

16TH ITU ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

ITUKALEIDOSCOPE

GENEVA2026

*AI and frontier
technologies for good*

7-9 July 2026
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Hosted by  **AI for Good**
Global Summit



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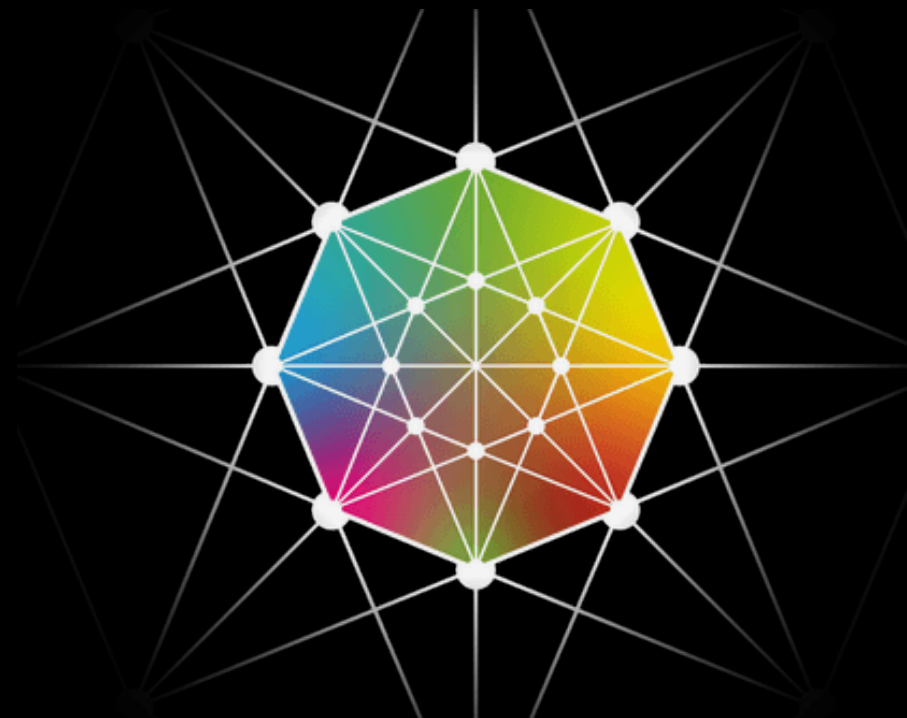
Artificial Intelligence Governance at the Global Level

Policy, Standards and Institutional Design

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The challenge — and our concept

AI is inherently cross-border, yet no universal regime orders the soft instruments already governing it — and participation in rule-making stays unequal (UNCTAD, 2025).

SOFT POLYCENTRICITY

Many centres of rule-making hold practical authority through non-binding instruments — with no binding hierarchy.



Distributed authority

No single actor holds a mandate over the full AI lifecycle — IGOs, standards bodies, regulators and firms all rule-make.



Soft & hybrid instruments

Principles and standards precede binding law — and turn quasi-mandatory via procurement and market access.



Procedural coordination

Coherence rests on cross-references, liaison and shared standards — not on hierarchy.

Four approaches, no single model



European Union

APPROACH

Binding, risk-based regulation



United States

APPROACH

Voluntary & sectoral (NIST AI RMF)



China

APPROACH

State-centric application rules



UN / ITU

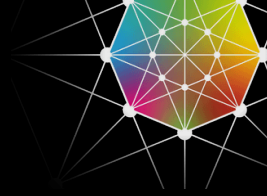
APPROACH

Soft law, standards, capacity-building

THE REAL CHALLENGE

Interoperability among these approaches — without suppressing regulatory diversity.

ITU: a node, not the regulator



Technical standard-setting

The AI Standards Exchange — one access point to ITU, ISO/IEC & IEEE standards.



Multistakeholder convening

AI for Good — aligning terminology and connecting experts with policy.



Capacity-building

The AI Skills Coalition — inclusive AI education to close the participation gap.



LIMITS & EQUITY

Mandate, geopolitics, resources and legal risk bound its authority — ITU should be one node, not the centre.
Capacity-building lowers the real cost of participation, addressing the World Bank's four foundations of AI readiness:

Connectivity

Compute

Context

Competency

FROM DIALOGUE TO PROCEDURE

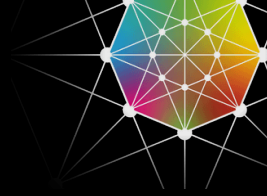
Five measurable steps

UNGA Resolution A/RES/79/325 — the Scientific Panel and Global Dialogue — opens an institutional window.



CONCLUSION

Soft polycentricity



01

No single regulator is emerging.



02

The problem is coordination — not the absence of norms.



03

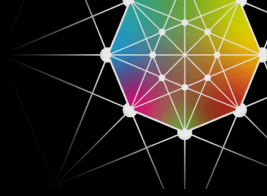
ITU is one core node in a UN-centred architecture.

*With the right mechanisms, soft polycentricity becomes a source of **flexible coordination** — not fragmentation.*

Thank you — questions welcome.

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Thank you for your attention!

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