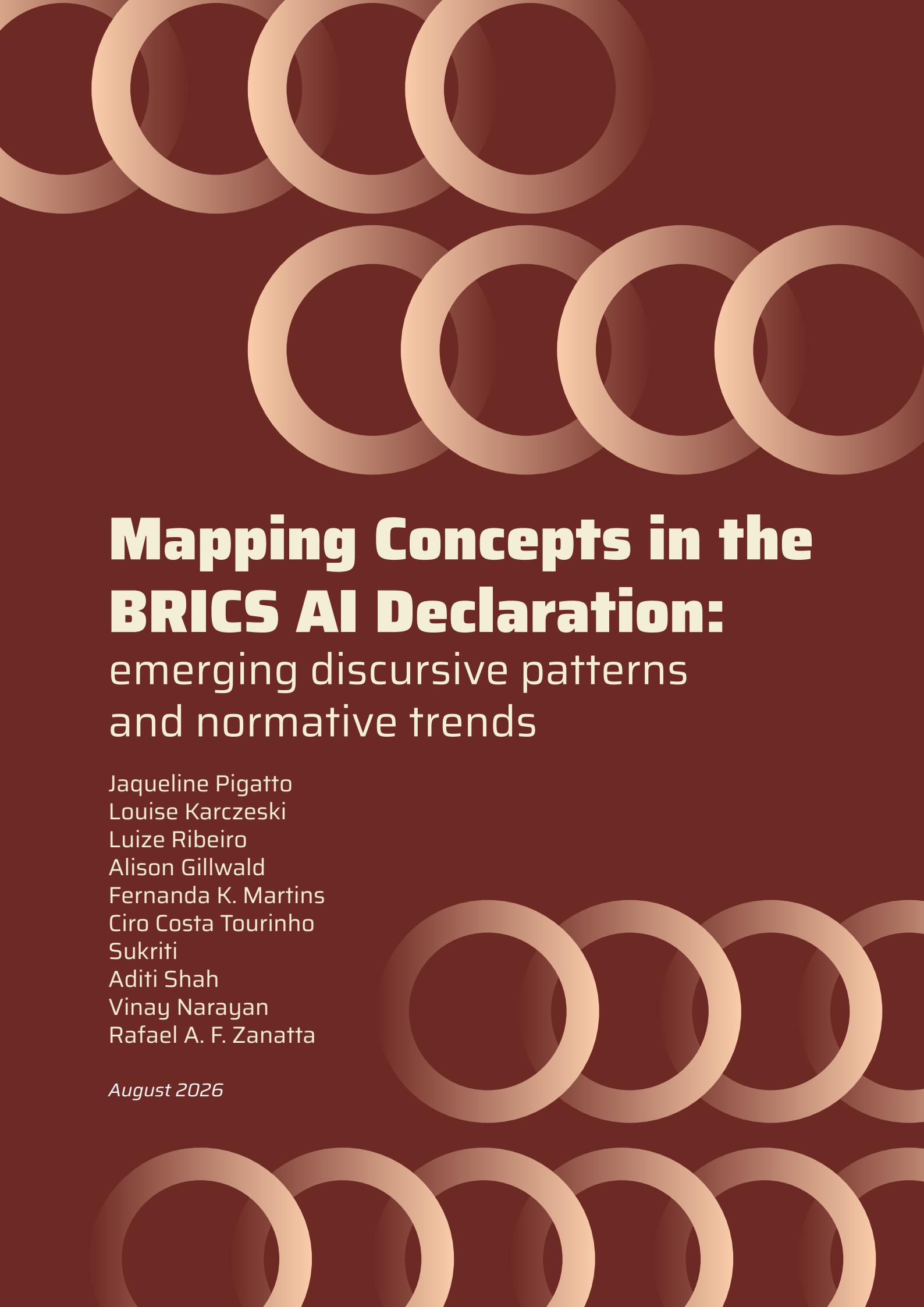




Mapping Concepts in the BRICS AI Declaration:

emerging discursive patterns
and normative trends

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GLOBAL SOUTH ALLIANCE

The Global South Alliance (GSA) is a network of 26 civil society organizations from across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Founded in 2022 through the collaboration between Aapti Institute (India), Data Privacy Brasil, and Paradigm Initiative (Pan-African), the GSA amplifies the voices of the Global South in international digital rights debates and fosters collective action for a fairer digital future.

The GSA's work is mainly focused on unifying Global South NGOs dedicated to the advancement of digital rights. The Alliance's language is grounded in Global South advocacy in digital rights, emphasizing local contexts, inequalities, and the historical dynamics of power in the digital sphere.

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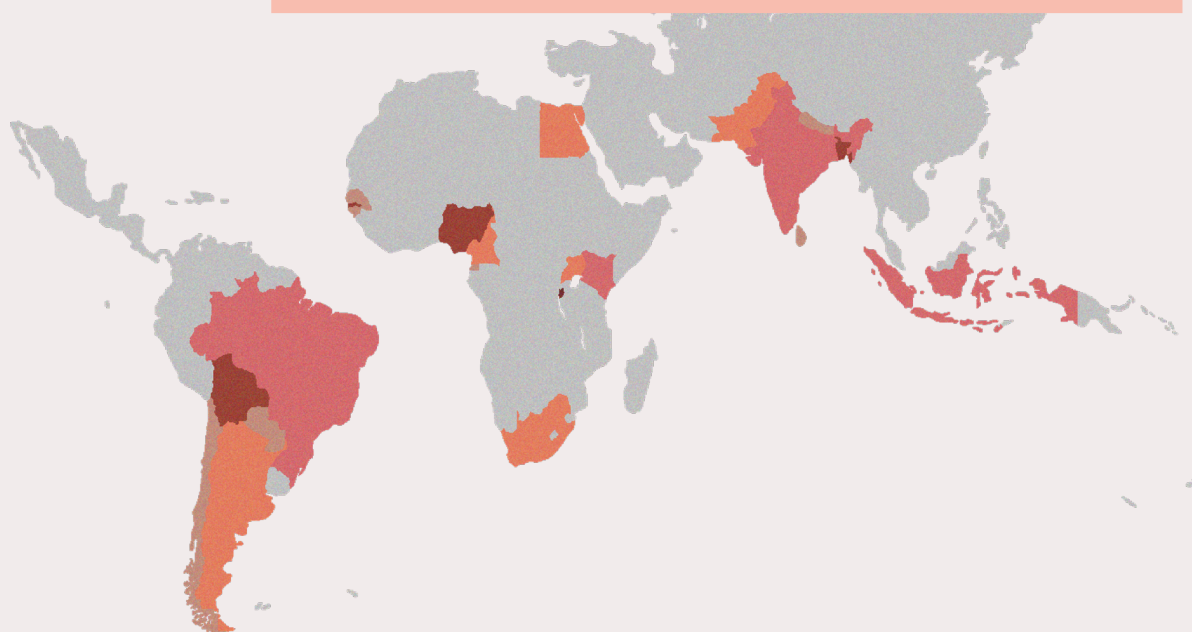
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INDEX

01. Introduction	04
02. Methodology	07
a. Method	08
b. Semantic categories	10
03. Content Analysis	11
a. Global Governance of AI	12
b. Collaborative Governance	12
c. Digital Sovereignty	13
d. Digital Economy	15
e. Data Governance	15
f. International Cooperation	16
g. International Standards	17
h. Environmental Sustainability	18
i. Discriminatory Bias	19
04. Conclusion	20
References	24
Annex I	26
Annex I	30



01. Introduction

The global governance of Artificial Intelligence is currently at a moment of definition and contestation, involving a range of transnational issues that simultaneously touch upon sensitive aspects of national sovereignty. This paper is the result of exploratory research on concepts and terms used in international documents, taking as its reference point the BRICS Leaders' Declaration on Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence (2025). The Declaration represents a milestone not only for the governmental group, by adopting a statement specifically dedicated to the topic, but also for the Global South. Amid the AI dispute within the international system, Global South countries seek to play a sovereign and autonomous role, breaking with historical structural conditions of the international division of labor, economic exploitation, and social challenges, as well as persistent asymmetries in technological production in which the Global South has often been positioned primarily as a provider of raw materials, data resources, energy, and labor, while high-value technological development remains concentrated in the Global North.

