

# Artificial Intelligence and International Law Updates

Newsletter [December'24]

## International Law Updates

### 1. UN Endorses Resolution on AI in Military Domain

The UN First Committee approved a draft resolution (A/C.1/79/L.43) on artificial intelligence in the military domain, securing 165 votes in favour, 2 against (DPRK, Russia), and 6 abstentions. The resolution is co-sponsored by 23 countries and highlights that international law including the UN Charter and international humanitarian law applies throughout the entire AI life cycle in military contexts, covering stages from pre-design and development to decommissioning. It highlights both the opportunities and benefits of AI, such as compliance with international humanitarian law and better protection of civilians, as well as the risks of an arms race, miscalculation, and proliferation to non-State actors. It calls on States to bridge existing digital divides, share good practices and lessons learned, and engage in multilateral dialogue on the ethical, legal, and security challenges posed by military AI systems. The resolution also tasks the Secretary-General with collecting Member and observer States' views (excluding lethal autonomous weapons systems) and presenting these findings at the Assembly's eightieth session, laying the groundwork for continued global discussions on responsible AI use in military applications.

Link to the resolution - <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/299/16/pdf/n2429916.pdf>

Link to the press release - <https://press.un.org/en/2024/gadis3757.doc.htm>

### 2. UN's New Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET) to Advance Global Tech Governance

December 24, 2024

On 1 January 2025, the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Technology changes into the UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET) following a UN General Assembly decision on 24 December 2024 and building on the Global Digital Compact adopted at the Summit of the Future in September 2024. ODET will focus on AI governance and other rapidly evolving technological issues by supporting the Compact's follow-up and implementation and has a stronger mandate. It aims to advocate for digital cooperation, adopt multistakeholder policy dialogue, advise UN leadership on emerging tech trends, strengthen system-wide coordination on digital matters, and carry forward actions aligned with the UN Charter, human rights, and the sustainable development agenda.

Link - <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/406/66/pdf/n2440666.pdf>

### 3. G20 Leaders Commit to Responsible Global AI Governance

November 18-19, 2024

At the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 18-19 November 2024, leaders acknowledged AI's transformative potential and committed to fostering responsible and inclusive governance frameworks. Key priorities include ensuring safe and ethical AI development, balancing pro-innovation regulation with risk management, and strengthening global cooperation to reduce digital divides and support developing nations. The leaders also addressed AI's impact on the labour market, emphasizing fair integration, workers' rights, and digital literacy. Future initiatives under South Africa's G20 presidency will include a high-level task force on AI and innovation. The declaration highlights AI as a tool for sustainable development and global equity.

Link - <https://rsf.org/en/brazil-rsf-welcomes-g20-final-declaration-highlighting-ai-regulation-and-digital-platforms#:~:text=The%20final%20declaration%20of%20the,to%20ensure%20transparency%2C%20accountability%2C%20human>

## **ASEAN Region Updates**

### **4. Singapore & EU Strengthen AI Safety Collaboration**

On 20 November 2024, Singapore and the European Union formalised a new Administrative Arrangement (AA) to deepen their cooperation on AI safety, furthering their commitment to safe, trustworthy, and human-centric AI. Building on the EU-Singapore Digital Partnership (EUSDP) signed in February 2023 and the EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement (EUSDTA) concluded in July 2024, this arrangement commits both parties to collaborate on areas such as joint AI safety research, testing and evaluations of AI models, the development of frameworks and benchmarks, as well as standardisation efforts and information exchange, reinforcing the global network of AI Safety Institutes (AISIs).

Link to update - <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/singapore-and-the-european-union-agree-to-strengthen-collaboration-on-ai-safety/>

### **5. Singapore & UK Sign Agreement to Strengthen AI Safety**

Singapore and the United Kingdom have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to boost public trust in AI development and use. This agreement builds on their existing digital partnership under the UK-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement (UKSDEA). The MoC aligns with the commitments made at the AI Safety Summit in November 2023 and the goals of the international network of AI Safety Institutes. Key areas of collaboration include joint AI safety research, the formulation of global norms and standards, enhanced information sharing, and comprehensive safety testing frameworks. This move underscores the importance of international cooperation in advancing the safe and responsible adoption of AI technologies.

