Forum: Special Conference on Shaping Tomorrow (SPECON)

Issue: Assessing the Role of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Governance in Global Politics

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Position: Deputy President

Personal Introduction

Dear delegates,

My name is Victoria Vytogianni, and I am a 10th grade student at the American College of Greece-Pierce. I have the honor of serving as this year's Deputy President of SPECON. I would like to welcome you to this year's conference and congratulate you on choosing to pursue MUN. It is a wonderful world that has a lot to offer you and, having been a delegate, I strongly encourage you to embrace every step of the process. As the Student Officer Team, we will do everything in our power to create a welcoming environment and make this a worthwhile experience.

In our world, we face pressing challenges that require immediate action. MUN raises awareness of these issues while encouraging cooperation. The Special Conference on Shaping Tomorrow challenges us to solve current issues that impact the global community. This guide serves the purpose of introducing you to the first topic of this year's SPECON agenda, "Assessing the Role of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Governance in Global Politics". It will thoroughly examine this issue; however, you are advised to conduct your own research.

For any questions that may arise, do not hesitate to contact me at vgvytogianni@outlook.com

Topic Introduction

In recent years, rapid technological advancement paired with an increasing dependency on technology have led artificial intelligence to become central to global politics and international relations, largely due to its innovative nature that makes it capable of performing tasks, traditionally associated with humans, on its own. Similarly, digital governance plays a major role in shaping state interactions, as it refers to the regulations and policies that determine how digital systems and data are managed. Through these frameworks, governments can control access to information and digital privacy; consequently, digital governance can either enhance or restrict freedom of speech and expression.

These two factors combined influence how states and their private sectors wield power, particularly through prioritizing either state-led or market-led initiatives. Due to their unique role in global politics, these developments impact sovereignty, as governments must ensure control over national digital infrastructure and diplomacy. They do not only affect domestic policy, since digital markets transcend national borders and require international cooperation. After all, in an age where technology has permeated all aspects of our lives, it is only natural that it affects global politics too.

Among emerging digital technologies, Artificial Intelligence stands out due to its significant impact on the economy and the global market. It constitutes an emerging technological competition, and its rapid and sometimes uneven development affects security, through weaponry manufacture and threats of cyberwars. Additionally, it exerts influence on international alliances as its way of development and intended use are factors that are taken into account when forming strategic partnerships. As it is a recent technology, our knowledge is limited. What we are certain of is that it can be highly beneficial or destructive, thus requiring urgent attention.

Its potential uses tie in with the conference's theme “Shaping tomorrow”, as the decisions we make and the strategies we implement can affect future security and sovereignty. The path we follow will either ensure that human rights, such as privacy and freedom of speech and expression, are protected, or restrict people’s voices and rights. The actions we take in the present will be the ones shaping our lives tomorrow.

Definition of Key Terms

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

“The ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. The term is frequently applied to the project of developing systems endowed with the intellectual processes characteristic of humans, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalize, or learn from past experience.”[1]

Cybersecurity

“Cybersecurity is the art of protecting networks, devices, and data from unauthorized access or criminal use and the practice of ensuring confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information.”[2]

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[1] Copeland, B.J.. "artificial intelligence". Encyclopedia Britannica, 3 Dec. 2025, https://www.britannica.com/technology/artificial-intelligence. Accessed 4 December 2025.

[2] CISA.gov. "What is Cybersecurity? | CISA." *Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency CISA*, 1 Feb. 2021, www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/what-cybersecurity. Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.

Digital Ecosystem

"A distributed, adaptive, open socio-technical system with properties of self-organization, scalability and sustainability inspired by natural ecosystems. It encompasses digital technologies that are interconnected to enable new forms of collaboration, innovation, and value creation."[3]

Digital Governance

"The development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the digital environment."[4]

Digital Inequality

"Digital inequality refers to the disparities in access to, and use of, digital technologies among different social groups. It highlights how factors such as socioeconomic status, education, geographic location, and age can create gaps in technology access, impacting individuals' ability to engage fully in the digital world and take advantage of its benefits. These disparities can lead to further social inequalities and limit opportunities for those who are disadvantaged."[5]

Digital Sovereignty

"Digital sovereignty, cyber sovereignty, technological sovereignty and data sovereignty refer to the ability to have control over your own digital destiny – the data, hardware and software that you rely on and create." [6] The term came into use during the last decade.

