TECH7's key recommendations for the Paris AI Action Summit

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The TECH7 brings together the leading ICT sector associations from the G7:

- Canada: TECHNATION
- France: Numeum and AFNUM
- Germany: Bitkom
- Italy: Anitec-Assinform
- Japan: JEITA and Generative AI Japan
- UK: techUK
- USA: ITI
- Europe: DIGITALEUROPE

This document outlines priorities and recommendations from G7 tech associations gathered as the « TECH7 » to guide policymakers in fostering innovation, protecting fundamental rights, building trust, and ensuring AI contributes to long-term societal goals including related to climate change.

As artificial intelligence (AI) advances rapidly, it is vital to ensure that its development remains both innovative and responsible, maximising societal benefits while mitigating risks.

The G7, as leaders in AI innovation, are mobilised ahead of the upcoming AI Action Summit in February to drive global collaboration and create frameworks for the development and adoption of ethical and impactful AI technologies. Scaling up not just the development but also the adoption and use of AI solutions is critical to addressing global challenges such as the climate crisis, healthcare inequities, and economic resilience.

INTRODUCTION

On the occasion of the AI Action Summit, an international gathering convened by France to address the opportunities and risks presented by AI, the TECH7 - representing the leading technology trade associations from the G7 - presents this declaration.

The AI Action Summit represents a crucial moment in global technological cooperation, bringing together policymakers, technology leaders, and experts from around the world to chart a collective course for action to drive the responsible development and adoption of AI. As the digital technology associations of the G7, we are fully mobilised and deeply committed to making this summit a crucial moment for AI. Through our concrete recommendations, we aim to actively contribute, shape discussions, and ensure that AI innovation and adoption are both responsible and globally transformative as these technologies continue to scale.

Our annual gatherings have consistently provided strategic recommendations to the G7, uniting diverse national perspectives into a global strategy. We extend our gratitude to the Italian presidencies of the G7 and TECH7 for their remarkable work in laying the groundwork for these critical discussions. Building on this foundation, the Canadian presidency of the TECH7[1] (TECHNATION) will prioritise fostering innovation, ensuring ethical AI deployment, and advancing inclusive digital transformation. With these priorities in mind, we approach the AI Action Summit as a key moment to reaffirm our collective commitment to responsible, collaborative technological progress.

Under the Italian presidency, the TECH7 has made several public statements and delivered key recommendations[2]. With these efforts, we are actively contributing to the ongoing global debate on tech topics, and we are determined to bring our expertise and priorities to the forefront at the upcoming AI Action Summit.

- The TECH7 has emphasised the need to build an ecosystem that supports inclusive and responsible AI development. This includes creating globally interoperable standards and further technical guidance for a variety of areas, including datasets to enhance cross-border collaboration and enable the implementation of transnational AI projects to tackle global challenges.

- The TECH7 emphasise that SMEs often face significant barriers to AI adoption, including inadequate infrastructure and skills gaps. The G7 discusses the aforementioned TECH7 priorities in their report titled 'G7 Report on driving factors and challenges of AI adoption and development among companies, especially MSMEs' (released on October 10, 2024, in Rome), where they identified cloud computing as an enabler of AI adoption. We believe that one of the key outcomes of this Summit should be to focus on enabling SMEs to effectively use AI technologies and to improve their productivity. Targeted support for SMEs can empower them to actively contribute to AI development, fostering a more equitable and competitive ecosystem. This support must account for varying levels of AI maturity across countries and business sizes, to ensure all organisations, no matter the size or region, can effectively leverage AI.

- A key challenge faced by the G7 is the shortage of AI-skilled talent. We call for prioritising digital fluency and comprehensive workforce development through reskilling initiatives, professional training programs and specialised AI education. This requires strong partnerships between governments, educational institutions and private companies to create practical learning pathways and ensure curricula align with industry needs. These efforts should focus on both technical skills and the broader competencies needed to implement AI responsibly in the modern workplace.

- The security of critical infrastructure is essential not only for a resilient and competitive digital economy but also for national and collective defence. As AI becomes integral to critical sectors such as energy, telecommunications and defence, safeguarding these infrastructures against cyber and hybrid threats is essential.

- A harmonised approach that includes robust cybersecurity standards and public-private collaboration is crucial. Resilient critical infrastructure ensures operational continuity, supports innovation, and strengthens both societal safety and defence capabilities in an increasingly interconnected world. Lastly, like-minded nations need to be able to protect themselves and rapidly support each other in response and recovery when under large-scale attacks.
  The G7 Hiroshima AI Process represents a relevant global initiative to ensure the safe, trustworthy, and responsible development of AI. At its core is the International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems, adopted in 2023. This framework is built on the OECD AI Principles, which emphasise fairness, accountability, and transparency, and aims to provide actionable guidelines for developers of advanced AI systems.

