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Latvian Transatlantic Organisation

2023



POLICY BRIEF

HOW TO GOVERN AI IN AN AGE OF GLOBAL TENSION

**Boston Global Forum Special Report,
The Rīga Conference 2023**

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HOW TO GOVERN AI IN AN AGE OF GLOBAL TENSION

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The Rīga Conference 2023**

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BACKGROUND

Global tensions in the 21st century have undergone a notable transformation. While not immediately life-threatening, they have become more intricate and unpredictable due to rapid technological progress. This shift has redefined the arenas of contemporary conflict and warfare, encompassing traditional domains and the digital realm of cyberspace. Participation in conflicts is no longer confined to governments alone; entities possessing the capability to develop, possess, and deploy technology – such as tech giants and hacker groups – can now exert significant influence.

In this context, there is a growing global focus among governments and experts on the potential impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on global tensions. While the detailed capabilities of AI remain largely uncharted, its application is evidently capable of significantly enhancing an entity's effectiveness in both physical and digital attacks. AI technologies are currently undergoing extensive research worldwide, aiming to autonomize weapons and mass weaponize disruptive technologies like 3D printing, drones, and robots. These advancements have the potential to substantially reduce military operation costs and enhance targeting precision. Additionally, we are witnessing an unprecedented surge in cyberattacks and the emergence of new forms of AI-powered crimes, including the spread of misinformation, deep fakes, various scams, phishing attacks, data theft, and manipulation.

In this era characterized by heightened global tensions and rapid disruptive technological progress, governing AI assumes paramount significance, necessitating a thoughtful and comprehensive approach. It is imperative to ensure that, while mitigating unintended consequences, we do not inadvertently stifle its potential for continued growth and innovation. With this report

jointly prepared by the Boston Global Forum, the Michael Dukakis Institute for Leadership and Innovation, and AIWS.city, we aim to formulate contingency plans and conduct scenario simulations to prepare ourselves for AI-related security threats, particularly those that may arise during periods of global tension.

STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING FRAMEWORK FOR GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF AI

Our approach to establishing the global AI governance framework is founded on the belief that it necessitates a collaborative effort from an array of sources. We acknowledge that effectively addressing the challenges posed by global tensions requires a unified strategy.

At its core, our approach revolves around the concept of the “Four Pillars” – nations that currently possess significant resources and wield substantial influence in the global AI landscape. Alongside governmental participation, it is imperative to have an inclusive and dynamic community of stakeholders encompassing universities, businesses, and civil society. This collective endeavor is efficiently coordinated through instrumental initiatives like the Global Alliance for Digital Governance (GADG) and the Global Internet Governance, Digital Empowerment, and Security Alliance (GLIDES).

However, relying solely on expertise, dedication, and innovative ideas falls short. Many existing global AI governance models, led by official governmental institutions, grapple with the challenge of mobilizing and efficiently directing resources for initiative implementation. This is where our distinct approach comes into play. We prioritize active involvement from the business sector, recognizing the indispensable strategic financial resources and support they can provide for the success of such ambitious endeavors. Another noteworthy aspect is our engagement of religion in the implementation process, acknowledging its potential to influence broad populations and serve as a means of disseminating new ideas, such as this framework. The values we advocate

for – dignity, compassion, love, and kindness – also form a robust foundation for the development of a more humane AI.

Outlined below is our comprehensive proposal and action plan, reflecting our dedication to a thorough and thoughtful approach to global AI governance.

1. Four Pillars: The US, Japan, EU-UK, and India

Introduced at the Riga Conference 2022, the concept of the “Four Pillars for Peace and Security” aims to connect the United States, Japan, the European Union-UK, and India in upholding global peace and security. In this distinctive era, marked by an urgent need for a unified global approach to AI governance, this concept remains pertinent and significant for the following reasons.

First, these Four Pillars currently lead the global AI development race. The United States, unequivocally the world leader, hosts numerous companies at the forefront of global AI research, including tech giants like Google, Microsoft, Meta, and the emerging force of OpenAI. Japan, renowned for its history of innovation and technological progress, is making substantial strides in this field. This is exemplified by the “Society 5.0” initiative introduced in 2016, which prioritizes Artificial Intelligence Technology Strategy. This positions Japan as the second government globally to dedicate a national strategy to AI development. In the EU-UK region, though progress may vary across member states, leaders like Germany, France, and the UK are propelling the region’s AI growth trajectory. The European Union itself has taken significant steps in building AI capabilities continent-wide, evident in the launch of the “AI for Europe” initiative in 2019. Recently, the UK government announced the Foundation Model Taskforce initiative in April, allocating £100 million for AI safety research. India holds immense potential to contribute to this effort, supported by its globally acclaimed skilled IT workforce. The country is nurturing numerous promising AI startups, and in recent years, the government has substantially increased the national budget allocated for AI development.