Disinformation

"False information designed to mislead others and is deliberately spread with the intent to confuse fact and fiction."[7]

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[3] ITU Online. "What Is a Digital Ecosystem?" *ITU Online IT Training*, 2024, https://www.ituonline.com/tech-definitions/what-is-a-digital-ecosystem/. Accessed 4 Dec. 2025

[4] Council of Europe. "Digital Governance: Overview." *Council of Europe*, 2025, https://www.coe.int/en/web/digital-governance/overview . Accessed 4 Dec. 2025.

[5] Fiveable. "digital inequality – Media Literacy." Edited by Becky Bahr, Fiveable, 2024, https://fiveable.me/key-terms/media-literacy/digital-inequality. Accessed 11 Jan. 2026.

[6] Fleming, Sean. "What Is Digital Sovereignty and How Are Countries Approaching It?" *World Economic Forum*, 10 Jan. 2025, https://www.weforum.org/stories/2025/01/europe-digital-sovereignty/ . Accessed 5 Dec. 2025

[7] "Misinformation and Disinformation." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., https://www.britannica.com/topic/misinformation-and-disinformation. Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.

Global Politics

"The interactions, power dynamics, and relationships that transcend national borders, influencing international relations and shaping global governance. This concept involves the negotiation of treaties, the role of international organizations, and the impact of ideologies on state behavior and diplomacy. It encompasses how historical events, such as religious reformations and ideological conflicts, have shaped the political landscape worldwide."[8]

Misinformation

"The inadvertent spread of false information without intent to harm."[9]

Background Information

Historical Information

Artificial Intelligence was first developed in theory by Alan Turing, a British logician who described the Turing machine, which is considered to be the essence of modern computers. In his description he included the theory of an intelligent machine that could learn from experience and thus improve its own program and output. In 1947 in London, he gave the earliest public lecture to refer to "computer intelligence". His own words were: "What we want is a machine that can learn from experience," and that the "possibility of letting the machine alter its own instructions provides the mechanism for this."[10] The following year, Turing mentioned in an unpublished report the phrase "Intelligent Machinery", referring again to a machine that is programmed to constantly improve its performance by learning from experience.

In 1951, Christopher Stracey, Director of the Programming Research Group in the University of Oxford, created what is largely viewed as the first successful AI program. By 1952, his program could complete a checkers match. Meanwhile, in the same year in the United States, Arthur Samuel also wrote a checkers program and by 1955 he had modified it to include learning from experience. In 1962, that same program won a checkers match against a former regional champion. This event received coverage in major newspapers, however, it was not fully understood by the general public. It was seen

[8] Fiveable. "Global Politics – AP European History." Edited by Becky Bahr, Fiveable, 2024, https://fiveable.me/key-terms/ap-euro/global-politics. Accessed 4 Dec. 2025.
[9] "Misinformation and Disinformation." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., https://www.britannica.com/topic/misinformation-and-disinformation. Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.
[10] Copeland/Britannica. "History of Artificial Intelligence | Dates, Advances, Alan Turing, ELIZA, & Facts | Britannica." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 30 July 2025, www.britannica.com/science/history-of-artificial-intelligence. Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.

as an extension of programming, and not intelligence resembling human capabilities. On the other side, researchers viewed this win as evidence that machines could improve without constant reprogramming. The official founding of AI as a research field happened during the 1956 Dartmouth Conference, which was organized by John McCarthy, who later invented List Processing (LISP) , the first programming language designed for AI research.

The first successful natural language chatbot, ELIZA, was created in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), in 1964. ELIZA was the first program that could simulate human conversations and is considered a precedent of modern AI chatbots, although its capabilities were nothing like those we see today. By the 1980s, businesses started to invest in expert AI systems that were programmed to cover narrow fields and contain information that only experts would possess. Such systems were used for medical diagnosis, financial management, credit authorizations, airline scheduling, and more. Nevertheless, the landmark moment for AI capability came in 1997, when IBM's Deep Blue program defeated the chess world champion Garry Kasparov. The progress during the 2000s was slow but it paved the way for new breakthroughs that led to an "AI revolution" during the 2010s, which eventually caused the rise of Generative use of AI, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Digital Governance emerged later than AI, in order to regulate technology and its impact on society. Its origins can be traced back to the first Data Protection Directive, adopted in 1995 by the European Union and represented the first major attempt at regulating the processing of personal data and the flow of information. The defining moment that established the EU's data protection laws as the global "gold standard"[11] came on April 27, 2016, when the European Parliament and Council decided upon adopting the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This framework became active in all member states on 25 May 2018 and imposes strict obligations regarding the processing and the protection of citizens' privacy.