The Hiroshima Process is unique because it bridges voluntary commitments with practical measures to address risks and maximise benefits from AI technologies. It includes the development of guiding principles tailored for various AI actors and advanced AI systems, supporting global standards for responsible AI practices.

The TECH7 recognises this initiative as a cornerstone for fostering multilateral cooperation and addressing emerging challenges, such as generative AI risks and disinformation. Building on this momentum, we encourage further collaboration to ensure that these principles translate into tangible and evidenced outcomes, reinforcing ethical AI practices worldwide.

[1] TECHNATION Kick-off Declaration
[2] Tech7 Declaration (April 2024) and Tech7 Joint Letter on AI Governance (October 2024)

THE AI ACTION SUMMIT
A CALL TO COLLABORATIVE ACTION

The AI Action Summit marks a decisive moment for global technological cooperation. Our declaration demonstrates the TECH7's commitment to transforming AI challenges into opportunities for inclusive, ethical, sustainable and innovative progress.

We call upon global leaders, policymakers, technology companies, and civil society to join us in this critical mission: to shape an AI ecosystem that drives innovation while remaining safe, ethical, sustainable and fundamentally human-centered.

We urge all participants of the AI Action Summit to embrace these recommendations as a foundational framework for international AI governance, recognising that our collective action today will define the technological landscape of tomorrow.

KEY PRIORITIES

1. Responsible and Human centered AI development and deployment
2. Global cooperation and alignment
3. Risk Assessment and management
4. Inclusive innovation and economic growth
5. Safety, security, and supply chain resilience
6. Public trust, fairness and explainability
7. International standards

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO POLICYMAKERS

1. Responsible and Human centered AI development and deployment.

Health, safety, human rights, dignity, and privacy must be safeguarded throughout the AI's lifecycle, incorporating fairness, transparency, and accountability while avoiding biases from pre-deployment.

Establish clear ethical guidelines and technical standards

Develop a voluntary international AI ethics framework promoting transparency, fairness, privacy, and accountability, adaptable to diverse cultural and legal contexts. This framework should seek to mitigate bias and discrimination in AI algorithms, particularly in sensitive areas like employment, healthcare and law enforcement. This can be done by continuing and reinforcing the «Hiroshima AI Process» through multi-stakeholder collaboration, standardised evaluation metrics, regular framework updates to address emerging challenges, and the establishment of international oversight mechanisms that respect national sovereignty while ensuring global AI development aligns with shared ethical principles.

2. Global cooperation and alignment

International collaboration is essential. The countries participating in the AI Action Summit should lead in creating interoperable frameworks that take into account national interests while fostering responsible AI globally.

Ensuring an innovation-friendly, future-proof approach to regulation

Countries should continue to pursue an innovation-friendly, future-proof approach to regulation to ensure that AI can deliver for citizens and businesses, while respecting fundamental rights.
For that, an interoperable, risk-based and consensus-driven approach to AI governance enables responsible AI practices to scale globally and facilitates trade and wider adoption for the benefit of humanity. The development of AI governance and policy tools should be prioritised, and they should be flexibly adapted and reflected according to technologies being innovated. Further, the international community should clearly delineate how global governance bodies collaborate in the development of interoperable frameworks.

Leverage existing organisations like the OECD

While maintaining focus on core safety and security objectives, the development of interoperable frameworks should meaningfully engage stakeholders across the AI supply chain, from frontier companies to B2B providers and SMEs building on foundation models.

Define Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

Voluntary guidelines should clearly identify responsibilities for different actors in the AI ecosystem. This includes foundation model providers, B2B technology providers, enterprise AI developers and implementers, SMEs and startups building AI applications, and industry-specific AI solution providers. The voluntary nature of these guidelines ensures flexibility while promoting clear delineation of responsibilities across the AI supply chain enabling focused contribution from all participants while maintaining coherent progress toward shared goals, ensuring each stakeholder understands their role in responsible AI development and deployment.

3. Risk assessment and management

- Establish comprehensive pre-deployment testing protocols and risk assessment frameworks and standards to identify and mitigate potential harms before AI systems are released. Proactive approaches to risk assessments are important and should include clear metrics for evaluation and success.

