United Nations | Global Dialogue on AI Governance

UN Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance

Co-Chairs' Summary

6–7 July 2026

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Geneva, 6–7 July 2026

"AI is already transforming our world. The question is whether we will shape this transformation together or let it shape us."

– UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Executive summary

The inaugural UN Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance (AI Dialogue) was held in Geneva on 6 and 7 July 2026, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 79/325 to facilitate open, transparent and inclusive discussion on AI governance and international cooperation. It was the first gathering of its kind, and the scale of engagement reflected that. The AI Dialogue brought together over 3,000 participants, including delegations from 163 countries, six Heads of State and Government, more than 60 ministers, and more than 1,000 stakeholder entities drawn from industry, civil society, academia, the technical community, and international organisations.

The AI Dialogue was co-chaired by H.E. Ms Egriselda López, Permanent Representative of the Republic of El Salvador, and H.E. Mr Rein Tammsaar, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia. The preparatory process was supported by a Joint Secretariat comprising the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), together with the United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (UN ODET) and with support from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), with ITU and UNESCO serving as coordinating entities. Convening the Dialogue alongside the AI for Good Global Summit and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum created a uniquely concentrated week of engagement on AI governance and digital cooperation.

Across the two days of dialogue, the Co-Chairs observed four areas of emerging convergence.

First, AI holds significant promise for sustainable development, innovation and better outcomes for people and societies, while also presenting wide-ranging social, economic, ethical, cultural, linguistic and technical implications, provided its opportunities are weighed against its risks and that capacity, not access alone, is built.

Second, persistent divides in infrastructure, connectivity, computing power, data, skills, technical and institutional capacity continue to shape which countries can develop, govern and benefit from AI. Sustained investment, strengthened international cooperation and collaboration, capacity building, partnerships and knowledge-sharing and access to relevant technologies and resources are therefore essential.

Third, respecting, protecting and promoting human rights, and in particular protecting children from AI-related harms, must be considered throughout the AI life cycle.

Fourth, no single government, company or institution can govern AI alone. Strengthened international cooperation and multistakeholder engagement are needed to advance inclusive and interoperable approaches, and to identify areas of possible convergence, promote greater coherence and complementarity among existing initiatives and in that regard, the United Nations, with its universal membership, offers a distinctive convening platform for that work.

Beyond the formal programme, a side-event programme of 59 events brought some 100 additional speakers into the conversation, and the newly launched AI Dialogue Partnerships Hub showcased more than 350 commitments, announcements and initiatives from across stakeholder groups.

The inaugural AI Dialogue laid the foundation for global cooperation and coordination on AI governance and set the direction and benchmarks for the second AI Dialogue, to be held in New York in May 2027.

I. Introduction and overview

The inaugural AI Dialogue convened in Geneva, Switzerland, on 6 and 7 July 2026 under the framework mandated by General Assembly resolution 79/325 (see annex, item 1) to facilitate open, transparent and inclusive discussions on AI governance and international cooperation. The AI Dialogue brought together over 3,000 participants, including delegations representing 163 countries, six Heads of State and Government, more than 60 ministers and over 1,000 independent stakeholder entities spanning industry, civil society, academia, the technical community and international organisations. It was convened back-to-back with the AI for Good Global Summit and the annual WSIS Forum, marking a unique week of engagement for stakeholder communities focused on AI governance and digital cooperation.

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of El Salvador to the United Nations, H.E. Ms Egriselda López, and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia to the United Nations, H.E. Mr Rein Tammsaar, co-chaired the AI Dialogue. The Co-Chairs were supported by a Joint Secretariat comprising ITU, UNESCO, together with UN ODET and with support from the EOSG. ITU and UNESCO coordinated the Joint Secretariat.

Guided by General Assembly resolution 79/325 and informed by extensive consultations, the Co-Chairs structured the AI Dialogue along the following four thematic clusters:

1. **AI opportunities and implications**: social, economic, ethical, cultural, linguistic and technical dimensions;
2. **Bridging AI divides**: capacity-building, access, and digital foundations;
3. **Safe, secure and trustworthy AI**: interoperability and compatibility of approaches; and
4. **Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights**: transparency, accountability, and human oversight.

The AI Dialogue's programme progressed in a deliberate arc: from high-level framing, through four thematic clusters of substantive exchange, to a closing synthesis and a way forward (Annex item 2) and spanned two days of comprehensive discussions with Member States and stakeholders, with a formal programme that comprised 12 official sessions on global AI governance and cooperation.[1]

Following the high-level opening segment, the United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence (Scientific Panel) presented its Preliminary Report, which gave the subsequent sessions a shared, independent evidence base. High-level governmental and multistakeholder plenary segments took place on both days, providing Member States and stakeholders with an opportunity to set out broader priorities for inclusive and interoperable artificial intelligence governance. Four thematic breakout sessions were held as structured multistakeholder exchanges designed to produce concrete takeaways, facilitated by co-leads appointed through the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (IAWG-AI), a body co-chaired by ITU and UNESCO.