AI Leadership Competition: United States of America and China

The need to dominate the global market in all its fronts has created a global race with the objective of leading progress in AI and ensuring first access to new developments. This strategy will, long-term, boost economic power, military advantage, and geopolitical influence. The country leading the AI race will secure economic advantages and geopolitical influence, thus winning a place among

[11] European Data Protection Supervisor. "The History of the General Data Protection Regulation." www.edps.europa.eu/data-protection/data-protection/legislation/history-general-data-protection-regulation_en. Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.

the world's superpowers. However, this competition creates tension in global politics and shapes alliances.

The leading countries in AI progress currently are The United States of America and China. However, these two countries have implemented different strategies and do not adhere to common standards, a fact that enhances the already present rivalry.

In the United States, government regulation is limited and AI research and development depends on the private sector and the investments made there. Private companies have focused on developing the AI language models that are widely used by the general public. The commercial use of AI technology created in the U.S.A. has ensured that the country retains a leading position in AI innovation. Although regulation is still developing, the U.S. government has invested in AI defense, military and cybersecurity systems, raising concerns about ethical uses of this emerging technology.

On the other hand, China follows a state-led model and relies on government initiatives to lead AI development. Artificial Intelligence has become a national priority, and China is aiming for global leadership. The government has made clear that their goal is to achieve "sovereign AI infrastructure"[12], meaning to own and regulate all systems by themselves, with no influence from other nations, and minimize dependency on foreign providers.

These two countries have differences in regulations and that creates gaps, as the evolution of AI is dependent largely on digital governance and the policies implemented. Since the leading powers in AI development follow different models, one focused on market-led initiatives and commercial use and the other on government-driven research, it divides countries, forcing them to either align with the U.S.A. or China. With no common ground, achieving international standards is impossible, thus allowing AI use to remain unrestricted and become an additional ground for conflict.

Security and Military Use

As technology develops, AI use in military operations has become standardized with states seeking to modernize their military to include systems that do not require human intervention. Since there are no clear, global policies and domestic policies differ, there is unregulated use and limited reports on the role of AI in conflicts. Although it is a known fact that military systems include artificial intelligence, the manner in which they operate is largely unknown. Furthermore, countries share limited information and transparency remains insufficient, since there is no obligation to adhere to any

[12] Podda, Laura. "China's Drive to Dominate the AI Race." *Atlas Institute for International Affairs*, 29 Apr. 2025, https://atlasinstitute.org/chinas-drive-to-dominate-the-ai-race/ Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.

standards, as they are practically nonexistent or not enforced. With limited knowledge, monitoring and ensuring proper use is difficult, thus threatening global security.

Additionally, Artificial Intelligence is applied to many fields in the military, including logistics, surveillance, intelligence analysis and data processing, battlefield awareness, mission planning and weaponry. However, the scale of its influence in each sector is unknown, which makes close regulations even more significant. The little knowledge that we have on military AI applications, which concerns Autonomous weapons systems (AWS), makes clear that unrestricted use threatens human rights and poses unlimited risks to civilian protection. Moreover, there are concerns regarding who can acquire advanced technologies used in military contexts, as the commercial AI models (e.g. ChatGPT, DeepSeek) can be modified into surveillance tools and developed into weapons that operate with no human intervention. This has proven to be a reality, as currently, there are already eight countries recorded of using AI models for such purposes including the United States of America, Israel, the Russian Federation, China, the United Kingdom, North Korea, South Korea and Ukraine.

Ethical Concerns

The rise of AI use and application have brought upon ethical concerns regarding safety and transparency when developing new technologies. First, a concern that has existed for some time but has become more prominent in the last few years is how data is handled and distributed. With machines that learn from experience and use public and personal data to evolve, digital privacy has gained more importance. The lack of transparency in some programs raises concerns about mass surveillance, and the potential use of AI, to collect data and monitor as well as analyze people's activities online.

