peace deals may restrict creative human input in complex problem-solving, guiding negotiators towards solutions which merely appear successful but fall short operationally or politically. It is further possible that, despite AI generally being heralded as 'objective and impartial,' it presents a biased or

flawed operational picture which could catalyse the deterioration of international relations during peace negotiation processes (Giovanardi, 2024). Akord.ai, a model developed by Conflict Dynamics International, has been trained on 1500 documents about Sudan with a focus on past peace agreements as a tool for greater inclusivity in peacebuilding concerning the ongoing Sudanese civil war (Wilmot, 2024). However, the use of such technology for predicting and generating solutions has been warned against in the acknowledgement that any outputs will inevitably reflect biases both in training data and algorithms (Wilmot, 2024). Even when data is heralded as operationally 'impartial,' the historical content of negotiations and outcomes can be heavily contested as narratives conflict and facts constitutive of 'truth' become filtered (Zia & Waks, 2025). The quality of solutions, and AI outputs generally, is therefore limited by the quantity and quality of training data. AI's role, despite being labelled as objective and impartial, could perpetuate and aggravate existing power imbalances through data biases and subtly partial algorithms. Issues of biases and partiality in AI models stem into wider concerns of accountability, transparency and possible manipulation in models used for operations as consequential and delicate as peace negotiations. AI models are often considered 'black box' models due to the internalisation of data by algorithms in ways currently 'inauditable' by, and inaccessible to, human understanding (Bathaee, 2018, p. 901). A significant aspect of peace negotiation is the ability of negotiators to justify their decisions and positions to both their counterparts and their domestic constituencies, so such inaccessibility obstructs requisite justification. Public decision-making is often required to be both morally and legally transparent, so if AI cannot prove sufficiently transparent and explainable, then it either cannot or should not have a role in decision-making (Maclure, 2021). Under the transparency obligations of Article 13 – 14 of the EU AI Act, systems are obligated to be "developed and used in a way that allows appropriate traceability and explainability" and 'high-risk' AI systems must be interpretable (EU ACT, 2024). Thus, whilst there is regulatory momentum for transparency, explainability and interpretability in models, it is not yet the case that this is standard or even possible in current AI models. Finally, AI models pose increasing cybersecurity threats to models used in peace negotiation discussions and for geopolitical conditions underpinning said negotiations. Using LLMs, hackers can devise "social-engineering assaults" to manipulate human behaviour (Economist, 2025). AI is also being used to make existing malware more aggressive and a greater threat to international security systems, as employed in recent cyber-attacks on Ukraine's security and defence systems in July 2025 (Economist, 2025). Overall, some pressing issues in AI models comprise transparency, interpretability, bias, and attack or manipulation. The use of AI models in peace negotiations therefore requires a united regulatory framework which can mitigate these risks and challenges whilst reaping the above-mentioned benefits.

Figure 2: Visualisation of risk categorisation for AI models passed in the EU AI Act 2021 CITATION Peñ24 \l 2057 (Peñalver, 2024) https://www.nemko.com/blog/a-quick-dive-into-the-eu-ai-act

4. Policy recommendations

At present, options for the incorporation of AI into peace negotiations comprise either full use, partial use as an aid, and no use of AI in favour of solely human effort. Acknowledging that nations increasingly rely on digital infrastructure, and that AI has become a "critical tool" for the maintenance of international peace and stability, the inclusion of AI into peace negotiation processes appears both desirable and inevitable (Pasupuleti, 2025, p. 5). However, it is generally agreed that AI should need remain a 'tool' which can support negotiations whilst not replacing the centrality of human strategic judgement in political decision-making (Reynolds & Jensen, 2025). The following recommendations aim to retain AI's role as a tool for negotiation enhancement whilst implementing regulatory measures to mitigate risk.

- Adhering to the OECD AI Principles of 2024, AI actors should commit to transparency and responsible disclosure of AI systems including fostering an understanding of the capabilities and limitations of AI and providing enough information on relevant AI operations that those adversely affected by its involvement may challenge its output (OECD, 2024).

- Abide by and enforce Article 10 of the EU AI Act 2024 which states that data providers are obligated to evaluate whether their training, validation and testing datasets meet quality criteria including the examination of biases in data and correction measures (van Bekkum, 2025).

- International audits and sanctions: aligning with the 2020 UN Digital Coordination Roadmap, AI models should be auditable by international, third-party regulatory bodies (Rafi, 2025).

- Models used in peace negotiations should be classified as high-risk under the EU AI 2024 act due to the likely impact on human life. Deviation from this categorisation should be subject to individual evaluation and justification on a case-by-case basis. (EU ACT, 2024)

- Development of a set of metrics for measuring international digital inclusion based on the fundamental premise that everyone should have equal access to empowerment through ICT: a measure for acting against the use of AI models in peace negotiations aggravating existing global power imbalances (UN, 2020).

5. Conclusion

The emerging inclusion of AI into peace negotiations provides clear benefits both to negotiators themselves and to wider negotiating parties. However, uncertainties around the exact capabilities of AI, coupled with the risks and challenges of its application demand tight regulatory conditions. This is particularly important given the gravity and volatility of peace negotiations processes, wherein misuse of AI models could instead catalyse the deterioration of international relations. Furthermore, the use of AI in geopolitical settings remains consciously limited to that of a tool for augmenting, rather than replacing, human decision-making and rationale (Goldfarb & Lindsay, 2022, p. 28). To maximise benefits and manage risk, AI models should be subject to a global unified regulatory framework which emphasises transparency, auditability, accountability and inclusion.

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