

# Session Report Template

## 1 Identification

1.1 Session ID: 100319

1.2 Session Title: Breaking Crucial Barriers in Global AI Governance: Establishing an Interdisciplinary, Multilateral, and Vertically Coordinated Framework

1.3 Session Date and Time: 9:00 - 11:00 AM EST, September 10, 2024

1.4 Convenor name: Dr Huixin (Elsa) Zhong, Thao Do, and Yangliu Jie

## 2 Speakers and Panelists

*Please list all speakers and panellists, including their names, titles, and organisational affiliations.*

### 2.1 Speaker 1

2.1.1 Name: Rostam Newirth

2.1.2 Organisation name: Macau University

2.1.3 Type of organisation: Academic institution

2.1.4 Title of the presentation: Formation of Global AI Governance Institutions and Interdisciplinary AI Governance

2.1.5 Summary of the presentation (max 200 words):

This talk will focus on the potential formation of global AI governance institutions and emphasize the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to AI governance. It will explore how integrating diverse perspectives from fields such as ethics, law, technology, and international relations is crucial for developing robust and effective governance frameworks. Additionally, the talk will discuss the challenges and opportunities in establishing these institutions, highlighting the need for global collaboration to address the complex and evolving nature of AI.

## 2.2 Speaker 2

2.2.1 Name: Nandini Chami

2.2.2 Organisation name: IT4Change

2.2.3 Type of organisation: NGO

2.2.4 Title of the presentation: Multilateral directions in AI governance - what is currently missing?

2.2.5 Summary of the presentation (max 200 words):

This talk will focus on the current lack of multilateral direction in global AI governance and explore strategies to achieve a more coordinated and effective global approach. It will delve into the challenges of establishing unified guidelines and the importance of international collaboration to ensure responsible and equitable AI development and deployment.

## 2.3 Speaker 3

2.3.1 Name: Hong Shen

2.3.2 Organisation name: Carnegie Mellon University

2.3.3 Type of organisation: Academic institution

2.3.4 Title of the presentation: Decentralised AI Governance: Empowering and Engaging Everyday Citizens in AI Auditing and Red Teaming

2.3.5 Summary of the presentation (max 200 words):

This talk explores the essential role of decentralized AI governance in addressing biased and harmful behaviors in AI/ML systems. Traditional governance and auditing approaches, which rely on technical experts, often miss critical issues due to cultural blindspots and biases that only emerge in real-world contexts. The talk emphasizes the increasing importance of everyday citizens in identifying these biases through organic, user-driven audits. By interacting with AI systems in their daily lives, these citizens have effectively uncovered and brought attention to biases that experts might overlook, demonstrating the effectiveness of decentralized AI governance.

## 3 Content

### 3.1 Session Abstract (max. 500 words)

The rapid advancement of AI technologies, particularly large language models and other sophisticated systems, has highlighted the urgent need for a comprehensive global governance framework. This session, held at the United Nations Science Summit, aims to address critical barriers in establishing such a framework through

interdisciplinary, multilateral, and vertically coordinated approaches. The discussion will center on three primary challenges: the absence of a recognized global authority capable of assessing AI systems' impacts from an interdisciplinary perspective, the significant global disparity in AI development and deployment, and the difficulty of engaging diverse stakeholders in AI governance.

Leading experts from academia, industry, and policy-making will explore solutions to these challenges. The first challenge involves the lack of a recognized authority to evaluate AI systems' societal impacts comprehensively, leading to fragmented governance efforts. The session will emphasize the need for interdisciplinary collaboration to create a coherent and inclusive governance framework. The second challenge addresses the disparity in AI development between the global north and south, underscoring the importance of technology transfer and capacity-building initiatives to promote equitable access and innovation. The third challenge focuses on the need for a more inclusive, participatory approach to AI governance, ensuring that policies reflect the concerns and needs of all stakeholders, especially marginalized communities.

The session anticipates outcomes such as the development of a strategic AI governance framework, actionable policy recommendations, and enhanced stakeholder engagement. A White Paper or Policy Brief will be produced, providing a robust reference for global policymakers to align international efforts with governance needs at both global and local levels. This session seeks to advance global AI governance in a manner that upholds human rights, promotes inclusivity, and supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By addressing these challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration, the session aims to establish a robust and inclusive governance framework that ensures AI technologies contribute positively to humanity's future.

### 3.2 Project Objectives

*List the key objectives your session or project aimed to achieve.*

- 3.2.1 Objective 1 (max 50 words): To create a comprehensive framework for global AI governance, synthesizing interdisciplinary, multilateral, and decentralized strategies, and producing a White Paper or Policy Brief for policymakers to align international efforts.
- 3.2.2 Objective 2 (max 50 words): To compile and publish actionable recommendations from the session's discussions in a scholarly journal, influencing AI governance policy at international and national levels through peer-reviewed dissemination.
- 3.2.3 Objective 3 (max 50 words): To increase engagement from diverse voices, particularly from the global south, by publishing the session's insights and recommendations, fostering inclusive dialogue on AI governance, and involving a wider array of contributors.

