EXPLORATORY PROMPTS FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS:

A COMPLEMENTARY TOOL FOR ANALYSIS

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INTRODUCTION

> Think of these platforms as a chatty librarian. They are a helpful sidekick but you are the main analyst!
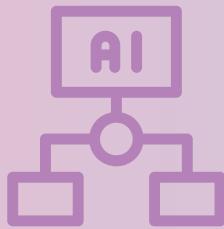
This informal, living reference guide is designed to provide examples of GEN AI prompts for Political Affairs Officers. Prompt engineering is an iterative process, and these examples serve as starting points as a resource for support and inspiration, not as formal guidance or policy. This reference guide aligns with UN established policies and guardrails to ensure best practices. This compilation was created after extensive conversations with colleagues in HQ and the field across the Peace and Security Pillar, academic partners, and experts, and through attending relevant courses offered externally a well as by OICT.

REMINDER

1. The list of prompts provided herein is intended solely as an exploratory and compelementary reference tool.

2. These prompts are not a substitute for your judgement, critical thinking, professional expertise and/or ethical consideration.

3. Staff must exercise caution and apply their own discretion when utilizing these prompts, while ensuring alignment with UN guidance.

4. The effectiveness and appropriateness of these prompts may vary depending on the specific context, and use case (including paid and unpaid versions.)

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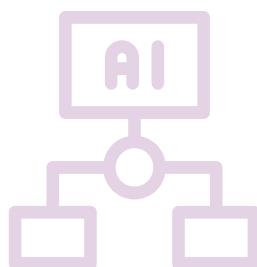
RISKS AND HOW TO MITIGATE THEM:

1. Bias: GEN AI platforms may inadvertently produce biased content.
⚙ *Mitigation:* ALWAYS review and adjust prompts to ensure fairness and inclusivity.

2. Misinformation: GEN AI platforms might hallucinate and generate inaccurate or misleading information.
⚙ *Mitigation:* ALWAYS Cross-check AI-generated content with reliable sources.

3. Privacy Concerns: Avoid sharing sensitive or personal information in prompts.
⚙ *Mitigation:* Use anonymized data and avoid prompts that require personal details.

4. Over-Reliance: Relying too heavily on GEN AI platforms can stifle critical thinking.
⚙ *Mitigation:* Use GEN AI platforms as a tool to brainstorm and work more efficiently, not to replace human knowledge and judgement .

HOW TO CRAFT A PROMPT: THE FORMULA

Each political context requires its own specific prompt tailoring. By understanding the core concepts and principles, staff can craft effective prompts for their specific needs.

1. Specificity is key:

Define the objective using clear language; avoid jargon and ambiguity. Break down complex topics into a series of targeted questions to get a more coherent and actionable output.

2. Contextualize the prompt:

Provide relevant background information to help the GEN AI platform analyze the political context and nuances to produce a more tailored response.

3. Define the tone, style and format of output:

Specify the desired tone (e.g., formal, casual), style (e.g., informative, persuasive), and format (in tabular form, in bullet form, "in less than 500 words using the same style as a speech by the Secretary-General"). Consider role assignments – framing the AI as a specific role helps it produce more relevant and tailored responses: "You are a political analyst advising on peacebuilding in West Africa".

4. Iterate, refine and factcheck:

Always factcheck the outputs: include specific requirements for evidence and citations to ensure the analysis distinguishes between facts, interpretations and uncertainties. Continuously experiment: test and refine your prompts and outputs to optimize the quality and relevance of the AI generated responses. Incorporate scenarios, hypotheticals, or ask for multi-perspective analyses. Encourage self-critique or identifying uncertainties, biases or others factors that lead to limitations. Integrate ethical and risk considerations: include instructions to evaluate risk, biases or ethical tradeoffs.

