

Forum: Youth Assembly

Issue: Innovation and Responsibility in Artificial Intelligence

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Introduction

In a constantly changing world, new technologies unlock new opportunities, shaping our society, economy and relationships. One of the most important technological advancements of the past few years is what we call “Artificial Intelligence”, most commonly known as AI. From automated decision-making, to models which can create artworks, AI is capable of innovation, however creating a great ethical challenge. Its fast integration into, essentially, every aspect of human life, raises questions regarding accountability and transparency. The entire world is now faced with a very critical dilemma on how we can balance the promotion of innovation in AI with safety, the prevention of misuse and ensuring equitable access to its benefits.

The United Nations (UN) and many other international organizations are obligated to establish frameworks for responsible governance regarding artificial intelligence. Yet, the fragmented nature of already existing regulations, different national priorities and the speed in which such AI models advance and evolve has made consensus hard.

Definition of key terms

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings.¹

Machine Learning

Machine learning is the subset of artificial intelligence (AI) focused on algorithms that can “learn” the patterns of training data and, subsequently, make accurate inferences about new data. This pattern recognition ability enables machine learning models to make decisions or predictions without explicit, hard-coded instructions.²

Internet of Things

The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to a network of physical devices, vehicles, appliances, and other physical objects that are embedded with sensors, software, and network connectivity, allowing them to collect and share data.³

¹ Copeland, B. J. “Artificial Intelligence.” Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 14 Oct. 2025, www.britannica.com/technology/artificial-intelligence.

² IBM. “What Is Machine Learning?” IBM Think, IBM, 2025, <https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/machine-learning>

³ IBM. “What Is the Internet of Things (IoT)?” IBM Think, IBM, 2025, <https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/internet-of-things>

Generative AI

Generative AI, sometimes called gen AI, is artificial intelligence (AI) that can create original content such as text, images, video, audio or software code in response to a user's prompt or request.⁴

Algorithmic Bias

Algorithmic bias occurs when systematic errors in machine learning algorithms produce unfair or discriminatory outcomes. It often reflects or reinforces existing socioeconomic, racial and gender biases.⁵

Artificial general intelligence (AGI)

Artificial general intelligence (AGI) is a hypothetical stage in the development of machine learning in which an artificial intelligence system can match or exceed the cognitive abilities of human beings across any task. It represents the fundamental, abstract goal of AI development: the artificial replication of human intelligence in a machine or software.⁶

Timeline of events

Date	Description of event
June 18th 1956 - August 17th 1956	The Dartmoor Summer Research Project is held, which is considered to be the first event in which the term "artificial intelligence" was used formally to designate the field. ⁷
May 11th 1997	IBM's Deep Blue achieves a historic milestone in computational intelligence by defeating world chess champion Garry Kasparov in a regulated six-game rematch in New York City. ⁸
February 16th 2011	IBM's Watson computer wins the television game show "Jeopardy!" against the world champions, proving its advanced capabilities in retrieving data and understanding language. ⁹
December 11th 2015	OpenAI is founded by entrepreneurs Elon Musk and Sam Altman, as a non profit organization dedicated to research on AI and ensuring AGI contributes to the collective interests of humankind. ¹⁰

⁴ Stryker, Cole, and Mark Scapicchio. "What Is Generative AI?" IBM Think, IBM, 2025, <https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/generative-ai>

⁵ Jonker, Alexandra, and Julie Rogers. "What Is Algorithmic Bias?" IBM Think, IBM, 2025, <https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/algorithmic-bias>.

⁶ Bergmann, Dave, and Cole Stryker. "What Is Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)?" IBM Think, IBM, 2025, www.ibm.com/think/topics/artificial-general-intelligence.

⁷ McCarthy, John. *History of the Dartmouth Artificial Intelligence Conference*. Stanford University, www-formal.stanford.edu/jmc/history/dartmouth/dartmouth.html.

⁸ IBM Archives. Deep Blue: The Grand Challenge. IBM, www.ibm.com/history/deep-blue.

⁹ IBM Archives. Watson and Jeopardy! IBM, www.ibm.com/history/watson-jeopardy.

¹⁰ "OpenAI." Wikipedia, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenAI.

April 2019	The European Commission's High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence publishes the Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI, setting out principles of human agency, transparency, and accountability. ¹¹
2019	UNESCO launches multi-stakeholder consultations with over 150 countries to draft the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, establishing the foundation for the first global AI ethics framework. ¹²
April 21st 2021	The European Commission proposes the Artificial Intelligence Act, which is the world's first comprehensive legislative framework for AI regulation. It proposed risk-based approaches to govern AI systems. ¹³
November 30th 2022	OpenAI releases its model, GPT-3.5 to the public, igniting ethical concerns. ¹⁴
October 26th 2023	UN Secretary-General, António Guterres announces the creation of the "Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence" with its task being the examination of global governance options and developing recommendations regarding the safe and sustainable use of AI technologies. ¹⁵

Background information

Technological Revolution and Its Impacts on Various Industries

Artificial intelligence is transforming the technology of the world with unmatched possibilities for innovation in all aspects of life, ranging from medicine to finance. The capacity of AI systems to examine humongous amounts of data in seconds without any kind of human intervention equates to forecasting, streamlining processes, and recognizing patterns at depth and scale no human ability can keep up with. The technologies have the potential to unleash giant economic growth, social advancement, and accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Ethical and Regulatory Challenges of AI

But AI revolution is a promise with Himalayan ethics, social, and regulatory problems. Dual-use possibility of AI implies that technologies for better purpose—e.g., autonomous

¹¹ European Commission. Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI. European Union, ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/ai-alliance-consultation/guidelines.

