



United Nations
Office for Digital and
Emerging Technologies

Regional Workshop on Responsible AI Governance in the Arab States

Panel 1 – Global Trends in AI Governance

16 September 2026,
10:00-12:00, Bahrain.

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1. Global Trends in AI Governance

An introduction

AI Governance - an enabler for AI to serve humanity

Can governance evolve fast and coherently enough, to ensure that AI serves humanity rather than deepens inequalities and risks?

- As AI capabilities accelerate, the world needs governance that is inclusive, rooted in human rights, informed by science, and capable of bridging national and regional approaches.
- The challenge is no longer to start conversations about AI governance, but to connect existing efforts.





2. The Global Dialogue on AI Governance & the Independent Scientific Panel on AI:

Two key UN mechanisms to shape global AI governance

Global Digital Compact

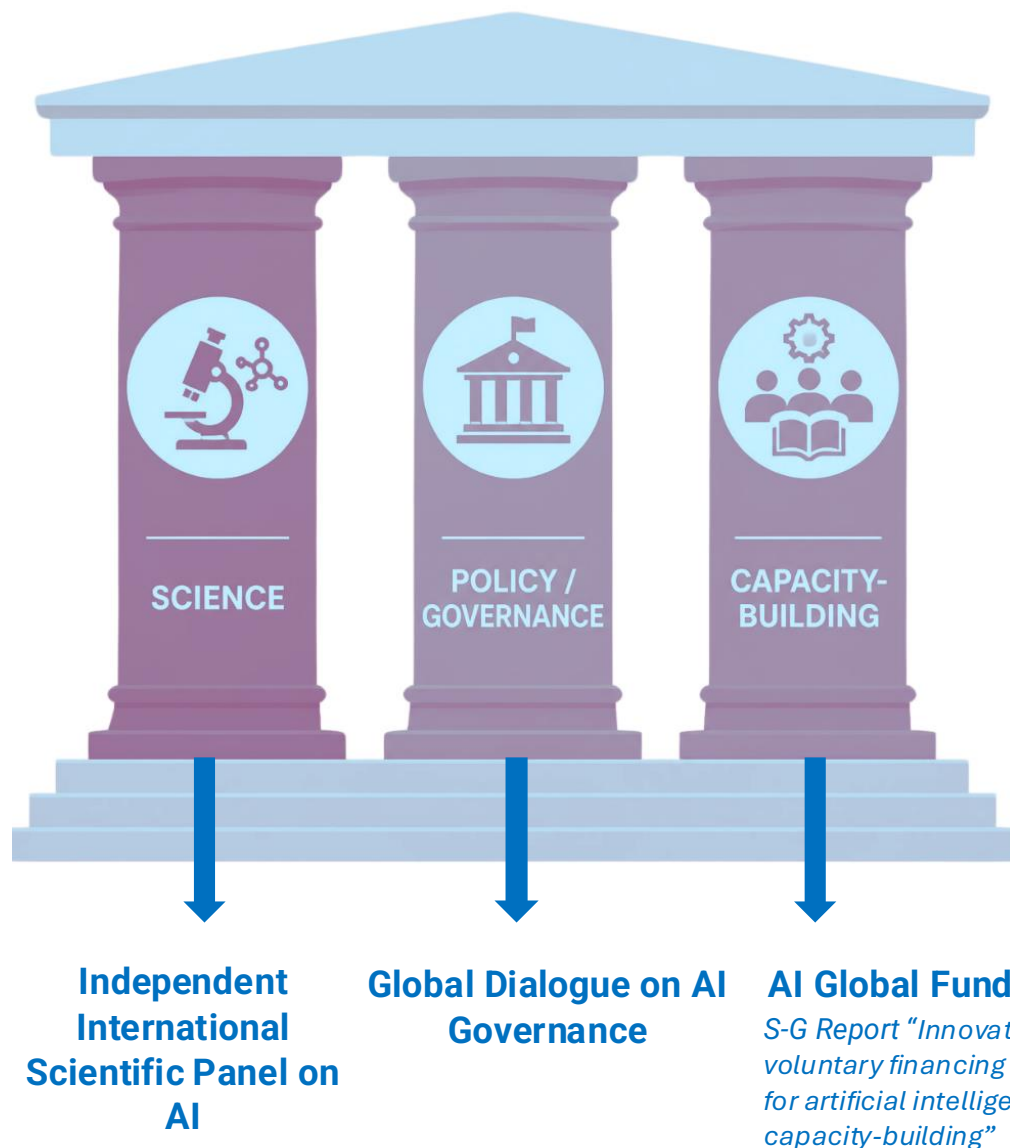
Consensus on the need for a coordinated international approach to digital and emerging technologies.