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> **These prompts are a starter kit for your analysis adventure. Don't let Gen AI do all the talking - your input is the star of the show!**

EXAMPLES OF PROMPTS

FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS:

STAKEHOLDER MAPPING:

List the key actors involved in the conflict in *[country/region]* and their roles, including government agencies, military forces, non-state actors, regional and international organizations. Consider both formal institutions (gov agencies, registered NGOs, etc) and informal groups (community leaders, grassroot, activists, etc).

POWER DYNAMICS:

Map the influence and connections of different political factions, armed groups, regional and international organizations in the XXX crisis. Consider various forms of power, including military strength, economic resources, political legitimacy and popular support.

TEMPORAL ANALYSIS:

Track how the *warring parties'* relationships and influence have evolved over time. Identify key events or turning points that have altered the dynamics between different stakeholders.

DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES:

Analyze the formal and informal decision-making processes of key actors in [country/Region]. Identify key decision-makers, influencers and "veto holders" within each group. Draw on state/official organigrams and historical data. Map how decisions flow through different organizational levels.

EARLY WARNING INDICATORS

Map potential triggers and escalation points that could lead to increased conflict. Identify behavioral patterns, rhetorical shifts, or resource movements that historically preceded conflict escalation. Analyze which actors have the capacity to serve as early warning monitors.

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EXAMPLES OF PROMPTS

FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS:

DE-ESCALATION MECHANISMS:

Outline existing conflict resolution mechanisms and peace-building infrastructure. Suggest actors who could serve as mediators or peace-brokers. Analyze historical examples of successful de-escalation in similar contexts.

RECONCILIATION POTENTIAL:

Assess opportunities for dialogue and confidence-building measures between *conflicting parties*. Identify shared interests that could potentially serve as a foundation for peace-building. Map potential third-party facilitators, eminent personalities, and neutral venues for negotiations.

PREVENTION INFRASTRUCTURE:

Summarize external evaluations of existing conflict prevention mechanisms and their effectiveness. Identify gaps in current prevention frameworks and potential improvements. Analyze which actors could contribute to strengthening prevention capacity.

STABILIZING FACTORS:

Suggest a list of elements that contribute to stability and peace, including economic interdependencies, cultural ties, and shared institutions. Identify actors who have vested interests in maintaining stability and their potential role in prevention.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS:

Assess the potential effects of proposed constitutional reforms in *[country/region]* on women and girls.

PUBLIC OPINION:

Analyze the role of public opinion polls in shaping electoral outcomes in *[country/region]*. Include how polls have historically influenced voter behavior.

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Don't forget to complement these prompts with your own analysis and verification.

Only use the answers as a foundation, not the final word!
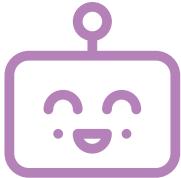
Unless data from social media posts is explicitly shared as part of your prompt, the outputs of GEN AI platforms for sentiment analysis are primarily insights drawn from secondary sources. i.e news articles, blogs, and other publicly available written content that discuss public opinion. This means that the analysis may not fully capture the nuances and real-time sentiments expressed but the below examples can help identify emerging trends and shifts in public sentiment, even if the data is not exclusively from social media.
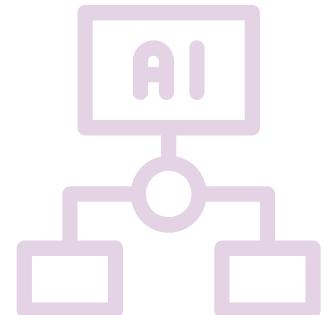
EXAMPLES OF PROMPTS

FOR SENTIMENT ANALYSIS:

SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYSIS:
Analyze the public reaction to the recent policy announcement on X (formerly Twitter), focusing on positive, negative and neutral sentiment expressed by users. Limit the data to tweets posted between *[date]* and *[date]*, excluding retweets. Consider different demographics like age, gender, and location.

