

CAIDP Update 2.40 (Oct. 31, 2021) – G20 Rome Leaders Advance AI Policy, Elevate Privacy, Gender Equality

The G20 Leaders advanced AI policy in the [G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration](#), issued at the conclusion of the 2021 Summit in Rome. The G20 is comprised of 19 countries and the European Union and represents the world's largest economies.

Recognizing the “benefits stemming from the responsible use and development of trustworthy human-centered Artificial Intelligence (AI),” the G20 Leaders said in Rome they would encourage competition and innovation, “as well as diversity and inclusion,” and the importance of international cooperation to promote research, development, and application of AI

This was the first reference to “diversity and inclusion” since the adoption of the AI Guidelines by the G20 nations at the [2019 Summit in Osaka](#). However, the G20 Leaders stopped short of calling out AI “bias” in the Declaration, a step taken earlier this year by the G7 who said they would “take bold action to build more transparency in our technologies.” (See CAIDP Update 2.24, [G7 Leaders Endorse Human-Centric AI, Call Out Bias](#)).

In advance of the Summit, the G20 Digital Economy Ministers reaffirmed “their willingness to implement trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) and to commit to a human-centered approach, as . . . guided by the G20 AI Principles, drawn from the OECD Recommendations on AI.” The Ministers also noted that the “measurement of AI, notably its diffusion and impact across the economy and the international comparability of indicators on AI, needs to be improved.” (See CAIDP Update 2.29, [G-20 Digital Ministers Update AI Strategy](#)).

“Privacy and data protection” figured prominently in the 2021 G20 Leaders Statement with multiple references in policies concerning health and COVID, transportation and travel, the digital economy and higher education, data free flows with trust, and digital identity tools. The G20 Leaders also prioritized Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, a focus area for AI policy. And the G20 Leaders said they would work in 2022 “towards enhancing confidence in the digital environment by improving internet safety and countering online abuse, hate speech, online violence and terrorism while protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

CAIDP followed closely the work of the G20 this year, and provided statements to the [Digital Economy Task](#), the [Civil Society Engagement Group](#) (the “C20”), and the Think Tank Engagement Group (the “T20”). In a recent [Statement to the G20](#), CAIDP urged the Leaders to “take concrete steps to ensure human-centric and trustworthy AI and to promote fairness, accountability, and transparency in digital technologies.” CAIDP recommended that the G20 nations: (1) oppose algorithmic bias, (2) establish red lines for social scoring and facial surveillance, and (3) establish good procurement practices to protect fundamental rights.

In the 2020 report [Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values](#), CAIDP identified the G20 AI Guidelines as a critical framework for AI policy.