A comprehensive side events programme complemented the AI Dialogue, as well as multistakeholder initiatives presented through the AI Dialogue Partnerships Hub. The discussions culminated in a forward-looking synthesis: a "Dialogue of Dialogues" multistakeholder plenary segment drew together reflections, complementarities and key messages from across the sessions. The Co-Chairs then held a closing plenary offering their concluding observations and setting the direction towards the second AI Dialogue, to be convened in New York on 3–4 May 2027.

II. Preparatory process

From their appointment on 31 October 2025 to the opening of the AI Dialogue on 6 July 2026, the Co-Chairs worked continuously for nearly 250 days to prepare a process that would be inclusive, transparent and worthy of the trust placed in them. Preparations for the AI Dialogue combined extensive intergovernmental, thematic, regional, and stakeholder consultations with sustained engagement by the Co-Chairs and their technical teams in close coordination with the Joint Secretariat (Annex Item 3). Through regular meetings and exchanges at senior and technical level, the Co-Chairs provided continuous guidance and follow-up on the Dialogue's substantive, organisational and logistical preparations.

[1] UN Web TV webcast of all sessions

The consultative process included written submissions through the AI Dialogue website, three virtual multistakeholder sessions convened by the Co-Chairs, Member State consultations in New York, and in person and virtual consultations with Member States, UN entities and stakeholders in Geneva and Paris. It also encompassed engagement at the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi and Asia Tech X Singapore in 2026, alongside participation in diverse national, regional and cross-regional dialogues and exchanges, including through virtual platforms. In the lead-up to the AI Dialogue, regional and thematic consultations were also carried out with Resident Coordinators and UN system entities, which mobilized their diverse networks and relevant stakeholders, particularly in the Global South.

Across this preparatory process, Member States and stakeholders broadly affirmed the AI Dialogue's distinctive value as a universal and inclusive platform within the United Nations for bringing together diverse perspectives, fostering mutual learning and practical international cooperation, and strengthening coherence, interoperability and complementarity among AI governance approaches and initiatives, with due regard to different national and regional contexts and priorities.

The call for written inputs received 1,532 unique submissions from every UN regional group and stakeholder category. Submissions addressed all thematic clusters, with safe, secure and trustworthy AI, transparency and human oversight, and the social, economic and cultural implications of AI among the most frequently raised priorities. The inputs also reflected differing emphases across regions and stakeholder groups, including on capacity-building, human rights, accountability and inclusive participation. Further data insights from the written submissions are available on the AI Dialogue webpage. Beyond the seven themes set out in the UNGA resolution, frequently identified gaps included environmental sustainability, the compute divide, data sovereignty, agentic AI, multilingualism and challenges to information integrity.

In consultations, participants supported grounding AI governance in international human rights law, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, with particular concern for algorithmic bias and lack of transparency, surveillance and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, and for sector-specific risks in education, healthcare and critical infrastructure. Several called for a standalone or clearly identified human rights cluster and closer coordination with Geneva's human rights and standardisation ecosystem. Many called for shifting from capacity-building towards capacity-enabling, meaning support for local research, open and smaller AI models, and digital public infrastructure, as well as support for closing gaps in AI safety and accountability infrastructure, including incident reporting and traceability.

Submissions highlighted the importance of leveraging existing instruments, most often citing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, the OECD AI Principles, the EU AI Act and the Global Digital Compact, and on recurring expectations of the AI Dialogue: 1) a role connecting rather than duplicating existing initiatives, 2) continuity beyond a single session, and 3) a platform for practical, cross-regional exchange, including for countries without dedicated AI institutions. Submissions also repeatedly flagged the underrepresentation of developing countries, civil society, youth and children, Indigenous communities, women and girls, and persons with disabilities. They called for keeping the multistakeholder nature of the AI Dialogue, while ensuring multilingual, asynchronous and regionally distributed participation.

Throughout, participants described a governance landscape fragmented across national, regional and sectoral initiatives, and identified the AI Dialogue's distinctive value as a multilateral platform for engaging on equal footing around a shared, independent evidence base.

III. Opening ceremony

The Co-Chairs opened the ceremony by emphasising the AI Dialogue's value as a universal and inclusive platform for sharing experiences, fostering mutual learning and strengthening practical international cooperation on AI governance. They highlighted the importance of scientific evidence and diverse perspectives in identifying areas of convergence, addressing AI's opportunities and risks, and promoting benefits for all. Remarks were then delivered first by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, followed by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the ITU, the Director-General of UNESCO, and the UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, framing the stakes and purpose of the AI Dialogue. The UN Secretary-General underscored that "the warnings are real, but so is the potential," sharing the choice facing the international community and the unique moment to address global AI governance and cooperation presented by the AI Dialogue. The Co-Chairs highlighted in their opening statements that the AI Dialogue, enriched by a multitude of voices elevating diverse perspectives, will facilitate discussions based upon scientific evidence with an aim to create an inclusive, universal platform where political and technological deliberations can advance, and a process where trust and common understanding on AI governance can grow.