Problems have also been spotted when AI is used in public services, for instance hiring employees. The technology of AI is based on machine learning, which has brought upon the question whether it can inherit biases and operate based on them. If it is modified based on the experience it gathers and the input it is given, it can become prejudiced and thus enhance discrimination in society. A study conducted by Washington University showed that, by 2025, 83% of employers are expected to use AI for initial resume screening. The same study reports that 90% of the time, humans tend to adopt biased recommendations from AI, proving that this technology can not only inherit, but also amplify bias. Many people are also concerned about AI making high stakes decisions, especially life or death, like in military context, because it lacks morality and human conscience. With no human involvement, there is a risk of error, as a human can recognize exceptions, but a machine may not. If it is programmed to take a certain action, there is no conscience that can stop it.

Artificial Intelligence is also adding to "Digital Inequality" and can be a factor of increasing economic and social inequalities globally[13]. It is an emerging technology that has the power to control the global market and create new geopolitical gaps, as it has become a key factor of economic growth and productivity. Countries that have the means to invest in AI infrastructure are expected to gain significant strategic and economic leverage over those that do not. Since its applications have expanded and include the military and security, AI can force entire nations with limited capabilities to become dependent on the providers. For example, as Less Economically Developed Countries often cannot afford the infrastructure needed to support AI and do not have the data required for such systems, it may cause them to rely on foreign providers and consequently exacerbating socioeconomic inequalities.

Table 1. Illustrative Uses of AI Tools by Public and Private Governors

Domain	Governor	Instrumental Power	Structural Power	Discursive Power
Violence	*Public*	Weapons systems	Mass surveillance	Legitimating violence
	Private	Cyber strikes	Spyware	Crime/terrorism perceptions
Markets	*Public*	Economic revenues	Weaponized interdependence	Neoliberal preferences
	Private	Investments	Monopoly rents	AI hype perceptions
Rights	*Public*	Law enforcement	Risk profiling	Rights consciousness
	Private	Worker quantification	Automation	Surveillance capitalism

This table highlights the applications of Artificial intelligence in each sector (Military, Economy, Human Rights), while also showcasing its correlation with the three powers: Instrumental, Structural, and Discursive (the power to influence someone in order to achieve something, the power to shape the structure of the society and economy and the power to control people's perceptions and narratives). Results are common in both the public and the private sector.[14]

[13] "Digital Dividends." *United Nations Development Programme | UNDP*, 6 May 2025, Digital dividends by United Nations Development Programme - United Nations Development Programme | UNDP - Exposure. Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.

[14] Srivastava and Bullock Political Science, Purdue University, Bush School of Government & Public Service, Texas A&M University, Convergence Analysis, Global Governance Institute. "AI, Global Governance, and Digital Sovereignty." *ArXiv.org E-Print Archive*, 24 Oct. 2024, 2410.17481. Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

China

China prioritizes state-led initiatives and imposes strict government control and surveillance on AI research. AI is positioned as a national priority and the government's aim is "sovereign AI infrastructure"[15], which will grant independence from foreign providers, as they will own and manage all systems by themselves. In addition to that, China focuses on military use, by allocating around 1.6 billion U.S. dollars per year to the development of autonomous weapons and surveillance technology, as estimated by researchers analyzing Chinese military contracts[16]. The development of AI follows little to no global standards and lacks transparency and cooperation with other nations. Since development takes place in state institutions, there is no international oversight, and thus progress made is concealed as a matter of sovereignty. Any efforts of establishing global standards are conducted with the aim to shape rules in order to protect national interests, rather than fostering international collaboration.

Israel

Israel demonstrates close collaboration between private sector innovations and the government, specifically the military. Due to its high usage of AI in defense and surveillance systems it has sparked controversy about ethical use. The cooperation of private companies with the state has created a highly advanced military with systems that increase targeting efficiency and enhance identification and tracking processes. The Israeli military has been reported of using commercial AI products of American companies to make the process of identifying targets more accurate and effective[17]. Specifically, Google and Amazon supply cloud computing and AI services to the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) under "Project Nimbus", a 1.2 billion U.S. dollars contract signed in 2021.[18]

United States of America (USA)

The USA promotes AI development in the private sector and encourages innovation and market-driven approaches. In 2024, the country's investment in private AI development reached 109.1 billion

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[15] Podda, Laura. "China's Drive to Dominate the AI Race." *Atlas Institute for International Affairs*, 29 Apr. 2025, https://atlasinstitute.org/chinas-drive-to-dominate-the-ai-race/ Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.

