Reflection on Global AI Ethics and Governance: Perspectives and Recommendations

Since late 2022, generative artificial intelligence (AI) has experienced rapid growth and wide adoption. While AI is not a new concept, its current influence has reached every field of work and everyday life. This development is especially significant in Computer Science, where the technology first began. However, the pace and scale of change now require a more structured and ethical approach to its development and use. As Correa et al. (2023) argue, there is an urgent need to create better tools and frameworks to guide global AI governance and identify shared values across different countries and cultures. At the same time, Deckard (2023) reminds us that ethical questions in AI cannot be separated from deeper moral and philosophical concerns about what we consider right or wrong.

After reading both sources, it is clear to me that global AI ethics must move beyond abstract principles and become more practical, inclusive and legally enforceable. Without this shift, the risk is that AI technologies will continue to evolve faster than our ability to manage them responsibly (Jobin et al., 2019). In this reflection, I will outline key points from the literature and recommend actions that consider the legal, social and professional implications of AI ethics.

Correa et al. (2023) conducted a large meta-analysis of 200 AI ethics guidelines from around the world. These documents came from governments, companies, non-governmental organisations and academic institutions. Their findings showed that although many guidelines share common principles, such as transparency, fairness,

accountability and privacy, there is little agreement on how to define or implement these values. Some documents give only short or vague explanations of ethical terms. Others fail to describe how the proposed principles can be put into practice. Most importantly, only a small number of documents suggest legally binding regulations. The majority are voluntary or recommend self-regulation by companies (Correa et al., 2023).

Another problem is the lack of global representation. Most documents in the study came from Europe and North America. Countries from South America, Africa and parts of Asia were underrepresented. This imbalance affects the fairness of global discussions on AI governance (Correa et al., 2023). It also suggests that current guidelines may reflect the priorities of a few regions rather than the needs of the wider global population (Jobin et al., 2019).

Deckard (2023) focuses more on the philosophical side of AI ethics, asking whether machines can behave ethically and who should be responsible for their actions. He argues that ethics cannot simply be programmed into machines using fixed rules. Instead, ethics should be seen as a human responsibility, requiring constant reflection and adaptation. This view highlights the importance of keeping human values at the centre of AI development (Deckard, 2023).

In my view, three main actions are needed to improve global AI ethics. These are based on the research reviewed and my own perspective as an Artificial Intelligence student preparing to enter the professional field.

First, I believe that governments must turnkey ethical principles into international laws. Voluntary guidelines are not enough to protect people from harm. Legal frameworks should include clear rules about data privacy, fairness, accountability and safety.

International cooperation is important here, since AI is a global technology that often crosses national borders. Legal rules would also help companies understand their responsibilities and create a level playing field in the industry (OECD, 2019).

Second, these international rules should allow for local adaptation. Each country has its own values, culture and social challenges. For example, the meaning of privacy or fairness may differ between countries (Fjeld et al., 2020). Therefore, while global principles can offer a shared foundation, each country should have the freedom to apply them in a way that fits its context. This balance between global agreement and local flexibility is essential for fair and effective governance.

Third, ethics must become part of everyday technical practice. Many current guidelines talk about values but do not offer practical tools to support developers. The gap between ethical theory and technical implementation is a major weakness (Hagendorff, 2020). Companies and research institutions should work together to create tools that measure fairness, explainability and other important principles. Ethical impact assessments should be a normal part of the software development process, just like security testing or quality assurance (Jobin et al., 2019).

The recommended actions will have strong effects on several areas. Legally, turning guidelines into enforceable rules will give users stronger protection and force organisations to take responsibility for harm caused by AI systems (OECD, 2019). It will also require legal systems to learn more about technology and create new ways to handle complex digital cases (Jobin et al., 2019).

Socially, more inclusive governance can help build public trust. Involving voices from the Global South and underrepresented groups can ensure that AI technologies meet

the needs of diverse communities (Kiemde and Kora, 2021). For example, addressing issues such as surveillance, discrimination or language access can improve outcomes for vulnerable users.

Professionally, computing careers will also change. Developers will need more knowledge of ethical and legal issues. Ethical training should become part of university education and ongoing professional development. Codes of conduct must include clear rules about responsible AI use. Professional bodies, such as the British Computer Society, will play an important role in guiding ethical behaviour and setting industry standards (Deckard, 2023).

Furthermore, diversity in the AI workforce must improve. As Correa et al. (2023) point out, there is a gender imbalance in the authorship of AI guidelines, and similar patterns exist in the tech industry. Increasing participation by women and other underrepresented groups can improve the quality and fairness of ethical decision-making (Whittaker et al., 2018).

In conclusion, the rapid growth of generative AI demands stronger ethical and legal controls. The research by Correa et al. (2023) provides a useful map of the current state of AI governance, but it also shows clear gaps in representation, consistency and enforcement. Deckard (2023) reminds us that ethics cannot be separated from the human context in which technology operates.

To move forward, I recommend a strategy that includes legally binding global rules, flexibility for local implementation and a focus on practical tools for ethical development. These actions will help to reduce legal uncertainty, support social inclusion and guide professionals in building technology that serves the public good.

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