In September 2024, world leaders convened in NYC to adopt the **Pact for the Future** that includes a **Global Digital Compact**.

- **A global framework** for digital cooperation and AI governance
- **Charts a roadmap** to foster an inclusive, open, sustainable, fair, safe and secure digital future for all.
- **Establishes an Independent International Scientific Panel on AI** and the **Global Dialogue on AI Governance** to guide implementation
- **High-level review in 2027**

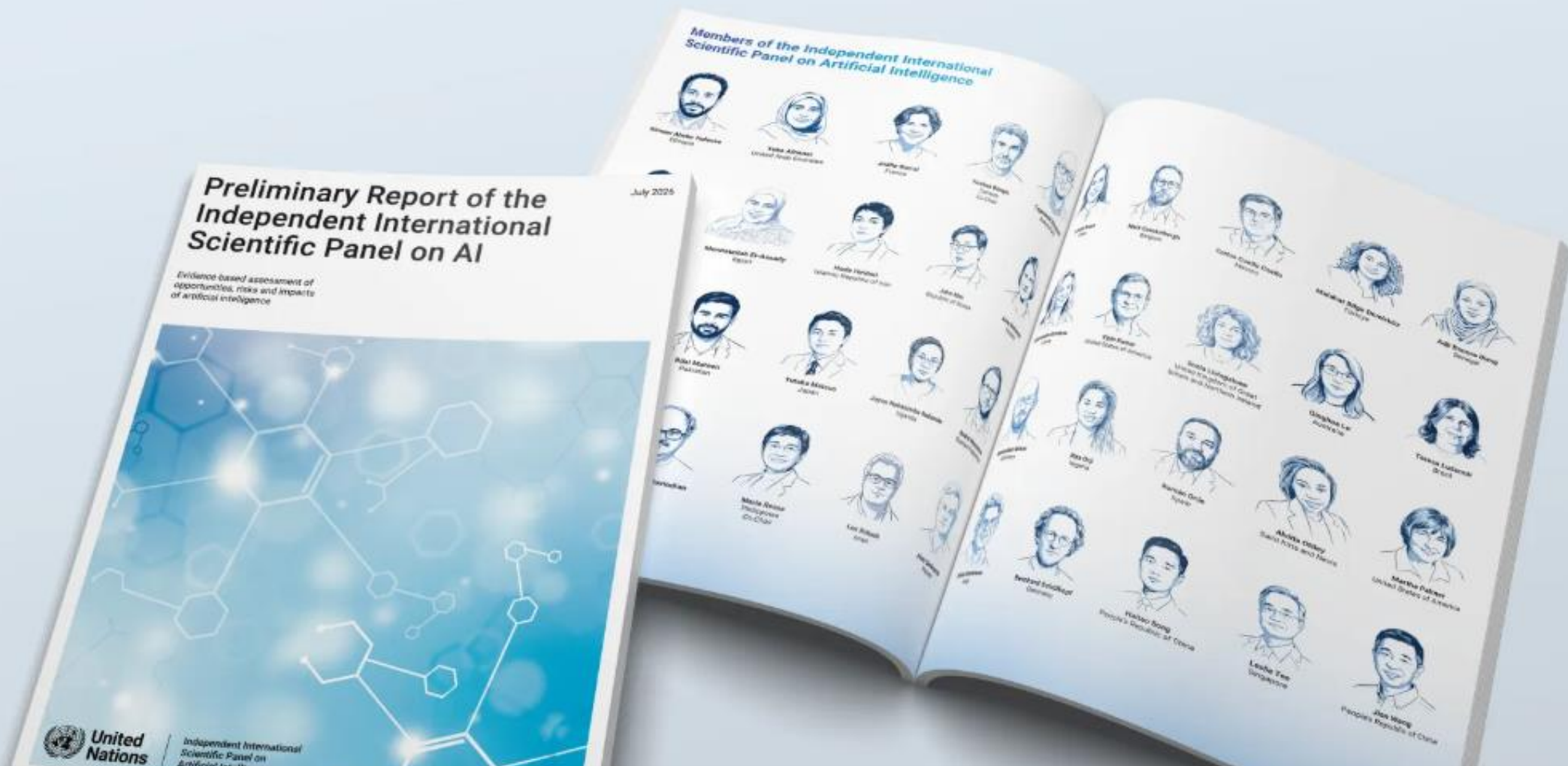


Three pillars for cooperation on AI



UNGA adopted resolution 79/325 by consensus, establishing the **Scientific Panel** and the **Global Dialogue**

Scientific Evidence to Inform Policies



Effective AI governance must be informed by **independent scientific evidence** and a shared understanding of AI's opportunities, risks and impacts.