Second, as expressed in the “Social Contract of the AI Age” published by Boston Global Forum and AIWS in 2020, we envision a world where AI

facilitates the resolution of global challenges through collective action by government actors. This is underpinned by principles of equality, transparency, and accountability. These four nations not only lead globally in AI but also stand as the foremost democracies, making them the most suitable entities to lead this initiative. They have actively advocated for the ethical design, development, and use of AI through various initiatives. Examples include the recent “AI for Development” call at the UN General Assembly (UK), the EU AI Act (EU), and other official announcements committing to ethical AI development. We anticipate that these governments, in conjunction with proactive support from the United Nations, will continue to spearhead AI advancements and promote a rule-based global order in the digital era. This will be grounded in fundamental democratic values and frameworks, guided by the enduring legacy and values of Four Pillars leaders such as Ursula von der Leyen, Shinzo Abe, Michael Dukakis, and Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, as well as Ban Ki-moon and Amandeep Gill from the United Nations.

2. Stakeholders: Civil Society, Think Tanks, Universities, Business Community, Religions, and Governments

In the process of policymaking, the formation of an epistemic community, consisting of policymakers, subject experts, and academics, is crucial. This diverse group offers a range of perspectives to improve the practicality, acceptability, and execution of a policy. This is particularly important in the context of the complex, uncertain, and rapidly evolving landscape of AI advancements, as governmental responses often struggle to keep pace with technological progress. Therefore, in the pursuit of establishing a comprehensive global framework for AI governance, it is vital to engage not only governments but also various other entities, including civil society, think tanks, universities, businesses, and religious institutions. Their collective input ensures a thorough and thoughtful approach to governing AI in the intricate global environment.

Different stakeholders bring distinct perspectives and have specific roles in this initiative:

Civil Society organizations play a crucial role in representing the opinions, sentiments, and views of the public, especially from marginalized and isolated communities. They are also instrumental in effectively communicating the framework to the public through their diverse channels.

Think Tanks and Universities, with their accomplished researchers and scholars, serve as vital links in bridging the knowledge gap between policy-makers and businesses in the realm of AI advancements. Their extensive expertise, spanning from machine learning, robotics, and automation to fields like neuroscience, psychology, sociology, and more, provides invaluable insights for crafting a comprehensive framework that accounts for all aspects of AI governance across related fields. Institutions such as Harvard, MIT, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, Oxford, the University of Tokyo, and Amrita University are expected to be among the first to join this community.

The Business Community, particularly leaders in the tech industry, is the driving force behind AI and other disruptive technologies. They are the primary adopters of the AI design principles established by the global governance framework. Thus, maintaining an ongoing dialogue with them, staying informed about their progress, and seeking their input and recommendations regarding the framework ensures its optimal performance upon implementation.

Religious institutions have a profound significance in traditional society, and their influence remains impactful in a world where AI technology is integrated into citizens' daily lives. By integrating the religious core values of love and kindness into the design of AI, communication becomes more effective, making the technology more persuasive and trustworthy for citizens.

Governments are at the core of a collaborative effort. They possess the legitimate authority and resources to convene all stakeholders, facilitating the generation of knowledge and insights necessary for the governance framework. They also serve as the primary adopters and implementers of the framework's policies and practices.

Meaningful conversations, discussions, and dialogues must occur among these stakeholders. What is most important is that these exchanges are characterized by tolerance, a spirit of learning, and mutual understanding. Given the complex nature of the topic, stakeholders will bring different interests and values to the table. The goal is to have everyone unite around a set of principles and practices, fostering an agreement marked by equal opportunity and the well-being of all.

3. Coordination and Support Mechanisms

The initial step in constructing this framework relies on the existing resources within the AIWS ecosystem, which includes key entities such as the Global Enlightenment Community, Global Enlightenment Club, Global Alliance for Digital Governance (GADG), and Global Internet Governance, Digital Empowerment and Security Alliance (GLIDES).

Global Enlightenment Community: This group consists of distinguished leaders, thinkers, and innovators from various sectors including universities, think tanks, companies, civil societies, governments, and religious institutions. They form the epistemic community mentioned earlier, providing diverse perspectives and expertise crucial for shaping the Global Governance of AI frameworks. Notable members include Harvard's Joseph Nye, Thomas Patterson, David Silbersweig, and John Quelch; MIT's Nazli Choucri and Alex Pentland; Internet pioneer Vint Cerf; Governor Michael Dukakis; President Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Prime Minister Enrico Letta, Prime Minister Zlatko Lagumdžija; Prime Minister Beatriz Merino; Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki; Former State Minister of Defense for Japan Yasuhide Nakayama; and Professor Zaneta Ozolina, Paul Nemitz, Ramu Damodaran, Thomas Kehler, John Clippinger, and Nguyen Anh Tuan.

