

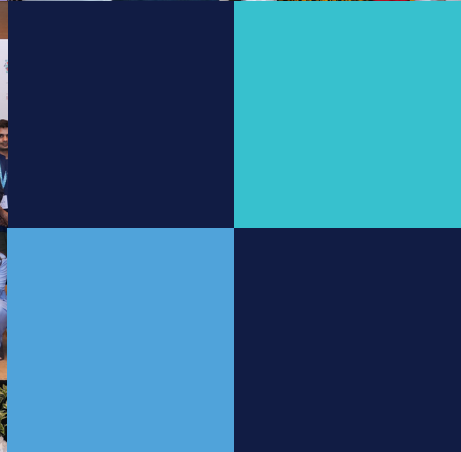
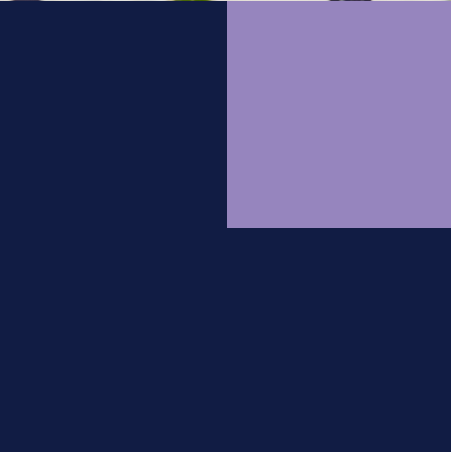
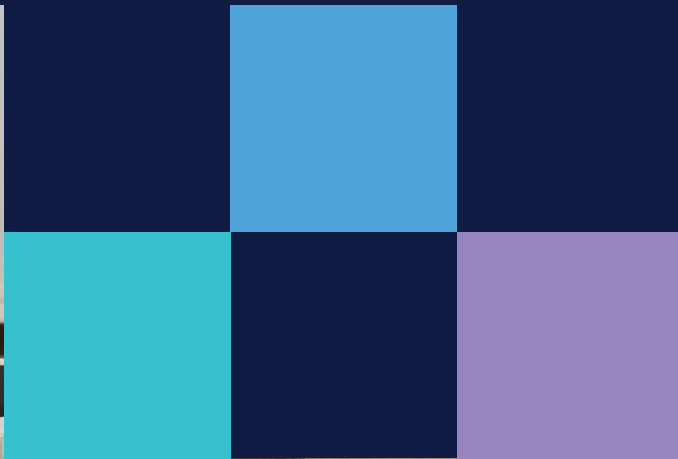


MAP AI

Multistakeholder Approach to Participation
in AI Governance

Phase I

SUMMARY OF AI IMPACT SUMMIT ACTIVITIES



Project Website

globalnetworkinitiative.org/map-ai

Organization Website

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BACKGROUND ON MAP-AI

The India AI Impact Summit marked an important milestone for the Multistakeholder Approaches to Participation in AI Governance (MAP-AI) initiative - a joint effort by the Global Network Initiative and the Centre for Communication Governance at National Law University Delhi **to strengthen inclusive participation in global AI governance processes.**

Across two full days of programming and a series of global pre-events, on 16 and 17 February 2026, MAP-AI created a platform for participants to exchange ideas on the evolving landscape of AI governance - including safety frameworks, infrastructure gaps, testing capacity, and the role of multistakeholder collaboration in shaping global norms. MAP-AI supported travel for four dozen academic and civil society experts from Global Majority contexts to the Summit and facilitated two distinct events to platform their perspectives.

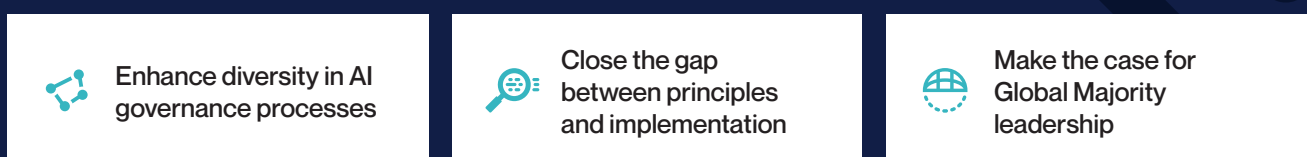
Our 16 February Shared Learning Forum brought together close to 300 academics and civil society participants, while our 17 February public 'Reinforcements & Learning: Multistakeholder Convening on AI Governance' featured over 400 participants from over 55 countries representing governments, industry, civil society, academia, standards bodies, and multilateral institutions and was acknowledged as an official satellite event of the Summit.

