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## CAIDP Update 6.01

*January 8, 2024*

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### 2023: The Year AI Governance Took Center Stage

Welcome back to the CAIDP Update. As we return to our regular updates, we begin 2024 by taking a moment to reflect on the significant developments in the AI world and at CAIDP during 2023, and what we anticipate for the year ahead.

The rapid proliferation of transformative AI technologies prompted a historic surge in AI governance initiatives worldwide in 2023. As generative AI models demonstrated both the immense capabilities and profound risks of advanced AI systems, governments, civil society groups, technology leaders, academics, and other stakeholders mobilized throughout the year to develop ethical frameworks, regulations, and cooperative initiatives to steer these powerful technologies toward beneficial outcomes for society while protecting human rights and democratic values.

While risks from unfettered or unethical uses of AI are immense, 2023 demonstrated that with diligence and cooperation, essential guardrails protecting the public interest can take shape worldwide.

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### AI POLICY NEWS

#### Early Warnings: Civil Society and Media Spotlight AI Risks

The push for AI governance reforms gained steam early in 2023, foreshadowed by concerns raised in late 2022 as chatbot ChatGPT's launch

previewed the disruptive potential of large language models. In March 2023, over 30,000 scientists and technologists signed an [open letter](#) warning of existential safety risks posed by uncontrolled advanced AI systems and to “immediately pause



for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4.”

CAIDP filed a detailed complaint urging the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate OpenAI, ChatGPT's creator. The complaint alleged OpenAI engaged in deceptive practices by releasing ChatGPT despite knowing the technology's deficiencies.

Same month, the FTC issued a warning about the extensive risks associated with generative AI, deepfakes, and voice cloning technologies. The U.S. consumer protection commission pledged a commitment to vigilant oversight, stating, "Commission staff is tracking those concerns closely as companies continue to rush these products to market."

These early actions spotlighted the policy challenges presented by rapidly advancing AI systems. Media analyses highlighted issues like copyright infringement, misinformation, and job displacement, while testing revealed ChatGPT's significant limitations despite its impressive fluency. But the launch of ChatGPT underscored AI's accelerating capabilities and the need for governance measures to steer its safe and ethical development.

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By spring 2023, momentum was building in the U.S. Congress for federal AI oversight and legislation. Senators from both parties expressed intentions to cooperate on AI measures. On Capitol Hill, House and Senate committees held hearings examining AI's societal implications, with civil society groups testifying on the urgent need for governance reforms.



In testimony before a House Committee, Merve Hickok, President of CAIDP, stated, “We do not have the guardrails in place, the laws that we need, the public education, or the expertise in government to manage the consequences of the rapid changes that are now taking place.” This period also saw UNESCO urging the rapid adoption of its global ethical AI framework, reflecting a growing international consensus on the need for standardized AI governance.

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In response to these unfolding dynamics, March 2023 marked a series of pivotal developments in AI regulation worldwide. Italy's Data Protection

Agency initiated an investigation into ChatGPT, highlighting global concerns about AI's impact on privacy and data security. A significant incident involving a ChatGPT bug exposing user data further emphasized the urgency of AI security and reliability issues.



These events, coupled with a global push for AI regulation – from the EU's legislative focus on Large Language Models to China's centralized data management strategy – underscored the need for swift and comprehensive action in AI governance. By July, President Biden was announcing new voluntary safety commitments secured from leading AI developers including Google, Meta, Microsoft and others, promising the U.S. would lead the world in trustworthy AI.

## Global Initiatives Advance International Cooperation

On the global stage, multilateral cooperation on AI governance advanced through key initiatives. The annual G7 digital ministers' meeting yielded commitments to enforceable AI principles centered on human rights. The United States and European Union continued forging aligned approaches to AI policy through their Trade and Technology Council.



The United Nations moved decisively to steer global AI policy by launching a new Advisory Body. The UN culture agency UNESCO partnered extensively with the EU on programs fostering ethical AI worldwide. The African Union also spearheaded an AI strategy, demonstrating a significant move towards integrating and regulating AI in the African continent.

International data authorities cooperated through joint investigations of generative AI risks. The world's independent data regulators expanded their cross-border collaboration on AI oversight through conferences and bodies like the Global Privacy Assembly.

The Council of Europe worked throughout 2023 to develop a binding legal framework on AI based on human rights, democracy and rule of law. While challenges remained around exemptions, the treaty signaled a major step toward global AI governance.