¹² UNESCO. *UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*. UNESCO, www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics.

¹³ European Commission. *Proposal for a Regulation Laying Down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act)*. European Union, eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021PC0206.

¹⁴ Vincent, James. "ChatGPT Released: What You Need to Know." *The Verge*, 1 Dec. 2022, www.theverge.com/2022/12/1/23488569/chatgpt-ai-openai-launch.

¹⁵ United Nations. "Secretary-General Establishes Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence to Explore Global Governance Options." *United Nations*, 26 Oct. 2023, <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sgsm22039.doc.htm>.

medical diagnosis or pre-emptive alerting about disaster—can be repurposed for warfighting, mass surveillance, or spreading disinformation. Dualism necessitates radical regulation and cautious governance measures to ensure that AI produces public good and not bane.

AI and Human Rights

It is the human rights intersection that is most urgent. Uses of AI for predictive policing, facial recognition, hiring or lending can solidify systemic bias and discrimination unless they are restrained. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch cautioned that unregulated use would erode civil liberties most intensely suffered by the most marginalized communities most. AI deployment and design must have human rights impact assessments, then.

Global AI capability imbalances is yet another matter of utmost gravity.

The rising worlds set the terms of AI research, infrastructure, and human capital, but the rising worlds lag behind trying to acquire the needed technology instruments and specialists. The disconnect can build a "digital colonialism" where unequal benefits will accrue to the Global North. Similarly, organizations such as UNESCO and UNDP advocate inclusive AI policy offering developing nations a chance to engage with innovation and governance structures. Environmental Sustainability of AI Environmental concerns also form a humongous part of AI innovation. Primarily humongous amounts of electricity and water are utilized in training humongous machine learning systems and hold carbon footprints and environmental expenses. AI would be utilized towards sustainability in the environment by making attempts into energy efficiency, support for climate modeling, and conservation. ITU as well as others advocate for "green AI" to render energy-efficient algorithms and green hardware unnecessary.

Geopolitical Implications

Finally, there are geopolitical aspects of AI that run profound. The United States, China, and the European Union have together preempted AI potential with rival frameworks of regulation and strategic conceptions. Various models of AI regulation complicate cross-border norms and escalate competitive rivalries or technology arms races stakes. The UN has a unique role to mediate such divergences to facilitate cooperative, values-based strategies to AI development.

Stakeholders

United Nations (UN)

The United Nations is the key global body fighting for the regulation of artificial intelligence. Organizations like UNESCO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are involved in initiatives for the inclusive and human-rights-oriented growth of AI. UNESCO adopted the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in 2021, which is the world's first normative instrument for

discussing AI ethics. It highlights the need for transparency, accountability, fairness, and environmental sustainability. The UN also holds multilateral dialogues and debates and creates synergies between countries, the private sector, and civil society. With mechanisms such as the High-Level Advisory Body on AI, the UN provides recommendations for the regulation of AI models, reduction of bias, and facilitation of ethical deployment while ensuring the deployment of the technology in developing countries remains feasible. It tries its level best to find a balance between innovation, global security, and fairness in its efforts so that the AI does not further the inequalities or destroy human rights.

European Union (EU)

The European Union is driving the initiative for artificial intelligence regulation through its proposed legislative package, particularly the draft Artificial Intelligence Act (2021), which constitutes the first initiative to adopt a risk-based regulation. This Act imposes legal requirements on artificial intelligence systems based on their respective risk levels by banning a number of high-risk applications while also encouraging innovation where the related risk is low. The EU is keen to uphold its underlying ethical values by requiring accountability mechanisms, human oversight of key systems, and transparency of algorithmic processes. Beyond regulation, the EU also actively supports research efforts in AI and transnational cooperation through initiatives like Horizon Europe for the purpose of harmonizing AI development with the values of Europe such as privacy, fairness, and human dignity. The EU also participates in international initiatives for standardization and coordination purposes while shaping the framework for responsible governance that does not compromise competitiveness in the global artificial intelligence marketplace.

The United States of America (USA) The USA places highest to innovation-driven AI development, with a focus on entrepreneurship and research leadership. With initiatives such as the Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights (2022), America is committed to voluntary standards of transparency, fairness, and accountability rather than imposing burdensome regulatory barriers that can potentially stifle innovation. Leading major AI breakthroughs in fields such as natural language processing, autonomous systems, and robotics are large technology companies and research institutions. The U.S. also engages in multilateral discussions about AI governance and ethics with others to ensure best practices during the formation of innovation-friendly policy. Its approach is to react with a balance between seeking technology leadership and avoiding ethical and societal risk, although critics warn that it will focus AI capability in the hands of a few large corporations, and make world equity hard.