Link - <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/new-singapore-uk-agreement-to-strengthen-global-ai-safety-and-governance/>

### **6. Singapore MAS Releases Key Findings on AI Risk Management for Banks**

December 5, 2024

On 5 December 2024, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) shared its findings and best practices for managing AI risks in banks, following a comprehensive review earlier this year. The report emphasized the need for financial institutions to strengthen governance and regularly

update their AI risk frameworks to keep pace with technological advancements. It highlighted specific measures, such as implementing controls for generative AI risks, performing compensatory testing for third-party AI tools, and enhancing related legal agreements. Additionally, MAS advised reviewing existing legal, compliance, and cyber risk management policies to reflect AI's growing impact. While MAS focused on banks, the guidance offers valuable insights for all financial institutions deploying AI. Looking ahead, MAS plans to issue supervisory guidance next year to help institutions further enhance their AI risk management practices.

Link - <https://www.mas.gov.sg/publications/monographs-or-information-paper/2024/artificial-intelligence-model-risk-management>

## **7. Malaysia Launches National AI Office to Drive Regional AI Development**

December 12, 2024

On 12 December 2024, Malaysia's Ministry of Digital unveiled the National AI Office (NAIO), marking a key step in the country's ambition to become a regional hub for AI innovation. The launch aligns with the Prime Minister's vision for sustainability, integrity, and equitable wealth distribution, emphasizing the role of local talent in shaping Malaysia's AI future. The NAIO will focus on strategic planning, research and development, and regulation, with a roadmap to deliver seven key initiatives over the next year. These include creating a code of ethics, establishing an AI regulatory framework, conducting an AI impact study for the government, and drafting a five-year AI technology action plan. Initially, the NAIO will operate under MyDIGITAL Corporation, another Ministry of Digital agency, as it builds its capacity and finalizes its long-term strategy.

Link - [https://kd-portal.vercel.app/en-GB/siaran/Pembukaan-Pejabat-Kecerdasan-Buatan-Kebangsaan-\(NAIO\)-Membawa-Malaysia-Ke-Era-Transformasi-Dan-Inovasi-Kecerdasan-Buatan-\(AI\)](https://kd-portal.vercel.app/en-GB/siaran/Pembukaan-Pejabat-Kecerdasan-Buatan-Kebangsaan-(NAIO)-Membawa-Malaysia-Ke-Era-Transformasi-Dan-Inovasi-Kecerdasan-Buatan-(AI)).

## **8. Philippines Issues AI Guidelines on Privacy**

December 19, 2024

On 19 December 2024, the Philippine National Privacy Commission (NPC) released guidelines clarifying the application of the Data Privacy Act to AI systems. The guidelines stress transparency in data usage, governance mechanisms for human oversight, and safeguards against bias in AI systems. It reiterates that publicly accessible data still requires a lawful basis for processing.

Link - <https://privacy.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Advisory-2024.12.19-Guidelines-on-Artificial-Intelligence-w-SGD.pdf>

## **Asian Legal Updates**

### **9. South Korea Passes AI Basic Act**

December 26, 2024

On 26 December 2024, South Korea's National Assembly passed the AI Basic Act, focusing on promoting AI development and building public trust. Key provisions include mandatory risk assessments for high-impact AI, transparency requirements for generative AI outputs, safety

protocols for large-scale AI systems, and obligations for foreign businesses to designate local representatives. The Act, effective January 2026, aims to align AI innovation with safety and ethical standards.

Link

<https://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=232661#:~:text=The%20AI%20Basic%20Act%2C%20which,of%20personal%20information%20and%20copyright.>

## **10. Japan Updates AI Business Guidelines**

December 25, 2024

On 25 December 2024, Japan updated its AI Guidelines for Business to address AI-generated misinformation. The guidelines recommend measures such as developing skills to detect false information, collaborating with fact-checkers, and establishing protocols for accurate content. These updates aim to ensure responsible use of AI across industries.