These engagements were designed to elevate perspectives from the Global Majority and foster dialogue on how AI governance frameworks can better integrate human rights, safety, accountability, and equitable participation.

MAP-AI AT A GLANCE



WHY MAP-AI?



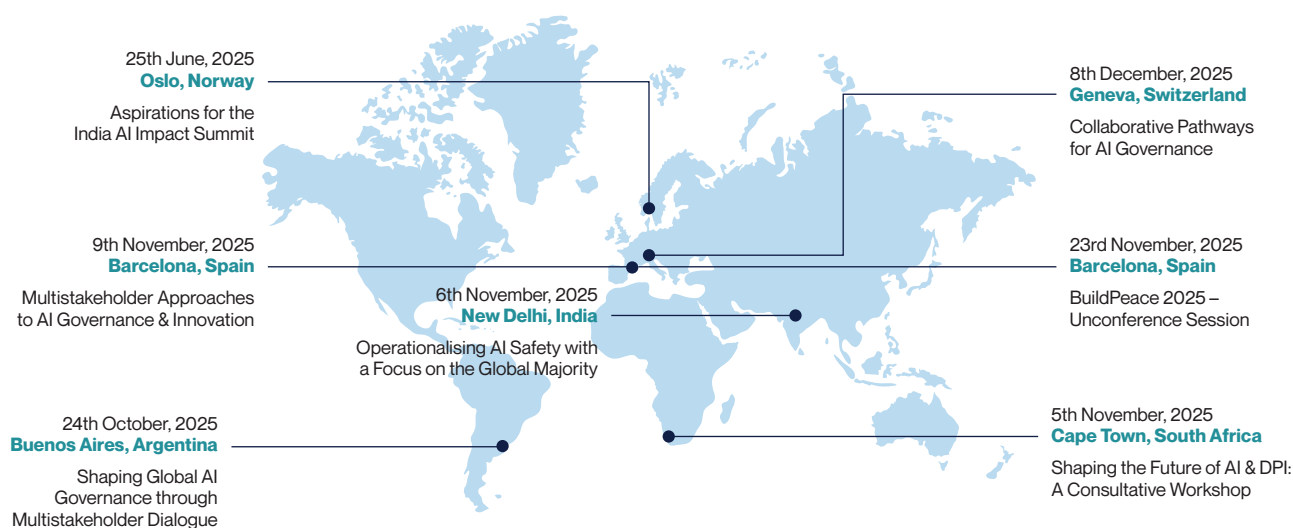
PRE-SUMMIT EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE LEAD UP TO THE SUMMIT

This report summarizes the perspectives, agendas, themes, and discussions articulated at our public, **Reinforcements & Learning** event.

Working through our network, we identified and supported 52 civil society leaders, mostly Global Majority, from across Africa/Middle East, Latin America, Asia, and Southeast Asia to attend the Summit. Building on GNI's multistakeholder membership, as well as CCG's networks across the Global Majority and relationship with the Government of India, we carried out seven pre-Summit events, four of which were accredited by the Indian government, and hosted two rich, high-level, full-day events in Delhi during the week of the India AI Impact Summit.

From March 2025 to February 2026, we also engaged closely with the Government of India to sensitise key stakeholders to the importance of creating meaningful space for civil society and academic participation within the Summit process. This engagement contributed to greater openness to multistakeholder participation, including the recognition of MAP-AI convenings as official satellite events of the India AI Impact Summit. In parallel, we contributed to two Expert Engagement Groups, helping inform discussions and shape outcomes, including around voluntary commitments on multilingual AI. In parallel, we contributed to two Expert Engagement Groups (EEGs) established as part of the India AI Impact Summit, helping inform discussions and shape outcomes, including industry-led voluntary commitments on multilingual AI emerging from the Summit.