In his remarks, the Secretary-General announced the AI Child Safety Pledge and a UN-supported Global Network for Exchange and Cooperation on AI Capacity Building, as well as reiterated the Global Fund for AI and the UN AI Environmental Transparency Initiative. The Secretary-General placed the AI Dialogue within a broader UN effort, built on the 2023 High-Level Advisory Body on AI, and the mandate provided by the 2024 Pact for the Future and Global Digital Compact (GDC). Together with the AI Dialogue's timing alongside the AI for Good Global Summit and the release of the Preliminary Report of the Scientific Panel, it was underscored as "part of an integrated UN effort to ensure AI serves people everywhere."

The President of the General Assembly in her remarks emphasised that "the UN was built for moments like this," underscoring that a technology of such power and speed requires a truly global platform, and noting that, unlike past technological revolutions, this one is unfolding without the luxury of time.

IV. Preliminary Report of the UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI

The Independent International Scientific Panel on AI (Scientific Panel) presented its Preliminary Report at the AI Dialogue, as mandated under UN General Assembly resolution 79/325 (Annex item 4). The two Co-Chairs, Maria Ressa and Yoshua Bengio, together with members from the Scientific Panel's seven Working Groups[2] introduced the Scientific Panel's first independent, evidence-based scientific assessment of AI, prepared by 40 experts from diverse disciplines and regions. The Scientific Panel emphasised that the report was intended to provide Member States and stakeholders with a shared evidence base to inform international discussions on AI governance.

The Scientific Panel highlighted both the transformative opportunities presented by AI and the significant challenges accompanying its rapid development. It noted AI's growing contributions to scientific discovery, healthcare, education, agriculture, and economic activity, while also identifying risks related to cybersecurity, safety and alignment, concentration of technological capabilities, labour markets, human rights, information integrity, democracy, environmental sustainability, cultural and linguistic diversity, child safety, and the increasing deployment of autonomous AI systems.

Across these areas, the Scientific Panel members identified important evidence gaps, including the need for improved measurement methodologies, independent evaluation mechanisms, stronger evidence from developing countries, and enhanced international scientific cooperation to better understand the evolving impacts of AI. The Scientific Panel members emphasized that the Preliminary Report marks the beginning of an ongoing scientific assessment process and that the evidence base will continue to be strengthened through structured consultations and engagement with the global scientific community. Scientific Panel members indicated plans to produce thematic briefs on emerging and priority issues, including AI and the environment, child safety, governance instruments and their effectiveness, as well as sector-specific applications of AI.

V. Summary of plenary discussions

Plenary discussions spanned governmental segments and multistakeholder segments on both days, with a focus on harnessing the benefits of AI for all through inclusive and interoperable approaches.

Governmental plenary sessions featured formal interventions from Member States under an inscription-based format, followed by a summary and closing remarks by the Co-Chairs. Governmental interventions from every region highlighted the importance of human-centred and development-oriented AI governance pursued through international cooperation. Interventions

[2] Representatives of the seven Working Groups presented the principal findings of their Working Groups reflected in the report covering:

a) AI Science, AI Advances, and Trajectories
b) Societal Applications - AI Integration in Science, Agriculture, Education, and Health
c) Economic Implications - Labour, Productivity, and Development
d) Security, Systems, and Environmental Implications
e) Human Rights, Information, and Democracy
f) Cultural and Individual Flourishing and Autonomy
g) Management Practice and Frameworks, Capacity Building, and Reliability

underscored that countries be treated as active participants in, not passive recipients of, AI's design and deployment. Delegations also shared national experiences with AI strategies, legal and institutional frameworks, public-service applications, illustrating different approaches to promoting innovation, building trust and managing risks.

Multistakeholder plenary sessions combined participatory and interactive elements, including audience interventions from the floor or by prior inscription to invite diverse sectoral perspectives on harnessing the benefits of AI for all. All multistakeholder plenary sessions included a moderated roundtable segment among high-level stakeholders representing diverse sectors and perspectives. Session focus areas included AI governance initiatives and approaches, identifying experiences, lessons and complementarities as well as a session on "Dialogue of Dialogues," that sought to establish reflections, complementarities and the way forward.

Across both governmental and multistakeholder plenary sessions, participants noted that inclusion must mean more than access: that communities furthest from computing power must have access to their own infrastructure and must shape rules and share in AI's value. Additionally, they noted that closing the AI diffusion gap within countries and between developing and developed countries requires basic infrastructure investment alongside AI-specific capacity building. Civil society participants urged the AI Dialogue to build on, rather than duplicate, existing digital governance processes and platforms, including the ones led by the UN system, and stressed that AI systems are not neutral but reflect the inequalities in which they are designed. Participants closed by highlighting some of the qualities they hoped would continue to characterize the AI Dialogue's next phase: equity, collective progress, well founded confidence, urgency, and a shared understanding of evidence extending beyond technical performance to real-world impact.