Momentum also built rapidly around restricting autonomous weapons systems, with UN officials called for immediate international regulations. "We call on world leaders to launch negotiations of a new legally binding instrument to set clear prohibitions and restrictions on autonomous weapon systems and to conclude such negotiations by 2026."

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### Mounting International Action on AI Laws and Policies



At the national level, governments worldwide enacted a raft of policies, proposals, and legal measures to steer AI's growth amid rising public concern.

China moved to curb risks from generative AI by drafting restrictive rules for companies offering conversational services and synthetic media.

Japan released an extensive AI strategy white paper with plans to become a leader in ethical and trustworthy AI. The United Kingdom introduced a Data Protection and Digital Information Bill significantly expanding British data rights. India's parliament passed a sweeping digital privacy law strictly limiting how companies handle user data.

Canada, New Zealand, Singapore and others issued new AI development guidelines centered on ethics, transparency and accountability. Australia enacted measures to strengthen safeguards during AI design, development and use.

Latin America made notable strides in AI regulation, particularly highlighted by Brazil's review of proposed AI legislation and Argentina's launch of an AI transparency and data protection initiative.

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### Europe Forges Ahead on AI Act



In Europe, monumental progress advanced from January through December toward finalizing the landmark AI Act, as Parliament, Commission and member states

negotiated intensely on the regulation governing AI risks across the EU.

The Act is part of the EU's broader initiative to craft novel laws addressing digital

privacy and online market dynamics, influencing tech giants and smaller companies alike. This legislative move is seen as a significant step in setting global standards, potentially influencing other regions to adopt similar frameworks, much like the EU's GDPR did for data privacy. The agreed text will now have to be formally adopted by both Parliament and Council to become EU law.

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## Calls for Action Resound in the United States

In the United States, lawmakers, regulators, academics and civil society groups intensified calls for urgent action on AI governance throughout 2023.



Civil society groups urged Congress to protect democratic freedoms, oversight bodies and marginalized communities in any federal AI laws.

At the end of October, President Biden issued a pivotal Executive Order aimed at establishing the United States as a leader in the field of AI. The announcement declared, "The Executive Order establishes new standards for AI safety and security, protects Americans' privacy, advances equity and civil rights, stands up for consumers and workers, promotes innovation and competition, advances American leadership around the world, and more." This comprehensive directive seeks to elevate the nation's approach to AI, drawing upon previous commitments from industry leaders to develop AI responsibly.

December 2023 also witnessed the New York Times suing OpenAI and Microsoft over AI's use of copyrighted work, highlighting the legal complexities of AI technology. Pope Francis advocated for a global AI regulation treaty, emphasizing the ethical implications of AI advancements. And the UN Advisory Body on AI launched an interim report.

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## The Path Forward

By the close of 2023, decisive global action on AI governance no longer seemed a distant prospect. The universal need for thoughtful, rights-respecting AI governance was broadly recognized worldwide, as awareness spread of advanced models' serious limitations



alongside their transformative potential if ethically managed.

Major legislative and regulatory initiatives gained momentum as stakeholders cooperated across borders to shape principled, accountable AI systems furthering social good. Buttressed by public pressure, governments demonstrated increasing resolve to safeguard their citizens through assertive oversight of rapidly evolving technologies.

With ongoing diligence and cooperation, essential guardrails protecting democratic freedoms now appear within reach worldwide. The path forward lies in sustained commitment to developing and deploying artificial intelligence systems centered on serving humankind's best interests for generations to come.

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## Join the movement & empower the AI policy change-makers

Your contribution makes a real difference:

Provide invaluable AI policy training to aspiring leaders in over 80 countries.

Support the development of our AI & Democratic Values Index Report, a vital resource for understanding AI's global impact.

Stay informed with our comprehensive updates on AI policy developments worldwide.

Help us continue our essential dialogue with policymakers, shaping the responsible evolution of AI.

Every donation helps the Center for AI and Digital Policy build a more informed and equitable AI-driven world.

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### CAIDP ACTIONS

[AI Policy Clinics: A Global Impact](#)

The CAIDP [AI Policy Clinics](#) have witnessed extraordinary expansion, attracting a remarkable pool of over 1,200 applicants for the Spring 2024 cohort. This surge in interest is a testament to the growing global recognition of the importance of AI policy expertise. From this diverse and talented group, we meticulously selected about 320 participants hailing from over 80 different countries, ensuring a rich tapestry of perspectives and insights. In response to this overwhelming demand, we are actively strategizing to expand our capacity. Our goal is not just to accommodate more participants, but to extend our reach to an even broader array of countries. This expansion is aimed at cultivating a larger, more diverse group of leaders who are well-equipped to navigate and shape the increasingly complex landscape of AI policy on a global scale.



