Center for AI and Digital Policy

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES 2025

A comprehensive review of AI policies and practices worldwide

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Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose and Scope

Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values is the first global survey to assess progress toward trustworthy AI, based on detailed narrative reports, combined with a methodology that produces ratings and rankings for national AI policies and practices.

The **AIDV Index** has these objectives: (1) to document AI policies and practices, based on publicly available sources, (2) to establish a methodology for the evaluation of AI policies and practices, based on global norms, (3) to provide a basis for comparative evaluation, (4) to provide the basis for future evaluations, and (5) to ultimately encourage all countries to make real the promise of AI that is trustworthy, human-centric, and provides broad social benefit to all.

Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values focuses on human rights, rule of law, and democratic governance metrics. Endorsement and implementation of the OECD/G20 AI Principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence are among the primary metrics. Opportunities for the public to participate in the formation of national AI policy, adoption of the right to algorithmic transparency, and creation of independent agencies to address AI challenges are also among the metrics. Patents, publications, investment, and employment impacts are important metrics for the AI economy, but they are not considered here.

Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values is published annually and will evolve as country practices change and new issues emerge.

The 2025 Edition

The 2025 edition of the report updates and expands the previous reports. To reflect some of the key discussions and developments in the AI policy landscape, our efforts to enhance usability, and our expansion as an organization, we have also made the following changes for ***Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values 2025***.

- We highlighted key actions taken in 2024 at the start of each country report.
- We changed the metric concerning signing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI to signing the Council of Europe international AI Treaty. We added a section on the Council of Europe AI Treaty to all country reports.
- We introduced a section on the Environmental Impact of AI to weigh policies on the resource demands of AI systems and efforts to mitigate environmental impacts more broadly.

- The scores for country reports previously published were reviewed and revised based on developments during the past year concerning AI policies and practices.
- The number of researchers participating in the project has grown significantly. Nearly 500 CAIDP Research Group members representing more than 90 countries contributed updates from 2024. This brings our total contributors well above 1000 researchers representing 120 countries.

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Assistant Editors: Merve Hickok, Grace Thomson

AIDV Graphics: Alireza Saebi, Christabel Randolph, Nidhi Sinha

Management: Marc Rotenberg, Merve Hickok, Christabel Randolph, Selim Alan

Policy Clinic Team: Merve Hickok, Marc Rotenberg, Grace Thomson, Anca Radu, Selin Ozbek, Tamiko Eto, Tina Lassiter, Varsha Swelal; Guiliano Borter, Larissa Zutter, Lyan Chua

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2024 Contributors*:* Aaron Schultz, Aashna Kothiyal, Abiodun Solanke, Abiola Joseph Azeez, Abraham Alonzo Guiyab, Aditi Rukhaiyar, Adriana Mardueno Villasenor, Adrianna Tan, Agita Pasaribu, Agus Azka Haria Fitra, Aimeé Pujadas Clavel, Aisha Najera, Aishvarya Rajesh, Aishwarya Gurung, Akanksha Ray, Akintunde Agunbiade, Alejandro Carlos Baltazar Ruiz, Aleksandra Iugunian, Aleksandra Wójtowicz, Alexandra Krastins Lopes, Alhassan Sulemana Alhassan, Alireza Saebi, Ally Tang, Allyson Kapin, Altynay Junusova, Amanda Leal, Amanda Maria Horzyk, Amelia Ayang Sabrina, Amir Noy, Ana Camerano, Ana Carolina César, Ana Carolina Sousa Dias, Ana Segovia, Anabel Karina Arias, Anahita Valakche, Ananda Gautam, Ananya Reddi, Andras Hlacs, Andrea Palumbo, Andrés Eduardo Rodriguez Gomez, Andressa Girotto Vargas, Andrew McIntyre, Andy Sanchez, Angie Orejuela, Anmol Bharuka, Anmol Mathur, Anna Pellegatta, Anna Teresa Aguilar, Antonella Perini, Antonia Dionicia Bogado Rodas, Anushka Jain, Anushka Sachdev, April Yoder, Ariana Gamarra, Ariel Riera, Arpit Gupta, Artem Kobrin, Aruzhan Seitmagambet, Arvin Obnasca, Atika Chahby, Aysu Dericioğlu Egemen, Bahaa El-Taweal, Bahadır Ozgenc, Bakyt Omurzakov, Barbara Simão, Bartlett Morgan, Begyira Donald Sharp, Belen Alondra Bringas Machicado, Bendjedid Rachad Sanoussi, Berenice Fernández Nieto, Bernard M. Nyaga, Beşir Orak, Biljana Molan Klisarova, Bridget Roddy, Bridgette Ndlovu, Bruna Sellin Trevelin, Caio Cesar Vieira Machado, Caitlin Goldenberg, Camila Alejandra Beltran Reyes, Camila Hidalgo, Camille Ford, Caragh Aylett-Bullock, Carissa Mears, Carla Verdiane Nkusi, Carlos Eduardo Torres Giraldez, Carlos Guerrero Argote, Carmen Ng, Carolina Judith Medina Guzmán, Caroline Lancelot, Caryn Swart, Casandra Rusti, Challace Pahlevan-