AI for development and the AI divide

Many participants described AI as a development opportunity in health, agriculture, education and public administration, while cautioning that access does not automatically translate into benefit. Participants also discussed AI's implications for employment and skills, the distribution of economic benefits and environmental sustainability, including the resource demands associated with AI infrastructure. The widening AI divide incomputation, data, skills and institutional capacity was the most consistently raised concern across regions, with delegations calling for sustained investment in local capacity, financing, technology transfer, and locally owned data and models rather than externally hosted systems. Echoing the GDC's capacity-building commitments, several interventions referred to concrete capacity building programmes already offered by the UN system. Participants raised the risk that AI trained mainly on a handful of majority languages excludes most of the world's linguistic and cultural diversity. They cited documented harms from mistranslation and described national initiatives building smaller, locally adapted models that build capability over dependency.

The AI Dialogue also saw the presentation of the AI Resource Hub: capacity building and fellowship activities, developed by the UN IAWG-AI pursuant to the UN General Assembly's WSIS+20 review, which consolidates over 1,000 capacity-building and fellowship initiatives from across the UN system (Annex item 5).

Human rights and the protection of children

Many participants echoed the centrality of human dignity, non-discrimination and meaningful human oversight and that children require dedicated protection, with reference to the Secretary-General's proposed AI Child Safety Pledge, the Scientific Panel's evidence on AI-generated child sexual abuse material. Speakers also highlighted the importance of accountability, and meaningful participation by relevant groups, including children and young people, in shaping AI governance. They further drew attention to the Coalition for Children's Rights and Protection in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, which was launched during the AI Dialogue.

Governance: binding rules versus voluntary cooperation

Participants recognised that AI governance remains an evolving concept. While broad agreement exists on the importance of addressing both opportunities and risks, views continue to differ regarding the scope, priorities and institutional forms of AI governance, warranting further analysis and discussion. Discussions highlighted the importance of moving beyond fragmented initiatives towards a more coherent and inclusive AI governance ecosystem. Many participants observed that fragmented governance carries real costs, highlighting the divergence between binding international rules and voluntary, industry-partnered approaches to preserve regulatory flexibility and pace. In this context, many participants noted that interoperability, rather than full harmonisation, represents a more realistic near-term objective. The UN's universal convening role was highlighted as a means of bringing together diverse perspectives, fostering mutual learning and connecting existing efforts.

Dialogue of dialogues: concluding plenary

The concluding plenary was convened as a "Dialogue of Dialogues". Panellists captured the key messages that emerged over the two days and identified priorities for future cooperation.

Participants on the panel stressed that AI governance must remain human-centred and anchored in human rights, transparency, accountability, and human oversight. Strong emphasis was placed on addressing widening global inequalities and ensuring that the benefits of AI are shared equitably. This will require investment in infrastructure, connectivity, multilingual AI, skills development, and capacity-building, particularly in developing countries.

Panellists highlighted the urgency of keeping governance aligned with the rapid pace of technological change and moving from principles to implementation. This will require adaptive and interoperable governance approaches, stronger international cooperation, greater public participation, and practical mechanisms to promote trust, safety, and accountability.

In closing, panellists emphasized the unique role of the United Nations, given its universal and inclusive character, in addressing these challenges. This includes fostering coherence across governance initiatives and helping translate emerging consensus into practical action.

VI. Thematic cluster breakouts

The programme and content of the AI Dialogue's thematic cluster breakouts were designed as structured multistakeholder exchanges that produced concrete, usable takeaways, in collaboration with UN system entities leveraging the UN IAWG-AI as a coordination mechanism. Thematic cluster breakout sessions opened with remarks by the thematic cluster co-chairs, consisting of one Member State and one stakeholder (chosen through an open call for nominations), followed by scene-setting remarks. The segment then moved into two panel discussions following the same structure: each panel featured panellists and a moderator, followed by inscription-based interventions designed to ensure balanced participation across Member States and stakeholders. After the two panels, summary reflections and closing remarks were provided by the thematic cluster co-chairs. Thematic cluster breakouts were facilitated by co-facilitators from UN system entities, nominated through the UN IAWG-AI, who also served as session rapporteurs.