Global Enlightenment Club: Comprising influential business leaders, this group heads prominent companies in the AI development arena. Their day-to-day operational experience uniquely equips them to offer invaluable insights into the feasibility and real-world implications of laws and regulations for AI

governance. Moreover, these business leaders play a critical role in testing the practicality and effectiveness of the framework.

Global Alliance for Digital Governance (GADG) and Global Internet Governance, Digital Empowerment and Security Alliance (GLIDES): These global initiatives, launched in 2021 and 2023 respectively, are spearheaded and supported by the Boston Global Forum (BGF) and AIWS. GADG was established through a collaborative effort between BGF and the World Leadership Alliance-Club de Madrid at the Policy Lab on September 7-9, 2021. Its primary responsibilities encompass resource coordination, upholding fundamental values and standards, and providing insights into the theoretical frameworks of the Social Contract for the AI Age. Meanwhile, GLIDES emerged in May 2023 as an initiative of Civi20, an engagement group of the G20 forum during the G20 Conference in India. It enables civil society to actively contribute at the grassroots level to shaping policies for an Internet that fosters an inclusive, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable digital society.

4. Foundational Principles

The international community recognizes the need for a nuanced approach to AI, eschewing both total prohibition and unfettered use. Instead, the emphasis lies in establishing standards, norms, core values, and clear developmental guidelines for AI solutions. This comprehensive framework strikes a balance, ensuring responsible and ethical AI utilization while still fostering innovation and addressing global concerns.

Within this proposed framework, we advocate for three foundational principles:

Standards and Norms: Creating universally accepted standards and norms governing AI ethics, safety, and governance.

Vanguard Technology Solutions: Encouraging innovation and research in AI to tackle global challenges.

Building a Dignified Society: Prioritizing AI development that upholds the well-being, justice, equality, freedom, and compassion of all individuals.

Moreover, AI efforts need to consider more transparent, equitable, and community-based approaches to data. This may include data trusts and data cooperatives. For example, building a shared, global commons of health data like genomic sequencing information will improve access and expedite innovation – yet must both be done in a privacy-preserving manner as well as a community-focused and sensitive manner. It will also be critical to make the knowledge, tools, and technologies to take advantage of biological data available through partnerships, databases, and repositories.

Through this framework, we promote the seamless integration of love, compassion, and cutting-edge AI technology within advanced legal systems and democratic political structures. The outlined pillars underscore the significance of transparency, openness, and a refined cultural ethos in shaping a society that leverages both human empathy and technological innovation for the betterment of humanity. In a world marked by diverse perspectives and interests, these values provide common ground for dialogue and collaboration, fostering a culture of mutual respect and empathy vital for effective policymaking and decision-making in the intricate realm of AI governance. Additionally, dignity and compassion serve as catalysts for responsible and ethical innovation, mitigating the risks associated with technological progress and guarding against the development of AI technologies that could potentially harm individuals or exploit vulnerable populations.

5. Action Plan

In light of the proposed foundational principles, we outline seven crucial tactics vital for the effective implementation of the Global Governance of AI framework:

Setting Standards and Norms: The governments of the Four Pillars (US, Japan, EU-UK, India) will initiate the process of defining AI standards and norms in consultation with the Global Enlightenment Community.

These standards and norms will be based on principles of transparency, accountability, fairness, and human-centric AI development.

Collaborative international accords will be established to ensure these standards are upheld across borders and within AI technology development.

Engaging with Religions: Diplomatic efforts will be made to engage major world religions (Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism) in discussions about the ethical implications of AI. Prominent religious leaders, scholars, and thinkers will be invited to participate in dialogues to garner their support for ethical AI development.

These discussions will emphasize the importance of aligning AI technologies with values such as compassion, justice, and respect for human dignity. The effort begins with the involvement of Spiritual Leader Amma and Hinduism, with plans for future expansion to include other religions.

Coordination and Support: GADG and GLIDES will serve as coordination bodies, bringing together stakeholders from the Global Enlightenment Community and Global Enlightenment Club. These organizations will facilitate dialogue, research, and knowledge sharing among experts, leaders, and institutions involved in AI governance.

They will provide technical expertise and policy recommendations to support the governments of the Four Pillars in making informed decisions regarding AI governance.