While much has been debated, including by the BRICS themselves², regarding the role of the United Nations (UN) and its centrality in AI governance, several countries have proactively positioned themselves in this arena, in what has become a dispute over power and resources, as well as over discourse and narratives surrounding the use and development of AI systems. This contestation is neither new nor isolated; rather, it can be understood as a consequence of rapid technological development that has not been matched by regulation or public policy. These tensions also reflect longstanding contested definitions and unresolved issues from debates on "Internet Governance," now reframed within the broader concept of "Digital Governance". The Internet and the technologies that evolved from it were subject to governance mechanisms in which the state was only belatedly involved, entering the process when its innovation became a widely adopted general-purpose technology affecting their economies and societies. (Pigatto, 2024). This resulted in what became known as "multistakeholder governance". In it, non-state actors play crucial roles in the maintenance, development, and use of technologies and, to some extent, in decision-making processes, as in the case, for example, of organizations such as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

In the case of Artificial Intelligence, countries have sought to "move ahead" in shaping this governance framework by establishing objectives, guidelines, and norms for the development and use of these systems – often driven by external agendas. This prioritisation of AI in global agendas was clearly reflected in the UN Secretary-General António Guterres's

² On the role of BRICS, the expansion of BRICS+ and thematic cooperation on climate change, global health and AI governance, see Mohsen et al (2025).

speech at the Summit of the Future, where the Global Digital Compact was launched (Guterres, 2024). In that context, AI emerged as one of the five pillars of the document, which aims to guide the actions of states and other stakeholders.

At the same time, AI governance continues to be shaped by non-state actors, including sovereign donors and big tech foundations that directly fund national and regional policy formulation, partner with multilateral organisations, and fund some NGOs to promote their interests. In this scenario, AI governance is increasingly shaped by the normative and practical authority of digital platforms, which challenges and also actively reconfigures legal processes (Cohen, 2019)³.

As the initiatives around governing AI develop, there is still a lack of a common vocabulary and, given their complex and dynamic nature, these processes can and should be approached through multiple lenses. Because it is so transversal, discussing AI necessarily involves issues of development, the economy, social policies, inclusion, education, health, the environment, labor, among other areas that are frequently mediated through public policy and regulatory frameworks influenced by state priorities and capacities. While there is significant room for international cooperation (in its various understandings), there are also strategic issues of sovereignty and power over which there may be conflicting interests. Having one's own AI "industrial complex" entails access to and production of cutting-edge technologies, computational capacity, access to and processing of vast amounts of data, human capabilities and institutional capacity, as well as mitigation of the environmental impacts of this infrastructure.

Resultantly, the use and application of AI systems raise serious regulatory and social challenges, requiring public policies and the effective implementation of laws that are aligned with Human Rights, as well as forms of international cooperation capable of addressing the transnational nature of AI systems and the growing influence of global technology corporations. In other words, sovereignty is necessarily linked to relational and cross-border dimensions, no longer corresponding to the traditional concept of territorial sovereignty (Jiang & Belli, 2025). This also ends up involving a tendency of international organizations to expand their mandates and scope, creating another paradox in the international system, where the need for cooperation to address issues related to global corporations and AI systems coexists with the uncertainty related to the institutions that would lead the efforts for the governance of these technologies.

Within this context, this paper conducts a brief comparative analysis of the discourse in international documents that position actors within global AI governance, seeking to clarify how core concepts and narratives are articulated and disputed across different ins-

3 For a critical analysis of the way that Big Tech uses and guards the economic capital generated through its dominance over 'automated culture' in the field of digital rights, see Goldenfein & Mann (2023). For a critical analysis of the funding structure of AI projects, such as the "AI for Good", see Lin et al. (2025).

titutional contexts. The following section presents a methodological note outlining the construction of the analyses and its purpose, followed by a comparison of terms found in the BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence (2025) and other reference documents, such as the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022) and the United Nations Global Digital Compact (2024). Then, we present a brief conclusion aimed at contributing to the plural and participatory construction of such governance. An annex containing policy recommendations for BRICS countries, developed based on the research, is also included, besides a spreadsheet that synthesizes the documents and terminology analyzed.



02. Methodology

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a. Method

This study adopts an exploratory qualitative research approach, centered on interpretative concept mapping and comparative document analysis. The methodology examines the contextual meaning, normative function and political positioning of key concepts related to AI governance across selected international documents.

The primary objective of analysis is the BRICS Leaders' Statement on Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence (2025), which serves as the analytical point of departure for the study. Rather than treating the Statement as a normative benchmark, we use it as the reference document from which the key concepts guiding the comparative analysis are identified. As framed by Astakhova (2024), we understand the relevance of the Statement as a component of the "BRICS normative space", as one of the selected outcomes of the meetings by the Heads of State during the 2025 Brazilian presidency of the group, indicating the recognition of AI Governance as a key issue and developing a collective position on the subject. From the analysis of the Statement, we then compare how selected concepts are framed, articulated or transformed across other BRICS documents adopted under the Brazilian presidency (2025), selected international instruments explicitly referenced in the Declaration and major multilateral AI governance documents adopted since 2022.

The analysis aims to: (i) identify how concepts are framed within the BRICS normative space; (ii) observe whether similar or divergent formulations appear in other international fora; (iii) detect discursive continuities, reformulations or emerging priorities; and (iv) provide a baseline for future comparative monitoring across BRICS presidencies. The study offers a structured qualitative snapshot of discursive dynamics at a formative moment of BRICS AI governance, contributing to the interpretative mapping of how key concepts are articulated across multilateral processes.

The documents were selected based on two cumulative criteria: (i) they contain explicit formulations related to AI governance, and (ii) they are officially adopted or endorsed by intergovernmental processes. For the comparative layer, priority was given to documents explicitly referenced in the BRICS Declaration, landmark multilateral AI governance texts adopted since 2022 and declarations adopted under Global South presidencies when relevant for discursive comparison.

The temporal scope reflects the political significance of 2021–2025. As the 2025 BRICS Declaration constitutes the bloc's first comprehensive statement dedicated specifically to AI

governance and follows the 2024 BRICS expansion, the study focuses on documents adopted under the Brazilian presidency (2025). Other international documents adopted from 2022 onward were considered, from the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021/2022 implementation phase), followed by the UN Global Digital Compact (2024), some of the G20 Declarations (2024–2025) and Summit-based AI processes.



b. Semantic categories

The semantic categories were constructed through a two-step process: (i) inductive reading of the BRICS Leaders' Statement, identifying recurrent normative clusters and organizing principles and, (ii) cross-referencing these clusters with key governance axes in international AI debates.

The semantic categories were developed through an inductive reading of the BRICS Leaders' Statement, identifying recurrent normative clusters and organizing principles grounded in the document's internal structure and argumentative logic. This approach ensures that the analysis remains anchored in the Declaration's normative architecture while enabling comparative interpretation across multilateral contexts. The resulting semantic categories include: Global Governance of AI, Collaborative Governance, Digital Sovereignty, Digital Economy, Data Governance, International Cooperation, International Standards, Environmental Sustainability and Discriminatory Bias.

These categories were selected because they represent structuring concepts in the BRICS Declaration, appear (explicitly or implicitly) across other multilateral processes and reflect normative tensions central to contemporary AI governance debates. Once defined, each semantic category was used as an analytical lens to examine other documents. The analysis focused on: whether the concept appears explicitly; whether it appears implicitly under different terminology; how it is normatively framed (e.g., rights-based, risk-based, development-oriented); and whether institutional mechanisms or implementation pathways are attached to it.

The comparison evaluates the process of conceptual substitution (e.g., sovereignty vs. regulatory autonomy), partial incorporation, and emerging reformulations (e.g., data justice; sovereign AI capabilities). The study, therefore, interprets discursive shifts qualitatively, treating concepts not merely as vocabulary, but as discursive instruments through which actors position themselves within global AI governance.



