# Internet Governance Forum Policy Network on AI: Work Plan 2024

## Goals

- Focus on strengthening global collaborations on artificial intelligence and related aspects of data governance
- Identify AI governance frameworks, principles, policies, and good practices being developed in the world, particularly focusing on those in the global south. And elevate the principles and values of AI governance underpinned by the UN
- Bring the IGF's multistakeholder and multidisciplinary expert-driven community together with widened inclusion of voices of the global south, gather and synthesize knowledge on this topic in the community
- Build on previous 2023 PNAI report, discussions, create synergies, and provide input to the global AI policy and regulatory dialogue
- Contribute to the UN HLAB's AI consultations. If possible, also other AI governance consultations
- Promote debates among the community on topics related to AI global governance and the ethical, social, economic, technical, and environmental sustainability of these systems through webinars and other multi-platform approach

## Outputs

### 1) 2024 PNAI Policy Brief

For its second year (2024), the PNAI Policy Brief will build upon its first year of work, while adding new dimensions to the discussions. The first report presented and assessed existing policy measures relevant to three key topics, proposed next steps, and shared recommendations based on the multistakeholder discussions. The three key topics studied include: 'Interoperability of AI governance'; 'AI, gender and race inclusion', and 'Governing AI for an equitable data and environment transition".

The 2024 PNAI policy brief will expand the momentum gained in the 2023 report[1] and focus on policy recommendations for global AI governance. The policy brief will reflect on the recommendations made by the 2023 report, assess new and proposed regulations, best practices, ethical principles, guidance and actionable measures to be considered in governance frameworks that address AI's design, development, deployment, and disposal, and propose next steps and recommendations for their implementation. In addition, the 2024 policy brief will also draw fresh evidence and insights from expert interviews conducted by the drafting team. The brief will provide critical inputs that could be fed into the UN's Global Digital Compact (GDC)[2] process and the work of the Multistakeholder High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence.

The 2024 policy brief's focus will be on the following topics:

- AI governance, Interoperability, and Good practices
- Environmental Sustainability and the AI value chain

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[1] https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/282/26545

[2] https://www.un.org/techenvoy/global-digital-compact

- Liability as a mechanism for ensuring AI accountability
- Labour issues within AI's life cycle

The 2024 policy brief will revisit these issues from a Global South Perspective.

As a critical component for responsible AI, data governance will remain a cross-cutting underlying theme in the aforementioned areas, to highlight that a strong data foundation is critical for the success of responsible AI implementations[3] and to mitigate associated risks.

The report will explore the interoperability of AI governance at the global level, by analyzing how the different AI regulatory, guidance, and policy initiatives across the world could work together to foster a harmonious coexistence among AI systems, that have the potential to revolutionize industries, enhance human capabilities, and drive innovation towards a more connected future while ensuring its sustainable, equitable and responsible use.

Furthermore, the PNAI will also focus on environmental considerations throughout the AI value chain. This involves the development of metrics and indicators and access to high value data sets that is crucial for assessing and mitigating the environmental footprint of AI technologies across their entire lifecycle, from development to disposal, focusing on ensuring the environmental sustainability aspect of AI, especially considering the intense consumption of natural resources along their life cycle.

PNAI will explore mechanisms for governance frameworks to incorporate accountability principles that include financial liability for AI systems across the lifecycle. Given the rapid pace at which AI technologies evolve, the potential for novel and increasingly risky AI outputs will plausibly continue to outpace regulatory developments. Clarifying financial liability will incentivize AI developers to adequately safeguard against harms caused by bad or careless actors damaging to individuals, communities and societies. Additionally, such clarification will reduce the financial burdens on individuals, communities and governments for damages caused by unsafe or biased systems[4].

Advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) will remain at the forefront of the PNAI's work. This means upholding a human rights-based perspective, especially related to intersectionalities of labor, gender, race, disabilities, and the exclusion of historically marginalized communities.

Furthermore, through a decolonial informed approach (DIA), the PNAI network can encourage critical reflection on the historical and structural factors to address cross-cutting global policies that impact multilateralism and the most pressing challenges of our time[5], including for AI governance frameworks, AI hardware and software value chains, and colonial legacies of

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[3] Zuiderwijk, A., Chen, Y. C., & Salem, F. (2021). Implications of the use of artificial intelligence in public governance: A systematic literature review and a research agenda. Government Information Quarterly, 38(3), 101577: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0740624X21000137; UNU (2023). The Use of Synthetic Data to Train AI Models: Opportunities and Risks for Sustainable Development https://unu.edu/publication/use-synthetic-data-train-ai-models-opportunities-and-risks-sustainable-development

[4] Vasudevan, A. (2023). Addressing the Liability Gap in AI Accidents.Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). Policy Brief Number 177, https://www.cigionline.org/static/documents/PB_no.177.pdf

[5] Report of the UN Economist Network for the UN 75th Anniversary: Shaping the Trends of Our Time https://desapublications.un.org/publications/report-un-economist-network-un-75th-anniversary-shaping-trends-our-time

extraction and uneven power dynamics in global governance institutions. By critically examining the roots of existing governance models, the network can identify opportunities for decolonial interventions and transformative change in our global interdependent society.

