

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, AND DIGITAL GOVERNANCE IN SERVICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION

The 44th Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations,

Recalling Article 1(3) of the Charter of the United Nations, which establishes international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as a core purpose of the United Nations,

Reaffirming Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which protect the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and Article 12 of the Universal Declaration and Article 17 of the International Covenant, which protect the right to privacy,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 78/265 (2024), “Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development,” adopted by consensus with the co-sponsorship of over 120 Member States,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 78/311 (2024), “Enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building of artificial intelligence,” which affirms that all nations should enjoy equal opportunities in the non-military domain of artificial intelligence,

Recognizing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021) and the report of the Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, “Governing AI for Humanity” (2024), as valuable references for national and international AI governance,

Acknowledging the findings of the United Nations Digital Public Infrastructure Safeguards Initiative regarding risks of exclusion, discrimination, and privacy violation, and the corresponding need for safeguards to be embedded in the design and governance of such systems from inception,

Also recognizing the Global Digital Compact (Annex to A/RES/79/1) as a framework for equitable digital cooperation and universal, meaningful connectivity,

Recalling the Human Rights Council’s consistent affirmation, since 2012, that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 68/167 (2013) on the right to privacy in the digital age, which affirms the continued application of international human rights law to digital communications,



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Concerned that unequal access to digital technologies, including the gender digital divide, continues to limit the full and equal exercise of rights and opportunities by many populations,

Welcoming the role of United Nations Associations and civil society in promoting digital literacy, inclusive governance, and public understanding of emerging technologies, consistent with their respective national contexts,

1. Affirms that artificial intelligence systems should be developed in a manner that is safe, secure, and trustworthy, consistent with the shared vision expressed in General Assembly resolution 78/265;
2. Encourages Member States and civil society to support international cooperation on artificial intelligence, safe capacity-building, particularly for developing countries, consistent with General Assembly resolution 78/311; and enhance the voice and representation of Global South nations within global AI governance frameworks;
3. Also encourages the application of artificial intelligence within civilian, non-military domains in a manner consistent with international law and regulations, and applicable human rights obligations, in accordance with national legal frameworks;
4. Further encourages Member States to consider the recommendations of the Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, as appropriate to national circumstances;
5. Requests WFUNA to facilitate civil society dialogue on AI literacy, transparency, and accountability, open to diverse national and regional approaches to AI governance;
6. Recognizes the potential of digital public infrastructure to expand access to essential services, financial inclusion, and civic participation, consistent with the G20 Framework for Systems of Digital Public Infrastructure;
7. Calls upon Member States and implementing institutions to embed privacy, data protection, and non-discrimination and ethical safeguards into the design and governance of digital public infrastructure from inception, consistent with the findings of the United Nations Digital Public Infrastructure Safeguards Initiative;
8. Encourages transparent and independent oversight mechanisms for digital identity and payment systems to help prevent the exclusion of vulnerable and underserved populations;
9. Also encourages Member States to pursue interoperable, open-standard, and publicly accountable digital public infrastructure, in accordance with national legal frameworks;
10. Also instructs WFUNA to convene technical dialogues among United Nations Associations, civil society, and digital public infrastructure implementers to share good practice on safeguards and inclusive design;
11. Affirms that the rights people have offline must also be protected online, consistent with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
12. Reaffirms the right to privacy in the digital age, consistent with Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and General Assembly resolution 68/167;

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13. Encourages Member States to review their laws, regulations, and practices affecting digital access and online expression in light of their respective international human rights obligations and national legal frameworks;
14. Also encourages Member States to work with civil society to accelerate efforts to bridge the digital divide, including the gender digital divide, to advance equitable and meaningful connectivity for all;
15. Supports the meaningful participation of civil society, youth, and underrepresented groups in national and international digital governance discussions, consistent with national practice;
16. Also requests WFUNA to establish a working group on digital governance to monitor developments across artificial intelligence, digital public infrastructure, and digital rights, and to report to the next Plenary Assembly;
17. Invites the sharing of national experiences and good practices on artificial intelligence, digital public infrastructure, and digital rights governance at the next WFUNA Plenary Assembly;
18. Also encourages Member States to agree binding rules for the development, sales, and use of autonomous weapon systems.