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**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE TO THE UNESCO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ETHICS  
OF NEUROTECHNOLOGY**

**Paris, 13 July 2023**

Neurotechnology is advancing at warp speed.

Breakthroughs in both software and hardware are bringing hope to millions of people confronting debilitating health challenges like Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis.

This progress is a cause for celebration – and a reason for caution. We must safeguard ethical standards and ensure the full protection of human rights.

This means robust standards for mental integrity, mental privacy, and mental freedom. And it means stronger and clearer guidelines governing the application of neurotechnology.

The UNESCO International Conference on the Ethics of Neurotechnology could not be more timely.

By bringing together stakeholders from across government, science, academia, and the private sector, your meeting can support vital progress towards a practical framework for the ethics of neurotechnology.

I wish you every success in your deliberations.

Thank you.

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