### 2) Webinars

PNAI will organize webinars on the PNAI's working topics as a way to foster discussion and encourage inputs from the community, to cooperate with other actors and groups interested in the same area with a special focus on UN agencies and collaborating organizations, and create a broad network of contributors, including from the supporting organizations, their communities, and partners; academics, researchers, and think tanks who have published on these topics, as well as representatives from governments, industry and academia. This broader network would act as the primary community for input to the PN's work and as multipliers to the PN's outputs.

### 3) Input to AI governance Consultations

The PNAI plans to submit multistakeholder inputs to the UN HLAB's AI Consultations and if possible, other international organizations' consultations on AI governance to share the community's expert knowledge and contribute to the global AI policymaking process and dialogues.

### 4) Present progress of the work at key junctions of the IGF 2024 cycle and at the 2024 IGF annual meeting

The PNAI expects to collaborate and present the preliminary results of its work along the IGF 2024 cycle, in events such as the national and regional chapters of the Forum. After the successful panel held in the IGF 2023 annual meeting, where the PNAI presented its work to the broad community along with experts in the field from multiple sectors, the Network aims to share the final results of its work in 2024 during the IGF annual meeting, which will take place in Riyadh.

## Mechanisms of Working

The monthly (online) meetings are the core of PNAI work. Invitations to the meetings and minutes/meetings summaries are shared to the IGF's broad multistakeholder community in the open PNAI mailing list. To advance the work on specific topics, the facilitator and working groups can propose or/and initiate working meetings or webinars to be held between the monthly PNAI meetings. In addition, the PNAI will set up sub-groups to examine specific questions.

The PNAI mailing list is an open space for discussion and input from the group members between meetings. An open Google Drive folder (or similar tool) will be created to allow members to share documents.

A steering committee including the facilitators, consultancy, and representatives from working groups will be set up to coordinate and oversee the work of the PNAI.

1) For the PNAI Policy Brief

### Phase 1 – Open dialogue, agree on an outline and define thematic focus areas

- The first priority will be to hear input and suggestions from the PNAI Policy Brief

Working Group during the first 2024 PNAI meeting.

- Based on the discussion, the facilitators and IGF Secretariat propose a draft outline of the report. It is important to crystallize the focus and scope. As already agreed by the PNAI community, the key areas will be (a) AI governance with a focus on regulation interoperability, (b) environmental sustainability and the AI value chain and (c) labour issues within AI's life cycle, d) Liability as a mechanism for ensuring AI accountability.

**Phase 2 - Gather information**

- Set up an open consultation to gather comments, written contributions or reports. Such consultation may involve meetings between the PNAI's contributors and make use of online whiteboards or similar platforms that allows participants to leave notes and see earlier content. Information on the consultation will be shared with the MAG, external experts and other identified networks and communities.

- Host PNAI meeting 2 to discuss the outline together and plan the contributions from the experts.

- Host PNAI meetings 3 and 4 to discuss the outline with PNAI members.

- Independent desktop research, fact-finding calls with experts, expert interviews, attending webinars or events on current AI topics.

**Phase 3 – Drafting**

- Host PNAI meeting 5 to discuss drafting the report, discuss with the experts any open questions related to the content or expert contributions.

- Draft the brief, Share the draft chapters for comments and edits of PNAI members active in drafting (Google docs or other tool that allows editing together).

- Host PNAI meetings 6, 7 to discuss the ready draft report.

**Phase 4 – Consultation**

- Invite the wider community to comment on the draft report: PNAI multistakeholder working group; MAG, networks of National, Regional and Youth IGFs (NRIs); the network of Dynamic Coalitions (DCs); networks gathered around the IGF 2023 Youth Track6; and Parliamentary Track7, etc.

- Identify PNAI focal point from each community (MAG, NRIs, DCs, Youth Track and Parliamentary Track) to track progress.

**Phase 5 – Edit the policy brief and deliver a final version.**

- Written policy brief of 20 pages. A few short case studies (in text boxes of circa half a page) will connect the policy breif's recommendations to the practical AI work. The case studies would come from PNAI members based on concrete AI use cases.

2) For the provision of inputs to the HLAB on AI's Consultation, and if possible other consultations

PNAI members or SC members can initiate the call for expressing interests in providing input to consultations on behalf of the PNAI. If a sufficient number of PNAI members and SC

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6 [ttps://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-youth-track](ttps://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-youth-track)
7 [https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-parliamentary-track](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-parliamentary-track)

support the initiative, a working group will be set up by members to work on the input document, the final input document must be approved by the PNAI SC and the IGF MAG before its submission.

