Press release

Canada and France work with international community to support the responsible use of artificial intelligence

International Panel on Artificial Intelligence to foster international collaboration and coordination

Realising the full potential of artificial intelligence that benefits all citizens requires international collaboration and coordination, Canada and France are working with the international community to create the International Panel on Artificial Intelligence to support and guide the responsible development of artificial intelligence that is grounded in human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation, and economic growth.

The Panel will be an organization dedicated to artificial intelligence (AI) that will bring together many of the greatest global AI experts. It will be a global reference point on AI, fostering international collaboration and coordination on AI policy development.

Today, the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, alongside France’s Secretary of State for Digital Affairs, Cédric O, announced the Declaration of the International Panel on Artificial Intelligence for discussion, and announced further details on the organizational structure of the Panel.

The Declaration states that participants in the Panel will commit to the following shared values, including in their development, use, and adoption of AI:

- Promote and protect a human-centric and ethical approach to AI, grounded in human rights
- Support a multistakeholder approach to AI
- Stimulate innovation, growth and well-being through AI
- Align efforts on AI with the principles of sustainable development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Strengthen diversity and inclusion through AI
- Foster transparency and openness of AI systems
- Foster trust and accountability in AI
- Promote and protect democratic values, processes and institutions
- Bridge the digital divides
- Promote international scientific collaboration on AI

Minister Bains and Secretary O announced the Declaration following their participation in the G7 Digital Ministerial meeting. Under the overarching theme of Building Digital Trust Together, ministers reflected on the requirements and values essential in digital innovation and the role that emerging technologies can play in combating inequality.

During the G7 Digital Ministerial meeting, France and Canada received expressions of interest on IPAI from Germany, Italy, India, Japan, the United Kingdom, New-Zealand and the European Union, and will continue discussions with interested participants on the design of the Panel.
The Panel will be formally launched later this year at the Biarritz summit and will include a Steering Committee and Working Groups, each focused on an identified topic related to AI, such as its governance, its technological development or its impacts, for instance on the Future of Work, as well as a Secretariat. The Panel will also convene in an annual conference of international AI experts, called the “Multistakeholder Experts Group Plenary”.

Secretary O also announced that France will host a “Global Forum on AI for Humanity” to be held on 29-30 October in Paris. This event, aimed at informing possible priority areas of work for IPAI, will assemble AI experts and stakeholders from around the world, drawn from the public and private sectors, academic and scientific communities, as well as civil society more broadly.

Quotes

“Today’s announcement is an important step toward ensuring that AI advancements reflect Canadian’s values. In partnership with France, Canada is leading the broader international AI community through the establishment of the International Panel on Artificial Intelligence that, once launched, will ensure that the economic and social benefits of artificial intelligence are shared by all citizens.”

– The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

“An international expertise will be necessary in order to ensure a sustainable development of artificial intelligence and serve mankind as the whole. France has been working hard with Canada in order to make concrete progress in that direction and to onboard other countries, especially within the G7.”

– Cédric O, Secretary of State for Digital Affairs for France

Quick facts

- The International Panel on Artificial Intelligence is a key outcome of the Canada-France Statement on Artificial Intelligence announced by Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, prior to the 2018 G7 Summit.
- As a first step toward establishing IPAI, in December 2018 at the G7 Multistakeholder Conference on AI, Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Bains and France’s Secretary of State for Digital Affairs announced the mandate for the International Panel on Artificial Intelligence.
- Under Canada’s 2018 G7 presidency, Canada advanced a common vision on artificial intelligence, which the G7 Innovation Ministers set out in their Statement on Artificial Intelligence, and the G7 Leaders also set out in the Charlevoix Common Vision for the Future of Artificial Intelligence.
- Canada launched a $125 million Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy to retain and attract top academic talent, and to increase the number of post-graduate trainees and researchers studying artificial intelligence and deep learning.
- On March 29, 2018, President Macron presented an ambitious national AI strategy at the “AI For Humanity” summit. This strategy comprises cross-cutting actions (such as research and development training, funding and regulation) as well as specific actions on top priority economic sectors. In total, 1.5 billion euros of public money will be dedicated to implementing this strategy over 2018-2022.

Related products

- Declaration of the International Panel on Artificial Intelligence (link)
- Backgrounder: International Panel on Artificial Intelligence – Organizational Structure (link)
- Mandate for the International Panel on Artificial Intelligence

Associated links

- Prime Minister announces investment in artificial intelligence to create over 16,000 jobs for Canadians
- The President of the French Republic presented his vision and strategy to make France a leader in artificial intelligence (AI) at the Collège de France on 29 March 2018 - https://www.aiforhumanity.fr/en/Canada-France Statement on Artificial Intelligence

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