Ibrekic, Chelsea Cunningham, Chialuka Prisca-Mary Onuoha, Christian Stiegler, Christina Huntzinger, Christina Varytimidou, Christine Gibson, Clara Balon, Claudia Ramly, Collins Otoo, Confidence Osein, Cristian Andres Mejia Caballero, Cynthia Picolo, Cyril Ikechukwu Obika, Damian Flisak, Daniel Acheampong, Daniela Dora Eilberg, Daniele Sabato, Daniella Esi Darlington, David Backovsky, Davit Totadze, Denisa Reshef Kera, Deniz Celikkaya, Desiree Valentine, Diana Nyarang'o, Dila Sen, Diná Santana Santos, Dmytro Chumachenko, Donald Erepamowei Sikpi, Doruk Ozulu, Douglas Barrios Anderson, Dumitrita Rogojinaru, Eddie Liywalii, Eduarda Costa, Elena Sertore, Eleonore Shalomita Hana, Elina Margarita Castillo Jiménez, Elise Sakura Christiane Farge Di Maria, Eliza Aspen, Elizabeth Rothman, Ellie Copeland, Elliot Gianfranco Mejía Trujillo, Emiliano Mora, Emma Haywood, Emma Lamberton, Emmy Chirchir, Enelton Satria, Enzo Dunayevich, Eren Yenigun, Erica Yen Yi Liaw, Erika Del Carmen Fuchs, Erva Akin, Erva Çolak, Essa Mohamedali, Esther Montoya Martinez van Egerschot, Eugenia Gonzalez Ehlinger, Eustace Aroh, Ezgi Turgut Bilgiç, Faith Mutune, Faith Oronga Amatika-Omondi, Fazilet Caglayan, Federico Dante De Falco, Fitri Lestari, Foteini-Maria Vassou, Francesco Saraceno, Frederick Antonovics, Freyja Van den Boom, Galiya Yelubayeva, Gamze Busra Kaya, George Lwanda, Ghofran Vilquin, Gianmarco Gabriele Marchionna, Giovana Fleck, Giovanna Jaramillo-Gutierrez, Gisele Waters, Gisli Ragnar Gudmundsson, Gizem Yilmaz, Ha Minh Tran Vu, Haissam Khan, Halyna Padalko, Hans Christian Arents, Helen Titilola Olojede, Helga M. Brøgger, Henok Russom, Heramb Podar, Hesam Nourooz Pour, Hilal Durek, Hilmy Hanif, Himanshu Joshi, Hina Bashir, Humeyra Cirit, Iakovina Kindylidi, Idil Ilayda Kaner, Imane Hmiddou, Irem Atik, Irene Unceta Mendieta, Isabel Neubert, Isabelle Anzabi, Jae Seung Lee, James Mwole, James Townsend, Jamil AlKhatib, Jan Peter Ganter de Otero, Jane Chinyere Ezirigwe, Janet Lim, Jason Raymond, Jeanette Wong, Jenna Manhau Fung, Jeremy Ng, Jerome Igbokwe, Jésica Edith Tapia Reyes, Jessica Santos, Jessie Yang, Jiayi Wu, Jihyun Kwon, Jinqian Li, Johannes Nordin, Jorge Montiel, Jose Carmelo Cueto, Julia Małgorzata Kalus, Julia Meltzer, Júlia Mendonça, Julia Mykhailiuk, Julia Pomares, Junaid Aziz, Justine Gluck, Kadian Alicia Davis-Owusu, Kardelen Filorinalı Kargın, Karla Patricia Ramirez Sanchez, Kennedy Okong'o, Kerrie Hooper, Kewa Jiang, Khaoula Chehbouni, Kimberli Jeffery, Kirtan Shyamal Padh, Krerkkaiwan Kajohnkunchonlathorn, Krishna Kumar Saha, Kristiina Juurmaa, Krystal Jackson, Kuan-Wei Chen, Kwetchi Takam Ezekiel, Kyoung Yang Kim, Kyoungsic Min, Lara Salgueiro Oliveira, Laura Betancourt, Laura Centeno Casado, Laura Gacho, Lavina Rao Rao, Lea Hani, Leda Kuneva, Lena Patricia Nieper, Lia Chkhetiani, Lillie Coney, Linda Shum, Lindsey Washburn, Lisa Wymer, Logan O'Shaughnessy, Lorena Almaraz De La Garza, Luciana Longo, Luis Jacob Retanan, Luis Vasquez, Luisa Abreu Dall'Agnese, Luisa Verónica Arroyo Revatta, Luise Eder, Luka Begiashvili, Lynn Pickering,

Madalina Nicolai, Mansur Omonov, Manuel Gustavo Isaac, Maral Niazi, Marcel Mir Teijeiro, Marcell Petho, Marcelo Pasetti, Marco Bani, Maria Lungu, Maria ("Mary") Lang, Maria Hadjicosta, Maria Lungu, Mariana Avelar, Mariana Correa, Marianela Sarabia, Mariette Awad, Marisa Stones, Mark Mulobi, Marta Basystiuk, Marta Bienkiewicz Watson, Mary Oduor, Mashael Alzaid, Mateusz Łabuz, Md Ferdows Hossen, Megan McLaughlin, Melike Akkaya, Melodena Stephens, Mennatullah Hendawy, Mercy Chinazom Matthew, Mert Cuhadaroglu, Mgechikwere Nana Nwachukwu, Minna Adlan, Mireia Pérez Carretero, Mohammad Ghasemi, Morgan McMurray, Mostafa Abdelaziz Ashhab Elkadi, Mouloud Khelif, Mubarak Raji, Muhammad Sadiq, Murtala Makama Dattijo, Mykyta Petik, Nabil Fancy, Nada Alwadi, Nam Phuong Ngo, Nana Afua Brantuo, Nana Khechikashvili, Nandita Sampath, Natalia Alarcon, Natascia Arcifa, Natasha Karner, Nate McFaul, Nazareen Ebrahim, Neesha Patel, Nelly Rousseau, nesibe kiris, Niel Swanepoel, Nika Pranata, Niki Agrotou, Nikolas Schmidt, Ninsiima Melissa, Noah-Levin Damschke, Noemi Mejia, Noora Arajärvi Parsons, Nurulazmi Lamanda, Nuurrianti Jalli, Ojus Tyagi, Olga Grygorovska, Omer Han Bilgin, Ona Oshen, Onome Cynthia Anakanire, Ornela Sollaku, Oyinkan Adebimpe, Öznur Uğuz, Pablo Fuentes Nettel, Paola Katherine Galvez Callirgos, Paola Katherine Gálvez Callirgos, Parishrut Jassal, Parul Anand, Patricio Espinoza, Patrick Armstrong, Patrycjusz Szubryt, Paula Guedes Fernandes da Silva, Paula Marques Rodrigues, Paula Martins, Paulina Denhi Gomez Escalona, Pauline Baron, Pavlo Riepin, Perpetua Ndidiamaka Ogwuche, Pervin Harvinder SK, Peter Mmbando, Petra Müllerová, Pierre du Pasquier, Pius Kwao Gadosey, Prabhu Pradhan, Prakash Gupta, Pranav Bhaskar Tiwari, Precious Osegbo, Priya Goswami, Ranjini Syam, Raymond Amumpaire, Raymond Francis Sarmiento, Rémy Ibarcq, Renan Canaan, Rhea Subramanya, Ritika R Ranka, Rizka Khairunissa Herdiani, Romilla Syed, Rommel Abilio Infante Asto, Rose Boutboul, Rotimi Owolabi, Ruoyi Lu, Ruwani Sandeepani De Silva Uyanage, Rwamamara Lionel, Ryan Burns, Saba Tiku Beyene, Sabire Sanem Yilmaz, Saleh Laslom, Samantha González, Samantha Khoo, SaMee Harden, Samuel Goodger, Sandra Makumbirofa, Santiago Molina, Sara Concetta Santoriello, Sarah D'Andrea, Sechaba Keketsi, Sedef Akinli Kocak, Septiani Eka Wahyu Pratiwi, Serçin Kutucu, Serign Modou Bah, Shakhboz Juraev, Sharinee Lalit Jagtiani, Sharon Kutukwa, Sharon Ndinda Nzuki, Shauna Blackmon, Shezaad Dastoor, Shihori Maeda, Shiva Kanwar, Shuvarthi Bhattacharjee, Sidney Frank Engelbrecht, Snezana Nikcevic, Soledad Guilera, Srija Chakraborty, Stacey Berry, Stacy Owino, Stella Anne Teoh Ming Hui, Stella Lee, Stella Yiantet Letuya, Stephanie Forbes, Stephanie Muthoni Muthungu, Stephie-Lea Tabujara, Sukaasini Latchumanan, Suljo Corsulic, Sumair Gul, Supriya Kulkarni, Susan Ibukun Akinade, Susana Aires Gomes, Sven Ronen Spangenberg, Taina Silveira Baylao, Talha Bin Tariq, Tania Maria Skrapaliori, Tapiwa Ronald Cheuka, Taposh Dutta

