

Submission to the Global Digital Compact Thematic area: Regulation of Artificial Intelligence

April 2023

OVERVIEW

About the Al Future Lab

The AI Future Lab was founded in 2021 following the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Community initiative. We are the go to place for youth to learn and get involved in all aspects of artificial intelligence from technology development to design to policy and ethics. The AI Future Lab creates a unified space for leadership, research, data-driven projects, networking, and community building around artificial intelligence for young people around the globe.

Introduction

Recently, there has been unprecedented efforts to reign in the wide-spread harm from the deployment of artificial intelligence. Regulation has been a pivotal tool in addressing AI failures and mitigating the risks associated with AI. However, simply imposing regulations without considering the unique characteristics of AI can lead to unintended consequences, stifling innovation and progress. It is important to develop regulations that are socially grounded, that promote anti-erosion, ensure agency, and are reinforced through integration, while also highlighting responsibility. Effective regulation should be designed with participatory mechanisms that allow for input from a diverse set of stakeholders, including non-experts. Additionally, there should be a focus

on empowering individuals through awareness and oversight, and ensuring equitable resource sharing to avoid exacerbating existing power imbalances.

This submission calls for an inclusive approach to AI regulation that is reflective of the responsible principles that people desire by challenging long standing systemic issues that have plagued the effectiveness and development of AI regulation. By implementing these principles and taking action to promote responsible AI development, we can create a world where the benefits of AI are realized while minimizing potential harm.

CORE PRINCIPLES

We recommend the following principles for regulating the potential risks of artificial intelligence systems:

- Regulation that is socially grounded: The regulation of Al-related risks should be centered around benefits for society at large versus solely minimizing or penalizing risk. Therefore, regulatory and policy forces should foster deeper efforts to extend assessment criteria in the design and development of Al that account for existing social difficulties, identify how the proposed innovation would improve conditions, and decrease existing inequalities.
- Regulation that promotes anti-erosion: Generations of new technological
 paradigms would be expected to transform processes but it should not erode,
 erase, and silence entire populations for the sake of innovation. Al regulation
 should explicitly provide statutes and legislative protections to address gross
 negligence of representational harms especially in cases where those affected
 are not able to actively participate in the development of corrective measures.
- Regulation that ensures agency: Regulators have advocated for greater accountability and control within AI systems. Future AI regulation should build further on these efforts by mandating greater agency for users over their data, the processing and ownership of their data, and the right to be notified of and meaningfully withdraw from harmful AI systems or spaces where people experience AI failures.

- Regulation that is reinforced through integration: All preparedness and the
 maturity of All regulation differs substantially across regions. It will take
 considerable efforts to ensure more comparable levels of readiness. However,
 mechanisms could be implemented to promote equitable resource sharing to
 avoid obvious gaps and entire regions being decades behind in regulation while
 known All failures continue to persist in the absence of regulation.
- Regulation highlights responsibility: Further refinement is needed to ascertain
 what should be assessed whether applications or entire systems, who should
 bear the responsibility, and how liability should be determined. This line of
 inquiry pushes stakeholders to reconsider and substantiate claims about
 widespread transformations and applicability of AI to address social ills without
 pondering on risks to the responsible development of AI.

SUGGESTED COMMITMENTS/PLEDGES/ACTIONS

We recommend the following commitments/pledges/actions for regulating the potential risks of artificial intelligence systems:

- Increase participatory design among legislators and stakeholders
 It is equally important to include and open collaboration across stakeholders from
 civil society, industry, academia, as well as non-experts. By extending
 opportunities to actively work on solutions, it breaks down barriers that would
 keep resources in silos, shatters walls that would be raised from personal biases
 within any particular domain, and increases chances of learning from the lived
 experiences of others. This can be accomplished through participatory
 workshops or mini-conferences led by international bodies with an agenda that
 answers the following:
 - 1. How can we work to enhance understandings between and bring oppositely positioned groups closer together in contexts particularly where right and wrong is heavily contested?

- 2. How can we encourage multiple voices to actively participate in respectfully pushing back on different AI technologies without stifling innovation?
- 3. How could we reimagine processes within the AI regulatory ecosystem to streamline policy that stays on pace with technology?
- 4. What should be included and excluded from the Global regulatory agendas and who should decide?

Promote user empowerment through enhanced awareness

Empowerment through awareness should receive greater attention to further compliment AI regulation and policy. People, regardless of their education, income, or age, should be knowledgeable about their rights and the pathways to justice. Regulatory reporting tools for example should be easily accessible to the most vulnerable and protections from regulations should be communicated in ways that are easy to consume. Recommended pathways for this directions are mostly centered around educational campaigns that could mobilize civil society organizations that actively work at relevant AI regulation and education cross-sections.

Establish equitable resource sharing

To address disparities in resources to effectively respond to AI failure through regulation, greater steps need to be enforced to actively correct this trajectory. More tools and resource hubs could be established to assist with smaller scale organizations who are interested in implementing responsible AI with hopes of aligning with regulation. Moreover, effective information streams could be promoted by international bodies such as the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology to highlight opportunities for joint or open-sourced agreements that would better improve AI preparedness and regulation worldwide.