Cluster 1: AI opportunities and implications: social, economic, ethical, cultural, linguistic and technical dimensions

The co-chairs of thematic cluster 1 were H.E. Mr Mark-Alexandre Doumba, Minister of Digital Economy and Innovation of Gabon, and Mr Rashid Khan, Co-Founder of Yellow.ai. Thematic Cluster 1 was facilitated by United Nations thematic co-leads Mr Ciyong Zou, Deputy to the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and Ms Sally Radwan, Chief Digital Officer of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Discussions explored AI's opportunities and implications across its social, economic, cultural, linguistic, technical, and environmental dimensions. Particular attention was given to the relation between equitable access to AI and the capacities needed to develop, adapt, govern and benefit from it. Participants highlighted its potential to support innovation, scientific progress, productivity and sustainable development, including through applications in health, education, agriculture and public services. Attention was also given to the distribution of economic benefits, workforce transitions, lifelong learning and support for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. Many participants observed that AI is being adopted faster than any prior technology, but that access alone does not create prosperity or jobs. They emphasised a strategy of enablement, building on digital public infrastructure, attending deliberately to distribution and workforce transition, and treating AI literacy as a national priority.

Participants noted that people want better outcomes in health, agriculture, and public services – not AI as such – and that AI's environmental footprint should be measured across both training and inference. On sovereignty and openness, participants pointed to a growing movement towards local and open-source models operating alongside frontier models, user ownership of data, and context as the single most decisive factor in AI's value. Cultural and linguistic diversity, including low-resource and Indigenous languages, was emphasised, with attention to local knowledge and contexts in datasets, models and evaluations. Participants discussed opportunities for local and open-source models to strengthen national capabilities and complement frontier systems. Three priorities were proposed to be carried forward by participants: shifting the agenda from access to capacity, including

skills, literacy and workforce transition; building sovereign capability on open foundations, including open and local models, multilingual datasets, including for Indigenous languages, digital public infrastructure and user data ownership; and governing for outcomes, paired with honest environmental measurement across the AI life cycle. Several participants cautioned that the trajectory of ever-larger models is unsustainable in energy and water terms, pointing instead to smaller, efficient, context-appropriate models running on existing infrastructure. The principal identified risk was that countries remain spectators of the AI transition while its value is captured elsewhere. Participants proposed that AI's success be judged going forward by a different set of metrics entirely: jobs created, people uplifted, languages thriving in the digital world, and communities whose knowledge is reflected.

Cluster 2: Bridging AI divides: capacity-building, access and digital foundations

Co-chairs of Thematic Cluster 2 were H.E. Mr Samba Diouf, Minister of Communications, Telecommunications and Digital of Senegal, and Mr Jovan Kurbalija, Executive Director of DiploFoundation. The thematic cluster was facilitated by United Nations thematic co-leads Mr Robert Opp, Chief Digital Officer of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Ms Loretta Hieber-Girardet, Chief of Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Capacity Development of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Many participants highlighted the importance of equitable, affordable and meaningful access to AI opportunities, so that all countries can participate not only in using AI but in shaping it, with agency treated as inseparable from access as AI moves towards implementation. Linguistic and cultural diversity were also addressed and described as central to AI development requiring systems that are context-specific, locally aware and responsive to different social and development realities. Inclusive participation, particularly of women, girls, young people and rural communities, was repeatedly emphasized. Youth engagement was understood as extending beyond education and skills to stronger involvement of local researchers, technical communities and innovators. Many participants noted that bridging AI divides requires more than technical training in how to use AI: it requires sustained investment in the underlying foundations, including digital infrastructure, connectivity, computing power, governance and institutional capacity, societal readiness, skilled talent and effective oversight mechanisms. Participants also highlighted international and regional cooperation, partnerships, knowledge-sharing, technology transfer and sustainable financing to support national priorities. Open-source technologies and open data were highlighted as important enablers of broader participation, while several interventions emphasised the importance of local capacity, data governance and safeguards against misuse. Participants called for particular attention to divides affecting Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, and identified digital sovereignty, including reduced dependency on foreign technologies and meaningful participation in AI standards-setting, as a key priority.

Cluster 3: Safe, secure and trustworthy AI: interoperability and compatibility of approaches

Co-chairs of Thematic Cluster 3 were H.E. Ms Paula Bogantes, Minister of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, and Ms Rebecca Finlay, Chief Executive Officer

of Partnership on AI. The thematic cluster was facilitated by United Nations thematic co-leads Mr Sameer Chauhan, Director of the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC), and Ms Ulrike Till, Director of the Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies Division of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Discussions focused on interoperability among diverse national governance approaches, the importance of international technical standards in this regard and several key focus areas. The discussion centred on the observation that safety frameworks are too often developed without the evidence needed to shape them. Participants further emphasized that a shared minimum baseline is needed that builds on existing global commitments, international law, the Hiroshima Process, the Group of 20 (G20) and the Group of 7 (G7), and AI summits to date, as well as UN-system-convened platforms such as AI for Good, and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, consolidating and further developing them so that they are implementable and adaptable to regional and national contexts. Interoperability was further emphasized as necessary to connect diverse governance approaches without imposing a single regulatory model, but not sufficient for safety and security: it should rest on human rights, be grounded in strong scientific foundations and reflect frameworks shaped through meaningful and effective participation by all countries and relevant stakeholders, taking into account diverse national and regional contexts and perspectives. Inclusion and openness were highlighted as having a strong technical basis – with participants calling for international technical standards, open benchmarks, linguistic diversity of data, and further development of opportunities and infrastructure for open science. Participants highlighted cooperation through shared evaluation tools, exchanges of evidence and capacity-building, particularly to support developing countries' participation in standards-setting and their ability to assess AI systems. Participants underscored trust-building through verifiability, fostered through independent third-party testing throughout the AI life cycle and disclosure across the AI value chain, including incident reporting.