Link

[https://www.meti.go.jp/shingikai/mono\\_info\\_service/ai\\_shakai\\_jisso/pdf/20241226\\_2.pdf](https://www.meti.go.jp/shingikai/mono_info_service/ai_shakai_jisso/pdf/20241226_2.pdf)

## **11. Hong Kong Issues Guidance on Generative AI Use in Financial Institutions**

November 12, 2024

On 12 November 2024, Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) issued a circular addressing the use of generative AI language models in financial institutions. While acknowledging the efficiency benefits for tasks like client interactions and research, the SFC highlighted risks such as inaccurate outputs, data leakage, and over-reliance on AI responses. The circular emphasizes principles including senior management accountability, model validation, cybersecurity, and oversight of third-party providers.

Link

<https://apps.sfc.hk/edistributionWeb/gateway/EN/circular/intermediaries/supervision/doc?refNo=24EC55>

## **12. China Forms AI Standardisation Committee to Drive Industry Standards**

December 12, 2024

On 12 December 2024, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology announced the establishment of the Ministry of AI Standardisation Technical Committee. The Committee will focus on developing and revising standards for AI evaluation and testing, operation and maintenance, data sets, hardware and software platforms, large AI models, and risk management. Its inaugural session comprises 41 members, including representatives from major tech companies like Baidu, Alibaba, Tencent, and Huawei, as well as academics from institutions such as Peking University. This initiative highlights China's commitment to creating robust industry standards to support the safe and efficient development of AI technologies.

Link

[https://www.miit.gov.cn/jgsj/kjs/wjfb/art/2024/art\\_68be74a198a84d14bc053f0d3edef825.html](https://www.miit.gov.cn/jgsj/kjs/wjfb/art/2024/art_68be74a198a84d14bc053f0d3edef825.html)  
l (The announcement is in Chinese language)

## **National Legal Updates (International Countries)**

### **13. European Commission Publishes Revised AI Code of Practice**

December 19, 2024

On 19 December 2024, the European Commission released a second draft of the General Purpose AI Models Code of Practice (GPAI CoP) to help developers align with the EU AI Act. The draft introduces methodologies for assessing risks posed by AI models, with additional improvements planned before a third draft release in February 2025.

Link - <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/second-draft-general-purpose-ai-code-practice-published-written-independent-experts>

### **14. European Union New Directive on Product Liability Now in Force – Includes Goods With AI**

**December 8, 2024**

On 8 December 2024, the new Product Liability Directive (PLD) entered into force, explicitly covering AI systems and software to ensure liability for any defects that may exist at the moment of release or arise from subsequent updates, upgrades, or machine-learning features. It replaces the 1985 Directive to address the challenges of the digital age and emerging technologies like AI. This update, shaped by public consultations, studies on AI liability, and expert reports, introduces several key changes: (1) Expanded product definition, now including software such as applications, operating systems, and AI systems (excluding free and open-source software); (2) Coverage for data damage, ensuring compensation for the destruction or corruption of data, including recovery costs, provided the data is not used professionally; and (3) Eased claimant burden, with rebuttable presumptions simplifying the process of proving product defects and causation of damage. Member States have until 9 December 2026 to transpose the PLD into national law, after which it applies to all products placed on the market from that date, including those powered by or integrated with AI technologies.

Link - [https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/single-market/goods/free-movement-sectors/liability-defective-products\\_en](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/single-market/goods/free-movement-sectors/liability-defective-products_en)

### **15. EDPB Issues Guidance on AI and Data Privacy**

December 17, 2024

On 17 December 2024, the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) published an opinion on using personal data in AI models, reinforcing GDPR's role in AI innovation. Key points include criteria for AI data anonymity, a three-step test for processing data under legitimate interest, and

the consequences of unlawfully processed data. The EDPB also emphasizes compliance measures to protect individuals' rights in AI applications.

Link - [https://www.edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2024-12/edpb\\_opinion\\_202428\\_ai-models\\_en.pdf](https://www.edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2024-12/edpb_opinion_202428_ai-models_en.pdf)

## **16. United States AI Safety Institute Releases First Synthetic Guidance Report**

**November 20, 2024**

On 20 November 2024, the US Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute (AISI), housed under NIST, released its inaugural guidance on synthetic content, NIST AI 100-4, in response to President Biden's Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI (EO 14110). The report outlines voluntary practices for detecting, tracking, and labeling AI-generated or manipulated content, with a particular focus on combating AI-generated child sexual abuse material (AIG-CSAM) and non-consensual intimate imagery (AIG-NCII). Key recommendations include digital watermarks and metadata to record provenance, robust detection methods (automated or human-assisted), filtering of training data and user prompts to block harmful content, and "red-teaming" exercises to test AI systems' resilience. While compliance is not mandatory, NIST AI 100-4 is poised to shape industry best practices and inform future science-backed global standards. The guidance was published in tandem with the International Network of AI Safety Institutes (Network) meeting, which aims to unify global AI safety efforts. However, with President-elect Trump signaling a possible repeal of EO 14110 and budgetary cuts, the AISI's future remains uncertain. Despite this, international collaboration and funding commitments indicate that research and enforcement of AI safety measures—particularly around harmful synthetic content—will likely continue at a global level. Organizations are encouraged to align their AI governance programs with NIST AI 100-4 and seek legal counsel, as needed, for compliance and implementation.

Link - <https://www.nist.gov/publications/reducing-risks-posed-synthetic-content-overview-technical-approaches-digital-content>

## **17. United Kingdom Open Consultation: Copyright and Artificial Intelligence**

**December 17, 2024**

On 17 December 2024, the UK Government launched a consultation to address the intersection of AI and copyright law, aiming to clarify legal uncertainties and balance the rights of copyright holders with the needs of AI developers. The proposals, supported by the Intellectual Property Office and relevant departments, outline four main options: (1) Do nothing, acknowledging that inaction risks prolonging legal uncertainty; (2) Strengthening copyright licensing, requiring explicit licenses from rights holders for AI training, offering greater control but potentially restricting AI innovation; (3) Introducing a broad data mining exception, which would allow AI training on copyrighted materials without permission, requiring significant changes to the UK's copyright framework; and (4) A rights reservation mechanism, the Government's preferred option, which would permit training on lawfully accessed materials unless rights are explicitly reserved, paired with transparency requirements and standards. Additionally, the consultation seeks input on broader issues, such as standards for rights reservation, collective licensing, disclosure of AI training sources, the treatment of AI-trained models developed abroad, and whether current laws sufficiently address deepfakes and AI-generated content liability. Feedback will shape future policy and potentially new legislation, with the consultation open for public review until 25 February 2025.

Link [Copyright and Artificial Intelligence - GOV.UK](#)

## **18. Brazilian Senate Advances AI Regulation with Risk-Based Framework**

December 10, 2024

On 10 December 2024, Brazil's Federal Senate approved changes to an AI bill designed to regulate AI systems based on their risk levels, following a technical analysis. The bill introduces a tiered framework, with stricter regulations for high-risk AI systems, such as autonomous vehicles, AI-powered border control, and medical diagnostics, which pose significant risks to human life and fundamental rights. Systems deemed to have excessive risk, like autonomous weapons, would be outright prohibited. The legislation also aims to protect individuals' privacy and personal data while granting additional rights for those affected by high-risk systems, including the right to contest decisions and have them reviewed by humans. Inspired by the EU AI Act, the bill underscores Brazil's commitment to responsible AI governance.

Link - <https://www.dataprivacybr.org/en/the-artificial-intelligence-legislation-in-brazil-technical-analysis-of-the-text-to-be-voted-on-in-the-federal-senate-plenary/>

## **19. US Copyright Office Delays AI Reports Amid Policy Uncertainty**

December 16, 2024

In a letter to Congress on 16 December 2024, the US Copyright Office announced delays in the release of parts 2 and 3 of its report on AI-related copyright issues, now expected in 2025. Part 1, released on 31 July 2024, focused on digital replicas technology used to replicate voices or appearances. Part 2, addressing the copyrightability of generative AI outputs, is scheduled for release in early 2025, while Part 3, examining legal issues surrounding the use of copyrighted works for AI training, is expected in the first quarter of 2025. These reports were commissioned under President Biden's AI Executive Order.

Link - <https://www.copyright.gov/laws/hearings/US-Copyright-Office-Letter-To-Congress-Providing-Updates-On-Its-Artificial-Intelligence-Initiative.pdf>

## **20. Australian Senate Committee Proposes AI Act and Strategy Framework**

November 2024

The Australian Senate Committee has released a report with 13 key recommendations for AI regulation and strategy, following extensive public consultations and hearings. A central proposal is the creation of an "AI Act" to regulate high-risk AI applications, inspired by frameworks in the EU and Canada, while also incorporating domain-specific regulations aligned with approaches in the UK and Singapore. The report highlights the importance of AI sovereignty, ensuring Australia can leverage AI technologies independently, while warning against AI nationalism and its potential to disrupt global supply chains. It further recommends market incentives and contract law measures to safeguard data, intellectual property, and fair copyright practices in AI training. The Committee advocates for a balanced regulatory framework that blends broad and sector-specific rules to address Australia's evolving AI ecosystem.

Link

[https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/reportsen/RB000470/toc\\_pdf/SelectCommitteeonAdoptingArtificialIntelligence\(AI\).pdf](https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/reportsen/RB000470/toc_pdf/SelectCommitteeonAdoptingArtificialIntelligence(AI).pdf)

## **21. US Treasury Highlights AI Risks in Financial Services**

December 19, 2024

On 19 December 2024, the US Treasury released a report on AI in financial services, identifying risks such as data privacy, bias, and third-party provider challenges. Recommendations include cross-party collaboration, gap-filling regulatory frameworks, enhanced risk management, and information sharing to advance AI standards across the financial sector.

Link

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Artificial-Intelligence-in-Financial-Services.pdf>

## **22. FINMA Publishes AI Governance Guidance**

December 18, 2024

On 18 December 2024, FINMA, Switzerland's financial regulator, issued guidance on AI governance and risk management. Highlighted risks include bias, explainability, and data protection. FINMA urges financial institutions to strengthen governance frameworks to manage risks in early-stage AI adoption effectively.

Link

[https://www.finma.ch/en/~media/finma/dokumente/dokumentencenter/myfinma/4dokumentation/finma-aufsichtsmittelungen/20241218-finma-aufsichtsmittelung-08-2024.pdf?sc\\_lang=en&hash=AA85AC0A19240FFFA14E4692BF385651](https://www.finma.ch/en/~media/finma/dokumente/dokumentencenter/myfinma/4dokumentation/finma-aufsichtsmittelungen/20241218-finma-aufsichtsmittelung-08-2024.pdf?sc_lang=en&hash=AA85AC0A19240FFFA14E4692BF385651)

## **23. Germany Establishes AI Data Protection Working Group**

November 15, 2024

On 15 November 2024, Germany's Conference of Independent Data Protection Authorities (DSK) announced the formation of a specialised AI Working Group to address data protection requirements for AI systems. The group aims to create guidelines ensuring AI technologies comply with privacy laws and uphold data protection standards. Its focus includes risk assessment and providing actionable recommendations for AI developers and users. This initiative underscores Germany's proactive approach to managing AI's challenges while maintaining robust privacy protections.

Link

<https://www.datenschutz.sachsen.de/detailseite-news-bzw-veranstaltungsmeldung-7311-7311.html> (In German language)