



# **Global Dialogue on AI Governance:** Global Digital Justice Forum's Submission to the Informal Stakeholder Consultation

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Global Digital Justice Forum

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Please find below our responses to the guiding questions posed by Co-chairs of the first Global Dialogue on AI Governance for the [informal stakeholder consultation](#) scheduled on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

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**Question 1:** What do you see as the primary purpose and added value of the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, and which gaps in the current AI governance landscape should it prioritise addressing?

## 1a. Primary Purpose:

The Global Dialogue on AI Governance should serve as an agenda-setting platform for deepening a common understanding of and commitment to just and sustainable AI futures that contribute to human flourishing.

Para 55 of the UN Global Digital Compact (GDC) specifically addresses the need for inclusive, multi-stakeholder participation. The role of civil society actors in the Dialogue is therefore essential, as is ensuring the free and meaningful participation of rights holders (individuals and groups) in decision-making processes that affect their lives, in accordance with international human rights law.

Building on the GDC and putting human rights and ecological sustainability at the center, we would like the Global Dialogue to:

- Promote scientific understanding of AI technologies and engage with the evidence on their implications for human rights, social justice, gender equality and ecological sustainability (the key prongs of sustainable development) across the AI value chain.
- Support the compatibility of AI governance approaches across multiple jurisdictions, particularly through exchange of good practices and lessons learned in the regulation of AI to prevent and address harms, promoting open and interoperable standards baselines for different layers of the AI stack, democratizing AI innovation, and encouraging public and corporate accountability in the governance of AI ecosystems.

- Advance, protect, and preserve linguistic and cultural diversity as well as the plurality of lifeworlds as a normative principle in the life cycle of AI systems. Local, traditional, and indigenous knowledge should be protected in the AI transition, along with the recognition of the rights of peoples to choose the technologies that suit them best (CESCR, General Comment No. 25 on Article 15, para 39 and 64).
- Catalyze triangular and South-South cooperation to direct the development and use of these systems towards the pursuit of sustainable development and global peace.
- Encode public accountability and corporate liability frameworks in complex, multi-actor AI value chains, in compliance with international law and human rights standards.

### **1b. Gaps the Global Dialogue on AI Should Address:**

The Global Dialogue on AI Governance should bring together the fragmented spheres of data governance and AI governance so that the intertwined normative and policy dimensions of data and AI may be addressed holistically at the international level. The often deliberate separation of these interconnected domains serves to consolidate status quoist interests, obfuscating the foundational data rights that must inform all AI models.

The Global Dialogue should serve as a forum where there can be public dialogue and multi-constituency consultations on the progress of (a) The UN CSTD Working Group on Data Governance, (b) the International Scientific Panel on AI and (c) the WSIS+20 Internal Task Force on Financing Mechanism's engagement with questions of data and AI governance architecture.

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**Question 2:** Considering the topics mandated for the Global Dialogue, what thematic clusters or frameworks could enable an effective, balanced, and substantive discussion in July, reflecting priorities and the most urgent or relevant aspects of AI governance?

The topics outlined in [Para 4](#) of the UN GA Resolution 79/325 on the terms of reference of the Global Dialogue on AI Governance (Aug 2025) are a useful starting point. We believe that a rapidly changing geo-political context and the undermining of multilateralism by certain interests presents a *fait accompli* for global governance that deserves a bold response. An evidence-based and committed stocktaking of the dominant trajectories of AI, taking into account its entire supply/value chain, is needed for outcomes of the Global Dialogue to serve the public interest, global equity and human rights.

The immediate priorities in this regard would be to reaffirm the role of AI in enabling the SDGs ([Resolution 70/1](#)) and the spirit of the 2030 agenda in which states reasserted their commitments as follows:

“We reaffirm that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity. We will implement the Agenda for the full benefit of all, for today’s generation and for future generations. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to international law and emphasize that the Agenda is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law. We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law.”

The dominant AI paradigm today has failed to meet the spirit of the SDGs and regulation to date has failed to respect, protect and fulfill human rights. Mounting evidence suggests that AI is contributing to the destruction of natural resources, undermining fundamental rights, and is being deployed by powerful actors to annihilate societies and destroy peace.