CAMPAIGN ANALYSIS:
Identify the key arguments and counterarguments surrounding the upcoming election in *[country]*, highlighting the emotional tone.

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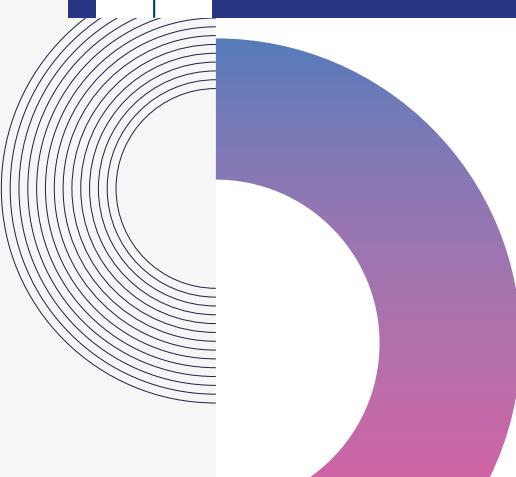
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FOR EARLY WARNING:

- Analyze recent social media trends to identify potential unrest or social movements emerging in *[country/region]*. Use data from ACLED.

- Give me a concrete list of online news sources and social media platforms/accounts, specific hashtags to detect early signs of economic instability and/or financial crisis in the context of *[country/region]*

- Identify emerging patterns in online discourse that might indicate potential changes in public opinion
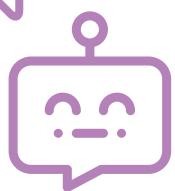
FOR PREDICTIVE MODELING:

- Evaluate different outcome scenarios on the election *[country/region]* based on historical data, social media sentiment, and economic indicators.

- Forecast the impact of proposed policies on various demographic groups, especially women and the impact on *[the peripheries vs. center of the country]*.

- Model the potential effects of global events on political stability and economic development based on historic data in *[country]*.

FOR DATA VISUALIZATION:

- Out of the xx peace processes between 2019 and 2025, xx were women led. Please highlight this in a donut chart – use green for women and blue for men.

- Visualize the number of human rights violations reported in these 3 different countries *[xx, xx, and xx]* in a bar chart in 2024.

- Create a line graph showing the trend of press freedom scores globally over the past 15 years in *[country/region]*.

- Visualize the number of bills passed by different political parties in the last legislative session in a bar chart in *[country/region]* in *[year]*.

- Show the number of conflict events in the Middle East over the past 20 years in a line graph.

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EXAMPLES OF PROMPTS

TO MITIGATE BIAS:

PROMPT WITH DIVERSE DATASETS:

Analyze the public sentiment on the proposed policy, considering opinions from different age groups, gender, sex, socioeconomic backgrounds, and geographic regions.

EXPLICITLY COUNTER ASSUMPTIONS:

Identify potential biases in your (as in the output of the Gen AI platform) analysis of online discourse and explain how these biases could influence the interpretation of results.

EMPHASIZE FACT-CHECKING:

Analyze the social media conversation surrounding the recent election, focusing on factual claims and identifying potential instances of misinformation or disinformation.

OTHER THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Starting a new chat with a generative AI platform is often encouraged to ensure that the AI does not base its answers on previous context, thereby providing a fresh perspective for each query.

- Use inclusive language, avoiding gendered or stereotypical terms.

- Frame prompts to encourage neutral and objective responses.

- Avoid leading questions or prompts that suggest a desired outcome.

- Finally, ALWAYS MAINTAIN HUMAN OVERSIGHT OF ALL GEN AI OUTPUTS!

Human analysis and verification are essential!
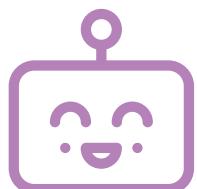
Existing policies, tutorials and relevant documents:

- Updated Guidance on the Use of AI Tools at Work, EOSG (2025)

- Knowledge Gateway on Gen AI, Knowledge Gateway (2025)

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