

# **Elements Paper for the terms of reference and modalities for the establishment and functioning of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and Global Dialogue on AI Governance**

## **(February 28, 2025)**

This paper consolidates the **key elements** emerging from consultations with Member States on January 17<sup>th</sup> and February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Consultations were also held with stakeholders on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

These do not constitute necessarily language proposals for the zero draft of a resolution for the establishment and functioning of an Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and a Global Dialogue on AI Governance within the United Nations.

It offers a **structured overview** of the proposed scope, functions, and governance arrangements of both the Scientific Panel and the Global Dialogue to guide further negotiations towards the identification of the terms of reference and modalities, as mandated by the Global Digital Compact.

### **Introduction:**

Rapid technological change, including the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence, has the potential to bring new opportunities for socioeconomic development and accelerate the progress and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Given the global scope and transformative impact of AI, the international community urgently needs to inclusively assess and address the potential impact, opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence. The United Nations has an important role to play in ensuring an agile, multidisciplinary and multistakeholder approach to the governance of AI.

As part of this international response, the UN General Assembly, through Resolution A/RES/79/1, mandated the establishment of:

1. A **multidisciplinary Independent International Scientific Panel on AI**, to promote scientific understanding through evidence-based impact, risk, opportunity and capability assessments.
2. A **Global Dialogue on AI Governance**, anchored within the UN, to foster comprehensive discussions involving Governments and all relevant stakeholders on AI governance.

### **I. The Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence:**

#### **Mandate:**

- a) The Panel should promote scientific understanding through evidence-based impact, risk and opportunity assessments, drawing on existing national, regional and international initiatives and research networks.

- b) The Panel should function as an independent, multidisciplinary and globally representative body to analyze the development and implications of artificial intelligence, providing robust scientific and technical assessments that can inform evidence-based policy decisions.
- c) The Panel will regularly produce assessments of opportunities, capabilities, impacts and risks of artificial intelligence across multiple disciplines; conduct horizon scanning to assess the future directions and offer early warnings on rapidly evolving AI technologies; and initiate targeted research on capacity-building gaps.

**Structure:**

- a) The Panel should be composed of independent experts selected based on scientific merit and rigor, impartiality and expertise, ensuring multidisciplinarity, geographical balance, as well as gender, cultural, and linguistic diversity.
- b) The nomination and selection should be transparent through an open nomination process overseen by a selection committee.
- c) The Panel can establish working groups and may invite thematic experts to participate in specific areas, as necessary, according to evolving scientific needs.
- d) The Panel will be supported by a secretariat located within the UN, in coordination with UN agencies.
- e) This structure may be reviewed during the “High-level review of the Global Digital Compact”, to take place during the eighty-second session of the General Assembly.

**Outputs:**

- a) The Panel will produce assessments periodically, at least once per year. It will also have the flexibility to issue specialized briefs as the Panel deems necessary.
- b) The assessments provided by the Panel will inform the Global Dialogue. The release of the reports of the Panel will be published in advance of the Global Dialogue.
- c) The publications from the Panel will be made available online in all six UN official languages, supplemented by concise and accessible summaries.

**II. The Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance:**

**Mandate:**

- a) The Global Dialogue is envisioned as a multi-stakeholder and intergovernmental platform to facilitate open, transparent and inclusive discussions on AI governance.
- b) The functions are to enable international cooperation on AI governance including through sharing of best practices, lessons learnt and capacity-building programs; to explore how AI can contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable

Development Goals and the promotion and respect of Human Rights; to encourage dialogue between Member States and stakeholders; and to foster interoperability.

- c) In order to promote collaboration and maximize global outreach, the Global Dialogue will encourage synergies with all existing initiatives on AI Governance at the United Nations with a view to combining existing meetings and fora. The Global Dialogue will also build on other existing multilateral or regional AI governance processes.

**Structure:**

- a) The Global Dialogue should be open to all Member States and relevant stakeholders with connected intergovernmental and multistakeholder tracks.
- b) The Global Dialogue should be convened at least once annually on the margins of existing relevant United Nations conferences and meetings, including in New York and Geneva.
- c) The Global Dialogue should incorporate active measures to support developing countries' effective, equitable and meaningful participation and representation.
- d) The Global Dialogue will be supported by a secretariat located within the UN, in coordination with UN agencies.
- e) This structure may be reviewed during the "High-level review of the Global Digital Compact", to take place during the eighty-second session of the General Assembly.

**Outputs:**

- a) Non-binding outputs made available in all 6 UN official languages.
- b) The Dialogue can suggest inputs, based on the discussions, on potential areas of assessment to the Scientific Panel.