Roy, Taria Khaoma, Tatevik Davtyan, Tatia Mosidze, Tatiana Levi, Tatiana Zasheva, Tatjana Titareva, Temitayo Fajobi, Thiago Moraes, Thierry Grimm, Thomas Cassara, Thomas Linder, Thummim Iyoha - Osagie, Tiago Filipe Sousa Gonçalves, Timothy Sowa, Tlhaloso Mpopo, Tobias Wirth, Tom Utum, Tomiris Amirova, Tooba Kazmi, Tori Rousay, Tracy Vivian Odipo, Tsepo Ramoholi, Tulika Avni Sinha, Tyler Lance Jaynes, Uchenna Anyamele, Ulysse Richard, Uzma Alam, Uzoma Mkparu, Valeria Allen Gimenez, Valerie Elefante, Veronica Cretu, Veronica Tan, Veronika Klymova, Vicente Antonio Arias Gonzalez, Vicente Martinez Fernandez, Victor Bohorquez, Victoria Hendrickx, Vidhi Sharma, Vishmi Fernand, Vivek S. Rana, Vladimir Cortes, Waceera Kabando Kabando, Waridah Makena, Worawan Klinsawai, Xitshembhiso Russel Mulamula, Yasmin Hussien, Yerdaulet Rakhmatulla, Yiğitcan Çankaya, Yilmaz Sahin, Yolanda Botti-Lodovico, Youssef Horchani, Yuli Rubinsky, Yulia Askhadulina, Zeynep Ogretmen Kotil, Zoë Aikman, Zoe Yi Soh, Zoi Roupakia

2023 Contributors: Abdelrahman Hassanein, Abdulkarim Althiyabi, Abdulmecit İçelli, Abiodun Solanke, Abiola Joseph Azeez, Adeeba Asri, Adriana Mardueno Villasenor, Ahmed Esmat, Ahmet Bilal Aytekin, Aicha Jeridi, Aimeé Pujadas Clavel, Aishwarya Gurung, Akintunde Agunbiade, Alain Otaegui, Alain Perdomo, Alejandro Carlos Baltazar Ruiz, Alejandro Tamez, Alessandro Tufano, Alessio Azzutti, Alexa Hanson, Alexandra Krastins Lopes, Alexandre Aubert, Alfredo Collosa, Alhassan Sulemana Alhassan, Alina Antonie, Alireza Saebi, Allyson Kapin, Amanda Leal, Ameen Jauhar, Amina Akhmetbekova, Amir Noy, Amira Dhalla, Ana Camerano, Ana Carolina César, Ana Segovia, Anahita Valakche, Ananda Gautam, Ananya Reddi, Anastasia Nefeli Vidaki, Anca Radu, Andras Hlacs, André Fernandes, Andrea Sanchez Aguilar, Andréane Sabourin Laflamme, Andrew McIntyre, Anil Sena Bayindir, Anindita Bose, Anmol Mathur, Anna Pellegatta, Anna Teresa Aguilar, Anushka Sachdev, Apolline Rolland, April Yoder, Ariel Riera, Arohi Kashyap, Arpit Gupta, Artem Kobrin, Aruzhan Seitmagambet, Aryashree Kunhambu, Ashwini Natesan, Atika Chahby, Axel Beelen, Axel Ebermann, Ayca Ariyoruk, Ayesha Abduljalil, Ayomide Owoyemi, Aziz Soltobaev, Bahaa El-Taweal, Bahadır Ozgenc, Bakyt Omurzakov, Baris Cihan Canturk, Bartlett Morgan, Begyira Donald Sharp, Belen Sanchez Hidalgo, Bendjedid Rachad Sanoussi, Benjamin Faveri, Berenice Fernández Nieto, Bernard M. Nyaga, Beşir Orak, Bhavna Sharma, Billy Kipkemboi Boruett, Blessing Udo, Brenda Maina, Bridget Chimbga, Busra Memisoglu, Caitlin Kearney, Cameron Benton, Camila Hidalgo, Camille Ford, Carissa Mears, Carla Vazquez Wallach, Carla Verdiane Nkusi, Carleen Boyer, Carlos Eduardo Torres Giraldez, Carlos Ferreira, Carmen Ng, Carolin von Bredow, Caroline Friedman Levy, Casandra Rusti, Catriona Gray, Cezary Gesikowski, Chananya Groner, Charitarth Bharti, Charlotte Esler, Chelsea Cunningham, Cherie Oyier, Chhavi Sharma, Chi Zhang, Chinmoy Rajpal, Chris Kihereko, Christabel Randolph, Christina Huntzinger,