Priority themes that reflect the most urgent and relevant aspects of AI governance include:

- International public financing to build AI capabilities in the Global South so that innovation choices remain rooted in full sovereignty of all nations and self-determination of peoples.
- The right to meaningful public participation in AI-related issues as a fundamental precondition.
- A ‘precautionary approach’ in AI development and deployment – to counter safety-washing practices and ensure human rights-based regulation, corporate and public accountability and ecological wellbeing,
- Development of public AI infrastructures, AI commons and open technology standards at all levels of the AI stack for distributive justice and to counter open-washing practices that consolidate market power.
- Impact of AI infrastructures on climate and impact of their mass deployment on the future of work and workers
- Exchange of good practices in the implementation of human rights-based AI governance frameworks (including bans and moratoria that have been suggested on certain uses of AI by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Council, among others), addressing duties of state and corporate actors.
- International cooperation for effective AI governance in the current multilateral and geopolitical climate

**Question 3:** How should the Global Dialogue be structured to encourage meaningful exchange and practical cooperation, foster dynamic engagement formats, and ensure that the Scientific Panel's report informs actionable policy discussions?

For meaningful exchange and practical cooperation, the Global Dialogue should:

- Ensure that the meetings in Geneva (2026) and New York (2027) are preceded by a series of multi-constituency consultations to capture diverse perspectives from different regions on key topics. It is important to plan for exclusive, open and transparent consultations with civil society to gather informed insights and perspectives that may otherwise be drowned out in broader multistakeholder spaces. In this context, special attention must be given to ensuring the effective participation of organizations representing marginalized people and groups, such as ethnic groups, Indigenous Peoples, peasants and other small-scale food providers, workers, women and girls, LGBTIQ+, youth, etc. It may be useful to tap into gatherings widely attended by the digital rights community such as RightsCon, the upcoming meeting of the UN Committee on World Food Security and other UN processes such as the Internet Governance Forum, and regional conferences. Virtual consultations are also important and the discussions therein should be documented and duly considered in deliberations and documents released by the Dialogue.
- Synthesize and publish multistakeholder inputs, highlighting convergences and divergences on policy positions, from the virtual lead-up consultations to the Geneva and New York gatherings.
- Focus on both a) overarching, transversal discussions that address cross-cutting AI governance issues, including normative frameworks, human rights standards, ethical principles, and global regulatory coherence and b) sector-specific dialogues that examine AI's impact, risks, and opportunities in key areas such as healthcare, education, food and nutrition, labor, finance, climate action and biodiversity protection, gender-based violence, corporate accountability, and security.

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**Question 4:** How can different actors (Member States, private sector, civil society, academia, technical community and international organizations) contribute to the Dialogue?

Civil society organizations can join hands to partner with the Co-facs to carry out a stakeholder consultation. They can also bring to the attention of the process evidence from the ground on critical themes/topics.

Just like in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), it would be important for the Global Dialogue to institute a Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) process for all stakeholder constituencies to weigh in on appropriate decisions. Interactions among the different stakeholders should facilitate engagement among them, rather than lead to isolated or siloed contributions.

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**Question 5:** What practical outputs should the first Global Dialogue aim to deliver, and what initiatives, partnerships or platforms could be highlighted to illustrate the opportunities and challenges of AI governance

The Global Dialogue could aim for the following outcomes:

(i) Promote informed, critical discussions on AI's societal, economic, and environmental implications looking not only at product safety issues in the context of deployment but a whole-of-life-cycle approach to examining harms and structural injustice in the production process. Through this, the Dialogue could contribute to articulating the non-negotiable normative, institutional, and material conditions that must be in place for AI systems to be compatible with human rights, social justice, ecological sustainability and inter-generational wellbeing.

(ii) Serve as a repository for policy development, providing an accessible knowledge base on AI governance approaches, fostering coordination and cooperation.

(iii) Facilitate knowledge building, capacity development and cross-regional knowledge sharing and informational exchange (about lessons learned and good practices), on the development of public AI infrastructures, AI commons and open technology standards at all levels of the AI stack.

Through these outcomes, the Global Dialogue on AI Governance can bring coherence to AI governance discussions, promote regulatory clarity, and build global capacity to ensure AI is developed and deployed equitably and responsibly.