

PRESS RELEASE

Independent International Scientific Panel on AI Launches Preliminary Report on AI Opportunities, Risks and Impacts

The Panel, composed of independent scientists and experts from every region, outlines trends in AI and warns that current safeguards cannot keep pace with the growth of AI's capabilities.

NEW YORK, 1 July 2026 – The UN Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence today officially released its Preliminary Report, delivering the first global, independent scientific assessment of AI opportunities, risks and impacts. This initial work from the Panel provides a foundational evidence base to inform global policy ahead of its first comprehensive report in 2027.

This collaborative effort to build a shared understanding of AI arrives at a critical inflection point. Governments are making consequential decisions about AI under great uncertainty with rapidly changing, often conflicting sources of evidence and perspectives that do not necessarily reflect local realities. As the capabilities of AI continue to grow, so do the stakes for the decisions being made around the world. This is the core challenge the Panel aims to address.

The Preliminary Report was produced by the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, composed of 40 leading scientists and experts. Drawn from every region of the world, its members serve in their personal capacity, independent of any government, company or institution. The report's findings will be presented to governments at the inaugural UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance, convening in Geneva on 6 and 7 July.

In its Preliminary Report, the Panel outlines its findings across seven key domains:

- AI science, advances & trajectories
- Societal applications: science, health, education & agriculture
- Economic implications
- Security, systems & environmental implications
- Human rights, information & democracy
- Cultural & individual flourishing, autonomy and child safety
- Management, governance & reliability

The Panel identifies a crucial evidence challenge for decision-makers around the world: policymakers need scientific evidence to effectively govern AI, but by the time the evidence is clear, it may be too late to act on it. Whether AI's promise is equitably realized will depend on the informed decisions nations make together and the shared scientific foundation that guides them – the very evidence base that the Panel's work is designed to offer.

“AI capabilities are outpacing both scientific understanding and governments’ ability to adapt. With growing evidence of deceptive AI behaviour, science currently cannot guarantee that as capabilities continue to increase, AI will not cause catastrophic harm, either on its own or due to malicious users. To act effectively, global policymakers must understand these systems. This Panel provides exactly that: a rigorous, shared scientific foundation to guide our collective way forward.” – **Yoshua Bengio, Co-Chair, Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence**

*“The technology is transformative, but if the world keeps moving along this trajectory, humanity will fail to realize the gains it promises. The risks – to societies, to security, and to our species – are too high, and the forces driving AI forward are not the forces that will deliver its benefits.” – **Maria Ressa, Co-Chair, Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence***

*“The world cannot govern what it cannot understand. The Panel’s report provides independent science, drawn from every region, and available to every government. Its message is clear: the potential is great, but the risks are real, and the cost of waiting is rising. I urge all leaders to use this shared evidence to act together, and without delay.” – **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres***

*“AI will not close divides by itself. The benefits land where institutions, skills and data already exist. Where they do not, the same technology can displace workers, widen inequality and leave communities dependent on systems built without them in mind. This report puts that into a shared scientific language for the first time. Those realities are now on the record, independently verified, and impossible to set aside.” – **Amandeep Singh Gill, Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies***

This report, titled *Preliminary Report of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI: Evidence-based assessment of opportunities, risks and impacts of AI*, is the first output from a scientific body designed to move with the technology. The Panel will issue regular assessments and thematic briefs as AI evolves to provide policymakers and the public with up-to-date evaluations of the science.

Watch the report launch live at 11:00 a.m. ET on [UN WebTV](#)

The full Preliminary Report, including an executive summary will be available at <https://www.un.org/independent-international-scientific-panel-ai/en/preliminary-report>

A personal message from the Panel’s Co-Chairs will also available at <https://www.un.org/independent-international-scientific-panel-ai/en/preliminary-report>

Panel members are available for interviews now. Over 30 members will also be present at the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance in Geneva on 6–7 July and can be requested for interviews on site.

For more details about the **Global Dialogue on AI Governance**, please see the [media advisory here](#).

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ABOUT THE PANEL

The [Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence](#) is the first global scientific body on AI created by the United Nations General Assembly. It was established by resolution A/RES/79/325, adopted on 26 August 2025, and builds on the Global Digital Compact agreed by Member States in 2024, as well as on the recommendations of the Secretary-General's High Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence. The Panel's mandate is to assess the science, not to prescribe policy.

The Panel brings together 40 experts appointed by the General Assembly for a three-year term, selected through an open global call that drew more than 2,600 applications from over 140 countries. Members were chosen on the basis of expertise, interdisciplinary perspective, and geographical and gender balance, and serve as independent scientific experts in their personal capacity, not as representatives of governments, employers or institutions. The Panel brings together a gender-balanced group of 40 experts from all five United Nations regions, drawn from academia, the private sector, civil society and the technical community. It is independent of any government, company or institution, including the United Nations.

The Panel is co-chaired by Yoshua Bengio (Canada) and Maria Ressa (Philippines), elected at the Panel's inaugural meeting on 3 March 2026. Its mandate is to produce annual, policy-relevant but non-prescriptive reports synthesising research on the opportunities, risks and impacts of AI in the non-military domain. The Panel Secretariat is coordinated by the UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, which, as coordinating entity, supports the Panel's process but does not direct its scientific conclusions, and includes members from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) while also drawing on other system-wide capacities.

The Preliminary Report is the Panel's first contribution to the United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance, also established under resolution A/RES/79/325. The Panel's next annual report will inform the second Global Dialogue, to be held in New York in May 2027.