Christina Zarogianni, Christine Axsmith, Christopher Musodza, Çiğdem Akin, Clara Balon, Clara Linda Harris Hawking, Clarence Tocchio, Claudia Moreno Arcila, Claudio Ndeleva Mutua, Clea Strydom, Cody Rutherford, Colin Phillips, Collins Okoh, Confidence Osein, Cynthia Chepkemoi, Damian Flisak, Daniel Acheampong, Daniela Constantin, Daniela Dora Eilberg, Daniela Duta, Daniele Sabato, Daniella Esi Darlington, Daphne Wanjiku, Dariel Suarez, David Backovsky, Denisa Reshef Kera, Denise Schalet, Deniz Celikkaya, Desiree Valentine, Devin Almonor, Diana Mocanu, Diana Nyarang'o, Dila Sen, Dimple Shah, Diná Santana Santos, Dirk Brand, Dirk Johannes Brand, Divya Dwivedi, Dominique Greene-Sanders, Duduetsang Mokoele, Dumitrita Rogojinaru, Duong Hoang, Ebere Lisa Iroegbu, Eddie Liywalii, Edla Aittokallio, Eduarda Costa, Ekene Chuks-Okeke, Elan Silver, Elena Turci, Elina Margarita Castillo Jiménez, Ellie Copeland, Emiliano Mora, Emma Haywood, Emma Lamberton, Emmy Chirchir, Emsie Erastus, Enelton Satria, Enton Dimni, Erva Akin, Essa Mohamedali, Eva Sachar, Evangelia-Maria Kostopoulou, Evelina Ayrapetyan, Fabio Seferi, Faith Gitonga, Faith Mutune, Faith Oronga Amatika-Omondi, Fatemeh Babaeian, Fidis Muriithi, Fiona Melzer, Foteini-Maria Vassou, Francis Ngige, Freyja Van den Boom, Frincy Clement, Gabriel Toscano, Gabriella Maia, Galiya Yelubayeva, Gamze Büşra Kaya, Geetanjali Bisht, Georgeanela Flores Bustamante, Georgios Theodotou, Gergana Tzvetkova, Germán López Ardila, Ghofran Vilquin, Gianmarco Gabriele Marchionna, Gisele Waters, Giuseppe Claudio Cicu, Gizem Yardimci, Gizem Yilmaz, Hamid Mukhtar, Hans Christian Arents, Harri Williams, Harshana Ghoorhoo, Helen Robinson, Helen Titilola Olojede, Helena Broj, Helga M. Brøgger, Héloïse Rivoal, Henok Russom, Heramb Podar, Hesam Nourooz Pour, Hoore Jannat, Humeyra Cirit, Iakovina Kindylidi, Ibrahim Yeku, Idil Ilayda Kaner, Idil Kula, Ifeoma Nwafor, Ikran Abdirahman, İlayda Süer, Ilona Poseliuzhna, Immaculate Odwera, Inés Fernández Gallego, Ingrid Soares, Insun Park, Irem Atik, Isabel Neubert, Ismael Kherroubi Garcia, Iulia Gabriela Popescu, Iva Sisul Brdar, Iwona Karkliniewska, Jacquelyn (Jacky)) Omotalade, Jae Seung Lee, James Townsend, Jane Chinyere Ezirigwe, Janelle Radcliffe, Janet Lim, Janhvi Patel, Javed Sajad, Jaya Vijayen, Jayati Dev, Jean Linis-Dinco, Jeanette Wong, Jenna Manhau Fung, Jenny Greve, Jens Meijen, Jeremy Ng, Jeremy Pesner, Jessie Yang, Jinqian Li, João Filipe Santiago Silva, Joel Christoph, Jorge Montiel, Jose E Diaz Azcunaga, Joseph Wehbe, Josephine Kaaniru, Joshua Mounsey, Joyce Grant, Juan Armando Becerra Gutiérrez, Julia Andrusiak, Julia Henriques Souza, Julia Meltzer, Júlia Mendonça, Julia Sterling, Julian Buchwalter, Julian Theseira, Julieta Carballo, Jumpei Komoda, Kara Doriani O'Shee, Kardelen Filorinalı Kargın, Kasia Polanska, Katleho Mokoena, Katria Tomko, Kayle Hatt, Kesang Yuden, Ketevani Kukava, Kewa Jiang, Kholofelo Kugler, Krerkkaiwan Kajohnkunchonlathorn, Krishna Kumar Saha, Kristiina Juurmaa, Kristina Fort, Kritika Roy, Kuan-Wei Chen, Kyoungsic Min,