To inform participation, we published insights and developed a mapping of key trends in AI governance ahead of the Summit. Afterwards, we shared our reflections and recommendations, facilitated a debrief call for non-governmental stakeholders, and will host a session with the Swiss government at RightsCon to reflect on the 2026 Summit and look ahead to the 2027 Geneva AI Summit.



16 February 2026

SHARED LEARNING FORUM ON AI

On 16 February, GNI and CCG hosted the Shared Learning Forum, which brought together academics, think tanks, civil society, funders, the technical community, and researchers to create a dedicated space for non-governmental and non-company stakeholders to collectively learn and share knowledge. The Forum focused on enabling shared learnings across civil society organisations and academic participants from both social and technical backgrounds, and included formats ranging from lightning talks to community brainstorms and strategy sessions.

Across these sessions, discussions reflected a strong emphasis on grounding AI governance debates in real-world contexts and lived experiences. Participants engaged with a wide range of issues, including the implications of government interventions on rights, the challenges of operationalising AI safety across different technological paradigms, and the evolving relationship between data, infrastructure, and power. Conversations bridged technical and social perspectives, combining deep dives into topics such as generative and agentic AI safety with critical reflections on privacy, risk, and accountability. The Forum also created space for forward-looking dialogue, with participants collaboratively identifying priorities, gaps, and strategies to strengthen meaningful Global Majority leadership and participation in shaping AI governance processes.

The Forum aimed to build networks and explore opportunities for collaboration, support collective preparation for the Summit, showcase research, and highlight diverse approaches to AI development and governance. It also emerged as the largest civil society - focused gathering alongside the AI Impact Summit, creating space for critical conversations that were largely absent from the main Summit proceedings.



AI governance is a challenge too complex for any single sector. True solutions require synthesizing knowledge across academia, civil society, industry, and government. This project champions that democratic ideal while directly confronting the inequalities and power imbalances that threaten it.

- Rafael Zanatta, Data Privacy Brasil



17 February 2026

REINFORCEMENTS & LEARNING: MULTISTAKEHOLDER CONVENING ON AI GOVERNANCE

The “**Reinforcements & Learning: Multistakeholder Convening on AI Governance**,” held on 17 February 2026 in New Delhi, was one of the largest official satellite events of the India AI Impact Summit. Convened by the Centre for Communication Governance (CCG) and the Global Network Initiative (GNI), the event brought together a diverse global community - including policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, academics, technologists, multilateral organisations, and over 100 civil society groups - with a strong emphasis on Global Majority participation.

The convening was designed as both a learning forum and a strategic dialogue to strengthen inclusive, participatory, and rights-respecting approaches to AI governance. We would like to thank our sponsors, Sympatico, Google, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, MacArthur Foundation, Mozilla, Amazon, Atlantic Council, AirBnB, International Center for Not-for-Profit law and ODI Global for making this convening a success.



GNI and CCG are playing a critical leadership role by elevating multistakeholder processes and human rights at the India AI Impact Summit in Delhi and also by helping build capacity of global civil society actors to engage in AI governance. Looking forward to participating!