03. Content analysis

03. Content analysis

a. Global Governance of AI

In the BRICS Leaders' Statement (2025), global governance of AI is framed as a normative and principles-based vision centered on risk mitigation, human rights and sustainable development. The declaration explicitly anchors this approach in the UN Charter and centers the needs of the Global South, linking AI governance to the reduction of digital and data divides, while also highlighting respect for national sovereignty and regulatory frameworks. It positions the United Nations as the central multilateral forum, emphasizing universality and representation, while also implicitly addressing concerns about fragmentation and duplication of AI governance initiatives that may disproportionately affect developing countries⁴.

Across other international documents, there is a shared emphasis on risk-based, human-centric and inclusive AI governance, as noted in the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022) and the UN Global Digital Compact (2024), which focus on multilateral cooperation, multistakeholder participation and transparency. Other processes, such as the AI Summit and G20 declarations, focus on international cooperation and coordination, paired with pro-innovation and proportionate regulatory approaches. Notably, the G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration (2024), adopted under Brazil's presidency, explicitly recognizes the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation on AI governance. Read together, the G20 and BRICS documents suggest a degree of discursive continuity: while the G20 advances a more cautious recognition of the UN's role, the BRICS declaration consolidates this positioning more emphatically, placing Global South priorities, sovereignty and UN-centered multilateralism at the core of its articulation of global AI governance.

b. Collaborative Governance

Within the BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence (2025), "collaborative governance" is introduced as a distinct framing for the global

4 The problem of fragmented governance mechanisms is also observed by legal scholar Luca Belli: "The Leaders' Statement reflects a nuanced understanding of the current international AI landscape, which is characterised by fragmented—or, in some respects, absent—governance mechanisms. The Statement posits that multilateralism constitutes an indispensable approach to remedy this governance deficit and to preclude a deleterious "race to the bottom" among states and corporate actors. In this context, the United Nations is identified as the central institution capable of orchestrating a coordinated response to the challenges posed by AI, thereby ensuring that regulatory frameworks are harmonised and that shared [technical] standards are upheld globally, while also promoting cooperation on research and development (R&D) and on innovative AI-governance mechanisms" (Belli, 2025).

governance of AI. The concept explicitly refers to the creation of a network of relevant stakeholders from both developed and developing countries, emphasizing the pooling of expertise, perspectives and resources while maintaining clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Although the statement acknowledges multistakeholder participation, it does so within a governance model that preserves the central coordinating role of governments, positioning collaboration as a structured and state-led process rather than a diffuse or purely voluntary arrangement.

Across other international documents, collaboration is widely invoked but framed through different conceptual lenses. The UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022) emphasizes collaborative practices primarily as a means of ensuring compliance with human rights obligations across the AI lifecycle, calling on a wide range of sectors to engage in cooperative governance initiatives guided by ethical and legal standards. Similarly, the Bletchley Declaration (2023) and subsequent summit-based processes stress the need for inclusive international collaboration to address transboundary AI risks, often highlighting networks of scientific cooperation and capacity-building efforts for developing countries. G20 Ministerial and Leaders' Declarations and the AI Seoul Summit outcome document (2024) further reinforce the importance of collaborative international approaches, particularly to promote inclusive development, innovation and equitable access to AI benefits. Taken together, these documents converge on the necessity of collaboration, but the BRICS Declaration stands out for explicitly naming collaborative governance and for embedding it within a more formalized, state-centered framework that highlights North-South cooperation and defined institutional responsibilities.

c. Digital Sovereignty

Digital sovereignty emerges in the BRICS Leaders' Statement (2025) as a core organizing principle of global AI governance. Distinct from narrower notions of territorial or regulatory sovereignty, the concept is articulated in close connection with the right to development and emphasizes technological autonomy, domestic capacity-building and control over the conditions under which AI systems and data are governed⁵. Digital sovereignty is framed as the ability of states to establish their own regulatory frameworks, foster local innovation ecosystems, develop AI research capabilities, protect data and promote na-

⁵ This is also observed by Mohsen et al (2025): "While the rapid acceleration of AI development is reshaping global competitiveness, placing strategic pressure on BRICS to act decisively. Establishing comprehensive governance frameworks – encompassing regulation, ethical oversight, and readiness across institutional, infrastructural, and societal domains – has become an urgent priority. Without targeted investment to close the innovation and R&D gap with advanced economies, BRICS risks cementing a long-term dependency in critical digital sectors. Harnessing the transformative potential of open-source AI could catalyze knowledge exchange, technological leapfrogging, and innovation spillovers across member states. However, realizing these benefits requires a coordinated security and intellectual property strategy to guard against misuse, safeguard national interests, and reinforce digital sovereignty. In doing so, BRICS can position itself not merely as a consumer of global AI advances, but as a shaper of the international AI governance agenda".

tional digital economies through investments in infrastructure and human capital, while ensuring safety, security and the protection of fundamental rights.

Across the documents examined, explicit references to “digital sovereignty” remain relatively limited, appearing in only two documents: the BRICS Leaders’ Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence (2025) and the BRICS Data Economy Governance Understanding (2025). Beyond these explicit uses, other documents employ related formulations, including references to “sovereignty,” “data sovereignty,” “sovereign data governance” and “sovereign AI capabilities”.

The UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022) references sovereignty primarily in regulatory terms, emphasizing states’ rights to regulate data generated within or passing through their territories in accordance with international law and human rights norms. Similarly, several G20 and summit-level declarations reference sovereignty mainly in its classical sense, aligned with the UN Charter. More recent processes led by Global South presidencies, however, suggest an evolution in this discourse. The G20 South Africa Leaders’ Declaration (2025) introduces the notion of Africa-centric sovereign AI capabilities, explicitly linking sovereignty to the development of domestic AI ecosystems through long-term partnerships and investment models aimed at sustainable value creation. The BRICS Data Economy Governance Understanding (2025), alongside the BRICS Leaders’ Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence, is one of the only two documents examined that explicitly uses the term “digital sovereignty.” It also advances related concepts such as “data sovereignty” and “sovereign data governance,”⁶ emphasizing states’ rights to own and regulate data, including in the context of cross-border data flows⁷. Taken together, these formulations point to a recent shift in Global South-led fora in which sovereignty becomes increasingly associated with the digital domain not as a purely territorial claim, but as a framework centered on technological (and, in some cases, regulatory) autonomy, development-oriented cooperation and capacity-building within global AI governance⁸.

6 While data sovereignty is connected to China’s digital rise and data localization policies, Yun (2025) also argues that the U.S. is shifting toward a more centralized and sovereign data governance approach.

7 The concept is also discussed by Belli & Zingales (2025).

8 On the different approaches of digital sovereignty driven by social movements (not centered around states, markets or individuals), see Barbosa et al (2024).

d. Digital Economy

The BRICS Leaders' Statement (2025) frames the digital economy as a structural horizon guiding policy orientations for AI governance. The concept is articulated in terms of the conditions required for a fair, competitive and sustainable digital market environment, emphasizing the safeguarding of rights and obligations of states, companies and users within domestic legal frameworks and applicable international agreements. The statement underscores the need to avoid regulatory fragmentation and to promote fair and transparent market regulations that foster innovation, competitiveness and economic growth, thereby using the term “digital economy” to determine a vision for the future of AI governance.

A limited number of other international documents adopt the concept explicitly, most notably the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022), the UN Global Digital Compact (2024) and G20 Ministerial and Leaders' Declarations. In these texts, the digital economy is linked to inclusion, benefit-sharing, capacity-building and sustainable development, with particular attention to equitable access, technology transfer and participation of developing countries and smaller economic actors. By contrast, several summit declarations and sectoral statements do not employ the term directly, referring instead to economic growth, innovation, digital ecosystems or development outcomes associated with AI.

e. Data Governance

Data governance appears in the BRICS Leaders' Statement (2025) as a foundational component of AI governance, explicitly tied to the establishment of frameworks that build trust and confer equitable, safe and secure access to quality data, particularly for developing countries, while respecting privacy, personal data protection and related legal frameworks. This emphasis reflects and extends the BRICS Data Economy Governance Understanding (2025), which articulates data as a strategic asset and advances concepts such as “data sovereignty” and “sovereign data governance” to address collection, processing and cross-border flows in ways that promote interoperability and benefit-sharing. The BRICS framing treats data governance not as a peripheral technical issue, but as a structural pillar of inclusive AI governance and economic development that bridges privacy, transparency and equitable participation in digital economies.