Lara Salgueiro Oliveira, Laura Gacho, Laura Greco, Lea Hani, Leah Park, Leandri Pretorius , Leila Doty, Lena Patricia Nieper, Lesa Lawrence, Leslie Salgado, Lillie Coney, Livia Crepaldi Wolf, Logan O'Shaughnessy, Lorena Almaraz De La Garza, Luciana Longo, Lucy Mwaura, Luis Jacob Retanan, Luis Vasquez, Luisa Abreu Dall'Agnese, Luise Eder, Lynn Pickering, Maciej Piszcz, Madeleine Matsui, Madhubhashini Rathnayaka, Maia Levy Daniel, Maitreya Shah, Malek Ben Achour, Manail Anis, Manal Siddiqui, Mansur Omonov, Manuel Gustavo Isaac, Maram Aldaiel, Marcelo Pasetti, Marcia Lindsey, Marcin Rabiza, Marco Bani, Maria Hadjicosta, Maria Lungu, Maria Tran, Mariam Shainidze, Marian Adly, Mariana Correa, Marine Lipartia, Marisa Stones, Marta Bienkiewicz Watson, Martina Malcheva, Martyna Kalvaityte, Marwa Soudi, Mary Ebeling, Marzia Coltri, Mashael Alzaid, Matias Banchero, Mayara Carneiro, Medhavi Mishra, Meg McNulty, Megan Cansfield, Megan McLaughlin, Melike Akkaya, Melissa Hamilton, Melvin W, Mennatullah Hendawy, Michael Nayebare, Michael Shoag, Michaela Sullivan-Paul, Michelle Calabro, Michelle Tan, Minna Adlan, Miranda McClellan, Mirela Buturovic, Mohammad Ghasemi, Moin Khan, Mollie Howard, Monique Munarini, Mostafa Abdelaziz Ashhab Elkadi, Mouloud Khelif, Mubarak Raji, Muneeba Rizvi, Musa Bitrus Ndahi, Nabil Fancy, Nana Afua Brantuo, Nana Khechikashvili, Nana Sakvarelidze, Nandita Sampath, Nasiruddeen Muhammad, Nata Kapanadze, Natalia Martins Fritzen, Natalie Milman, Natascia Arcifa, Natasha Karanja, Nate McFaul, Nayyara Rahman, Nelly Rousseau, Ngozichukwuamaka Yvonne Onyemenam, Niharika Gujela, Nika Pranata, Niki Agrotou, Nikolaos Prodromos, Nikolas Schmidt, Nino Taganashvili, Ninsiima Melissa, Nkechi Emmanuella Agugoesi, Nkurunziza Christophe, Noah-Levin Damschke, Noemi Mejia, Noora Arajärvi Parsons, Nurcan Uyar, Nuurrianti Jalli, Obichi Obiajunwa, Olga Grygorovska, Olgu Özdemir Ertürk, Olivia Corcoran, Ona Oshen, Ori Freiman, Ornella Belfiori, Oscar Lopez, Paige Lord, Pamela De La Rosa, Paola Katherine Gálvez Callirgos, Parul Anand, Pascal Musyoki, Patrick Armstrong, Patrick Folinsbee, Patrick Lin, Patrycjusz Szubryt, Paula Garuz Naval, Paula Guedes Fernandes da Silva, Paula Hernandez, Paulina Denhi Gomez Escalona, Perpetua Ndidiamaka Ogwuche, Pervin Harvinder SK, Peter Mmbando, Petra Müllerová, Petruta Pirvan, Philip Usigbe, Pierre du Pasquier, Pius Kwao Gadosey, Polycarp Okumu, Preskal Tadrous, Priya Goswami, Radhika Bajpai, Radoslaw Komuda, Rajalakshmi Balasubramanian, Ranjini Syam, Raúl Vizcarra Chirinos, Raymond Amumpaire, Rebecca Aspetti, Rebecca Bonnevie, Rebecca Distler, Reed Shaw, Reeneth Santos, Rehema Baguma, Rémy Ibarcq, Remy Takang Arrey, Ren Bin Lee Dixon, Renan Canaan, Renee Black, Roch Glowacki, Roselyn Martin, Rotimi Owolabi, Ruby, Ruofei Wang, Rwamamara Lionel, Ryan Burns, Ryan Watkins, Saba Elizbarashvili, Saba Tiku Beyene, Sabire Sanem YILMAZ, Sahr Muhammedally, Saimum Reza Talukder, Sajid Mahmud, Samantha González, Samantha Khoo, Samantha Ndiwalana, SaMee Harden,

Sandra Makumbirofa, Santiago Molina, Sara Fratti, Sarah D'Andrea, Sarah Fu, Sarah Sinclair, Scarleth Herrera, Sebastián Dueñas Müller, Sechaba Keketsi, Sedef Akinli Kocak, Selin Ozbek Cittone, Serçin Kutucu, Serif Onur Bahcecik, Serign Modou Bah, Shahneela Shahbaz, Sharinee Lalit Jagtiani, Sharon Bassan, Sharon Ndinda Nzuki, Sharvari Dhote, Shauna Blackmon, Sheila Casserly, Shiva Kanwar, Shokhrukh Nuraliev, Shreenithi Annadurai, Sidney Frank Engelbrecht, Simone Maria Parazzoli, Siqi Zhao, Sofia Calado, Sofia Surla, Soham Bose, Soledad Guilera, Solomon Karanja Meru, Sophie Hale, Stacey Berry, Stacy Owino, Stefanos Vitoratos, Stella George, Stella Lee, Stella Yiantet Letuya, Stephan Sonnenberg, Stephanie Forbes, Stephanie Muthoni Muthungu, Stephie-Lea Tabujara, Sujitha Subramanian, Suljo Corsulic, Sumit Kumar, Supriya Kulkarni, Susan Ibukun Akinade, Svetluša Surová, Svitlana Tarasenko, Tabani Moyo, Taina Silveira Baylao, Talha Bin Tariq, Tamiko Eto, Tamilla Triantoro, Tatiana Zasheva, Teddy Odira, Tessa Darbyshire, Thiago Moraes, Thomas Linder, Thummim Iyoha Osagie, Timothy Sowa, Tlhaloso Mpopo, Tobias Wirth, Tom Utum, Tomiris Amirova, Tori Rousay, Uchenna Anyamele, Uchenna Mgbaja, Ulysse Richard, Uzma Alam, Valéria Silva, Valerie Edna, Valerie Elefante, Varsha Sewlal, Veronika Klymova, Victor Bohorquez, Vikash Madduri, Vishakha Agrawal, Vishmi Fernando, Vladimir Cortes, Vu Thach Thao Nguyen, Waridah Makena, Wathagi Ndungu, William Bello, Winnie Kungu, Worawan Klinsawai, Yasin Tokat, Yelyzaveta Markova, Yiğitcan Çankaya, Yishu Mao, Yogendrasingh Pawar, Youssef Horchani, Yulia Askhadulina, Yuval Sinay, Zanele Sokatsha, Zina Akrout, Zoe Yi Soh, Zurab Karchava

2022 Contributors: Abraham Kuuku Sam, Aleksei Gudkov, Alketa Hotaj, Ananya Ramani, Ashwini Natesan, Ayesha Dawood, Avinash Dadhich, Belen Bricchi, Benjamin Faveri, Bisma Shoaib, Busra Memisoglu, Caitlin Power, Cari Miller, Caroline Friedman Levy, Chukwuyere Izuogu, Çiğdem Akın, Claudia Wladdimiro Quevedo, Dalila Hoover, Deo Shao, Divya Diwedi, Doreen Aoko Abiero, Emily Mehalek, Eric Wamugu Maina, Fabienne Graf, Fatuma Ibrahim, Grace Thomson, Hande Çağla Yılmaz, Harsha Agrawal, Helen Samukeliso Sithole, Ibrahim Sabra, Idil Kula, Ingrid Soares, Jaya Vijayen, João Santiago Silva, Jens Meijen, Jordan Richard Schoenherr, Julian Theseira, Leandri Pretorius, Liliane Obrecht, Livia Crepaldi Wolf, Lucy Wanjiku Mwaura, Magdalena Rzaca, Mahak Rathee, Mai Kato, Manail Anais, Mariam Jamal, Mark Sayre, Martyna Kalvaityte, Matthew Ogbeifun, Mokesioluwa Fanoro, Nasir Muftic, Nicole Lemke, Nikolas Kyriacou, Ori Freiman, Osaye Ekomwereren, Osman Gazi Güçlütürk, Peter Graham, Peter Tsamwa, Sajid Mahmud, Samuel Chukwuebuka Uzoigwe, Sanduni Wickramasinghe, Selina Onyando, Shouhui Zhou, Soraya Weiner, Tamar Kankava, Tina Lassiter, Victor Famubode, Yussuf Abdirahim, Davor Ljubenkov, Elisa Elhadj, Joel Kumwenda, Jonathan Kurniawan, Mélissa M'Raidi-Kechichian, Nidhi Sinha, Mercy Chinazom Godwin, Zhuozheng (Rick) Cai, Aditya Kumar Pal,

