**Briefing Paper**

**The issue of the use of deep fakes during elections**

Deepfake technology has rapidly advanced in recent years, posing significant challenges to the integrity of elections worldwide. Deepfakes are manipulated audio, video, or text content created using artificial intelligence and deep learning algorithms. These creations can convincingly mimic real individuals, including political figures and candidates. As a result, the use of deepfakes during elections raises concerns about misinformation, disinformation, and the potential manipulation of public opinion.

Background Information

Deepfakes present an issue for nation states because they can be used to spread false information about political candidates, their policies, and their actions. This can mislead voters and undermine the democratic process. By manipulating the words and actions of candidates through deepfake videos, the public’s perception of political figures can be altered, influencing electoral outcomes. Hostile actors, including foreign governments can use deepfakes to interfere in the electoral processes of other nations, sowing discord and confusion. Through repeated usages of deepfakes public trust in the electoral processes can be eroded. This can then lead to decreased voter turnout and political apathy.

Potential Solutions To Consider

The use of deepfakes during elections presents a severe threat to the democratic process and the integrity of elections. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach. It is essential for the international community to work together to safeguard democratic values. Your country should consider the possible solutions for the problem of deepfakes during elections:

* Regulation and legislation
* Media literacy
* Technology solutions
* Transparency and accountability
* International cooperation
* Educational campaigns

Questions To Consider

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* Has your country already been affected by deepfakes?
* How will your country and its legislation adapt to the developing technology?
* How can nation states aid their people in identifying the use of deepfakes?

Useful Links

<https://unidir.org/events/2021-innovations-dialogue>

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/why-are-deepfakes-so-effective/>

<https://jsis.washington.edu/news/deep-fakes-fake-news-and-what-comes-next/>

<https://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/wmbrts29&div=18&id=&page=>

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