### Influencing Major AI Legislation

Our policy engagements have yielded substantial results, particularly with the anticipated finalization of the EU AI Act. Our [collaboration](#) with EU NGOs and European lawmakers has been pivotal in this development. Additionally, the upcoming finalization of the Council of Europe AI Treaty, a groundbreaking global treaty for AI Governance, marks a significant milestone. Our [role](#) as expert advisors since 2019 and our collaboration with NGOs have been instrumental in this achievement.



Beyond these, our influence extends across the globe. We have provided expert policy [advocacy](#) to national governments in a diverse range of countries, from Pakistan to the United Kingdom and the United States, among others to international bodies like G7 and the UN. This broad engagement highlights our commitment to fostering a comprehensive approach to AI policy.

### Surpassing Fundraising Goals: Advancing Our Mission

We've received significant grants from organizations such as the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation, Craig Newark



Philanthropies, and the Omidyar Network. The generosity doesn't stop there; individual contributions have also played a substantial role in bolstering our efforts. Looking ahead to 2024, the expected funding from additional sources further reinforces the growing belief in our work. This financial backing not only empowers us but also emboldens our commitment to advance the field of AI policy and governance. With these resources, we are better positioned to continue making impactful strides in our mission.

## Leading Online Engagement

We've achieved a notable milestone by ascending to the top ranks for online engagement among AI policy institutions, according to LinkedIn metrics. This achievement not only highlights our growing visibility but also reflects the increasing global interest and active engagement in our initiatives. Complementing this success is our weekly newsletter, which now boasts over 46,000 subscribers from various corners of the world. This widespread readership is a clear indicator of the relevance and resonance of our work with a diverse and expanding audience.



## Contributing to AI Policy Discourse

Our [report](#) for the European AI and Society Fund, focusing on the EU AI Act and the role of civil society, has been a notable contribution to the field. The insights and recommendations from this report are not only pertinent for the EU but also offer valuable perspectives for US funders and NGOs navigating similar challenges.



## Setting the Agenda for 2024

As we look toward 2024, our [goals](#) are set high, reflecting our commitment to shaping the future of AI policy. Our primary aim is to cultivate a new generation of leaders in AI policy, a task that involves not only training but also expanding our network of experts and advocates. Another significant objective is to establish a new office in Brussels, a





strategic move that will enhance our influence in key legislative processes, including the finalization of crucial AI legislation like the EU AI Act and the COE AI Treaty.

Our agenda also includes actively participating in the advancement of the U.S. AI Executive Order and providing expert advice to the U.S. Congress on upcoming legislation. We plan to engage proactively with federal agencies, contributing to discussions and policy formations through comment opportunities on AI policy.

In addition to these legislative and policy-focused goals, we are dedicated to publishing a new edition of the AI Policy Sourcebook and the AI and Democratic Values Index 2024. These publications are vital tools in disseminating knowledge and fostering understanding of AI's impact on society and governance.

Furthermore, we will seize every opportunity to collaborate with national governments and international organizations across the globe. Our aim is to promote the public voice in AI policy, ensuring that diverse perspectives and concerns are heard and addressed. This comprehensive approach underscores our dedication to not only advancing AI policy but also to ensuring that it aligns with democratic values and serves the public interest on a global scale.

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## AI POLICY EVENTS

- US Embassy and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [Fostering Democracy in the Age of AI with Merve Hickok \(CAIDP\)](#), Vienna, Jan. 16,17, 2024
- [Committee on Artificial Intelligence Plenary meeting with Karine Caunes \(CAIDP\)](#), Council of Europe, Strasbourg, Jan, 23, 2024
- Knight Foundation, [2024 INFORMED Conference with Merve Hickok \(CAIDP\)](#), Miami, Jan. 22,24, 2024
- Global Forum on the Ethics of AI, [Changing the landscape of AI Governance with Merve Hickok \(CAIDP\)](#), Slovenia, Feb. 4,6, 2024
- [World Government Summit with Marc Rotenberg \(CAIDP\)](#), Dubai, Feb. 12-14, 2024
- [Committee on Artificial Intelligence Plenary meeting with Karine Caunes \(CAIDP\)](#), Council of Europe, Strasbourg, March 11, 14, 2024
- [CAIDP AI and Democratic Values](#), Washington, DC, April 4 2024
- [CAIDP Graduation with keynote speaker Dr. Alondra Nelson](#), Washington DC, April 8, 2024

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