[16] National DEFENSE. 1 June 2022, www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2022/1/6/china-matching-pentagon-spending-on-ai. Accessed 18 Jan. 2026.

[17] SAM MEDNICK, GARANCE BURKE and MICHAEL BIESECKER. "How US Tech Giants Supplied Israel with AI Models, Raising Questions About Tech's Role in Warfare." *AP News*, 28 Feb. 2025, apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-ai-weapons-430f6f15aab420806163558732726ad9. Accessed 18 Jan. 2026.

[18] SAM MEDNICK, GARANCE BURKE and MICHAEL BIESECKER. "How US Tech Giants Supplied Israel with AI Models, Raising Questions About Tech's Role in Warfare." *AP News*, 28 Feb. 2025, apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-ai-weapons-430f6f15aab420806163558732726ad9. Accessed 18 Jan. 2026.

U.S. dollars, which is more than half of the global AI investment. Statistics from 2025 also prove that it leads funding, as, by the end of the year, the U.S. accounted for 85% of global AI funding[19]. Most commercial AI models are developed with limited regulation from the government. Furthermore, the county leads research and development of AI technologies and combines the private sector with government investments, specifically regarding defense and military systems. As a result, it maintains technological leadership and ensures access to advanced autonomous systems.

European Union (EU)

Historically, the European Union has been the one setting restrictions and imposing strict regulations that often become global. In May 2024, the Council of the European Union passed the Artificial Intelligence Act, establishing a common framework for EU countries. This Act aims at ensuring safe use that does not infringe on the rights of citizens and also setting international standards for AI regulation. It also promotes ethical innovation and investment in such technologies, balancing the protection of citizens with technological development[20]. The EU highlights concerns regarding ethical use and calls for transparency between states. In addition to that, it emphasizes data protection and through the GDPR framework it has restricted access to citizens' data and imposed strict control over how they are processed. The EU has limited military power, and consequently AI is used in this sector primarily in defense and with caution and strong focus on ethical concerns.

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

The Human Rights Watch is an NGO that focuses on the protection of human rights in all fields. Therefore, it advocates for stronger regulations in AI technology and restrictions in data processing. Additionally, it has repeatedly issued warnings against the dangers of AI use in weaponry and the risks of error in Automated Weapon Systems (AWS). As AI lacks human conscience, its extensive use in weapons threatens civilians and poses great risks to global safety. The HRW calls for states to "Begin negotiations as soon as possible on an international treaty to prohibit and regulate Autonomous

[19] AI Funding Tracker. "Q2 2025 AI Funding Report: $50B+ Scale AI $14.3B Record." *AI Funding Tracker*, 18 Sept. 2025, aifundingtracker.com/q2-2025-ai-funding-report/ . Accessed 19 Jan. 2026.
[20] European Council Council of the European Union. "Browser Check." *Browser Check - Consilium*, 21 May 2024, www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/05/21/artificial-intelligence-ai-act-council-gives-final-green-light-to-the-first-worldwide-rules-on-ai/. Accessed 19 Jan. 2026.

Weapons Systems."[21] and "Use human rights law and principles to bolster the case for a new treaty and make sure that the treaty addresses the range of threats to human rights." [22]

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO is a military organization and as such it sets standards for AI use in the military. It promotes ethical guidelines and transparency between member states to ensure a common strategy while its use of AI lies primarily in defense and security. NATO follows its Artificial Intelligence Strategy[23], adopted in 2021, which contains six principles of responsible AI use: lawfulness, responsibility and accountability, explainability and traceability, reliability, governability, bias mitigation. Through these principles NATO aligns itself with international humanitarian law and uses AI as ethically as possible, by retaining human responsibility on the use of force and weapons.

Blocs Expected

Multistakeholder Digital Governance Alliance

Countries that support transparent use of AI and open Digital Governance that adheres to global standards and human rights. They oppose state-led technological governance and favour multistakeholder approaches, usually a combination of public and private sectors. Typical members of this alliance would be the United States of America, the United Kingdom, European Union countries, Japan, etc.