Building an AI World Society (AIWS): The concept of AI World Society (AIWS), originally conceived by the Boston Global Forum and the Michael Dukakis Institute in 2017, stands as a visionary model for the responsible and ethical development of artificial intelligence.

AIWS aims to harness the transformative power of AI to create a world where technology coexists harmoniously with human values and aspirations.

This paradigm shift in AI development has been championed by the AIWS-G7 Summit Initiative in 2019, propelling the vision into the global consciousness.

An AIWS Assistant will also be developed using Kehler's advanced technology. It will serve as a reliable, intelligent companion in citizens' lives, supporting their emotional well-being and nurturing love and positivity as they strive for personal growth.

Building a global commons of data: This three-step process ensures community members are involved in every step of a global commons of data. Community members can help refine the use case to be practical and beneficial to them. Community members also can ensure that data provides benefits and is appropriately protected, consistent with the needs of the community and that their governance processes regularly involve their inputs as a global commons matures. In addition, such commons of data should adhere to data principles championed by indigenous people globally (including both the FAIR and CARE data principles) to increase both the equity and the positive impact of biological data.

Monitoring and Adaptation: Establish mechanisms for continuous monitoring of AI developments and their alignment with established standards and norms.

Regularly review and update the global AI governance framework to address emerging challenges and opportunities.

Encourage self-regulation within the AI industry while maintaining government oversight to ensure compliance with ethical guidelines.

International Cooperation: Collaborate with other countries and international organizations to expand the framework for global AI governance. This collaborative effort would involve key entities such as the United Nations, as well as countries like South Korea, Australia, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Seek partnerships for joint research, data sharing, and capacity building to address global AI challenges.

Promote a unified approach to AI governance on the global stage, fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

By following this comprehensive action plan, the Four Pillars, along with the involvement of various stakeholders, can work together to establish a robust framework for the Global Governance of AI that reflects the values of compassion, ethics, and societal well-being.

CONCLUSION

Dr. David Bray, Distinguished Fellow at the Stimson Center, has posited that the Turing Test might not be the right test for AI. Instead, of AI trying to pass as human, we should be using AI to make us better humans together, specifically:

It is important to remember the original Turing test – designed by computer science pioneer Alan Turing himself – involved Computer A and Person B, with B attempting to convince an interrogator Person C that they were human and that A was not. Meanwhile, Computer A was trying to convince Person C that they were human. What if this test of a computer “fooling us” is the wrong test for the type of AI that 21st-century societies need, especially if we are to improve extant levels of trust among humans and machines collectively? Instead of the Turing test, we should be asking how AI can amplify the strengths associated with where humans individually and collectively are great – while mitigating our weaknesses both individually and collectively in making decisions. Specifically, instead of AI trying to pass as humans, we should be using AI to make us better humans together.

Hence, the pressing need for a leading initiative to unite governments in establishing effective AI governance has never been more crucial. We propose a framework anchored by the Four Pillars (US, Japan, EU-UK, India), engaging diverse stakeholders and providing the foundation for comprehensive global AI governance. Civil society, think tanks, universities, businesses, religions, and governments each play distinct roles in shaping this initiative.

The framework prioritizes three core aspects: establishing universally recognized standards and norms for AI ethics, driving innovation to tackle

global challenges, and giving primacy to the well-being and compassion of individuals in AI development. To enact these principles, a detailed action plan has been outlined. We anticipate that the Four Pillars, in collaboration with their associated stakeholders, will lead the execution of this plan to establish a robust framework for global AI governance firmly grounded in values of compassion, ethics, and societal well-being.

We welcome support and collaboration from the international community in effectively establishing and implementing this framework. The Boston Global Forum and AIWS City are dedicated to advancing the implementation of this action plan.

THE LATVIAN TRANSATLANTIC ORGANISATION (LATO)

LATO is a non-governmental organisation established in 2000. Its aims are to inform the public about NATO and Latvia's membership in the Alliance, to organise informative public events about Latvian and Euro-Atlantic security issues, to promote partnerships with other countries, to lay the foundations for Latvia's international role as a member of NATO, and to foster the international community's understanding of Latvia's foreign and security policy aims. During the past 20 years, LATO has numerous achievements to be proud of. LATO organises the most influential security conference in the Baltic Sea region: The Rīga Conference facilitates discussion about issues affecting the transatlantic community and annually gathers international experts in foreign affairs and security/defence matters, policy makers, journalists, and business representatives. LATO promotes policy relevant research on topics such as gender equality, peace and security, resilience in the borderland, and the subjective perception of security. A series of various initiatives intended for increasing the interest of Latvian, Baltic and European youth in security related issues have been put in motion, including an annual future leader's forum and masterclasses for young political leaders. LATO's most recent projects are several information campaigns aimed to inform and educate wider publics about resilience, transatlantic bonds, national and international security. LATO has the SecureBaltics.eu internet platform, which serves as an information hub for those who are eager to join the debate on international security.