Across other international documents, data governance appears in more fragmented and uneven ways, reflecting its status as an emerging and contested concept. The UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022) addresses data governan-

ce mainly through ethical principles and lifecycle-based safeguards, emphasizing data quality, protection and security without fully consolidating a standalone governance framework. Similarly, the Bletchley Declaration (2023) and several G20 and AI Summit Declarations refer to data governance indirectly, often included in broader discussions of privacy, data protection, accountability or risk mitigation. More recent processes, however, point to a growing consolidation of the concept: the UN Global Digital Compact (2024) explicitly identifies the advancement of responsible and interoperable data governance as a one of its objectives, while the G20 Leaders' Declarations during Brazil's (2024) and South Africa's (2025) presidencies recognized data governance as a fundamental element for effective AI governance – under the South African presidency, the concept of “data justice” also informed the establishment of a Task Force on AI and data governance within the Sherpa track, signaling institutional attention to equitable and participatory data policy frameworks. This was a legacy of the G20 Brazilian presidency and got a lot of UNESCO's participation during the G20 South Africa⁹. Taken together, these developments may suggest that there is a broader trend toward elevating data governance in global AI policy debates, especially in fora influenced by recent Global South leadership, which requires more empirical research and further analysis.

f. International Cooperation

International cooperation is articulated in the BRICS Leaders' Statement (2025) as a structural condition, related to the transboundary nature of digital technologies and AI systems, and as a prerequisite for inclusive development. The document emphasizes cooperation to facilitate access to AI technologies and critical components, remove barriers to financial resources, and build knowledge, skills and risk-management capacities, with particular attention to low and middle-income countries. This approach situates international cooperation not only as a means of managing cross-border risks, but also as an instrument for addressing structural asymmetries in access to technology, finance and expertise. While the statement acknowledges the participation of multiple stakeholders, it embeds cooperation within a multilateral, state-led framework, reinforcing the role of governments and the UN in coordinating AI governance.

Across other international documents, international cooperation is a consistently recurring theme, though articulated through different priorities and modalities. The UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022) positions international

⁹ The section on data governance attached to the South African G20 AI Task Force Chair's Statement ended up being the only meaningful part carried over from the original, more ambitious draft Declaration. Although it was later folded into a set of UNESCO tools that received limited input and engagement, this annex was also the only place where the idea of data justice remained in the final text, making it the main surviving trace of what Brazil had been trying to advance in the G20 discussions on data.

cooperation as a bridge between AI ethics and development, calling for the integration of ethical principles into international and multistakeholder fora and frames cooperation as a mechanism to support AI for development through capacity-building, research collaboration and technology exchange, particularly for developing countries. Other documents, such as the Bletchley Declaration (2023) and the AI Seoul Summit outcomes (2024), foreground cooperation as a mechanism to address shared risks, particularly in relation to AI safety, frontier systems and risk management, often coupled with references to common principles, voluntary commitments and coordination among regulators.

The UN Global Digital Compact (2024) reinforces this emphasis by explicitly calling for enhanced international cooperation to ensure coordination and interoperability among emerging AI governance frameworks, alongside capacity-building support for developing countries. G20 declarations further diversify this framing by highlighting cooperation in regulatory approaches, standard-setting, information sharing and the development of interoperable governance frameworks, while also reaffirming multilateralism and, in recent presidencies, recognizing the role of the UN in promoting global AI cooperation. Taken together, these documents reveal a broad consensus on the necessity of international cooperation, but also illustrate how the concept functions as a flexible discursive umbrella, which may encompass aspects such as risk governance, Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation, regulatory alignment and multistakeholder engagement, depending on the process.

g. International Standards

International standards are positioned in the BRICS Leaders' Statement (2025) primarily as technical instruments supporting interoperability, safety and trust in AI systems, while also enabling broader participation of developing countries in digital markets and governance processes. The document emphasizes the development of technical standards¹⁰, specifications and protocols as essential across AI systems and platforms, while explicitly calling for the involvement of the public sector, standards development organizations and specialized UN agencies. At the same time, it highlights the political economy of standard-setting, warning against the use of technical standards as barriers to market entry for smaller companies and developing economies. This framing situates international standards not only as technical instruments, but as governance tools with distributive and developmental implications¹¹.

10 On the problematic nature of the technical standardization of fundamental rights in AI regulation (and also how inevitable it is), see Lewkowicz & Sarf (2024).

11 While some scholars argue that technical standards might be unsuitable as a tool for fundamental rights protection, Almada & Petit (2025) argue that there are legitimacy problems and a deeper mismatch between the logics of product safety and fundamental rights protection.

Across other international documents, references to international standards are limited and divided between technical and policy standards. The UN Global Digital Compact (2024) has a clear position on the theme, explicitly calling on standards development organizations to collaborate on interoperable AI standards that uphold safety, sustainability and human rights, reinforcing interoperability as a core objective of global AI governance. Similarly, G20 ministerial declarations and the BRICS Data Economy Governance Understanding (2025) emphasize standards in relation to data and metadata interoperability, portability and the use of open standards and open-source technologies, particularly to enable cross-border data flows and inclusive digital economies. Other processes, such as the AI Action Summit (2025), refer more broadly to policy standards aligned with international frameworks, while several summit-level declarations do not engage directly with standard-setting at all. Taken together, these documents suggest that international standards, especially technical standards for data and AI systems, remain an underdeveloped but increasingly salient dimension of AI governance, pointing to an opportunity for greater integration between debates on technical standard-setting and broader discussions on global AI governance.

h. Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability is developed in the BRICS Leaders' Statement (2025) as both a governance condition and a development objective for AI. The declaration advances a relatively robust framing by explicitly addressing not only the potential of AI to support sustainable development such as climate adaptation, emissions mitigation, environmental conservation and resource optimization, but also the need to minimize the environmental footprint of AI systems themselves. It recognizes the material and energy intensity of AI development and deployment, calling attention to greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water consumption, material use and electronic waste. Importantly, the BRICS framing links environmental sustainability to industrial and technological development, emphasizing opportunities for developing countries to leverage the transition to a low-carbon economy through AI-driven innovation, local capacity-building and leadership in clean and renewable energy contexts.

Across other international documents, environmental sustainability is most often addressed indirectly, primarily through references to sustainable development, efficiency gains and the potential contributions of AI to climate action. The UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022) offers the most comprehensive treatment, explicitly addressing both opportunities and risks: it calls for lifecycle-based environmental impact assessments, the promotion of energy and resource-efficient AI methods, and the application of the precautionary principle in cases where environmental harms may be disproportionate, including the recommendation not to deploy AI systems in such circumstances. Other documents, such as the UN Global Digital Compact (2024), G20 de-

clarations and summit outcomes, emphasize the role of AI in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, clean or renewable energy transitions and climate resilience, while only briefly acknowledging negative environmental externalities. The AI Action Summit outcome document (2025) marks this as an emerging area of concern by explicitly introducing AI-energy discussions and proposing mechanisms such as observatories on the environmental impact of AI. These documents suggest a growing recognition of environmental sustainability within AI governance, though the prevailing tendency remains to frame the issue through efficiency and opportunity-driven narratives, with only a limited number of instruments, most notably UNESCO and the BRICS Leaders' Statement, explicitly engaging with environmental constraints and trade-offs as governance challenges.

i. Discriminatory Bias

Discriminatory bias is treated in the BRICS Leaders' Statement (2025) as a foundational governance concern linked to the potential reproduction or amplification of social inequalities through AI systems. Different from the other documents, it explicitly frames bias as a structural risk of AI systems and calls for concrete governance responses, including robust tools to identify and mitigate algorithmic bias, standards for assessing bias-related risks and independent audit mechanisms to safeguard fairness. The declaration also foregrounds the distributive impacts of biased AI, explicitly recognizing that women, minorities, persons with disabilities and groups in vulnerable situations are disproportionately affected, thereby situating discriminatory bias not merely as an ethical concern but as a matter of inclusion, accountability and social justice.