Allan Ochola, Angel Arroyo, Ashkan Alinaghian, Ayca Ariyoruk, Bhredipta Socarana, Brenda Wangechi Maina, Canan Erez, Catherine Setiawan, Cherie Adhiambo Oyier, Christof Wolf-Brenner, Amir Mikail, Cody D. Rutherford, Deyanira Juliet Murga, Duță Daniela, Edwin Concepcion, Evelina Ayrapetyan, Florence Anyango Ogonjo, Gvantsa Baidoshvili, Ibrahim Said, Ibrahim Yeku, Jacob Odame-Baiden, Jamie Wong, Jodi Masters-Gonzales, John Mathew, Kerstin Waxnegger, Lesa Lawrence, Luca Nannini, Luz Elena Gonzalez, Marian Ela C. Ebillo, Emaediong Akpan, Jackline Akello, Marine Lipartia, Mario Emmanuel Rodriguez Trejo, Mark Anthony Perez, Melody Musoni, Muhannad K Aloqayli, Nayyara Rahman, Nazam Laila, Nicholas Kisundu, Fredrick Ishengoma, Nojus Antanas Bendoraitis, Olajide Olugbade, Omolola Oviroh, Parisa Osivand Pour, Parul Shukla, Pierrinne Leukes, Prarthana Vasudevan, Ruofei Wang, Saba Elizbarasvhili, Samantha De Soysa, Sandra Lattner, Sandra Omayi Musa, Shahira El Alfy, Shilpa Ramachandran, Shradhanjali Sarma, Sivaramakrishnan R Guruvayur, Takaya Terakawa, Umut Pajaro Velasquez, Unyime Paul Akpabio, Vaibhav Garg, Vakhtang Chkhenkeli, Stella Wamae, Varsha Sewlal, Vasileios Rovilos, Mohamed Elbashir, Victor Werimo, Wellington Galassi, Maha Jouini, Yasin Tokat, and Yogendrasingh Pawar

2021 Contributors: Adeboye Adegoke, Temofe Akaba, Selim Alan, Zelal Binici, Afi Blackshear, Bridget Boakye, Giuliano Borter, Stephanie Cairns, Shangamitra Chakraborty, Lyantoniette Chua, Roberto López Dávila, Pam Dixon, Divya Dwivedi, Elisa Elhadj, Pete Furlong, August Gweon, Lida Haghnegahdar, Gokce Cobansoy Hizel, Jason K. Johnson, Eddan Katz, Dongwoo Kim, Writankar Kundu, Thobekile Matimbe, Natalia Menendez, Kushang Mishra, Charles Kajoloweka, Mélissa M'Raidi-Kechichian, Alex Moltzau, Tamra Moore, Oarabile Mudongo, Somaieh Nikpoor, Diana Kemunto Nyakundi, Ubongabasi Edidiong Obot, Marcos López Oneto, Ananya Ramani, Rishi Ray, Rachel Stockton, Anirbar Sen, Niovi Vavoula, Sherry Wu, Khatia Zukhubaia, Larissa Zutter

2020 Contributors: Mariame Almoghanam, Francesca Bignami, Anne Carblanc, Karine Caunes, Emilio De Capitani, Pam Dixon, Paula Soumaya Domit, Giovanni De Gregorio, Douglas Frantz, Merve Hickok, Regina Iminova, Lorraine Kisselburgh, Rebecca Leeper, Wonki Min, Pablo Molina, Maria Helen Murphy, Stephanie Perrin, Bilyana Petkova, Oreste Pollicino, Nguyen Dinh Quy, Cristos Velasco, Wendell Wallach, and Larissa Zutter

Reviewers since 2020*:* Dr. Elena Abrusci, Brunel University London; Tetiana Avdieieva, Digital Security Lab Ukraine; Bruno Bioni, Data Privacy Brazil; Isabelle Buscke, Brussels Office, Federation of German Consumer Organisations; Darren Grayson Chng, Singapore Personal Data Protection Commission; Prof. Renée Cummings, University of Virginia; Prof. Giovanni De Gregorio, Católica Global School of Law; Prof. Virginia Dignum, Umea University; Dr. Hlengiwe

Dube, University of Pretoria; Marina Garrote, Data Privacy Brazil; Armando Guio Español, Berkman Klein Center, Harvard University; Dr. Gry Hasselbalch, DataEthics.eu, InTouchAI.eu; Dr. Masao Horibe, Professor Emeritus at Hitotsubashi University, Former Chairman of Personal Information Protection Commission (PPC), Japan; Bulelani Jili, Harvard University; Leyla Keyser, IT Law Research Center, Istanbul Bilgi University (with Işıl Selen Denemeç, Zümrüt müftüoğlu, and Dr. Atilla Aydin); Prof. Dr. Katja Langenbucher, Goethe University; Prof. Seth Lazar, Australian National University; Prof. Justin Longo, University of Regina; Prof. Wonki Min, Technology Ambassador, Government of Korea; Prof. Valsamis Mitsilegas, Queen Mary University of London; Dr. Pablo G. Molina, Georgetown University; Julia Mendonça, Data Privacy Brazil; Prof. Maria Murphy, Maynooth University; Angella Ndaka, Centre for Epistemic Justice Foundation; Dr. Irena Nesterova, Researcher at the Institute of Legal Science, Faculty of Law, University of Latvia, member of the UNESCO Ad Hoc Expert Group for the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence; Prof. Oreste Pollicino, Bocconi University; Prof. Viviana Polisena, Universidad Católica de Córdoba; Prof. Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem, University of Pretoria; Prof. Edward Santow, University of Technology Sydney; Prof. Dr. Ingrid Schneider, Universität Hamburg, Department of Informatics; Prof. Giovanni Sartor, University of Bologna, European University of Florence; Prof. Ben Shneiderman, University of Maryland; Takaya Terakawa, Technica Zen; Dr. Cristos Velasco; Dr. Kutoma Wakunuma, De Montfort University

