

## MAP-AI: Oral Input into the Informal Stakeholder Consultation on the Global Dialogue on AI Governance March 18, 2026<sup>1</sup>

The [Multistakeholder Approaches to Participation in AI Governance](#) (MAP-AI) initiative was launched by the [Global Network Initiative](#) (GNI) and the [Centre for Communication Governance](#) at the National Law University Delhi (CCG), to [enhance multistakeholder engagement](#) and civil society impact at the India AI Impact Summit, hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi in February 2026. The broader objective of MAP-AI is to foster meaningful and effective multistakeholder engagement across a range of critical AI governance-focused convenings, processes, and initiatives, with a particular focus on elevating underrepresented voices and perspectives, particularly from the Global Majority.

Across [two full](#) days of programming and a [series of global pre-events](#), MAP-AI created a platform for participants to exchange ideas on the evolving landscape of AI governance, including safety frameworks, infrastructure gaps, testing capacity, and the role of multistakeholder collaboration in shaping global norms. These engagements were designed to elevate perspectives from the Global Majority and foster dialogue on how AI governance frameworks can better integrate human rights, safety, accountability, and equitable participation.

We thank the Co-Chairs for this opportunity to provide input into the UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance.

**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?**

Informed by the International Scientific Panel on AI, the UN Global Dialogue is uniquely positioned to convene regional and sectoral stakeholders on an equal footing. To maximize its strategic value, the Dialogue should prioritize:

- **Human rights:** The resolution establishing the Global Dialogue on AI Governance clearly identifies “Respect for and protection and promotion of human rights in the field of artificial intelligence” as a priority, which will provide it with broad legitimacy and allow it to focus on key elements missing in many of the other ongoing AI processes and summits.
- **Meaningful multistakeholder engagement:** Compared with other global forums on AI governance, the UN Global Dialogue is well-positioned to operationalise such engagement from around the world. As many global forums are primarily multilateral, establishing the

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been drafted by Elonnai Hickock, Jhalak Kakkar, Shashank Mohan, Jason Pielemeier

Dialogue as a multistakeholder convening will help move beyond symbolic participation, especially for stakeholders from the Global Majority.

- **Strategic Alignment with the SDGs:** Identify and formalise concrete commitments to leverage AI as a primary catalyst for achieving the SDGs.
- **Interoperability of Governance Processes:** Foster synergy with existing regional and international frameworks where shared goals overlap. This can include advancing outcomes from the series of AI Summits, the OECD, and the Hiroshima AI process, and supporting the Global Digital Compact and WSIS+20 commitments, specifically in the areas of international partnerships, access to resources, and large-scale training initiatives. Attention also needs to be given to coordinating the work of the Independent Scientific Panel and Global Dialogue with the (IG) (multistakeholder Internet Governance Forum) and the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), given the deep linkage between AI and data governance.
- **Coordinate and collaborate with key UN entities:** The Global Dialogue is an opportunity to strengthen coordination, collaboration, and harmonization of AI governance across the UN system, particularly with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- **Capacity building:** Identify and support practical capacity-building efforts, and develop norms that enable the development of national/local AI ecosystems.
- **Accessibility and Openness:** Prioritize ensuring accessibility and openness for all stakeholder groups and across regions by creating an open, inclusive, and transparent process that accounts for existing power asymmetries. Traditionally, civil society and academic groups, especially from the Global Majority, have limited financial and other resources, which need to be accounted for in the design of the Global Dialogue.
- **Integrating perspectives from the Global Majority:** Often, AI governance processes are dominated by countries and voices from the Global North. The Global Dialogue can play a key role not only in highlighting less-represented perspectives but also in integrating them into the outcomes of this process.
- **Driving accountability:** Currently, the Dialogue is structured as a space for discourse and for the adoption of voluntary, non-binding commitments by member states. The Global Dialogue presents a unique opportunity to lay the foundation and establish the architecture for the multistakeholder development of more concrete commitments by member states and the private sector around a human rights- and democratically aligned approach to AI, as well as mechanisms to track and hold various actors accountable to these commitments.

**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?**

To be effective, the Global Dialogue must be anchored in **human rights** and **democratic values**, prioritizing the perspectives and priorities of underrepresented stakeholders, particularly those from the Global Majority.

CCG and GNI have begun laying the groundwork for identifying these priorities. In February 2026, alongside the India AI Impact Summit, CCG and GNI hosted a multistakeholder [program](#) that centered on three strategic pillars:

- **Global AI governance:** Addressing human rights, accountability, global cooperation, and building interoperability across governance approaches and geopolitics.
- **Safe and trusted AI:** Exploring global leadership in AI safety, the nuances of trust & safety in agentic AI, and security, privacy protections, and transparency.
- **Context-driven AI infrastructure:** Focusing on diverse methods for digital public infrastructure, openness, multilingual AI, community participation, and local AI ecosystem and capacity development.

These themes capture key areas that reflect the most urgent priorities in AI governance and could serve as useful input for the thematic clusters envisioned within the Global Dialogue on AI. Throughout our sessions, Global Majority Leadership was a cross-cutting theme, mirroring the India AI Impact Summit's focus on democratization, inclusivity, and access. Other key themes will include equitable access to natural resources and the protection of women and children. The Global Dialogue on AI must **establish** a clear thematic focus that addresses the needs of the Global Majority. GNI and CCG also developed a comprehensive [Insights Document](#). This resource synthesises multistakeholder perspectives on key themes of the India AI Impact Summit: Safe and Trusted AI, Democratising AI Resources, AI for Economic Growth and Social Good, Human Capital, and Inclusion for Social Empowerment.