Across other international documents, bias is generally acknowledged but treated as a secondary or illustrative concern within broader discussions on ethics, fairness and human rights, not focusing on the discriminatory impacts as much. The UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022) provides the most comprehensive treatment, explicitly using the term “discriminatory bias” and advancing a rights-based approach that emphasizes prevention, redress and contextual sensitivity, including in sectors such as health. The Global Digital Compact (2024) introduces more operational commitments, particularly through references to data and metadata standards and regular data auditing to prevent bias throughout the data life cycle. By contrast, documents such as the Bletchley Declaration (2023) and several G20 outcomes tend to reference bias in more general terms, linking it to transparency, representativeness and inclusive development without specifying institutional mechanisms. Overall, these instruments reveal broad normative recognition of discriminatory bias, but uneven translation into concrete governance tools, reinforcing the gap between ethical acknowledgment and enforceable responses in global AI governance.



04. Conclusion

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This exploratory research sought to map and compare key concepts structuring the BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence (2025) and to observe how these concepts resonate, evolve, or diverge across other multilateral AI governance processes. Rather than establishing definitive conclusions, the analysis aimed to identify discursive tendencies and to provide a structured baseline for future monitoring.

Previous studies identified some of the pillars of the BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of AI (Mohsen et al, 2025; Belli, 2025). By tracing back the genealogy of its concepts and collaboratively advancing a discursive analysis – within a study group of the Global South Alliance –, we attempted to throw some light on the vocabulary surrounding AI governance and the contested nature of some of the concepts used in the final declaration.

The findings suggest that vocabulary surrounding AI governance in the BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence of 2025 is neither uniform nor stable. While there is a shared emphasis on human rights, risk mitigation and development, the normative architecture through which these ideas are articulated varies significantly. In this regard, the BRICS Statement stands out for placing digital sovereignty at the center of its governance framing. Moving from the classical understanding of sovereignty as purely territorial, it approaches the concept as a technologically mediated and development-oriented capacity: the ability to regulate, build domestic AI ecosystems, govern data, and shape digital economies in alignment with national priorities and international cooperation.

This emphasis connects directly to the broader argument introduced at the outset of this paper: AI governance is not only a technical or ethical field, but also a site of geopolitical positioning and structural contestation (Yilmaz, 2026). The BRICS framing suggests an attempt to articulate sovereignty and multilateralism simultaneously, situating the United Nations as the central coordinating arena while reinforcing state-led collaborative governance and development asymmetries as structuring concerns. In this context, concepts such as data governance, standards and infrastructure emerge not only as technical policy domains but also as sites through which institutional influence and development trajectories are negotiated.

At the same time, the comparative analysis reveals important areas of convergence. Among the documents examined, the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022) emerges as the instrument that most consistently shares the full spectrum of concepts present in the BRICS Statement, including human rights alignment, lifecycle governance, data protection, international cooperation, environmental

sustainability and explicit recognition of discriminatory bias. This conceptual proximity suggests that, despite geopolitical tensions and institutional fragmentation, there may be an emerging normative corridor linking Global South-led articulations and UN-based ethical frameworks. Yet, despite the conceptual convergences, the UNESCO document does not constitute itself as a progressive framework for the Global South, since it is limited in terms of the exercise of human rights by these populations. The need for regulation to redress inequalities is still not recognized, as well as the continued exploitative labour practices across the AI value chain, and the ongoing extractive data industry.

Other processes, such as G20 and summit-based declarations, tend to emphasize cooperation, innovation and risk management, often without consolidating the same structured vocabulary around sovereignty or data governance used in the BRICS document. The relative scarcity of explicit references to digital sovereignty in earlier documents, contrasted with its structured articulation in recent Global South-led fora, may indicate a discursive shift rather than a rupture, one in which sovereignty becomes increasingly embedded in debates on infrastructure, data, standards and capacity-building.

This study provides a qualitative discursive mapping of emerging patterns in global AI governance at a formative moment of institutional consolidation. By identifying semantic convergences and divergences, it contributes to the construction of a common analytical vocabulary and supports modest, targeted recommendations aimed at coordination, transparency and institutional coherence. Ultimately, as AI governance continues to evolve across overlapping multilateral arenas, sustained comparative observation will be essential to determine whether the BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence (2025) marks a lasting normative reorientation or constitutes a strategic positioning within a broader and ongoing contest over the meaning and direction of global AI governance.

Our study has limitations. We do not aim to offer definitive conclusions about the concepts mobilized in the BRICS AI Declaration, nor to trace their full development from negotiation to final drafting. Such an analysis would require a more complex methodology, including interviews and access to negotiation documents that were not available to us. However, as a working group of civil society organizations from the Global South Alliance, we see this type of work as a way to shed light on emerging normative trends in BRICS approaches to AI governance. We hope this preliminary analysis can support future empirical research, including comparative studies of other BRICS AI governance declarations, and contribute to a growing body of literature on policy developments in the Global South.

As this is the first declaration of its kind within BRICS, it is still too early to assess its continuity under the Indian Presidency or the extent to which its content will be preserved in a new document expected at the end of 2026. However, developments during the Indian Presidency already provide some indications of the direction in which BRICS' AI agenda may evolve. In particular, the India AI Impact Summit, held in New Delhi in February 2026,

placed strong emphasis on industrial policy, technological investment, infrastructure, and government–industry partnerships, with comparatively less attention to the institutional and human rights dimensions of global AI governance [Gupta, 2026].

This raises a set of questions for further investigation: [1] Will core concepts such as digital sovereignty, data governance, and sustainability be maintained in future declarations? [2] Will the emphasis on industrial policy, infrastructure, and technological capacity–building observed during the Indian Presidency become more prominent within BRICS’ collective approach to AI governance? [3] Will concepts currently identified as contested and open–ended become more clearly defined in BRICS political discourse over time?

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ANNEX I

BRICS and AI Governance: Policy recommendations¹

These policy recommendations are based on a comparative analysis of key international frameworks shaping global AI governance. The analysis draws primarily on the BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence (2025), as well as the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022), the United Nations Global Digital Compact (2024), and declarations adopted through the G20 and AI Summit processes.

The BRICS Leaders' Declaration on AI Governance (2025) stresses that the “fragmentation and duplication of global AI governance efforts must be avoided at all costs.” This concern is shared across other international frameworks, all of which emphasize the importance of international cooperation in governing the development and deployment of AI technologies. At the same time, the growing number of AI governance initiatives and forums has made coordination more complex and has raised challenges regarding the meaningful participation of stakeholders in these debates, particularly the most affected communities, such as Global South stakeholders. As a result, coordination has become a central priority within the global AI governance agenda.

The NetMundial+10 process in 2024 further reinforced the importance of coordination across digital governance debates. The meeting brought together stakeholders from around the world not only to revisit the principles of the 2014 NetMundial Declaration on Internet Governance, but also to address the growing overlap among discussions related to AI, data protection, privacy, digital platforms, copyright, and environmental governance. These debates demonstrated that effective global governance depends both on institutional coordination and on inclusive multistakeholder participation.

In this context, BRICS countries should strengthen coordination among their national and regional AI governance initiatives while aligning them more strategically with ongoing processes within the United Nations system. The UN has increasingly emerged as a key forum for global AI governance, a role explicitly recognized in the BRICS Leaders' Declaration. As governance discussions continue to evolve within multilateral settings, ensuring the broad participation of non-governmental stakeholders becomes increasingly important. BRICS countries are well positioned to contribute to this process by mobilizing their networks of think tanks, academic institutions, and civil society organizations already engaged in these discussions. At the same time, they can strengthen cooperation in negotiations taking place across other international forums.

¹ These policy recommendations were developed by members of the BRICS Working Group, formed by members of the Global South Alliance, a network of 26 NGOs that work with digital rights. The following organizations were involved in writing the text: Data Privacy Brasil, Aapti Institute, Center for Communication Governance, Fundación Multitudes and Research ICT Africa.