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Endorsements

As the development and use of AI continues to increase exponentially, governments and civil society have struggled to keep pace. However, in recent years there has been unprecedented growth in law and policy. This report is essential reading for anyone looking to grasp the key trends that link how nation states are responding to the rise of AI, and for anyone looking to understand the key developments in specific states. It is both thoroughly researched and the product of deep and broad expertise.
– *Edward Santow, Human Technology Institute, UTS (2025)*

The AIDV Index is an incredibly impressive and valuable compendium. The country reports themselves offer an extremely valuable collection of case studies.
– *Justin Longo, University of Regina (2025)*

The AI and Democratic Values 2024 report is a well-developed and highly technical work that provides essential insights into the intersection of artificial

intelligence and democratic governance. This report serves as a crucial tool for understanding how nations can effectively promote and safeguard democratic values in the age of AI. It is an invaluable resource for countries seeking to strengthen democratic principles while leveraging AI responsibly.
– Armando Guio Español, Affiliate, Berkman Klein Center (2025)

It is always encouraging to see the progress in AIDV and its contribution to the formation of AI policies around the world.
– Wonki Min, KAIST (2025)

The report seeks to shed light on the broad landscape of AI regulation and governance. Accordingly, it seeks to explicate both the challenges and opportunities surrounding the adoption of AI systems, making the AIDV a useful reference document that points towards more inclusive digital futures.
– Bulelani Jili, Harvard University (2025)

I endorse this report for its clear and diverse inclusion of countries in both the Global North and the Global South. The report gives an important insight into AI-related activities globally. This is important because AI does not operate in a vacuum, nor does it operate in silos: its impact is intertwined across the globe.
– Kutoma Wakunuma, De Montfort University (2025)

The CAIDP 2024 Report continues its tradition of excellence in providing essential insights into the global relationship among democratic values, ethics and the accelerated pace of AI innovation and development. It is an essential tool to understand the nature of AI and its relationship to the public good. At UNESCO, with our global standard on the ethics of AI, we are proud to partner with CAIDP to achieve a technological transition that is fair and sustainable.
– Gabriela Ramos, UNESCO (2024)

CAIDP (AIDV 2023) report sheds light on the current landscape of international regulations, national laws and policies emerging from the fascinating and complex field of AI. The report emphasizes the imperative to protect fundamental rights and uphold the rule of law and will serve as a useful roadmap for shaping AI governance and to foster and advance a crucial dialogue among diverse stakeholders in the international arena."
– Cristos Velasco, DHBW Cooperative State University (2024)

CAIDP's flagship report provides insightful information how the AI principles are translated into practice across 75 countries.
– Wonki Min, SUNY Korea (2023)

It is a great exercise of comparative digital law in action, providing a comprehensive perspective on the evolution of AI policy also contributing to underline the constitutional relationship between AI & democracy. Digital Democracy and rule of law in the digital context will be the real challenges for the next decade.
– *Oreste Pollicino, Bocconi University (2023)*

A very worthwhile analysis.
– *Stuart Russell, University of Berkeley, California (2022)*

An impressive body of work.
– *Alessandro Acquisti, Carnegie Mellon University (2022)*

An excellent report, a very useful tool for the community and a reference to see nexus between AI and Democratic Values.
- *Leyla Keser, Istanbul Bilgi University (2022)*

A very insightful report on AI laws and policies that addresses significant international developments and provides a terrific comparison of AI laws and policies across 50 countries.
- *Lee J. Tiedrich, Duke University (2022)*

This report is unique in that it compares AI policies and practices around the world and should inspire progress toward trustworthy and human-centric AI. The report also documents the important role of digital rights and consumer groups in this endeavor.
- *Ursula Pachl, European Consumer Association (BEUC) (2022)*

It's rare to read a document that has the potential to influence national policies on artificial intelligence around the world. The country descriptions and evaluations are thoughtfully organized, well-written, and carefully documented. The country rankings enable readers to have a broad understanding of who the leaders are and why, while pointing out what still needs to be done. The AI and Democratic Values index gives me hope that AI policy efforts can improve human rights, social justice, and dignity.
- *Ben Shneiderman, author, Human-Centric AI (Oxford 2022)*

In this historical moment of global interest, negotiation, and competition on AI we are in right now, we urgently need a shared narrative serving the human interest and democracy. With its comprehensive overview of key global and local power actors and initiatives The Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values Index is

an essential instrument for the facilitation of this shared global dialogue on AI now and in many years to come.
- *Gry Hasselbalch, DataEthics.eu, InTouchAI.eu (2022)*

This is a very ambitious and important exercise. The outcome is impressive—detailed and rigorous.
- *Valsamis Mitsilegas, Queen Mary University of London (2022)*

This comparative study sheds critical light on the adoption of Artificial Intelligence in democratic societies. AI and Democratic Values is an indispensable reference source for regulators, reporters, academics, and practitioners
- *Dr. Pablo G. Molina, Georgetown University and founder, International Applied Ethics and Technology Association (iaeta.org) (2022)*

A Year in Review

2024: Principles to Action

The ***AI and Democratic Values Index*** published annually by the Center for AI and Digital Policy provides a comprehensive review of AI policies and practices worldwide. In this fifth edition, we highlight the rapid evolution of AI governance frameworks. From the completion of a global AI treaty and a comprehensive regulation for AI, through resolutions and recommendations from the United Nations, and the development of regional frameworks and national laws and enforcement actions, the pace of AI governance, much like the technology itself, is accelerating.

This year, the first legally binding global treaty on artificial intelligence and human rights opened for signature. Expert reports followed by discussions and negotiations among member and non-member states at the Council of Europe over several years culminated in the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law. Over forty countries from Europe, the Americas, Middle East-North Africa, and Asia have signed, signaling a global commitment to protecting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

Activities at the United Nations also demonstrate widespread support for managing emerging technologies and the digital world in line with human rights and, more specifically the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN resolution supported by more than 120 countries in March 2024 demonstrated far-reaching support for ensuring that AI systems and applications are safe, secure, and trustworthy. The Global Digital Compact reiterated this commitment to ensuring that digital spaces conform to the same standards of international law and human rights protections we expect offline. The Pact for the Future lays out actions to ensure everyone enjoys these rights and to transform global governance to ensure all voices are heard.