- Eileen Donahoe, Founder & Managing Partner-Sympatico Ventures

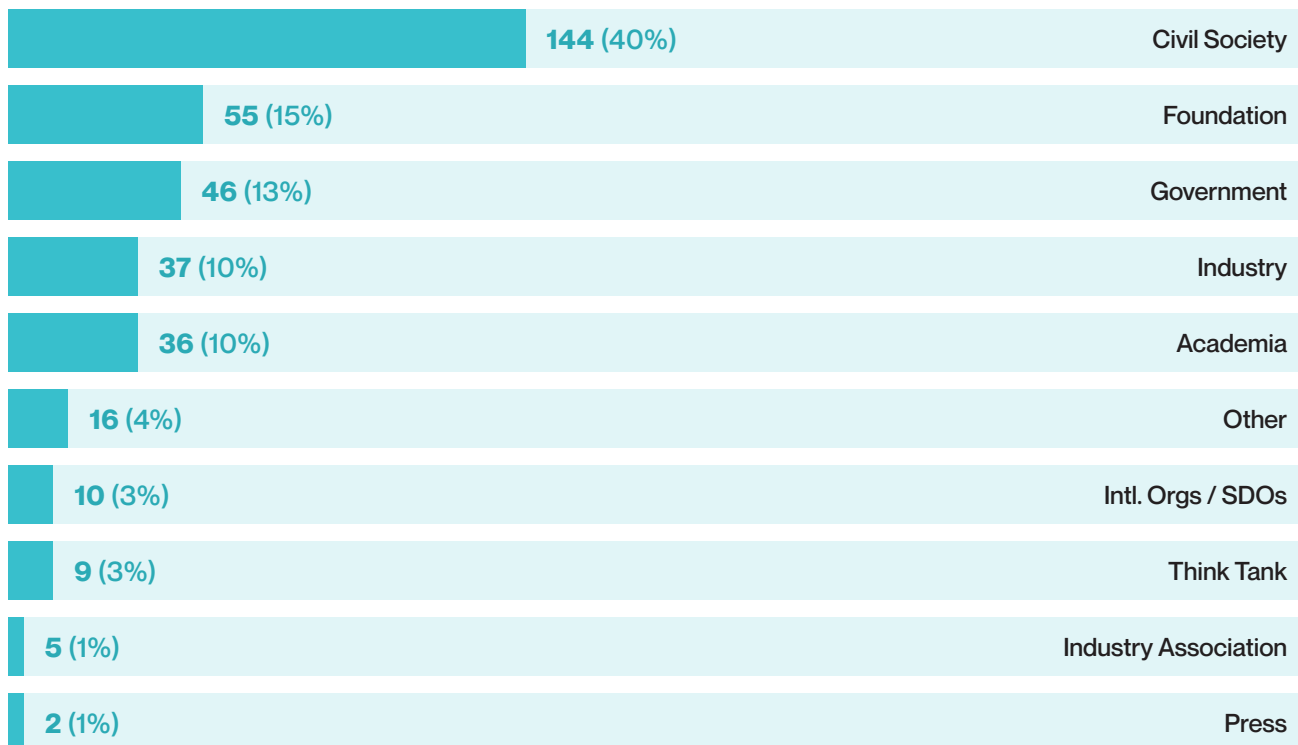
Discussions reinforced a broad consensus that meaningful multistakeholder participation is foundational, not optional, to effective AI governance. Participants highlighted the importance of **embedding inclusion, accountability, and context-sensitivity into emerging governance frameworks**, while also emphasizing the need to translate high-level principles into **operational and implementable approaches**. A particular strength of the convening lay in its roundtables and workshops, where participants engaged in in-depth, cross-sector discussions on how to operationalise these principles in practice. These sessions brought together stakeholders across regions, sectors, and disciplines - including technical and human rights communities - **to collaboratively explore pathways for implementation**.

The agenda for the 17 February convening was structured around a set of interrelated thematic priorities that reflect both current global AI governance debates and the objectives of the MAP-AI initiative. Across plenary sessions and workshops, discussions were organised around three core pillars: collective responsibility in AI governance, safe and trusted AI systems, and context-driven AI infrastructure, with a cross-cutting emphasis on strengthening Global Majority leadership in governance processes.