Digital Sovereignty Alliance

Countries that support government led advancements and value state sovereignty and stability. They support minimal global regulations as they prioritize state security and control. This alliance is expected to be consisted of countries like the Russian Federation, China, Belarus, etc.

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[21] Human Rights Watch. "A Hazard to Human Rights." *Human Rights Watch*, 28 Apr. 2025, www.hrw.org/report/2025/04/28/hazard-human-rights/autonomous-weapons-systems-and-digital-decision-making . Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.

[22] Human Rights Watch. "A Hazard to Human Rights." *Human Rights Watch*, 28 Apr. 2025, www.hrw.org/report/2025/04/28/hazard-human-rights/autonomous-weapons-systems-and-digital-decision-making . Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.

[23] "Summary of the NATO Artificial Intelligence Strategy." *North Atlantic Treaty Organization | NATO*, 22 Oct. 2021, www.nato.int/en/about-us/official-texts-and-resources/official-texts/2021/10/22/summary-of-the-nato-artificial-intelligence-strategy. Accessed 29 Dec. 2025

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
London, 1947-1948	Alan Turing first refers to “computer intelligence” in a public lecture and mentions “Intelligent Machinery” in an unpublished report
1951-1952	Christopher Stracey and Arthur Samuel develop checkers programs separately, introducing machine learning from past experience
1956	Dartmouth Conference organized by John McCarthy where AI is officially founded as a research field
1958	John McCarthy invents the first programming language specifically for AI research
1962	Samuel’s checkers program defeats former champion
1980s	Businesses invest in expert AI systems
1995	EU Data Protection Directive adopted, a first attempt at digital regulation
2010s	AI breakthroughs lead to “AI revolution”
2016-2018	General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) adopted by the European Union on 27 April 2016, effective in all member states by 25 May 2018
2022	Post Covid-19 pandemic surge in commercial use of AI

Relevant UN Resolutions, Treaties & Events

Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence by UNESCO[24]

UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence was adopted by its General Conference, held in Paris, on the 23rd of November 2021. It is widely regarded as the first global instrument on AI ethical use, as it contains principles, values, and policy recommendations for all AI actors, meaning States and the private sector. With this framework, human rights and transparency are placed in the center of regulations. Cross-border cooperation is encouraged in order to establish common standards that are based in ethics and accountability.

[24] UNESCO (2022). *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*. [online] Unesco.org. Available at: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137

Governing AI for humanity: final report / Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence[25]

The Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence includes global experts who collaborated and produced the "Governing AI for Humanity" report in September 2024. This comprehensive report clearly states the need for global governance of AI, and not fragmented leadership. It emphasizes the inability of the current system to properly govern and proposes internationally coordinated action. This model, as stated in the report, is not only inclusive, but also adaptive to global challenges and demands. Lastly, it highlights the geopolitical imbalances in AI technology and pushes for transnational collaboration to ensure equitable access and benefit.

Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence[26]

The Recommendation of the OECD Council on Artificial Intelligence was adopted on the 22nd of May 2019 and promoted human centered AI use. Its amendment on the 3rd of May 2023 ensured its relevance as technology progresses and the need for regulations is amplified. The Recommendation includes transparency, innovation, fairness and international cooperation, which made it one of the first global standards for AI governance. It has stayed relevant throughout the years, as it is treated as a baseline for developing regulations and policies.

Summary of the AI Act[27]

The EU Artificial Intelligence Act was adopted by the European Parliament and the European Council under European Union law on the 27th of February 2024. It entered into force on the 1st of August 2024 and was recently updated on the 30th of May 2025. It is a binding framework that establishes regulations and rules for EU AI systems. It contains the categorization of AI by risk (unacceptable, high, limited, low) and places rules accordingly. The obligations include mandatory transparency, human oversight, assessments and governance outlined by the EU AI Office. It is the first comprehensive strict framework regulating AI development and use, as it does not offer recommendations or principles, but imposes legal obligations. It is largely viewed as a precedent for

[25] Advisory, UN. (2024). *Governing AI for humanity :: final report /: Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence*. [online] *United Nations Digital Library System*. UN,. Available at: https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4062495?v=pdf
[26] OECD (2019). *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*. [online] Oecd.org. Available at: https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449
[27] EU AI Act (2024). *High-level Summary of the AI Act*. [online] EU Artificial Intelligence Act. Available at: https://artificialintelligenceact.eu/high-level-summary/

global frameworks, as it has impacted non-EU countries' laws, due to the need to comply with EU standards in order to export there.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Global Partnership on AI

The Global Partnership on AI is an international initiative that launched in 2020 with multiple collaborators and aims for responsible and ethical innovation and use of AI. It consists of 44 member countries that collaborate with the private sector, experts and civil society to secure trustworthy and human-friendly AI. It emphasizes the importance of developing technology that respects human rights and democratic values; therefore, it focuses on research and developing frameworks that promote ethical use of AI.