Cluster 4: Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights: transparency, accountability and human oversight

Co-chairs of Thematic Cluster 4 were H.E. Mr Oscar Lopez Agueda, Minister for Digital Transformation and the Civil Service of Spain, and Ms Linda Bonyo, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Lawyers Hub Africa. The thematic cluster was facilitated by United Nations thematic co-leads Ms Peggy Hicks, Director of the Thematic and Special Procedures Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and Mr Jeremy Ng, Counsel for Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Economy at the World Bank.

Many participants highlighted the importance of international human rights law as a foundation for global AI governance, especially as increasingly agentic AI poses profound challenges for rule of law, and that justice systems are critical to accountability, liability and access to remedies. Increasingly autonomous and agentic AI systems were identified as raising additional challenges for human oversight and accountability. Interventions addressed risks to privacy, equality, freedom of expression and information integrity, while also recognising AI's potential to advance human rights and improve access to essential services. Discussions centred around five elements of accountability: transparency and traceability of AI systems, including documentation of agent chains;

an identifiable, empowered human decision-maker able to override or stop a system; clear location of liability for harms; timely access to remedies and justice; and justice-sector capacity building, including a role for independent socio-technical experts and auditors. Participants noted ongoing efforts in this area, including UNESCO's AI and the Rule of Law capacity development programme, and observed that human rights due diligence and impact assessment are central tools for States' obligations and companies to meet their human rights responsibilities under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and could help operationalize the principles of transparency and accountability across the AI life cycle, especially before deployment, applied evenly across geographies, retriggered by material changes in capability such as growing agentic behaviour, and attentive to vulnerable populations through gender- and child-rights impact assessments. Participants highlighted the concentration of AI development and governance power and emphasized the need for genuine, inclusive participation, particularly from developing countries, children and youth, women and affected communities. One open question was raised on the evidence gap, as some AI-related harms remain undercounted in scientific literature even where they are well documented by civil society and lived experience. Key priorities identified were clear legal obligations and red lines grounded in human rights, independent audits and testing, stronger access to remedy and appeal, and stronger human oversight of agentic AI.

VII. Side events

Alongside the formal programme, the AI Dialogue was accompanied by an extensive side-event programme comprising 59 events in total, featuring some 100 additional speakers and moderators drawn from Member States and stakeholders. A prominent thread across the programme was inclusive, rights-based AI governance, with numerous sessions addressing human dignity, the protection of vulnerable groups, especially children, and the need for AI development to reflect diverse cultural, linguistic and socio-economic realities. Strong regional perspectives underscored calls for technical and data sovereignty and governance frameworks co-designed locally rather than imported. The programme also gave significant attention to workforce transformation, education and economic inclusion, including reskilling, youth leadership and how national education policies can prepare societies for an AI-driven future while mitigating labour displacement and digital divides, alongside a technical and regulatory track covering AI safety, cybersecurity, interoperable standards, certification and parliamentary oversight, AI-driven disinformation, open and multilingual models, and the alignment of AI deployment with environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

VIII. AI Dialogue Partnerships Hub

In May 2026, the AI Dialogue saw the launch of the AI Dialogue Partnerships Hub (Annex item 5), a voluntary space to mobilize and showcase initiatives, partnerships, coalitions, and practical actions connected to the AI Dialogue's four thematic clusters. Member States and stakeholders were invited to share efforts that can contribute to practical progress, including capacity-building initiatives, technical cooperation, policy experiences, research partnerships and investment-related actions. At the conclusion of the inaugural AI Dialogue, the AI Dialogue Partnerships Hub showcased more than 350 commitments, announcements and initiatives from across stakeholder groups. Initiatives addressed capacity-building, education and AI literacy, closely followed by work on safety, trust,

transparency and accountability, and by efforts to strengthen technical and policy infrastructure, including standards, benchmarks and regulatory frameworks. Health, workforce development and linguistic and cultural inclusion emerged as the most common sectoral applications, alongside a substantial cluster of initiatives focused on the needs of women, youth and children.