Two members from the Arab region: Ms. Tuka Alhanai (UAE) and Prof. Mennatallah El-Assady (Egypt).

A Universal Platform to Advance AI Governance



UNIVERSAL

Hosted by the United Nations. 193 Member States can sit at the same table



MULTISTAKEHOLDER

Connects governments with the private sector, civil society, academia and the tech community



BUILDING COMMON GROUND

A “Dialogue of Dialogues”, it links national, regional and international perspectives to facilitate greater understanding and coherence across a fragmented governance landscape



United Nations



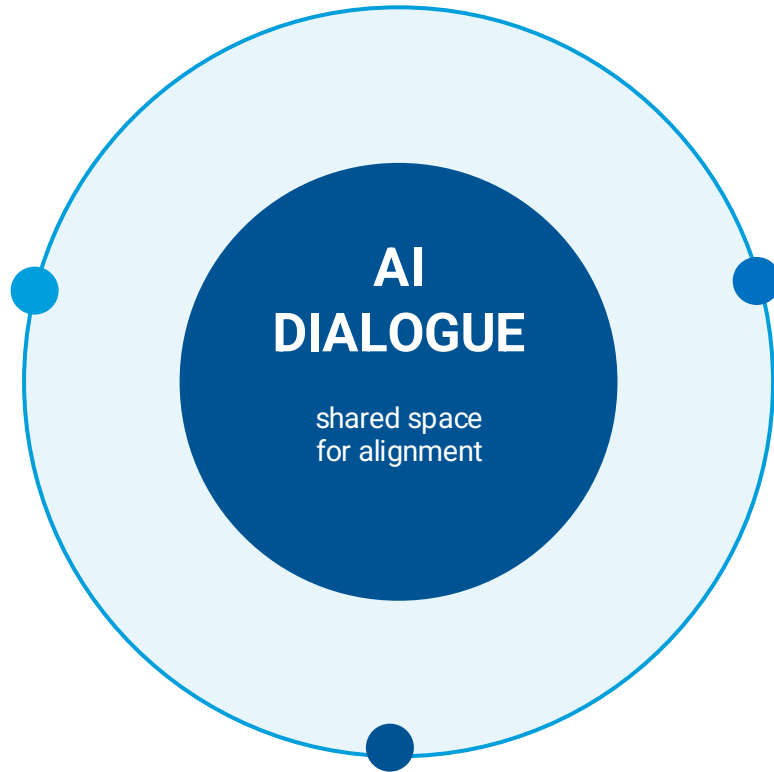
Global Dialogue
on AI Governance

A “Dialogue of Dialogues” for a fragmented AI governance landscape

A shared space across processes, frameworks and initiatives to address fragmentation and level the playing field