China

China aligns its AI efforts with its national development plans using the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan (2017) so that the country may become a global leader in the research, implementation, and deployment of AI. State-led innovation, wide big data infrastructure networks, and key sectors like healthcare, smart cities, and the military define Chinese policy priorities. Stringent governmental control guarantees that social governance and economic development are the priority. China's approach to technology innovation also causes it to raise global concerns regarding surveillance, individual privacy, and human rights. Moreover, China participates in international debates

regarding the governance of AI using its own standards that are aligned with its interests but also negotiates various powers regarding the regulation of cross-border challenges of AI.

OpenAI

OpenAI is a leading research organization for artificial intelligence that commits itself to advancing safe general AI technologies. OpenAI was founded in 2015. OpenAI has been central in the development of generative AI by building models like GPT-3, GPT-4, and ChatGPT. OpenAI's efforts are geared towards prioritizing safety, transparency, and prudent use of technology, such as addressing the risk of loss of control and its consequences for society. OpenAI spreads technical recommendations, safety evaluations, and policy reports while also working closely with the government, academic scientists, and global organizations for the purpose of encouraging responsible use of AI. OpenAI's impact has a bearing on technical requirements, regulatory debates, and social discussion for ethical issues related to AI. OpenAI demonstrates the role of a private corporation that drives technology while representing a sense of social obligation and interaction across the world.

Relevant UN resolutions, treaties, and events (Previous attempts)

UNESCO's AI Ethics Recommendations

UNESCO adopted the "Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" in 2021, calling upon Member States to frame their national regimes for the regulation of AI as human rights-based, inclusive, and transparent. The recommendation necessitates accountability mechanisms, human oversight, and mitigation against bias in AI systems. Although with a wide remit of influence, its enforceability awaits national ratification, and less developed nations lack technical and institutional capacity for full compliance.

European Union AI Act

The EU proposed the AI Act in 2021 to regulate high-risk AI systems, enforce conformity assessments, risk assessments, and transparency for AI applications impacting fundamental rights. The act provides for opening up international discourse and adopting comparative norms by non-EU countries. Enforceability beyond the EU is weak and alignment with heterogeneous regulatory frameworks, e.g., those in China or in the U.S., remains problematic.

OECD AI Principles

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) put out AI guidelines in 2019 as follows: that AI should be designed and used responsibly, in consideration of human rights, transparency, safety, and resilience. It is non-binding but has been signed by 48 nations, providing a model for international cooperation but no binding use.

UNESCO and UNDP Capacity-Building Initiatives

UNESCO and the UNDP have initiated programs to establish AI governance capacity in developing nations by way of training, policy consultation, and knowledge platforms. These efforts establish technological parity between developed and developing nations by enabling equal participation in AI innovation.

ITU "Green AI" Initiatives

The ITU advocates energy and eco-friendly deployment of AI and encourages the usage of green computing infrastructure and low-carbon AI models. Such action stirs global environmental aspiration in addition to filling up the carbon footprint of AI.

Possible solutions

Establish a global AI regulatory framework

The UN can start a global convention or treaty on AI, laying down international norms of ethics, responsibility, and safety. This can include commitments in international law to respect human rights, be transparent, and risk assess. This is in keeping with existing organizations (EU, OECD, UNESCO) but will be a weightier presence in making it more robust, and demonstrating to bridge different regulatory philosophies and geopolitics' agendas will be challenging.

Promote Inclusive AI Development

Foreign aid and technical aid may be provided to developing nations in order to build home-grown AI capability, infrastructure, and research centers. Initiating the world AI gap reduction through this measure reduces the possibility of "digital colonialism" and enables an even playing field in innovation. Application would be by way of a partnerships model involving universities, laboratories, and international agencies.

Deploy AI Impact Assessments

Governments and businesses can be required to conduct human rights, environmental, and social risk assessments before using AI systems, especially in especially sensitive applications such as facial recognition, predictive policing, or recruitment. Transparent reporting obligations and independent audit mechanisms would ensure accountability and deter harm.

Set AI Transparency and Explainability Standards

International standards could require the application of explainable AI practices by AI developers to allow their stakeholders to understand how and why they make decisions. This would reduce bias, prevent discrimination, and allow the public to have confidence in AI systems. Use could be encouraged by offering money or concessions in the form of trade.

Enhance AI Cybersecurity and Dual-Use Risk Management

Global action can target preventing AI use in war, autonomous wars, or propaganda-based attacks. This would involve treaties, export controls, and global coordination in monitoring and mitigation. Though technically challenging, these measures would reduce threats of global instability and war.

Encourage Green AI Adoption

States can employ low-energy AI technologies, carbon accounting, and sustainable AI research methods. Governments can offer grants, subsidies, or global recognition programs to promote sustainable use of AI and strengthen global climate targets.

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