In this sense, and based on previous multistakeholder movements, the following recommendations are directed to BRICS countries:

Prioritizing Global South and Recognizing the Structural Impacts of AI

- Halt the amplification of structural inequalities by AI systems as a general-purpose technology cutting across the economy and society by **recognising and redressing the uneven impact of harms and distribution of opportunities** associated with advanced data-driven technologies. This involves directing additional resources to institutional mitigation of harms, enabling preferential access to data, compute, and skills development to historically underdeveloped countries;
- Recognize the material and environmental dimensions of AI infrastructures, including energy consumption, water use, and the extraction of critical minerals, **by promoting policy coordination between AI governance, climate commitments and sustainable development strategies**, ensuring that the environmental costs of digital transformation do not disproportionately affect developing countries;
- Prioritize South-South partnerships in areas such as digital infrastructure, compute capacity, data governance, and technical expertise, fostering greater technological autonomy and reducing structural dependencies on Global North actors across the AI value chain.

Coordination and Avoidance of Fragmentation

- Promote continuity, complementarity, and transparency among AI governance processes, while **establishing accountability mechanisms to enable oversight and potential sanctions for actors that fail to comply with established commitments**, especially regarding capacity-building and financing on national and international levels. Interoperable regulatory approaches and shared normative principles should be advanced, while ensuring that Global South perspectives effectively shape emerging global AI standards;
- **Actively engage with emerging UN-led initiatives** – including the Independent Scientific Panel and the UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance – by contributing best

practices, monitoring ongoing discussions, calling for concrete outcomes, and incorporating agreed terminology and recommendations into national and regional governance efforts, while questioning inadequate or exclusionary uses where necessary;

- Promote the development of a common vocabulary through standard-setting bodies in initiatives that aim to reach a global level, aligning terminology with frameworks already consolidated in the UN's Global Digital Compact (2024) and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2022), processes with the largest number of signatory states;
- At the same time, countries of the BRICS and the Group of 77 (G77) may rely on language already consolidated in declarations of BRICS and G20 to bring Global South vocabulary into the UN system, thereby strengthening global governance structures capable of overcoming historical and structural inequalities and enabling AI that is truly inclusive, safe and development-oriented.

Meaningful Multistakeholder Participation

- Consider as illegitimate any processes that exclude societal actors from the foundational drafting of documents with global ambitions, namely, processes that fail to conduct public consultations and to ensure openness to participation by sectors and groups representing historically and structurally marginalized populations;
- Strengthen multistakeholder networks, such as engagement groups of the G7, G20, and national and regional IGFs, and expand multistakeholder dialogue in forums such as the BRICS Think Tanks Council and the Civil BRICS Council, to maintain direct dialogue with state representatives at the diplomatic level, ensuring that bottom-up recommendations reach high-level policymaking arenas for global governance, in a feedback loop with the UN system and other multilateral spaces.



ANNEX II

ANNEX II

This annex presents the spreadsheet used to map the selected concepts across the policy documents, adapted here to fit the paper's vertical design. Regarding this, two methodological notes: first, this spreadsheet does not necessarily include all relevant passages addressing the concepts identified in each document. As some documents cover a broader range of issues beyond AI, the analysis focused mainly on passages directly related to AI and its governance.

Second, variations in the formulation and scope of the concepts across the documents required specific methodological choices in how they were operationalized for the analysis. For “global governance of AI,” variations such as “AI governance” were included when referring to the international level. Broader references to digital governance were also considered as a comparative point, but were not treated as equivalent to AI governance. For “digital sovereignty,” the analysis included broader references to “sovereignty” as comparative evidence, given that the concept of digital sovereignty appears explicitly in only two documents: the BRICS Leaders’ Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence and the BRICS Data Economy Governance Understanding. For “data governance,” the analysis also included references to privacy and data protection when these were framed as aspects or mechanisms of data governance, even when the term “data governance” was not used explicitly. For “international cooperation,” equivalent formulations such as “international collaboration” were included. For “international standards,” the analysis followed the technical understanding of standards reflected in the BRICS Leaders’ Declaration (2025), including references to standardization, interoperability, and AI system security, while excluding references to standards in other contexts (e.g., ethical, legal, or data protection standards), which were assigned to the corresponding analytical categories. Finally, for “environmental sustainability,” broader references to sustainable development were included when explicitly connected to environmental concerns. These terminological variations were used to capture substantively related discussions while preserving distinctions between concepts that are not strictly synonymous.

Document:
BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance
of Artificial Intelligence (2025)

Global Governance of AI	"Global governance of AI should mitigate potential risks and address the needs of all countries, especially those of the Global South. It must operate under national regulatory frameworks and the UN Charter, respect sovereignty as well as be representative, development-oriented, accessible, inclusive, dynamic, responsive, grounded in personal data protection, the rights and interests of humanity, safety, transparency, sustainability, and conducive to overcoming the growing digital and data divides, within and between countries."
Collaborative Governance	"Collaborative Governance of AI is Complex, but Possible. A network of relevant stakeholders, from developed and developing countries, should provide contributions with unique expertise, perspectives, and resources, within their respective roles and responsibilities."
Digital Sovereignty	"Digital Sovereignty and the Right to Development are Central to Global AI Governance. We firmly support the right of all countries to harness the benefits of the digital economy and emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence, while upholding fundamental rights, to establish their own regulatory frameworks within their jurisdictions, to develop capacities in AI research, foster technological autonomy and innovation, ensure data protection, and promote their own digital economy, by enhancing digital infrastructure, fostering local talent, and ensuring safety and security of their citizens from AI risks."
Digital Economy	"Fair Competition and Market Regulation are at the Heart of an Equitable AI Future. The digital economy requires safeguarding the rights and obligations of States, companies, and users under domestic legal frameworks and regulations and applicable international agreements to level the playing field towards innovation and economic growth. We underline the importance of avoiding regulatory fragmentation and of promoting fair and transparent market regulations that encourage competition, enhance competitiveness and avoid distortions of any kind, thus ensuring a sustainable and healthy market environment."

Data Governance	“Data Governance is Key to Inclusive AI Governance. We highlight that fair, inclusive and equitable governance of data is critical to enable developing countries to harness the benefits of the digital economy and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence. We also acknowledge the need to establish data governance frameworks, in accordance with our commitments under the BRICS Data Economy Governance Understanding, to build trust and to confer equitable, agreed upon, safe, and secure access to quality data by developing countries, while respecting applicable legal frameworks related to the right to privacy, protection of personal data, algorithmic transparency, intellectual property rights, and national security.”
International Cooperation	“Access to AI Technology Should be Fair, Equitable, Enabling and Inclusive. All countries, irrespective of their stage of economic development, have the right to benefit from, develop, and use AI. We underline international cooperation to facilitate access to AI technology and critical components, to remove barriers to financial resources required for AI research and innovation, and to develop necessary knowledge, skills, and risk management frameworks to effectively leverage AI technologies, especially in low and middle-income countries.” “AI Must be Inclusive. We recognize risks relating to misappropriation and misrepresentation of knowledge, heritage, and cultural values that are insufficiently represented in datasets and AI models. We reaffirm the importance of ethical, transparent, and accountable frameworks, such as UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. AI systems must be developed with rigorous respect to the linguistic, cultural, racial, geographical, and demographic diversity of all countries. This includes international cooperation for training on comprehensive, multilingual, and inclusive quality datasets and the development of local AI talent.”
International Standards	“International Standards Should Lead to Inclusive, Representative and Accessible AI. The development of technical standards, specifications, and protocols for AI systems must involve the public sector, standards development organizations, and specialized UN agencies to ensure trust, interoperability, safety, and reliability of AI technologies across the development process and different platforms and applications. We must avoid standard setting processes being used as barriers to market entry for smaller companies and developing economies.”

