Press Release

On the eve of the India AI Impact Summit, thought leaders and civil society experts convene in Delhi to advance inclusive, multistakeholder AI governance

New Delhi: On 17 February, 2026, the Centre for Communications Governance (CCG) at National Law University Delhi and the Global Network Initiative (GNI) convened one of the largest official satellite events of the India AI Impact Summit. The *"Reinforcements & Learning: Multistakeholder Convening on AI Governance"* brought together policymakers, regulators, diplomats, industry leaders, technologists, civil society organisations, and academics from across the globe. In line with the Impact Summit, the organizers placed particular emphasis on highlighting voices from the Global South.

In attendance were representatives from the Governments of India, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Kenya, South Africa;representatives from a range of academic institutions, including Ashoka University, Cambridge, ITT Madras, Oxford, Sydney University, and University of Taiwan, and officers from UNESCO, UN B-Tech, OECD, and other multilateral agencies; companies including AirBnB, Amazon, Anthropic, Google, SunbirdAI alongside a diverse cross-section of 100+ civil society organisations and independent experts from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

By centering Global South perspectives and embedding multistakeholder participation in governance design, the convening advanced a more equitable and representative model for global AI governance. Participants reaffirmed that meaningful Global South participation and multistakeholder governance are not optional, but foundational to building just, inclusive, and effective AI governance systems.

The convening focused on strengthening inclusive, participatory, and rights-respecting approaches to AI governance, emphasizing the need for genuine multistakeholder engagement in shaping global, regional, and national AI governance frameworks. It sought to move beyond fragmented and exclusionary governance models toward co-designed, participatory, and rights-respecting AI governance systems that are responsive to real-world harms, local contexts, and public interest priorities, particularly in countries and communities most affected by technological transformation.

Key Themes and Focus Areas

Over the course of three panels and eight workshops, participants engaged in plenary

discussions and smaller workshops addressing the themes of collective responsibility, safe and trusted AI, and building context-driven AI infrastructure, with a cross-cutting theme of Global South leadership in AI.

Key insights from plenary and workshop discussions

- Strengthening multistakeholder AI Governance: Delegates emphasised that meaningful multistakeholder engagement must move beyond consultation toward genuine participation in agenda-setting, decision-making, and implementation.
- Advancing Global South Leadership in AI Governance: Speakers highlighted how countries across the Global South are moving from peripheral participation to active agenda-setting in AI governance.
- Reimagining AI Safety across the AI value chain: Delegates emphasized that AI safety must extend across the entire value chain, from data sourcing and model training to deployment and redress, grounding risk management in a range of local contexts, real-world harms, and rights-based frameworks.
- Building context driven infrastructure: Speakers underscored that sustainable AI ecosystems require locally grounded data governance, multilingual innovation, and digital public infrastructure that reflects community priorities and strengthens national capacity.
- Fostering Global Collaboration: Delegates highlighted the importance of interoperable standards, shared safety benchmarks, and South–South and South–North partnerships to advance inclusive and durable cooperation in a fragmented geopolitical landscape.

Quotes from Participants

1. Thrilled to be a part of the CCG-GNI MAP-AI dialogue to engage with so many diverse voices from the Global South ecosystem and collectively consider what governance anchored in solidarity and collaboration looks like in this critical moment of the India AI Impact Summit. – Astha Kapoor, Co-founder and Director, Aapti Institute.
2. By convening diverse Global Majority voices, the Strategic Multistakeholder Dialogue aims to translate vision into action–advancing a roadmap for broadening the multi-stakeholder approaches to AI governance with the potential to influence decision-making processes far beyond the Summit itself. – Maria Paz Canales, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Global Partners Digital
3. At population scale, AI is not just a technology rollout, it is a trust rollout. Principles are a start, but adoption depends on safety: clear standards, repeatable testing, audits, transparency, and real grievance redress. Safe impact at scale happens through AI diffusion - when vertical sectors meet horizontal enablers — Shalini Kapoor, Chief Strategist at Ekstep Foundation

About MAP-AI
The Multistakeholder Approaches to Participation in AI Governance (MAP-AI) initiative was launched by the Global Network Initiative (GNI) and the Centre for Communication Governance (CCG) at the National Law University Delhi, with a goal of enhancing multistakeholder engagement and civil society impact at the India AI Impact Summit, hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi in February 2026. The broader objective of MAP-AI is to foster meaningful and effective multistakeholder engagement across a range of critical AI governance-focused convenings, processes, and initiatives, with a particular focus on elevating underrepresented voices and perspectives.

About CCG
The Centre for Communication Governance (CCG) at the National Law University Delhi (NLUD) is a leading research centre with over a decade of experience in information technology law and policy. CCG studies technology's impact on our society and engages with questions of individual and societal harms as well as addressing inequality. To achieve this vision, CCG adopts a three-pronged approach: (1) academic and policy research, (2) policy inputs domestically and internationally, and (3) capacity building of diverse stakeholders. Additionally, CCG seeks to highlight the Indian and Global South perspective at Global forums to enable holistic development of technology policy.

About GNI
The Global Network Initiative (GNI) is the leading multistakeholder forum for accountability, shared learning, and collective advocacy on government and company policies and practices at the intersection of technology and human rights. GNI sets a global standard for responsible company decision-making to promote and advance freedom of expression and privacy rights across the technology ecosystem, in particular when addressing overly broad government requests and restrictions.

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