### 3.3 Key Themes

*Main themes and topics that were covered during the session. The same ones you selected when you submitted your original session proposal. Select from the following. Maximum three*

- One Health
- Food systems
- Security
- Financing
- Digital
- AI
- Environment and Climate
- Space
- Education & Youth
- Indigenous knowledge
- Biodiversity
- Development
- Energy
- Clean Tech
- Policy, Democracy & New Governance
- Astronomy
- Other:

## 4 Planned Impacts of the science and innovation presented in you session

### 4.1 Contribution to the SDGs

9. **Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation. ✓

16. **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. ✓

17. **Partnerships for the Goals:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. ✓

## 5 Contribution to the UN Summit of the Future

### 5.1 Main challenges (max 200 words)

#### Challenge 1: Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The creation of a unified AI governance framework is hampered by the lack of a recognized authority capable of comprehensively assessing AI systems from an interdisciplinary perspective. The inherent complexity of interdisciplinary collaboration, with different fields having distinct methodologies and specialized vocabularies, makes it difficult to build scientific consensus.

Recommendation: Establish collaborative interdisciplinary teams with shared methodologies and terminologies to bridge the gaps between different fields.

#### Challenge 2: Global Disparity in AI Development

There is a significant disparity in AI development between the global north and south, with the global south lacking basic infrastructure necessary for AI advancement. This imbalance could further widen the gap in AI capabilities, exacerbating global inequalities.

Recommendation: Develop multilateral policies that promote equitable access to AI resources and infrastructure in the global south.

#### Challenge 3: Stakeholder Inclusion

AI governance primarily follows a top-down approach, which often excludes input from everyday users and smaller groups affected by AI. This lack of inclusion can lead to governance frameworks that are not fully representative or effective.

Recommendation: Implement inclusive AI governance with both top-down and bottom-up audit approach that actively involves diverse stakeholders at all levels.

To effectively contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is essential to establish a Global AI Governance Framework that integrates interdisciplinary collaboration, multilateral cooperation, and inclusion of diverse voice.

## 5.2 Additional goals (max 200 words)

**Empower Stakeholders at All Levels:** Emphasize the active role of stakeholders at all levels, including underserved communities, in AI governance. As users or affected groups, these stakeholders have the ability to participate in governance processes and take proactive measures to ensure that AI systems are better aligned with their interests. This approach not only enhances the inclusivity and reliability of AI governance but also empowers these communities to shape the technologies that impact their lives.

**Optimize Organizational Design:** Explore and identify effective organizational structures and designs for existing global institutions to better align their efforts with the common interests of humanity and support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of Global AI Governance.

## 5.3 Integration: economic, social and environmental (max 500 words)

To effectively integrate the economic dimension of sustainable development into a global AI governance framework, it is essential to foster interdisciplinary collaboration supported by authoritative bodies. By bringing together industry leaders, scholars, daily-users, and other stakeholders, we can create a participatory design process for the framework that not only promotes innovation and industry growth but also ensures that legal and ethical considerations are fully integrated. Industry leaders can drive technological advancements and economic growth, while legal experts ensure that governance structures are aligned with broader economic goals, such as intellectual property protection and equitable access to AI technologies. This collaborative approach not only supports sustainable industrialization but also lays the groundwork for a governance model that balances economic incentives with the need for robust AI governance frameworks, ultimately leading to a more inclusive and sustainable global AI ecosystem.

From a social perspective, inclusive governance is paramount to ensuring that AI development and deployment do not exacerbate existing inequalities. By actively involving a diverse range of stakeholders—especially those from marginalized and underrepresented communities—in the governance process, we can create AI policies that are equitable and just. This inclusive approach ensures that AI technologies are developed and implemented in a way that promotes social equity, provides access to justice, and strengthens institutions. Effective stakeholder engagement, particularly from the global south, is necessary to ensure that social dimensions are fully integrated into AI governance frameworks, aligning with the goals of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.

The environmental dimension requires that AI governance frameworks incorporate considerations for sustainable practices. As AI continues to influence various sectors, it is critical that its deployment supports environmental sustainability. This can be achieved by integrating environmental impact assessments into AI governance, ensuring that AI technologies are not only efficient but also contribute to reducing ecological footprints. Moreover, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration that includes environmental scientists can

help align AI advancements with broader environmental goals, ensuring that the push for innovation does not come at the expense of the planet. By embedding these environmental considerations into AI governance, we can support sustainable development goals that protect and preserve our natural resources for future generations.

