

Innovation & tech

Reducing Global Imbalances in AI

Solution Paper

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1. Secure resilience across critical AI technology stacks

The G7 should establish enforceable guarantees for safe and durable access to critical AI technology stacks (compute, data, models, platforms). The G7 should deliver such guarantees through shared public infrastructure, binding governance arrangements and diversified supply chains.

AI sovereignty hinges on AI resilience: the capacity to sustain capabilities and preserve decision-making autonomy under stress. However, access to AI stacks remains fragile and reversible. A small number of providers can restrict or withdraw access, creating vulnerabilities. Natural disasters or military conflicts could also disrupt access. A growing divide between compute-rich and compute-poor regions compounds these risks.

Shared or jointly governed infrastructure, binding access rights, continuity clauses and data-sovereignty safeguards can reduce exposure to supply disruptions and vendor lock-in. Co-operative oversight mechanisms and a preference for efficient, small architectures can further limit compute dependency while improving the long-term reliability of access.

2. Ensure AI benefit-sharing with the Global South

The G7 should recognise countries in the Global South as active partners in AI capacity-building to ensure that AI benefits all humanity. This will require redressing the uneven distribution of AI-related harms, particularly those linked to exclusion, underrepresentation and discrimination. It will also necessitate a more equitable distribution of opportunities to develop advanced, data-driven technologies.

Many countries in the Global South face low AI preparedness, inadequate digital infrastructure and limited access to data. This prevents them from developing local solutions and leaves them exposed to AI-driven disruption, with few alternatives beyond reliance on external providers that largely fail to meet their development needs.

Targeted investments, knowledge-transfer programmes and partnerships with AI labs in like-minded countries can help to mitigate the risks of technological dependency. These actions can also enable Global South countries to develop and deploy AI suited to their own needs, while diversifying the global AI ecosystem beyond its current points of concentration.

3. Shift public AI investments towards lighter, sector-specific models

The G7 should shift public AI investments towards lighter, open models, including sector-specific and local-language models for governmental use.

General-purpose large language models attract the bulk of AI investment despite high training costs, high energy use and poor fit for many public-sector use cases. This misalignment crowds out more targeted and cost-effective approaches, while further increasing AI's environmental footprint.

The G7 should prioritise open models optimised for specific domains, for example health, justice or education. It should support the development of such models with shared datasets, benchmarks and deployment toolkits. Asymmetric, risk-based regulation that accounts for sector, use case and actor size can provide the foundation that this investment shift requires.

4. Strengthen global AI governance through UN and multilateral frameworks

The G7 should support and co-ordinate with United Nations AI governance initiatives, including the Independent Scientific Panel and the Global Dialogue on AI. The G7 should align regulatory vocabularies, avoid duplication and ensure that broader multilateral processes inform G7 positions.

AI governance is proliferating across overlapping forums, including the G7, G20, AI Summits, UN bodies and BRICS. This fragmentation fuels a rise in inconsistent standards and institutional fatigue.

What's more, fragmented AI governance raises the risk of excluding many countries from the decisions that will shape AI's global trajectory.

G7 engagement through the Independent Scientific Panel, the Global Dialogue and relevant UN bodies can help to align regulatory approaches, share enforcement best practices and support capacity-building in under-resourced jurisdictions, in line with national and regional development goals.

5. Adopt common public procurement guidelines for AI

The G7 should adopt common public procurement guidelines that set a minimum baseline for AI systems around transparency, auditability, data portability and interoperability. These baseline requirements should apply across G7 procurement and anchor demand for outputs from future AI development partnerships.

Public procurement gives governments a strong lever to shape AI markets. However, G7 members currently procure under divergent standards that fragment demand and reinforce dependence on a small number of providers.

By setting common procurement guidelines, the G7 can aggregate purchasing power across its economies, reduce vendor lock-in and create market incentives aligned with public-interest objectives. Such guidelines should reflect context of use and include incentives that support start-ups and emerging companies. They should also be set at a level that developing economies can meet in order to avoid reinforcing the concentration of AI resources.

6. Launch a multinational frontier AI partnership

The G7 should launch a multinational, advanced AI development partnership among like-minded economies to pool compute, talent, data and governance. This partnership would enable participants to jointly develop frontier AI models while distributing costs and reinforcing democratic oversight.

Frontier AI development is concentrating rapidly among a small number of actors, leaving many economies in a situation where they can only choose between dependency and autarky. Fragmented national approaches prevent mid-sized economies from marshalling the resources required to operate independently at the frontier.

As a first step, the G7 should establish a shared compute cluster for public-interest AI research. This step can enable participating states to build experience and trust before scaling towards joint R&D funding and governance. High transparency standards can facilitate independent oversight and establish credibility with a broad range of partners. While the resilience proposal (see above) focuses on continuity of access to critical AI stacks, such a partnership focuses on collective frontier R&D so that like-minded economies can jointly develop, evaluate and govern advanced models.

7. Strengthen G7 AI risk monitoring

The G7 should update its catalogue of AI risks, establish transparent mechanisms to track progress on risk mitigation and set common standards for algorithmic accountability. In addition, the G7 should strengthen the Hiroshima AI Process with common risk indicators, peer review and wide participation spanning developers, deployers and civil society.

Current AI governance frameworks fail to guarantee due process in automated decision-making. They provide few enforceable transparency rights, intelligible explanations and independent oversight mechanisms, particularly for high-risk applications.

The G7 can strengthen accountability for AI systems across G7 economies by advancing risk- and rights-based regulatory frameworks that prioritise cognisable risks and impose mandatory disclosure obligations proportionate to risk, sector and use case.

8. Promote a cross-border AI talent and research ecosystem

The G7 should promote cross-border pooling of AI talent through multinational research hubs, joint appointments, short-term mobility schemes and a dedicated G7 AI Research Visa.

Frontier AI researchers rely on externally-controlled compute, proprietary models and corporate partnerships. This concentrates not just talent, but also agenda-setting prerogatives. Research-enabling mechanisms should extend beyond data science to broader issues of global governance and more equitable epistemic engagement.

Building a distributed AI talent and research ecosystem can help build capability where knowledge already exists, enabling countries to independently audit, adapt and govern AI systems. Creating such an ecosystem can enable participating economies to build expertise and foster frontier research outside of a handful of technological hubs.