Environmental Sustainability	“AI can Lead to Collaborative Sustainable Development. We seek to support AI applications, including through open source, that address critical development challenges in sectors such as healthcare, education, security, transport, energy, agriculture, environment, water resources, and waste management, in accordance with national laws and priorities. The benefits of AI for sustainable development should be continuously promoted. We will focus on research, development, and innovation initiatives that foster and empower local technological capacities and aspirations and bridge technological gaps between developed and developing countries. Environmental Sustainability is a Prerequisite. AI should be used to mitigate emissions, adapt to climate change, enhance environmental conservation efforts, promote sustainable resource management and optimization, maintain ecological balance, and contribute to the evolution of the social and economic pillars of sustainable development, in line with national priorities. AI development and deployment should be sustainable and should minimize their own environmental impact, addressing aspects such as greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water consumption, use of materials, and electronic waste. The windows of opportunities opened by the transition to a low carbon emissions economy should allow developing countries to harness the momentum and to lead through technological advancements in AI.”
Discriminatory Bias	“Discriminatory Bias must be Mitigated. We need robust tools to identify and mitigate errors and negative algorithmic biases and ensure independent audit mechanisms that safeguard fairness, provide standards on assessment of risks from bias, and avoid discrimination and exclusion. Women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and groups in vulnerable situations, such as children, youth, and the elderly, tend to be the most affected by AI systems trained with biased materials.”

Document:
UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics
of Artificial Intelligence (2022)

Global Governance of AI	“While efforts need to be made to increase transparency and explainability of AI systems, including those with extra-territorial impact, throughout their life cycle to support democratic governance, the level of transparency and explainability should always be appropriate to the context and impact, as there may be a need to balance between transparency and explainability and other principles such as privacy, safety and security.” “Participation of different stakeholders throughout the AI system life cycle is necessary for inclusive approaches to AI governance, enabling the benefits to be shared by all, and to contribute to sustainable development. Stakeholders include but are not limited to governments, intergovernmental organizations, the technical community, civil society, researchers and academia, media, education, policy-makers, private sector companies, human rights institutions and equality bodies, anti-discrimination monitoring bodies, and groups for youth and children. “ “Member States should ensure that AI governance mechanisms are inclusive, transparent, multidisciplinary, multilateral (this includes the possibility of mitigation and redress of harm across borders) and multi-stakeholder. In particular, governance should include aspects of anticipation, and effective protection, monitoring of impact, enforcement and redress.”
Collaborative Governance	“Amendments to the existing or elaboration of new national legislation addressing AI systems must comply with Member States’ human rights law obligations and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the AI system life cycle. Promotion thereof should also take the form of governance initiatives, good exemplars of collaborative practices regarding AI systems, and national and international technical and methodological guidelines as AI technologies advance. Diverse sectors, including the private sector, in their practices regarding AI systems must respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms using existing and new instruments in combination with this Recommendation”
Digital Sovereignty	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “46. International law and national sovereignty must be respected in the use of data. That means that States, complying with international law, can regulate the data generated within or passing through their territories, and take measures towards effective regulation of data, including data protection, based on respect for the right to privacy in accordance with international law and other human rights norms and standards.”

Digital Economy	“Conscious of the fact that all countries are facing an acceleration in the use of information and communication technologies and AI technologies, as well as an increasing need for media and information literacy, and that the digital economy presents important societal, economic and environmental challenges and opportunities of benefit-sharing, especially for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), including but not limited to least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), requiring the recognition, protection and promotion of endogenous cultures, values and knowledge in order to develop sustainable digital economies”
Data Governance	“Member States should work to develop data governance strategies that ensure the continual evaluation of the quality of training data for AI systems including the adequacy of the data collection and selection processes, proper data security and protection measures, as well as feedback mechanisms to learn from mistakes and share best practices among all AI actors.”
International Cooperation	“Furthermore, efforts, including international cooperation, should be made to overcome, and never take advantage of, the lack of necessary technological infrastructure, education and skills, as well as legal frameworks, particularly in LMICs, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, affecting communities.” “Member States should work through international organizations to provide platforms for international cooperation on AI for development, including by contributing expertise, funding, data, domain knowledge, infrastructure, and facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration to tackle challenging development problems, especially for LMICs, in particular LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS”
International Standards	“Member States should ensure that governments and multilateral organizations play a leading role in ensuring the safety and security of AI systems, with multi-stakeholder participation. Specifically, Member States, international organizations and other relevant bodies should develop international standards that describe measurable, testable levels of safety and transparency, so that systems can be objectively assessed and levels of compliance determined.”

Environmental Sustainability

"POLICY AREA 5: ENVIRONMENT AND ECOSYSTEMS Member States and business enterprises should assess the direct and indirect environmental impact throughout the AI system life cycle, including, but not limited to, its carbon footprint, energy consumption and the environmental impact of raw material extraction for supporting the manufacturing of AI technologies, and reduce the environmental impact of AI systems and data infrastructures. Member States should ensure compliance of all AI actors with environmental law, policies and practices. 3185. Member States should introduce incentives, when needed and appropriate, to ensure the development and adoption of rights-based and ethical AI-powered solutions for disaster risk resilience; the monitoring, protection and regeneration of the environment and ecosystems; and the preservation of the planet. These AI systems should involve the participation of local and indigenous communities throughout the life cycle of AI systems and should support circular economy type approaches and sustainable consumption and production patterns. Some examples include using AI systems, when needed and appropriate, to: (a) Support the protection, monitoring and management of natural resources. (b) Support the prediction, prevention, control and mitigation of climate-related problems. (c) Support a more efficient and sustainable food ecosystem. (d) Support the acceleration of access to and mass adoption of sustainable energy. (e) Enable and promote the mainstreaming of sustainable infrastructure, sustainable business models and sustainable finance for sustainable development. (f) Detect pollutants or predict levels of pollution and thus help relevant stakeholders identify, plan and put in place targeted interventions to prevent and reduce pollution and exposure. 86. When choosing AI methods, given the potential data-intensive or resource-intensive character of some of them and the respective impact on the environment, Member States should ensure that AI actors, in line with the principle of proportionality, favour data, energy and resource-efficient AI methods. Requirements should be developed to ensure that appropriate evidence is available to show that an AI application will have the intended effect, or that safeguards accompanying an AI application can support the justification for its use. If this cannot be done, the precautionary principle must be favoured, and in instances where there are disproportionate negative impacts on the environment, AI should not be used."

**Discriminatory
Bias**

"AI actors should make all reasonable efforts to minimize and avoid reinforcing or perpetuating discriminatory or biased applications and outcomes throughout the life cycle of the AI system to ensure fairness of such systems. Effective remedy should be available against discrimination and biased algorithmic determination."

"Member States should ensure that gender stereotyping and discriminatory biases are not translated into AI systems, and instead identify and proactively redress these. Efforts are necessary to avoid the compounding negative effect of technological divides in achieving gender equality and avoiding violence such as harassment, bullying or trafficking of girls and women and under-represented groups, including in the online domain."

Document:
The Bletchley Declaration /
AI Safety Summit (2023)

Global Governance of AI	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “Many risks arising from AI are inherently international in nature, and so are best addressed through international cooperation. We resolve to work together in an inclusive manner to ensure human-centric, trustworthy and responsible AI that is safe, and supports the good of all through existing international fora and other relevant initiatives, to promote cooperation to address the broad range of risks posed by AI. In doing so, we recognise that countries should consider the importance of a pro-innovation and proportionate governance and regulatory approach that maximises the benefits and takes into account the risks associated with AI. This could include making, where appropriate, classifications and categorisations of risk based on national circumstances and applicable legal frameworks. We also note the relevance of cooperation, where appropriate, on approaches such as common principles and codes of conduct.” “In recognition of the transformative positive potential of AI, and as part of ensuring wider international cooperation on AI, we resolve to sustain an inclusive global dialogue that engages existing international fora and other relevant initiatives and contributes in an open manner to broader international discussions, and to continue research on frontier AI safety to ensure that the benefits of the technology can be harnessed responsibly for good and for all”
Collaborative Governance	“All actors have a role to play in ensuring the safety of AI: nations, international fora and other initiatives, companies, civil society and academia will need to work together. Noting the importance of inclusive AI and bridging the digital divide, we reaffirm that international collaboration should endeavour to engage and involve a broad range of partners as appropriate, and welcome development-orientated approaches and policies that could help developing countries strengthen AI capacity building and leverage the enabling role of AI to support sustainable growth and address the development gap.” “[...] we resolve to support an internationally inclusive network of scientific research on frontier AI safety that encompasses and complements existing and new multilateral, plurilateral and bilateral collaboration, including through existing international fora and other relevant initiatives”
Digital Sovereignty	Not identified
Digital Economy	Not identified