While it is still operating and holds significant influence, it has failed at enforcing the decisions made and putting its solutions into practice. As it lacks enforcement mechanisms, it has been unable to truly regulate AI use in areas that matter the most, such as the military and the manufacturing of autonomous weapons.

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons has established, since 2016, the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE on LAWS). With this action they recognized the urgency of dealing with the problem of weapons that require no human intervention and thus, operate with no morality. In 2019, the Convention decided on 11 guiding principles, including "the full applicability of international humanitarian law to these systems and the need to retain human responsibility for decisions on the use of these systems and human accountability across their entire life cycle."[28] Nevertheless, any real progress towards legal accountability has been prevented due to disagreements among the major military powers.

Human Rights Watch and Hellenic Informatics Union

Both the Human Rights Watch and the Hellenic Informatics Union have publicly called, through open letters, articles and campaigns, for the strict regulation and even prohibition of automated weapons due to ethical concerns. They have highlighted the need for human responsibility and

[28] Kmentt, Alexander. "Geopolitics and the Regulation of Autonomous Weapons Systems." *Arms Control Association | The Authoritative Source on Arms Control Since 1971*, Feb. 2025, www.armscontrol.org/act/2025-01/features/geopolitics-and-regulation-autonomous-weapons-systems. Accessed 5 Dec. 2025.

conscience behind weapons, especially in situations involving the use of lethal force. With automated weapons, there is always the risk of error in the algorithm, human rights violations and the problem of accountability. With no human operator, it is unclear where responsibility falls. Despite the repeated calls for action, no legal and binding treaty has been signed, and all efforts have been left in theory or taken as suggestions and ethical guidelines.

Possible Solutions

International Framework on Digital Governance

Currently, an international framework that sets standards on AI use and Digital Governance does not exist. The establishment of a legally binding document would create global standards that will constitute common ground for the development and use of emerging technologies. These will include global regulations and transparency requirements for governments and the private sector, thus upholding peace and safeguarding human rights. In order to ensure implementation of this framework, Member States could incorporate it in their national policies and regulations. This process would be coordinated and monitored by a UN body, either the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The framework will foster collaboration between all stakeholders and reduce unethical use of AI in order to lead the global race, as standards will be common. Compliance would be promoted, as there would be regular reporting between Member States and monitoring by the corresponding UN body. Additionally, accountability mechanisms and transparency also encourage adherence to the framework's terms.

Regional Agreements/ Treaties

Similar to EU frameworks, regional blocs should be encouraged, as they would enable states in close geographic proximity to create regulations and common standards that are based on shared political values and traditions. They can create effective common ground for AI regulation and Digital Governance standards and would hold more influence than a single state. Regional blocs could facilitate cross-border data governance, thus strengthening cooperation between technological markets and contributing to the economic growth of the countries partaking in them. In addition, they can constitute achievable pathways toward wider regulations, as they would already be accepted by a number of states. They can serve as testing grounds for global frameworks that could later be modeled after them with minimal implementation risks.

United Nations Development Programme Fund for Digital Equality in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs)

When addressing the influence of AI and Digital Governance we should also focus on supporting LEDC's and preventing Digital Inequality. AI has reshaped global economies and, as it is a core part of global markets, it is imperative to ensure that LEDCs have the means to cope with the new developments and advancements. The creation of a United Nations Development Programme Fund for Digital Equality, which would be established through a United Nations General Assembly resolution, will provide them with the necessary infrastructure, education, and other resources to reduce dependency on foreign providers and be able to respond to the economic competitiveness fostered by the new technological innovations. To ensure the effective allocation of the financial aid, the UNDP could require that the recipient countries submit regular reports on the progress made. Member States will then be able to evaluate the use of resources and compliance with the standards set.

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