IX. Themes emerging across the AI Dialogue

Across the AI Dialogue's two days of plenary sessions, thematic cluster breakouts and side events, participants highlighted several themes, informed by the contributions received during the preparatory process. The following themes reflect the Co-Chairs' observations of recurring issues raised across plenary discussions, thematic cluster breakouts and side event sessions. The themes do not constitute negotiated outcomes or consensus positions but rather capture the principal themes that surfaced across the AI Dialogue's programme. Their inclusion does not imply agreement on their relative priority or endorsement of specific approaches or mechanisms.

This list is non-exhaustive, and the themes identified may benefit from further attention and continued exchange among interested Member States and stakeholders, as appropriate, including in the lead-up to the second AI Dialogue in New York in May 2027. They may also provide a basis for continued exchange and practical cooperation, without prejudging future discussions or outcomes. Participants also highlighted other important aspects, including data governance, transparency and safety and risk assessment by design, and information integrity, all of which additionally merit further exploration.

- **Harnessing AI's opportunities for people and planet**: Many speakers emphasized the extraordinary opportunities that AI offers to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and to improve lives worldwide, from expanding access to healthcare, education and public services, to strengthening food security, climate resilience and scientific discovery. Participants stressed that the central task of international cooperation is to ensure these benefits are realized broadly and equitably. This shared sense of opportunity framed the Dialogue's discussions and underpinned the themes that follow.
- **From access to capacity**: Participants observed that the key challenge is no longer access to AI, but the capacity to shape, govern and benefit from it, stressing the importance of sustained investment in compute, data, skills and institutions so that countries can shape, not only consume, AI. Participants emphasised that expanding access to AI systems remains essential, alongside the skills and technical and institutional capacity to shape, develop, govern and benefit from it. Bridging persistent AI and digital divides, within and between countries, therefore involves strengthening access to digital infrastructure, connectivity and relevant technologies.
- **Financing capacity and inclusion**: Participants noted that closing the AI divide will require dedicated financing for digital infrastructure, compute, connectivity, skills development, regulatory capacity and local innovation ecosystems. Several called for concrete financing mechanisms, coordinated donor support and innovative financing arrangements to ensure that developing countries can become active contributors to AI governance.
- **Governance based on international human rights law**: Participants emphasized that international human rights law and meaningful human oversight are foundational to AI

governance. Many noted that the existing international human rights framework applies fully in the context of AI and provides a common, universally agreed point of departure for governance efforts across otherwise diverse national approaches.

- **Protection of children**: The protection of children from AI-related harms resonated across all regions and stakeholder groups. Participants noted children's rapidly growing use of AI tools, including for schoolwork and emotional support, while formal safety guidelines have yet to keep pace. They underscored the need for a child rights-based approach to the design, development, deployment and governance of AI, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including child-safety-by-design standards and addressing abusive synthetic media involving minors. In this regard, participants welcomed the launch at the AI Dialogue of the Coalition for Children's Rights and Protection in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.
- **Gender-responsive governance**: Participants underlined that AI governance should explicitly address the disproportionate impact of AI-enabled harms on women and girls, as well as their underrepresentation in AI governance and development, with several pointing to the importance of gender-disaggregated data and of women's full participation in standard-setting and policy processes. Reflections also emphasised the importance of expanding their participation and access to AI's benefits.
- **Linguistic and cultural inclusion by design**: Participants noted that AI systems trained on a narrow set of majority languages and cultural contexts exclude much of the world, and suggested that linguistic and cultural inclusion be treated as a design requirement rather than an afterthought, building on national and grassroots initiatives already developing smaller, locally adapted models.
- **International cooperation for AI governance**: Participants highlighted AI's potential to advance progress on sustainable development, innovation, scientific discovery and improvements in people's lives, and the importance of harnessing these benefits. As countries worldwide navigate the opportunities, impacts and risks of AI, participants emphasised the importance of strengthened international cooperation and multistakeholder collaboration, notably under the auspices of the United Nations, to advance AI governance and to translate shared principles and objectives into practical, operational work.
- **Interoperability anchored in technical standards**: Participants observed that governance frameworks need not be identical to be effective, but that interoperability among them depends on common technical foundations: shared definitions and comparable risk classifications, open benchmarks, and mutual recognition of testing and audit protocols that can connect diverse national approaches without requiring uniformity.
- **A shared, independent evidence base**: Participants stressed that AI governance should be grounded in independent, multidisciplinary scientific evidence, with several highlighting the role of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI in providing a common factual foundation for policy discussions.
- **Environmental sustainability and transparency**: Participants suggested that the energy, water, and material footprint of AI should be measured and disclosed transparently, and treated as a core governance question rather than a peripheral one, noting the particular relevance of these impacts for countries facing resource constraints.
- **Governing increasingly autonomous systems**: Participants noted that governance has not kept pace with agentic and self-improving AI systems, and that shared risk taxonomies, incident reporting, and cross-border regulatory sandboxes can help close this gap and build

accountability, so that increasingly capable AI systems can be harnessed safely for the benefit of all. As countries navigate the opportunities, impacts and risks, strengthened international cooperation and multistakeholder collaboration were emphasised as means to translate shared principles and objectives into practical action.