UN PROCESSES

ITU - AI for Good,
WSIS
UNESCO AI ethics
UNDP
Internet Gov Forum
+ other UN entities



MULTILATERAL FORAS

G7 · G20 · OECD

THE DIALOGUE'S ROLE:

01 CONNECT
efforts across institutions

02 BUILD
understanding & common ground
across approaches - including at
regional level

03 ADVANCE
interoperability in practice

REGIONAL & NATIONAL ACTION

Regional bodies · Member States
LAS, EU, Council of Europe, ASEAN etc.

AI Dialogue = Designed to complement existing mechanisms – not compete with them.



3. The Global Dialogue on AI Governance & the Independent Scientific Panel on AI:

Emerging trends, priorities and key messages

The inaugural Dialogue established a **global platform** for AI governance

3,062

PARTICIPANTS

163

COUNTRIES

6

HEADS OF STATE
OR GOVERNMENT

60+

MINISTERS

Arab States: President of Libya, Ministers from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE.



Borad consultations & 4 thematic clusters shaped the inaugural AI Dialogue

1st Global Dialogue on AI Governance · 6–7 July 2026 · Geneva

01

AI opportunities & implications

Social, economic, cultural, linguistic and technical dimensions

02

Bridging AI divides

Capacity, infrastructure and financing gaps between countries

03

Safe, secure & trustworthy AI

Risk management and interoperability

04

Human rights in AI systems

Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights

AN INCLUSIVE PROCESS:

1,500

Written contributions

5

Multi-stakeholder consultations

100+

Non-official meetings and pre-events hosted by diverse stakeholders

350

Commitments & initiatives showcased through the Partnerships Hub

AI Scientific Panel: Preliminary Report 3 main warnings

Members of the Panel formulated **3 warnings**:

- **Speed:** AI capabilities are advancing faster than scientific understanding, safeguards and governance.
- **Power concentration:** The compute, data and talent driving AI remain concentrated in a handful of companies and countries.
- **Truth:** AI is blurring the line between authentic and synthetic content, eroding the integrity of information and the foundations of societal trust.



Key messages from the UNSG in Geneva:

➤ BUILD SAFETY, TRUST AND GUARDRAILS

Rapid AI advances demand **safety, human oversight and accountability**. Governance must keep pace, grounded in common baselines and methods. *The UNSG called for an AI Child Safety Pledge.*

➤ PRESERVE HUMAN DIGNITY, Set red lines against discrimination and human-rights violations. Machines may inform; humans must decide.

➤ BRIDGE THE AI DIVIDE

Invest in **developing countries' capacity, infrastructure and skills** so all can benefit from AI and help shape its governance. *The UNSG called for support to the new Global Network of AI Centers.*



AI Dialogue Output: Co-Chairs Summary

The first Dialogue revealed four areas of emerging convergence:

- **Harness AI for sustainable development**—balance opportunity and risk. Build capacity, not access alone.
- **Close gaps in infrastructure**, compute, data, skills and institutions through investment, cooperation and knowledge-sharing.
- **Protect human rights throughout the AI life cycle**, especially children's rights.
- **Strengthen international cooperation, interoperability and multistakeholder engagement**. No actor can govern AI alone. The UN offers a universal convening platform.

The Co-Chairs' Summary captures main priorities discussed — not a negotiated outcome.





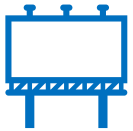
4. Next Steps

Next Steps for the Global Dialogue on AI Governance

Next steps:



- New Co-Chairs to be appointed by the President of the GA to lead preparations for the 2nd edition of the Global Dialogue



- Multi-stakeholder consultations will take place



- Challenge: how to ensure meaningful participation? How to go from principles to action?

2nd Global Dialogue on AI Governance:

3-4 May 2027, NYC, UN Headquarters.



Merci – Shukran – Thank you



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**Global Dialogue
on AI Governance**