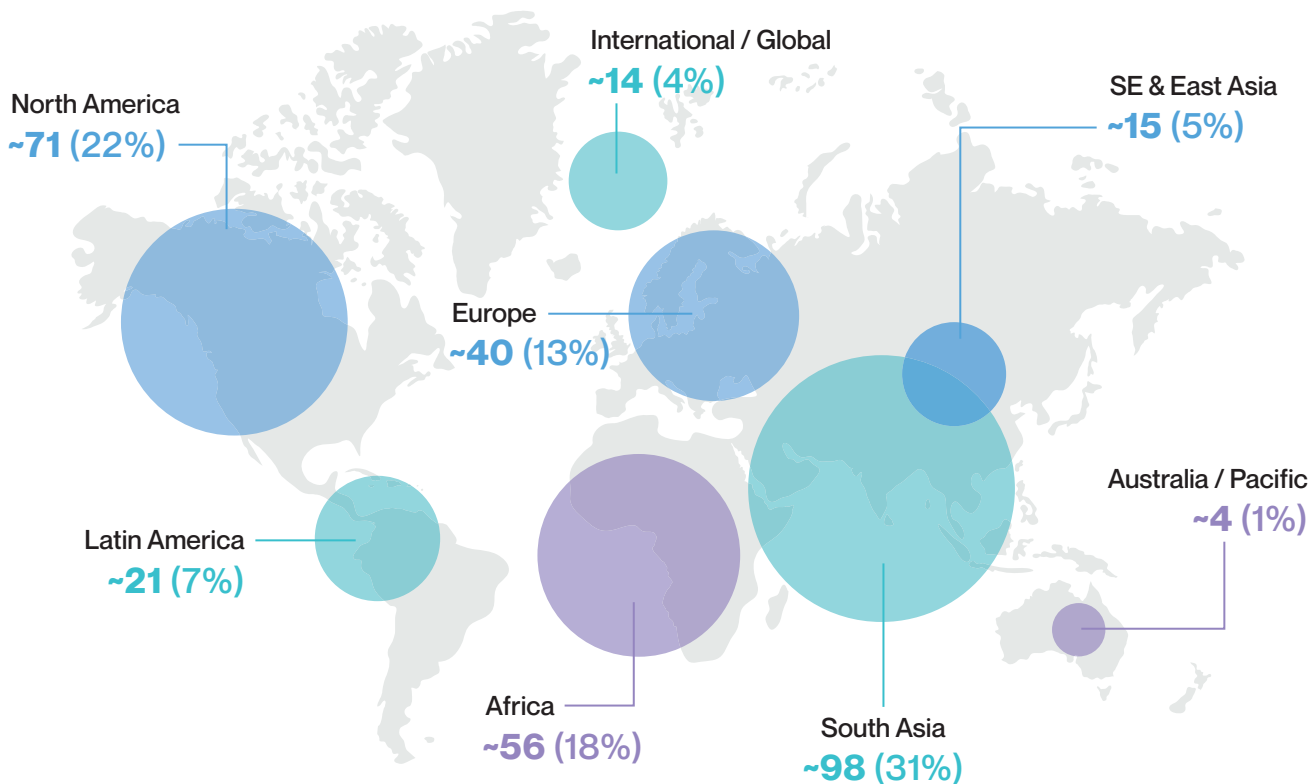


Stakeholder Breakup for the Reinforcements & Learning Convening

CONSTITUENCIES



REGIONS





For AI to truly change the world, voices from around the world must meaningfully participate in its growth and governance. The MAP-AI Project is placing important focus on the value of multistakeholder engagement and elevating underrepresented perspectives in global AI governance. I'm proud to serve as an advisor and grateful to CCG and GNI for their leadership.

- Alex Givens, CEO, Center for Democracy & Technology



SHAPING AI GOVERNANCE: CORE PRIORITIES AND INSIGHTS

Articulating Collective Responsibilities

A central focus of the convening was the articulation of collective responsibility as a foundational principle for AI governance. Discussions examined how roles and obligations can be more clearly distributed across governments, companies, civil society, and the technical community, including across different stages of the AI lifecycle. This was closely linked to a broader emphasis on operationalisation, with participants highlighting the need to translate high-level principles - such as transparency, accountability, and human rights - into concrete regulatory, technical, and institutional mechanisms.

Embedding Safety into Risk Management & Accountability

The agenda also prioritised safe and trusted AI, with sessions exploring approaches to embedding safety across the AI lifecycle. Discussions highlighted the importance of risk identification that is sensitive to local contexts, the development of interoperable safety frameworks, and the need for effective oversight and redress mechanisms. These conversations underscored the gap between emerging safety commitments and their practical implementation, particularly in diverse regulatory environments.