3) For the sharing of PNAI's work's progress at key junctions of the IGF 2024 cycle and at the 2024 IGF annual meeting

The presentation of the work at key events of the IGF 2024 cycle is led by the PNAI SC. The speakers of the  PNAI main session at the 2024 IGF annual meeting are openly nominated by the PNAI members, and final speakers must be approved by the PNAI members and the IGF MAG after open deliberations via both the mailing list and PNAI meetings.

4) For webinars

PNAI facilitators, SC and consultancy propose, invite proposals for and also approve the topics and speakers of the webinars. The Consultancy is responsible for organizing the webinars.

## Stakeholder engagement

- Participation in and contribution to the PNAI work is open to everyone. PNAI mailing list channels all communication.
- The PNAI members are to further engage with their networks to have new members invited and also to request their contributions, including for working and providing feedback on the PNAI's work.
- Engage and involve IGF communities, such as the MAG, NRIs, DCs, networks gathered around the youth track and the parliamentary track and other relevant events.
- Engage and involve wider IG communities such as ICANN, The Regional Internet Registries (RIRs), academic networks such as Giganet,  and private sectors such as AI Alliance etc.
- Monthly briefing on PNAI work to be published on the PNAI website, including a clear invite to join the work.

## Communications and outreach

A concrete communications plan and timeline to be developed.
- PNAI website to host relevant and updated information on PNAI. Monthly status updates to be published there.
- Developments to be shared through the "Community Updates" process, which are then posted to the IGF homepage8.
- Use of IGF mailing lists9 to be maximised, specifically those for DCs, PNIF, PNMA, BPF-Cybersecurity, as well as for NRIs, which can be posted to on request to the NRIs focal points.

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[8] https://www.intgovforum.org/
[9] https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/sign-up-and-contribute-to-igf-mailing-lists

- Coordinate with IGF Secretariat to create posts for IGF accounts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.10

- Social media – create social media strategy, fully utilize PNAI members networks and expertise – including by gathering PNAI contacts and routinely making them aware of upcoming social media and other posts, with an ask for re-posting/further sharing

- Organize virtual town hall meetings to provide updates on PNAI activities and solicit feedback and input from the community.

- Facilitate online forums or discussion boards where stakeholders can exchange ideas, ask questions, and share best practices on AI governance.

- Partner with universities and research institutions to organize webinars on emerging topics in AI governance and ethics.

- Create an online repository or knowledge hub where stakeholders can access research papers, policy documents, and case studies related to AI governance.

- Build a Slack presence in addition to social media channels to be in constant communication with network members

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[10] https://twitter.com/intgovforum; https://www.facebook.com/IntGovForum
https://www.instagram.com/intgovforum/

## ANNEX 1: Proposed timeline

**Proposed Timeline for 2024**

| Month | Day | Milestone |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| **Apr** | **01st** | **Meeting 1 of the PNAI's Webinar (Launch of the PNAI) Meeting 1 of the PNAI's Policy Brief Activities** |
| May | tbc | |
| May | tbc | |
| Jun | 17–19 | Outreach activities at the Eurodig[11] |
| July | tbc | |
| Aug | 21-23 | Outreach activities at the APrIGF[12] |
| Sep | tbc | Outreach activities at the LACIGF[13] |
| **Sep** | **tbc** | **Draft output Policy Brief ready** |
| Sep | tbc | Consultation starts |
| Sep | tbc | Consultation closes |
| Oct | tbc | **Edited Policy Brief ready** |
| Nov | tbc | |
| **Dec** | | **Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum** |
| Dec | tbc | PNAI meeting (discussion on 2025 work plan) |

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[11] https://www.eurodig.org/

[12] https://ap.rigf.asia

[13] https://lacigf.org/

## ANNEX 2 - List of contributors of the PNAI proposal

José Renato Laranjeira de Pereira, Laboratory of Public Policy and Internet - LAPIN, Brazil
Umut Pajaro Velasquez, Independent Researcher, Colombia
Olga Cavalli - National Cybersecurity Director, Argentina
Shamira Ahmed-Data Economy Policy Hub (DepHUB), South Africa
Dr. Fadi Salem, Director of Policy Research, Senior Fellow of Future Government, MBR School of Government, UAE
Sergio Mayo Macías, Aragón Institute of Technology (Spain)
Dr. YIk Chan Chin, Associate Professor, Beijing Normal University, China
Dr. Mohd Asyraf Zulkifley, Associate Professor, National University of Malaysia, Malaysia.
Sook-Jung Dofel, Director General, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany
Ayse Arslan- Oxford Alumni- Silicon Valley Chapter, Independent research scholar (ex-Google/Apple)