Countries from the Global South led the world in implementing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. Facilitated through partnerships with UNESCO, countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa have explicitly modeled AI policies and strategies on the Recommendation and completed the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM). The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Council developed through partnership with UNESCO and CAF provides opportunities to exchange best practices and develop a regional process for implementation. Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Uruguay from Latin America; Indonesia from Asia; Morocco and Saudi Arabia from MENA; and Gabon, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, and South Africa of Africa completed the RAM in 2024. More than thirty additional countries are in the process of completing the RAM.

Calls to transform global governance also translated into action in 2024. Brazil's presidency of the G20 led to an action plan to close the digital divide,

reiterated calls for inclusive AI, and launched the Social 20 event to give civil society a place to be heard during the summit. The Digital Economy Working Group solidified goals for inclusive sustainable development in the Toolkit for AI Readiness and Capacity Assessment. The African Union's G20 membership and the South Africa presidency in 2025 can solidify this progress.

The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) joined forces with the OECD in July 2024. The integrated partnership creates another avenue for experts and policymakers from developing and emerging economies to contribute to discussions on AI policy and practice aligned with the OECD AI Principles.

The G7, too, translated principles and goals in the Hiroshima process to tools in 2024. The G7 Technology and Digital ministers launched the G7 Toolkit for AI in the Public, providing guidance to ensure AI in the public sector is safe, secure, and trustworthy. The section on AI, Science, Technology, and Innovation in the leaders' communiqué promised an action plan on AI in work. The communiqué identified partnerships as central to realizing an inclusive, human-centered, digital transformation. For example, collaboration with the OECD led to the launch of a monitoring tool for organizations developing advanced AI systems aligned to the Hiroshima Process International Code of Conduct.

At the regional level, the EU AI Act, a comprehensive regulation for the governance of AI, was formally adopted in March 2024 by the European Parliament, with a large majority of votes (523-46) in favor of the legislation. The risk-based framework notably includes a category of prohibited AI systems, such as subliminal manipulation, social scoring, scraping of facial images for facial recognition, biometric categorization, and real-time biometric identification. At the time of publication, nearly 200 national supervisory authorities have been selected to ensure the enforcement and implementation of the AI Act, with data protection agencies given a prominent role. The first provisions entered into force in August 2024.

Years of negotiations culminated in 2024 in the African Union's endorsement of the Continental AI Strategy. The strategy offers a test case for a "people-centered, development-oriented" approach to harnessing the transformative potential of AI developments and mitigating the negative impacts and risks. The strategy provides concrete action steps to ensure that AI development is African-centric by addressing systemic limitations in human and technological capacity. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) demonstrated the adaptability of governance frameworks and benefits of public-private partnership by targeting the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics to organizations across private and public sectors. The framework exemplifies meaningful, human-centric development by ensuring AI systems are developed to solve specific problems, within explicit governance and accountability structures,

with human involvement and stakeholder community, and through operations management to identify and monitor risks and biases.

In the 2023 ***AI and Democratic Values Index,*** we called attention to the use of autonomous weapons in regional conflicts, most prominently in Ukraine and Gaza. This year brought progress toward an international instrument on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). The UN Secretary-General report on LAWS in mid-2024 summarized various perspectives on and challenges in formulating one. However, the Secretary-General reiterated calls to develop the tool by 2026. At the REAIM 2024 summit in Korea, 63 countries agreed to concrete actions toward developing common normative frameworks for responsible AI in the military domain. A 2024 U.S. National Security Memorandum, for example, reiterated instructions to the U.S. military, the largest in the world, to use AI systems only in ways that align with democratic values and limited the use of AI systems in warfare.

In addition to updating and implementing national AI strategies, countries have also progressed on holding AI companies accountable. Brazil's judiciary banned and then fined X over its failure to handle accounts spreading misinformation about elections while the data protection authority prohibited Meta from using data originating in Brazil to train AI models. More than nine countries and the EU are investigating OpenAI over privacy and data protection violations and misinformation. Italy and Belgium are looking into DeepSeek. Meanwhile, Clearview paid new fines and was the subject of new investigations over databases of facial images collected and stored illegally.

We credit these milestones to the hard work and spirit of collaboration of the AI advisors, decisionmakers, heads of government, independent experts, civil society organizers, and individual advocates. Your work has built momentum that gives us confidence as we continue our mission to develop *a better society, more fair, more just—a world where technology promotes broad social inclusion based on fundamental rights, democratic institutions, and the rule of law*.

Of course, none of our work is possible without our extraordinary CAIDP team. Hundreds of Research Group members provided additions and updates to the report for 2024, guided by Team Leaders and Teaching Fellows. This year, we also benefitted from the editorial contributions of Policy Group members as well as reviews from our Global Academic Network. From the early project by a few people turned over in months, the current report reflects the efforts of more than 1000 contributors representing 120 countries over years of work.

We welcome your advice, suggestions, revisions, and insights about how you use the AIDV Index in your work. Please send editorial comments to editor@caidp.org and visit our website, www.caidp.org, for more information about our activities, recent AI policy developments, and how to get involved.

Key Developments

- Forty-one countries endorsed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law
- The UN Resolution on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI, along with the Global Digital Compact reflected widespread consensus on the importance of protecting fundamental rights and freedoms in digital interactions
- The Global Partnership on AI created an integrated partnership with OECD to broaden efforts to implement the OECD AI Principles
- The EU completed the AI Act, the first comprehensive regulation on AI; the first provisions entered into force
- The African Union endorsed the Continental AI Strategy
- G20, G7, ASEAN, OECD, and the AI Seoul Summit created tools to facilitate compliance with guiding principles and codes of conduct for organizations designing, developing, deploying, and using AI technology
- Twelve countries completed and more than 30 initiated the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), signaling progress on implementing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI
- The UN Secretary-General reiterated the call for prohibitions on fully autonomous weapons and regulations on other forms of autonomous weapons systems

CAIDP Recommendations for 2025

- Global support for the International AI Treaty
- Prohibitions on AI systems that undermine human rights and democratic values
- Human oversight of AI systems across the lifecycle
- Implementation and enforcement of AI governance frameworks, such as the EU AI Act and the Hiroshima AI Process
- Algorithmic transparency, including the accountability to contest adverse outcomes
- Liability rules for AI systems