- Define and Prioritise Key Risks - Create a shared understanding of critical AI risks across different deployment contexts and use cases. Develop coordinated response mechanisms for addressing these risks as a global community, with clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders.

4. Inclusive innovation and sustainable economic growth

AI-driven growth must be inclusive, benefiting all sectors of society, including underserved communities, while addressing social and environmental impacts for sustainable development.

- Promote sustainable innovation through Research and Development (R&D) funding
  Invest in R&D that enables AI development and deployment across critical sectors like healthcare, agriculture, energy, transportation and mobility, defence and education, ensuring inclusivity and sustainability, supported by public-private partnerships.

- Foster digital literacy and workforce reskilling
  Prioritise digital literacy and reskilling initiatives to prepare workers for an evolving job market, partnering with educational institutions and private companies. Prioritise digital literacy and workforce development through targeted reskilling initiatives, equipping workers for an AI-driven job market. Beyond just providing access to technology, we must cultivate the critical skills needed to evaluate, question, and make informed decisions about AI tools and their implications. Through strategic partnerships with educational institutions and industry leaders, we empower workers to become not just users of technology, but informed participants who can understand, question, and thoughtfully integrate AI into their work.

- Support SME and startups participation in AI innovation
  To ensure that the benefits of AI innovation are widely shared, it is important to create opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups to participate in the development and adoption of AI technologies. **It's crucial to recognise that AI is often not a one-size-fits-all commodity - each business has unique characteristics, and AI solutions must be tailored accordingly, utilising different resources and delivering distinct benefits in each use case.** Governments should consider policies and programs that provide SMEs with access to AI tools, including cloud computing, skills training, and funding to help them leverage AI for improving their productivity, competitiveness, and growth. Policymakers must also be mindful of the potentially disproportionate impact of regulatory complexities and administrative burdens on smaller businesses, striving to create an environment that nurtures rather than stifles innovation. By actively supporting SME engagement in the AI ecosystem, policymakers can foster more inclusive and widespread innovation that delivers value for citizens and consumers.

In addition, we must address support of scale-up innovators. G7 nations rely on the innovative prowess of scale-ups to fuel economic growth and deliver scalable technologies to domestic and international markets. Empowering these vital drivers of modern economy requires improved resources for f successful commercialisation and increased access to public infrastructure (e.g., public data and/or subsidised access to AI compute resources). As nations develop sovereign compute capacity, investments in and subsidised access to AI compute resources - along with access to public infrastructure and sector data -are essential for fostering growth among SMEs and scale-up innovators. Furthermore, aligning government procurement strategies to would ensure that scale-ups have equal and equitable opportunity to participate in digitally transforming the public sector, enabling the commercialisation and scaling of innovative technologies for public good and unlocking un-realised economic potential.

- **Stimulate advancement in industrial and business AI use cases via innovation-friendly regulation and international collaboration.**
  The G7 should further recognise the crucial role of applied AI innovation to solve real-world problems and enhance processes in many industrial and sectoral settings. To advance practical AI use cases, G7 members should commit to supporting the development and implementation of advanced AI technologies through innovation-friendly policies and regulation, while stimulating international cooperation to ensure sustainable economic growth and technological leadership.

5. Safety, security, and supply chain resilience

Governments must develop frameworks for accountability and address societal impacts of AI systems, striking a careful balance between protective measures and the flexibility needed for innovation. This includes:

- Establishing clear guidelines for compliance while avoiding overly prescriptive rules that could stifle development.
- Establishing clear guidelines for testing, validation, and risk management at each stage of development and deployment.

In doing so, Governments should take into account existing international standards for safety, security and risk management to address accountability for societal impacts of AI systems. These controls should be developed to mitigate the risks associated with the use of AI generated content such as deepfakes. Safety mechanisms must also be developed to address the rise of AI in autonomous weapons systems.

6. Public trust, fairness and explainability

We support public-private commitments to developing frameworks that ensure algorithmic decision explainability and standards aligned with the state-of-the-art research achievements in content authentication and provenance tracking, such as watermarking techniques.

7. International standards

- Align national AI governance frameworks with international standards.
  Any national (or regional) governance approach should be based on international standards, in line with WTO principles Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee on principles for the development of International Standards.

- Uphold industry-led international standardization.
  Leverage the advancements made in industry-led international standard bodies, particularly through ISO, IEC and other globally relevant de facto standards including those developed by 3GPP and emerging initiatives, such as C2PA (on media content provenance). Countries should uphold the advancements made in private sector-led international open standardisation in technical standards and open source, particularly through bodies like ISO or IEC, and ISO/IEC JTC1

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