## 5.4 Impact on the 2030 Agenda (max 1000 words)

To create a unified Global AI governance framework, the principles of Respect for All Human Rights, Leaving No One Behind, and Non-Discrimination must be woven into every aspect of the framework through interdisciplinary, multilateral, and vertically coordinated collaboration.

### Respect for All Human Rights:

The development of a strategic AI governance framework at the UN Science Summit prioritizes the respect for human rights by ensuring that AI systems are governed in ways that protect individual freedoms, privacy, and dignity. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, legal experts, technologists, and policymakers will work together to create comprehensive governance structures that embed human rights at the core of AI policies. This approach guarantees that AI technologies are developed and deployed in a manner that upholds human rights, ensuring that no individual or group is subjected to unjust treatment or surveillance.

### Leaving No One Behind:

The principle of Leaving No One Behind is addressed by enhancing stakeholder engagement, particularly involving voices from the global south. This multilateral collaboration ensures that the governance framework is inclusive and equitable, taking into account the diverse needs of all populations. By actively involving underrepresented groups in the governance process, the framework seeks to bridge the digital divide and provide equitable access to AI technologies and benefits, thereby preventing the marginalization of any community. This inclusive approach helps to ensure that AI developments contribute to global well-being and equitable development.

### Non-Discrimination:

Non-discrimination is a central tenet of the proposed AI governance framework, achieved through decentralized AI governance in addressing biased and harmful behaviours in AI systems. The vertical collaboration ensures that systems are rigorously assessed and designed to prevent biases that could lead to discrimination. By focusing on user-driven audit, the approach seeks to uncover and bring attention to cultural blind spots and biases that only emerge in real-world contexts, making sure that AI systems are implemented in a manner that treats all individuals equally, regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, or other characteristics. This commitment to non-discrimination ensures that AI technologies support a just and inclusive society.

Through these efforts, the unified Global AI governance framework will not only uphold key principles of the 2030 Agenda but also lead to tangible, implementable strategies that promote human rights, inclusivity, and equity on a global scale.

*Please select also the transition relevant to your science project:*

(1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity;  (4) education;   
(5) jobs and social protection;  and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution

More info on Six transitions: <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/Six%20Transitions%20English.pdf>

## 6 Forward-looking Statement

### 6.1 Financial aspects

1. White Paper and Policy Brief Development: The funding will support the creation of a White Paper and Policy Brief based on research and stakeholder discussions, ensuring that international efforts are aligned, and that the governance framework achieves tangible impacts on both global and local level AI governance.
2. Research and Policy Integration: With \$1 million, we can help to build an interdisciplinary consulting team to assist specific developing regions to create actionable policies and partnerships that foster a sustainable environment for AI infrastructure, promoting both equitable growth and technological advancement.
3. Decentralized AI Governance: \$1 million will support the research on decentralized AI auditing with wider range of users, such as marginalized groups, thereby ensuring AI systems assessment are equitable and inclusive in real-world applications.

### 6.2 To further advance your science project, you will need:

- **Establish Partnerships and Collaborations:** To advance our project, we will forge strategic partnerships with global institutions, local communities, and industry leaders. These collaborations will enhance knowledge-sharing, resource allocation, and the effective implementation of our AI governance framework, ensuring that it is comprehensive and impactful on both local and global scale.

## 7 Conclusions (max. 300 words)

Collaboration is instrumental in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by providing the critical insights, methodologies, and innovations required to tackle global challenges. The session on global AI governance underscored the importance of interdisciplinary, multilateral, and vertically coordinated efforts to develop a comprehensive framework that supports the SDGs, particularly in fostering inclusive governance, sustainable industrialization, and the protection of human rights.

Among the emerging issues identified, the absence of a recognized authority capable of comprehensively assessing the impact and future direction of AI systems from an interdisciplinary perspective is a significant concern. This gap hinders the ability to build consensus and establish a unified approach to AI governance. Additionally, the growing need for decentralized AI auditing was highlighted, emphasizing the critical role of everyday citizens in uncovering and addressing biases in AI systems. This approach not only enhances the inclusivity of AI governance but also empowers marginalized communities, ensuring that no one is left behind. Furthermore, the global disparity in AI development threatens to exacerbate inequalities between the global north and south, necessitating focused efforts in multilateral cooperation to ensure equitable benefits from AI advancements.



To advance science and innovation in this field, there is a pressing need for increased efforts for collaborative research, the establishment of a recognized authority to oversee AI governance, and the strengthening of global partnerships. These steps will ensure that AI development aligns with the broader goals of sustainable development, fostering a future that is just, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable.