

Artificial Intelligence & Technology In International Law

News Update | August 2025



UNGA adopts a resolution creating an Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance

On 26 August 2025, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/79/325, defining the structure and operating principles for two key AI governance mechanisms. The new resolution marks a pivotal shift in global AI governance by formally establishing a 40-member, multidisciplinary Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence. Members will serve three-year terms and be chosen through a transparent, criteria-based process. The panel's role is to provide yearly, evidence-based scientific assessments of AI that are relevant to policy and non-prescriptive, guided by principles of independence, credibility, inclusivity, and balanced geographic and gender representation. Alongside this, the UN has launched a Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance to ensure that there will be an annual forum for world leaders and international stakeholders to address crucial issues of AI governance topics, such as safety, ethics, rights, transparency, capacity-building, interoperability, open data/software, and closing digital divides. The UN's Global Dialogue on AI Governance

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EU AI Act GPAI obligations take effect with new Guidance and Code of Practice

On 2 August 2025, key obligations under the EU AI Act for providers of general-purpose AI (GPAI) models came into force. To support compliance, the European Commission released a package of documents in July 2025, including Guidance on the scope of GPAI obligations (GPAI Guidance), a Code of Practice, and a model template, that clarify which providers are subject to the rules and how to meet them. The Code consists of three chapters: 1) Transparency and 2) Copyright, both addressing all providers of general-purpose AI models, and 3) Safety and Security, relevant only to a limited number of providers of the most advanced models. While the Code is voluntary, adherence can be used to demonstrate compliance with the Act's GPAI obligations and may help reduce regulatory scrutiny.

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New Google study discloses energy use of Gemini AI prompts

On August 21, 2025, Google published its most detailed analysis yet of the environmental footprint of its Gemini AI assistant, offering unprecedented transparency into the energy, water, and emissions impact of AI use. The company found that a median text prompt consumes just 0.24 watt-hours of energy (roughly equivalent to watching TV for nine seconds), uses 0.26 milliliters of water (about five drops), and emits 0.03 grams of CO₂. The technical paper also revealed that over the past year, the energy use and carbon footprint of the median Gemini Apps text prompt have decreased by 33-fold and 44-fold, respectively, all while improving response quality. While the study doesn't cover image or video generation or AI model training, Google hopes its open methodology will promote industry-wide standards for measuring and reducing AI's environmental impact.

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South Korea Personal Information Protection Commission releases guidelines on personal information processing for generative AI development and deployment

On August 6, 2025, the Korean Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) published a comprehensive guideline titled “Personal Information Processing Guideline for generative AI development and deployment”. The guideline aims to resolve the ambiguity in compliance with the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) throughout the entire generative AI development and deployment cycle. It breaks down generative AI development into five stages, each with unique privacy concerns: goal setting, strategy planning, AI training and development, system development and management and privacy governance. Notably, the guideline recommends specific measures to address privacy risks associated with personal data processing such as increasing data security and implementing robust data governance frameworks.

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Indonesia launches open public consultation on AI national roadmap and ethics guidelines

On August 8, 2025, Indonesia’s Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs launched an open public consultation on two policy documents that provide foundations for Indonesia’s national AI strategy. The documents consist of the White Paper of the National AI Roadmap and the Conceptual Frameworks for AI Ethics Guidelines. The open public consultation aims to get inputs from a range of stakeholders and is aligned with the Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs’ strategy to accelerate the development and utilization of inclusive, sustainable, safe and responsible AI.

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European Commission opens public consultation on digitalisation and AI in the energy sector

On August 6, 2025, the European Commission launched an open public consultation on digitalization and AI in the energy sector. This initiative is an important element that will assist the commission's upcoming Strategic Roadmap due for publication in 2026. With the commission's symbiotic vision for both green and digital transitions, the strategic roadmap aims to outline policy actions that will facilitate the rollout of AI solutions in areas across the clean energy sector. The roadmap will build on the 2022 EU Action Plan on digitalizing the energy system and related initiatives to align with general EU strategies. The roadmap will focus on four core challenges of adopting AI into the energy sector: access to quality data, slow adoption and fragmentation, rising energy demand of digital technologies, and intrinsic risks related to large-scale deployment of digital and AI tools.

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Saudi Data and AI Authority releases report on agentic AI

On August 3, 2025, the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority published its July edition of 'Artificial Intelligence: National Technologies and Applications' with a focus on agentic AI at global and national levels. It examines the dimensions, technological advancements, and applications of agent AI systems. While highlighting the potential of AI agents in various sectors such as healthcare, retail, and transportation, the report emphasises the need for sector-specific regulations. The report identifies transparency issues and cybersecurity risks as some challenges of agentic AI systems and suggests a governance framework that integrates data governance, AI ethics, and human oversight. The framework includes comprehensive threat modelling, robust architectural control and accurate documentation.

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SEC establishes AI Task Force to enhance innovation and efficiency

On August 1, 2025, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission launched a task force on artificial intelligence to enhance innovation and efficiency in the agency's operation. The SEC's AI Task Force aims to accelerate AI integration by centralizing the agency's efforts and enable internal collaboration. The launch aligns with the White House's recent AI Action Plan, which calls for accelerated integration of AI across the United States federal government. One of the key initiatives mentioned is empowering the agency's staff with AI-enabled tools and systems to augment their capacity and enhance efficiency. The task force's effort will be driven by the agency's mission to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation.

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State action targets use of biased AI underwriting models

On July 1, 2025, the Office of the Attorney General of the state of Massachusetts announced a \$2.5 million settlement with Earnest Operations LLC (Earnest), a Delaware-based student loan company, resolving allegations that the company's lending practices violated various consumer protection and fair lending laws, including the use of artificial intelligence models that could lead to disparate harms to Black, Hispanic, and non-citizen applicants and borrowers. The company uses algorithmic models to make lending decisions, including loan applicants' eligibility and loan terms and pricing. Such use was alleged to put historically marginalized student borrowers at risk of being denied loans or receiving favorable terms. As part of the settlement, the company will implement a detailed corporate governance structure and develop and maintain robust written policies for responsible AI use.

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California's new rules on automated decision-making technology (ADMT)

On July 24, 2025, the California Privacy Protection Agency (CPPA) Board unanimously approved amendments to the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) which emphasize CCPA's new regulatory focus over AI-decision making. One key amendment defined 'automated decision-making technology' (ADMT) as "any technology that processes personal information and use computation to replace human decision-making or substantially replace human decision-making." This primarily refers to 'agentic AI' which aims to minimize human involvement in its operation, showing CCPA's growing governance over automated systems, including artificial intelligence. Importantly, under the new ADMT provisions, businesses must inform consumers of their opt-out and access rights with respect to the business's use of ADMT to make any significant decisions about the consumer. They must also provide pre-use notices regarding the use of ADMT.

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UK's HMRC ordered to provide details regarding use of AI in tax decision-making

On August 2, 2025, the United Kingdom HM Revenue and Customs, a government department responsible for the collection of taxes, has been ordered by the First-tier Tribunal to disclose if it uses artificial intelligence in key decisions relating to granting research and development tax credits. Tom Elsbury, a tax expert who founded R&D tax relief software platform, originally lodged a Freedom of Information request to HMRC back in December 2023, after identifying patterns in HMRC's rejection letters that suggested automated decision-making processes using artificial intelligence. At the lower court, HMRC refused on the grounds that the information could help false claimants. However, the tribunal found the argument for transparency and the need for disclosure in regards to AI usage in tax decisions compelling. Although the decision does not set legally binding precedent, it highlights the use of automated systems, such as AI, could be under legal scrutiny especially when it involves public interest.

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UK Law Commission publishes discussion paper on AI and law

On July 31, 2025, the UK Law Commission, the independent law reviewing statutory body of the UK, published a discussion paper "AI and the Law." In expecting that AI will increasingly impact the substance of its law reform work, the paper identifies the areas most in need of legislative reform in England and Wales. Subscribing to the OECD definition of AI, the paper discusses possible AI-related legal issues under three different themes: AI autonomy and adaptiveness, interaction with and reliance on AI, and AI training and data. The paper does not contain specific proposals for legislative reform. However, it considers granting AI systems legal personality to avoid liability gaps, which raises significant ethical and practical concerns.

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