

CCIA Comments on the Zero Draft of the Terms of Reference and Modalities for the UN's AI Panel and Dialogue

The Computer & Communications Industry Association, or CCIA, is an international non-profit membership organization representing companies in the computer, internet, information technology, and telecommunications industries.

We welcome the opportunity to engage in the process of developing terms of reference and modalities for the proposed Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, pursuant to the implementation of the Global Digital Compact. As a stakeholder in this process, we offer the following guiding principles on how these two bodies can best be defined to maximize their flexibility and value-add.

First, these bodies should be multistakeholder, with equal opportunity to participate afforded to member states and stakeholders. In particular, given the significant expertise that resides within the private sector, it's essential that the Panel include representatives from industry. In the spirit of upholding these bodies' multistakeholder work, they should be structured in a decentralized fashion that allows for non-siloed participation by all participants, and they should include clear mechanisms for preventing undue political interference in any outputs.

Second, these bodies should build on existing synergies at the international and regional level rather than duplicate ongoing work. Such work includes both efforts within the UN, including those of the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, and through other relevant forums, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and relevant regional organizations like the European Union.

In line with these guiding principles, CCIA offers the following suggestions to the Zero Draft below, with suggestions in **bold** and ~~strikethrough~~.

The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024 entitled “The Pact for the Future”, including its annex entitled “The Global Digital Compact”, in which the General Assembly decided to establish a multidisciplinary Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and initiate a Global Dialogue on AI Governance,

Further recalling its resolutions 77/320 of 25 July 2023, entitled “Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,” 79/194 of 19 December 2024, entitled “Information and communications technologies for sustainable development,” 78/213 of 19 December 2023, entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of digital technologies,” 78/265 of 21 March 2024, entitled “Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence systems for

sustainable development,” and 78/311 of 1 July 2024, entitled “Enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building of Artificial Intelligence”,

1. Establishes the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence;
2. Decides that the Panel shall **promote** provide multidisciplinary, independent and evidence-based scientific **understanding** **assessments** of the opportunities, risks, capabilities, and impacts of Artificial Intelligence, ~~including by undertaking analysis and identifying capacity building gaps and model biases~~, through timely and adaptive outputs, **building on existing research**, that address rapid advancements in the field;
3. Also decides that the Panel shall comprise:
 - (a) ~~an~~ **multistakeholder** Expert Committee of twenty members appointed by the Secretary-General, serving in their personal capacity and selected for their expertise in the field of Artificial Intelligence and related fields, for three years, renewable once;
 - (b) ~~an~~ **multistakeholder** Advisory Committee of forty members elected by the General Assembly, serving in their personal capacity and selected for their expertise in the field of Artificial Intelligence and related fields, for three years, renewable once;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to:
 - (a) Invite nominations for the Expert Committee from Member States, relevant stakeholders, and recognized international AI expert networks;
 - (b) Appoint members of the Expert Committee, with due consideration of the candidates’ outstanding expertise, diverse multidisciplinary representation and geographical and gender balance;
5. Decides that, in electing members of the Advisory Committee, the Assembly shall distribute the forty seats equally among the regional groups, with due consideration of the candidates’ outstanding expertise, diverse multidisciplinary representation and geographical and gender balance;
6. Also decides that the first cohort of Expert Committee members shall serve for a period of two years to ensure staggered appointments and the continuity of the work of the Panel;
7. Decides that all candidates for the Expert and Advisory Committees shall provide full disclosure of financial, professional, and personal interests that may affect impartiality or independence, and for such disclosure to be conveyed as part of the nomination;
8. Further decides that the Expert Committee shall be chaired by two of its members, one from a developing and one from a developed country, appointed by the Secretary-General;
9. Decides that the Expert Committee shall oversee all outputs from the Panel, define research areas; establish working groups to prepare assessments and technical briefs according to

research priorities; appoint Chairs to each working group from among the members of the Expert Committee; assign members of the Expert and Advisory Committees to each working group; and invite external experts to engage with the working groups as necessary;

10. Also decides that the Advisory Committee shall contribute to the Panel's outputs led by the Expert Committee;

11. Decides that the Panel shall **build on existing research** to produce timely and responsive outputs, including one annual report synthesizing key AI research trends;

12. Establishes the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance as an ~~intergovernmental~~ and multi-stakeholder platform to facilitate open, transparent and inclusive discussions on AI governance, while encouraging synergies with all existing initiatives on AI at the United Nations **and other relevant fora, as to avoid duplication**;

13. Request the Panel to present its findings to the Dialogue;

14. Decides that the Dialogue shall facilitate international cooperation on AI governance including through sharing of best practices, lessons learned and capacity-building programs; identify ways on how AI can contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the respect, protection and promotion of human rights, support linguistic and cultural diversity; encourage dialogue between Member States and stakeholders; and foster interoperability **to facilitate cross-border access to AI services**;

15. Further decides that the Dialogue shall be open to all Member States, observers and ~~relevant~~ stakeholders; and will hold a plenary meeting, with a high-level segment with participation at the level of Heads of State and Government, and thematic discussions;

16. Decides that the Dialogue shall be convened once annually in the margins of existing relevant United Nations conferences and meetings;

17. Also decides that the first Dialogue will be held in New York in September 2025 and that the second Dialogue will be held in Geneva in 2026;

18. Invites Member States to offer hosting future Dialogues to promote inclusive and diverse participation;

19. Requests the President of the General Assembly to appoint two Co-Chairs for each annual meeting, one from a developing and one from a developed country, who will identify topics of the Dialogue **based on recommendations from the Panel**;

20. Requests the Co-Chairs to prepare a summary of the Dialogue, to be issued in all official UN languages; and to inform the Co-Chairs of the Panel of suggestions made by participants of the Dialogue relevant to their work;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to operationalize a Secretariat to provide the necessary support for the Panel and the Dialogue by leveraging system-wide capacities including in the

Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, the International Telecommunications Union and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

22. Encourages States and international donors as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the effective functioning of the Panel and Dialogue, including by facilitating the participation of representatives of developing countries, through voluntary contributions;

23. Decides that the Panel and the Dialogue shall be reviewed during the High-Level Review of the Global Digital Compact at the eighty-second session of the General Assembly.