

Digital Peace Revolution:

How AI Can Boost Qatar's Diplomatic Efforts to Resolve Conflicts

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As it is well known nowadays, and as Karim Lakhani said, “Artificial intelligence will not replace humans, but humans who use artificial intelligence will replace those who don’t.” This underpins the impact of AI on human undertakings and its role in shaping the future across various sectors. AI technologies can play a crucial role in resolving conflicts by facilitating peace negotiations. Through their ability to analyze massive volumes of data, AI can identify patterns and trends, enabling more informed assessments and forecasts that support conflict resolution and negotiation efforts. This new revolutionary capability should elevate the effectiveness of the tool in dealing with the myriad wars and conflicts that we are currently experiencing in the Middle East. The transformative impact of AI demands rethinking some of the ways in which conflict resolution strategies have been evaluated. At least, AI has the potential to support the analysis of data to identify early warnings and help track potential scenarios linked to cases of conflict issues.

Moreover, AI can support and analyze data to provide early warnings, and monitor possible scenarios in relation to the status of conflict issues to drive negotiations. In addition, AI has a capability to analyze landscapes in ways that could further bolster diplomatic relations. The whole thing whirls around the fundamental question of how Qatar, as a reliable mediator, can integrate this tool into its conflict resolution approach? Indeed, Qatar showed participation in peace processes. A good example is the highly complex “Afghan Peace Process” that has been successfully ended with Doha Agreement 2020. Qatar has also assumed a leading role in facilitating dialogue to resolve the protracted conflict between the Palestinian resistance group Hamas and Israeli Occupation, widely known as one of the most problematic conflicts in the Middle East. Although Qatar has mediated a number of conflicts since attaining this mediator’s position with results such as ceasefires and prisoner exchanges, the use of AI tools could also be promising for favorable outcomes in conflict resolution and negotiation strategies.

An array of creative ways in which AI is being applied is to enhance conflict resolution globally; for this reason, it holds prospects of providing some indication as to what could indeed be achieved

by Qatar's diplomatic efforts. Among the topical applications is AI-powered data analytics for early warning systems. Such systems sift through enormous quantities of data—from social media, via satellite images, to historical patterns of conflicts. According to the United States Institute of Peace (2023), one such use is the attempt by AI to monitor ceasefire violations and online hate speech, which are various forms of early warnings for conflict. This AI system can thus constitute timely warning to allow preventive diplomacy before the conflicts get out of proportion.

Other areas where AI comes in real handy are predictive models. Through the analysis of historical data and current geopolitical dynamics, AI may forecast the likeliest outcome in some instances of conflict. By doing so, it gives diplomats strategic insights into peace negotiations. The National University of Science and Technology (2024) highlights the fact that some peacekeeping operations have employed AI models to forecast results, thereby permitting the stakeholders to adjust their strategies based on what scenario is most likely to develop (NUST, 2024). Furthermore, NUST (2024) showed how AI improves peace efforts in-depth by supporting a shared global AI-based system that can manage all disputes in human civilizations depending on common aims and values. This model can be applied to many other international conflicts, and thus serves as a potential tool which Qatar could adopt into its peace talks. The success that this kind of system has had in dissipating tensions and entertaining solutions of cooperation is a prime example of how AI has the potential to raise global conflict resolution to the next level.

Nevertheless, one of the most characteristic uses of AI is online dispute resolution. Though the title may sound fairly peculiar to some people, AI virtual mediation systems allow for independent settlement by parties through fully automated or semi-automated platforms, capable of conducting legal and diplomatic mediations at much less cost and with high effectiveness and efficiency. Mitch Jackson (2023), a lawyer and developer of the "Maneuver Mediation" platform, who employs tools like "active listening" among other skills, showed how artificial intelligence may already

help settle international dispute resolution. AI can analyze transcripts of the parties' conversations to identify key points and common themes and key words that reveal the real motivations underlying the positions being expressed, thereby facilitating mediators in grasping the essential issues. To elaborate, AI could identify points of agreement or dispute in conversations and suggest ways forward based on such trends. Also, AI might assist in peace negotiations by offering neutral data-driven proposals from previous negotiations. AI systems may study the reactions of potential stakeholders and come up with proposals based on cooperation.

A few of the advantages accruable to AI in conflict resolution have many facets. Of all these benefits, one of the highly salient structures realized is through real-time decision support. In fast-moving diplomatic scenarios where timely decisions may prevent conflicts from scaling, AI can process big datasets and spot patterns. Additionally, the data-driven approach of AI ensures objectivity to shepherd diplomats through the complex dynamics in international disputes.

However, application of AI in the conflict resolution raises ethical concerns. That introduces a big concern: if there is any skew or an inbuilt bias in the data that an AI system has been trained upon and thus yielding biased results, that just could ramp up tensions rather than dampen them, especially when geopolitical situations are sensitive. The greater the integration of AI into conflict mediation, the greater the anonymity and need for discussion on the importance of human oversight.

With Qatar having established credibility in the field of diplomacy, together with long-standing networks, its ambition for AI tools would lead to a unique positioning of the country in conflict mediation. With the integration of AI, Qatar's peacebuilding endeavor will be amplified to a position where data insights could be derived and negotiation outcomes are improved by catching emerging conflicts in the region before they escalate to higher levels. Taking this in mind, such applications of the AI technologies would bring simplicity to the process of mediation in order to save time and resources while providing balanced outcomes. This is where developing a holistic AI framework within the foreign policy machinery would be a prudent step for Qatar.