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PROGRAM WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

LATO launched its first initiative at the Rīga Conference 2020 with a discussion as part of focus on the Women, Peace and Security Initiative. In 2021, a series of different activities on behalf of LATO have been established including special discussion in the Rīga Conference and upcoming publications and a documentary film. In 2022, we hosted two discussions on the WPS agenda in the Rīga Conference. In the second part of the year, we conducted a mentoring program and offered a special training course for young women professionals dealing with security issues or interested in WPS agenda. In 2023, The Rīga Conference continues to lead the pace with a dedicated discussions in the Rīga Conference and a new mentoring program has been launched for aspiring young leaders.

The promise of the Women, Peace and Security agenda set by the United Nations provides a framework for sustainable peace amidst a global crisis, and it is powered by a fearless women's movement that knows few bounds. But, while the agenda has strong support from governments all over the world, that support hasn't plugged the persistent implementation gaps. This is also the case in Latvia and the Baltics.

The general public's knowledge on the importance, leadership and influence of women enlisted within the defence, military and security sectors are quite minimal and their role in defence is often overlooked. Therefore, LATO has been working on developing a series of activities with an overarching aim of raising awareness and understanding on women in the defence, military and security sectors.

The LATO Mentoring Program targets young women professionals from Latvia to connect them with multiple highly ranked, highly achieving and highly reputed women professionals in the defence and foreign affairs sectors. By connecting both the successful and the aspiring leaders, the program bridges the gap in understanding and support and aims to create a long-term network of like-minded individuals. Thus, LATO not only encourages the growth of young professionals and raises awareness of the need for such encouragement at different levels. The mentoring program is supported by the German Embassy in Riga and NATO Public Diplomacy Division.

INFORMATION SPACE SECURITY PROJECT #BORDERRESILIENCE

From 1 November to 31 December 2021 the #BorderResilience information space security project was implemented under the leadership of the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation (LATO). The project included four workshops with eight simulation sessions in the Eastern border regions of Latvia. The project aimed to identify the practices of border communities in countering information attacks, especially on border security issues. The experience and knowledge offered by the communities was used to develop policy recommendations and further steps to promote information security in society with the special emphasis on the border regions. At the end of the project, the results, evaluation and recommendations were presented for the stakeholders, who took further steps in implementation on new information security-oriented policies. The final report of the project is available on the websites of the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation www.lato.lv and www.securebaltics.eu. Methodological and social campaign materials were also developed. The project is turned to become a strategic initiative, which encompasses new projects working together to serve the needs of the larger communities.

The project was implemented in cooperation with the State Chancellery and the NATO Public Diplomacy Division.

SECURE BALTICS

LATO holds an internet platform SecureBaltics (www.securebaltics.eu).

The site gathers different materials – policy briefs, discussions, interviews, studies, educational materials – created in the framework of the Rīga Conference, as well as work from our partners. It is a stable platform that the Rīga Conference community can rely on and use as a credible source of information in the region.

Purpose

The purpose of the platform is to collect the know-how that is generated by the excellent minds gathered at the Rīga Conference on an annual basis. The Rīga Conference gathers regional and international experts in foreign policy and defence, academics, journalists, and business representatives by promoting the discussions on issues affecting the transatlantic community. It has been growing in influence since its inception in 2006.

Every year, for two days the National Library of Latvia is the centre of the most important regional discussions on security issues. However, it is not enough to engage in these discussions only once a year. Therefore, LATO developed SecureBaltics as a practical tool which can encourage the use of any resources and materials that have been produced as part of the Riga Conference or its follow-up events.

Reach

The platform provides materials in both, English and Latvian, in order to reach multiple audiences. It is intended for the traditional Rīga Conference community of opinion leaders and experts in foreign policy and defence matters as well as any other interested parties that could benefit from the generated materials such as high school teachers looking for study materials.

Vision

LATO is working on SecureBaltics to become the go-to hub for resource associated with defence and security issues in the Baltics within the next few years.

Materials

The platform SecureBaltics provides resources:

- For all interested parties, including expert community, in the form of interviews, policy briefs, commentaries on topical issues

- For teachers and lecturers in the form of study materials and tests that can be included in academic curriculum
- For students in the form of lectures and study materials, as well as interactive study materials through games.

Partners

The SecureBaltics portal is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, NATO Public Diplomacy Division.

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