### **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?**

In February, GNI and CCG developed a [Reflections and Recommendations](#) document outlining steps to ensure that AI governance conversations and processes include diverse perspectives, particularly from the Global Majority, are grounded in real-world contexts and impacts, and result in legitimate outcomes. These recommendations can apply to the Global Dialogue and the Scientific Panel. Our key recommendations include:

- **Meaningful participation:** Prioritize ongoing, meaningful dialogue through open consultations, clear process roadmaps, fair opportunities for participation across stakeholder groups, and clear mechanisms to engage in decision-making on the agenda, process, and outputs/outcomes.
  - Draw on lessons from the rich history of multistakeholder Internet governance and efforts to address social media impacts. Eg, Internet Governance Forum (IGF), including the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and Leadership Panel, as well as its intersessional processes (Dynamic Coalitions, Best Practice Forums, Policy Networks, and the national, regional, and youth IGF initiatives); and the NETmundial process and São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines.



- Ensure transparent modalities and processes, including a process roadmap, a calendar of consultations, a public repository of written submissions from various stakeholders, summaries explaining how stakeholder input informed final decisions and outcomes, and other opportunities for participation.
- Enable multistakeholder input and contribution to decision-making in agenda and outcome development, such as through working groups, steering committees, or expert advisory groups.
- Creation of shared spaces and “mingled tracks” that bring together governments, companies, and civil society in deliberative spaces. True multistakeholder outcomes require an exchange of perspectives that transcends panel discussions, enabling genuine, integrated input from government, industry, civil society, and academia.
- **Enabling Inclusivity:**
  - Be deliberately inclusive by ensuring the process and agenda are centered on and amplify the priorities and perspectives of civil society and academic stakeholders who have been underrepresented in key conversations about AI, including those from the Global Majority.
  - Create a variety of avenues for participation and input, including written submissions, online/hybrid/in-person meetings, and regional and global consultations. For example, there is also an opportunity to launch an inclusive mechanism, such as a Global Majority Track on AI, within the Dialogue, anchored by the UN to coordinate initiatives and surface challenges.
  - To be inclusive of diverse perspectives and acknowledge financial constraints, leverage existing convenings to conduct consultations, particularly those taking place in the Global Majority.
  - Support in-person participation by civil society and academic stakeholders, particularly from the Global Majority, including travel expenses and visa processing, as the Dialogue moves to New York.
- **Institutional Architecture and Coordination Mechanisms:**
  - Articulate coordination frameworks with the UN and other AI governance processes such as the WSIS Forum, CSTD, IGF, AI for Good Summit, and country-led AI Summits.
  - Create an institutional architecture that enables accountability for the adoption and implementation of commitments among stakeholder groups, including government and industry.

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

Each actor brings a unique perspective to the Dialogue. Space must be created for all to engage meaningfully and actively shape the agenda, process, and outcomes.

- **Civil Society and Academia:** Civil society and academia are well placed to surface a bottom-up agenda for global AI governance, drawing on local needs and perspectives, particularly from the Global Majority. Additionally, they will help keep the process grounded in established principles and UN human rights approaches.
- **Technical Community:** Provides the essential foundation and understanding of technical feasibility. Their expertise can ensure that emerging norms align with AI standards, supporting global interoperability.
- **Private Sector:** Beyond upholding emerging norms, the private sector can use the Dialogue to synchronise efforts on high-impact goals, such as leveraging AI to achieve the SDGs.
- **International Bodies:** Serve as the connective tissue for global governance. By aligning their existing efforts, principles, and norms with the Dialogue and the Scientific Panel, these bodies can enable a unified, non-redundant approach to AI governance.

**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 Dialogue and the Scientific Panel are uniquely positioned to anchor AI governance in human rights and democratic values while championing a Global Majority agenda. To translate these values into action, the Dialogue should focus on:

- **Articulate:** Facilitate a bottom-up articulation of AI priorities and risks. This can be achieved through the Scientific Panel, dedicated sessions at the Dialogue, and the Co-Chairs summary report, providing a grounded contribution to the global discourse on AI. The work of the Co-Chairs can be supported by establishing structures such as multistakeholder working groups on key themes. These working groups can be tasked with working through 2026 and part of 2027 to produce analytical documents and inputs that inform the Co-Chairs' outputs. Lessons can be learned from the International Multistakeholder Sounding Board established in the WSIS+20 process. Topics can include identifying governance gaps, working with indigenous communities to protect knowledge from AI-driven extraction, data governance frameworks grounded in data justice, a taxonomy of harms arising from anthropomorphising AI bots, and international public financing for AI capabilities.
- **Commit:** Facilitate core commitments related to AI, such as a moratorium on AI use that violates international human rights frameworks.
- **Coordinate:** To close the global coordination gap, the Dialogue can align regional capacity-building efforts, governance frameworks, and corporate initiatives. This synchronization can help support international interoperability.
- **Share:** Establish infrastructure for equitable knowledge exchange. By sharing best practices, lessons learned, and national priorities, the Dialogue can help ensure that progress in one region informs and strengthens the global community. For example, between the Global Dialogue in Geneva in 2026 and New York in 2027, a useful mechanism for cross-learning

among experts and the sharing of best practices across key thematic groups could be the creation of thematic Expert Engagement Groups.