Grounding & Contextualizing AI

A further key theme was the development of context-driven AI infrastructure, focusing on the structural enablers required for equitable participation in AI ecosystems. This included access to compute resources, availability of locally relevant and representative datasets, support for multilingual systems, and the role of digital public infrastructure. Participants noted that without addressing these foundational issues, governance approaches risk reinforcing existing global inequalities. Across all sessions, there was a consistent emphasis on the importance of Global Majority leadership in shaping AI governance. The agenda reflected a shift from participation toward agenda-setting, with discussions highlighting the need for governance frameworks that are responsive to diverse socio-economic contexts and grounded in the lived realities of affected communities.

From Consultation to Meaningful Multistakeholder Governance

The convening addressed a broad and interrelated set of issues across the AI governance ecosystem, spanning global norm-setting processes, technical safety challenges, and structural enablers of equitable AI development. Discussions began with a focus on strengthening multistakeholder AI governance, examining how existing global and regional processes - such as AI summits and UN-led dialogues - can move beyond consultative engagement toward meaningful participation in agenda-setting, decision-making, and implementation. Drawing on lessons from Internet governance, participants explored institutional reforms and mechanisms to embed multistakeholder approaches across the AI lifecycle.

Global Majority Leadership and Structural Constraints

A parallel emphasis was placed on Global Majority leadership in AI governance, with discussions highlighting both the growing role of Global Majority countries in shaping AI policy and the structural constraints they continue to face. Sessions explored pathways to build local AI ecosystems, reduce dependence on concentrated infrastructure, and strengthen participation in global decision-making, while ensuring that AI governance frameworks remain participatory and aligned with development priorities.

Fragmentation and Evolution of Governance Frameworks

Across workshop sessions, participants engaged in deeper thematic discussions on global AI governance architecture, including the evolution of national, regional, and international frameworks; the role of standards and regulatory approaches; and emerging challenges related to coordination, interoperability, and accountability. Complementing this, a significant focus was placed on AI safety and trust, including risk conceptualisation, harm taxonomies, safety and security practices, and the development of shared evaluation and testing frameworks. These discussions also addressed emerging domains such as agentic AI and the need for cross-sector collaboration to manage evolving risks.

Operationalising AI Safety and Embedding Accountability

The convening further examined accountability and rights-respecting design, with sessions exploring mechanisms such as transparency reporting, audits, risk assessments, and grievance redress systems, as well as the implications of AI for privacy, autonomy, and discrimination across the AI lifecycle. Finally, discussions on context-driven AI infrastructure highlighted the importance of foundational enablers - including access to data and compute, multilingual systems, digital public infrastructure, and community-driven data governance models, in shaping inclusive and locally relevant AI ecosystems.

Toward Coordinated Global Governance

The closing discussions focused on global cooperation and alignment, addressing the need for interoperable governance approaches, cross-border coordination, and new models of collaboration, including South-South and South-North partnerships. Together, these sessions reflected a comprehensive approach to AI governance that integrates policy, technical, and institutional perspectives, while prioritising inclusion, accountability, and real-world impact.

WHAT THIS SHOWS

1. AI governance is multi-layered and interconnected
2. Implementation gaps remain across regions
3. Coordination across actors and frameworks is critical
4. Inclusion and infrastructure shape real-world impact

KEY TAKEAWAYS & RECOMMENDATIONS

01

Shift from principles to implementation:

There is growing convergence around core AI governance principles, but the priority now is operationalisation through enforceable frameworks, technical standards, risk assessments, and accountability mechanisms.

02

Multistakeholder participation must be meaningful:

While participation has expanded, ensuring that diverse stakeholders, particularly from the Global Majority - can shape agendas and influence outcomes remains a critical gap.

03

Fragmentation across governance processes persists:

The current AI governance landscape is dispersed across multiple institutions and initiatives, underscoring the need for greater coordination, clearer mapping, and alignment across processes.

04

Bridging global frameworks with local realities:

Effective governance requires approaches that are grounded in real-world contexts, including socio-economic conditions, institutional capacities, and region-specific risks.

05

Global Majority leadership is essential:

There is a clear shift toward recognising the Global Majority not only as participants but as agenda-setters, with a need to embed their perspectives in the design and implementation of governance frameworks.

06

From dialogue to deliverables:

Future Global AI convenings should prioritise tangible outputs and sustained follow-up, ensuring that discussions translate into concrete policy, technical, and institutional outcomes.