X. Conclusion

This Co-Chairs' Summary, prepared with the support of the Joint Secretariat, reflects the Co-Chairs' observations from the discussions held during the inaugural Global Dialogue on AI Governance in Geneva. It is also informed by the preparatory process and the diverse written contributions received, which carried into the AI Dialogue the voices of many who were unable to participate in-person. The Summary captures areas of convergence as well as differing perspectives, while highlighting the shared interest expressed by Member States and stakeholders in advancing AI governance and cooperation, and in translating dialogue into action so that AI can benefit everyone, everywhere.

The Co-Chairs recognize the breadth of engagement by Member States and stakeholders from diverse regions and sectors throughout the preparatory process and the AI Dialogue. Participants found a more visible place in the conversation than is typical for gatherings of this kind, through advocacy for structured public participation in AI governance and through the AI Dialogue's multistakeholder, inclusive and participatory design, which brought diverse perspectives and experiences into the discussion and supported mutual learning and exchange.

The exchanges highlighted AI's potential to advance sustainable development, innovation and human wellbeing, alongside its risks and wider implications. The respect, protection and promotion of human rights, including the protection of children from AI-related harms, together with safety, transparency, accountability and meaningful human oversight, were underscored as essential considerations throughout the AI life cycle. These reflections affirmed the importance of keeping people at the centre of AI governance efforts.

Bridging persistent AI and digital divides, within and between countries, likewise emerged as a relevant and recurring theme throughout the preparatory process and the AI Dialogue. Participants highlighted the importance of expanding access to infrastructure, connectivity, computing power, data and relevant technologies, alongside strengthening the skills and the technical and institutional capacities that enable all countries to shape, develop, govern and benefit from AI. Sustained investment, international cooperation, capacity-building, partnerships and knowledge-sharing featured prominently as avenues for advancing these efforts in line with national priorities and contexts.

With the valuable support of the Joint Secretariat, coordinated by ITU, UNESCO, and with contributions from UN ODET and EOSG, and drawing on the convening role of the United Nations, whose universal membership offers a distinctive setting for bringing together scientific evidence, policy experience and diverse perspectives, the Co-Chairs believe the inaugural AI Dialogue has established a first credible, universal and inclusive platform for open and meaningful exchange and possible cooperation on AI governance. The task ahead is to fill this platform with practical substance. Additional efforts will be needed to translate the principles identified into practical,

interoperable tools of cooperation, including through coalitions of interested States, UN system entities and stakeholders, voluntary work carried forward by different actors, and the AI Dialogue Partnerships Hub, which complements these exchanges as a voluntary space to showcase initiatives and identify opportunities for partnership, knowledge-sharing and greater coherence, interoperability and complementarity among diverse approaches.

To this end, the multistakeholder approach that characterized the inaugural AI Dialogue should not only be maintained but further enriched, including through wider global partnerships and enhanced senior-level private sector participation, notably from frontier AI developers. Further efforts will also be needed to facilitate the participation of those without the financial means to attend, including through timely support with funding and visa arrangements. Continued engagement and support for participation from all regions and sectors, including for those facing resource constraints, can help bring a fuller range of voices, experiences and priorities into future exchanges, so that the next gathering can be even more inclusive than the first.

The Co-Chairs wish to record that the preparatory process for the inaugural AI Dialogue was undertaken with limited dedicated resources, and that the considerable achievements of this first cycle relied significantly on the goodwill and voluntary efforts of many. Ensuring adequate and predictable funding from the outset of preparations for the second AI Dialogue would place the process on a more sustainable footing and allow its full potential to be realized.

Finally, preparations for the road ahead would benefit from the early nomination of the next Co-Chairs by the President of the General Assembly, allowing them the fullest possible time for consultations with Member States, UN entities and stakeholders. The Co-Chairs express hope that the incoming Secretary-General will continue to accord technological change and the development of artificial intelligence the same dedication and sense of urgency that Secretary-General Guterres has brought to these matters. They further encourage the Secretariat and all relevant United Nations agencies and entities to advance work on AI-related matters through a coordinated, whole-of-system approach, notably in preparing for the second Global Dialogue on AI Governance in New York in May 2027. The inputs received and the discussions held throughout this first cycle provide a valuable foundation for continued exchange, without implying agreement on specific proposals or prejudging future priorities or outcomes. The Co-Chairs look forward to building on these contributions and the partnerships established through this process at the second AI Dialogue in New York, and to continued practical cooperation towards AI that benefits everyone, everywhere.

XI. Annex

1. General Assembly Resolution 79/325, Terms of Reference and Modalities for the Establishment and Functioning of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance
2. Annotated Programme of the UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance
3. Preparatory Process – Official Roadmap
4. Independent International Scientific Panel on AI: Preliminary Report
5. AI Dialogue Partnerships Hub