Data Governance	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “[...] we welcome relevant international efforts to examine and address the potential impact of AI systems in existing fora and other relevant initiatives, and the recognition that the protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, bias mitigation, privacy and data protection needs to be addressed”
International Cooperation	“Many risks arising from AI are inherently international in nature, and so are best addressed through international cooperation. We resolve to work together in an inclusive manner to ensure human-centric, trustworthy and responsible AI that is safe, and supports the good of all through existing international fora and other relevant initiatives, to promote cooperation to address the broad range of risks posed by AI. In doing so, we recognise that countries should consider the importance of a pro-innovation and proportionate governance and regulatory approach that maximises the benefits and takes into account the risks associated with AI. This could include making, where appropriate, classifications and categorisations of risk based on national circumstances and applicable legal frameworks. We also note the relevance of cooperation, where appropriate, on approaches such as common principles and codes of conduct.” “In recognition of the transformative positive potential of AI, and as part of ensuring wider international cooperation on AI, we resolve to sustain an inclusive global dialogue that engages existing international fora and other relevant initiatives and contributes in an open manner to broader international discussions, and to continue research on frontier AI safety to ensure that the benefits of the technology can be harnessed responsibly for good and for all”
International Standards	Not identified
Environmental Sustainability	“This includes for public services such as health and education, food security, in science, clean energy, biodiversity, and climate, to realise the enjoyment of human rights, and to strengthen efforts towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”
Discriminatory Bias	“Alongside these opportunities, AI also poses significant risks, including in those domains of daily life. To that end, we welcome relevant international efforts to examine and address the potential impact of AI systems in existing fora and other relevant initiatives, and the recognition that the protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, bias mitigation, privacy and data protection needs to be addressed.”

Document:
Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative and Inclusive AI /
AI Seoul Summit (2024)

Global Governance of AI	“2. Building on the work laid out at the AI Safety Summit held at Bletchley Park in the United Kingdom on November 2023, we recognize that AI safety, innovation, and inclusivity are inter-related goals and that it is important to encompass these priorities in international discussions on AI governance to address the broad spectrum of opportunities and challenges that the design, development, deployment, and use of AI presents and may present. 3. We recognize the importance of interoperability between AI governance frameworks in line with a risk-based approach to maximize the benefits and address the broad range of risks from AI, to ensure the safe, secure, and trustworthy design, development, deployment, and use of AI. We continue to focus on supporting the operationalisation of the Hiroshima Process International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems. We recognize the particular responsibility of organizations developing and deploying frontier AI, and, in this regard, note the Frontier AI Safety Commitments.” “6. We advocate for policy and governance frameworks, including risk-based approaches, that foster safe, innovative and inclusive AI ecosystems. Frameworks should facilitate a virtuous cycle between human creativity and the development and use of AI, promote socio-cultural, linguistic, and gender diversity, and promote environmentally sustainable development and use of technology and infrastructure throughout the life-cycle of commercially and publicly available AI systems.” “8. We aim to strengthen international cooperation on AI governance through engagement with other international initiatives at the UN and its bodies, G7, G20, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], the Council of Europe, and the Global Partnership on AI [GPAI]. [...]”
Collaborative Governance	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “based on the discussion at the AI Seoul Summit Ministers’ Session on 22 May 2024 on the approaches to AI governance to promote safe, secure and trustworthy AI and sustainable AI development, hereby affirm the need for collaborative international approaches to respond to rapid advancements in AI technologies and their impact on our societies and economies.”
Digital Sovereignty	Not identified
Digital Economy	Not identified

Data Governance	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “It is imperative to guard against the full spectrum of AI risks, including risks posed by the deployment and use of current and frontier AI models or systems and those that may be designed, developed, deployed and used in future. Principles for AI safety and security include transparency, interpretability and explainability; privacy and accountability; meaningful human oversight and effective data management and protection.”
International Cooperation	“We affirm the unique role of AI safety institutes and other relevant institutions to enhance international cooperation on AI risk management and increase global understanding in the realm of AI safety and security.” “We recognise the need to strengthen international cooperation in joint research and talent development, including with developing countries to enhance their capabilities in AI design, development and utilisation.”
International Standards	Not identified
Environmental Sustainability	“We recognise the importance of sustainability and resilience in the ecosystem for AI innovation. In this regard, we encourage AI developers and deployers to take into consideration their potential environmental footprint such as energy and resource consumption. We welcome collaborative efforts to explore measures on how our workforce can be upskilled and reskilled to be confident users and developers of AI to enhance innovation and productivity. Furthermore, we encourage efforts by companies to promote the development and use of resource-efficient AI models or systems and inputs such as applying low-power AI chips and operating environmentally friendly data centers throughout AI development and services.”
Discriminatory Bias	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “Frameworks should ... promote socio-cultural, linguistic, and gender diversity, and promote environmentally sustainable development and use of technology and infrastructure throughout the life-cycle of commercially and publicly available AI systems.”

Document:
UN Global Digital Compact (2024)

Global Governance of AI	“Objective 5. Enhance international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity. We recognize the need for a balanced, inclusive and risk-based approach to the governance of artificial intelligence (AI), with the full and equal representation of all countries, especially developing countries, and the meaningful participation of all stakeholders.” “We consider that international governance of artificial intelligence requires an agile, multidisciplinary and adaptable multi-stakeholder approach. We recognize that the United Nations has an important role to play in shaping, enabling and supporting such governance.”
Collaborative Governance	“We consider that international governance of artificial intelligence requires an agile, multidisciplinary and adaptable multi-stakeholder approach. We recognize that the United Nations has an important role to play in shaping, enabling and supporting such governance.”
Digital Sovereignty	Not identified
Digital Economy	“We recognize that equitable and affordable access to digital technologies can unlock the potential of the digital economy for every society. We recognize digital access to encompass opportunities for the acquisition and development of knowledge, research and capacity as well as technology transfers on mutually agreed terms.” “We encourage the development of international partnerships on artificial intelligence capacity-building to develop education and training programmes, increase access to resources including open artificial intelligence models and systems, open training data and compute, facilitate artificial intelligence model training and development, and promote the participation of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in the digital economy (SDGs 4 and 17).”

Data Governance	“We recognize that responsible and interoperable data governance is essential to advance development objectives, protect human rights, foster innovation and promote economic growth. The increasing collection, sharing and processing of data, including in artificial intelligence systems, may amplify risks in the absence of effective personal data protection and privacy norms.” “We recognize the urgent need for strengthened data governance cooperation at all levels with the effective, equitable and meaningful participation of all countries and in consultation with relevant stakeholders to unlock the full potential of digital and emerging technologies. We recognize that this will require capacity-building for developing countries and the development and implementation of data governance frameworks at all levels that maximize the benefits of data use while protecting privacy and securing data. We call on the United Nations system to play a role in promoting capacity-building for responsible and interoperable data governance”
International Cooperation	“We recognize international, regional, national and multi-stakeholder efforts under way to advance safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems. We urgently need to inclusively assess and address the potential impact, opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence systems on sustainable development and the well-being and rights of individuals. International cooperation is required to promote coordination and compatibility of emerging artificial intelligence governance frameworks.” “We will govern artificial intelligence in the public interest and ensure that the application of artificial intelligence fosters diverse cultures and languages and supports locally generated data for the benefit of countries and communities’ development. This includes, in particular, international cooperation to support developing countries in building artificial intelligence capacities as well as efforts to address potential negative impacts of emerging digital technologies on labour and employment and on the environment.”
International Standards	“We call on standards development organizations to collaborate to promote the development and adoption of interoperable artificial intelligence standards that uphold safety, reliability, sustainability and human rights.”

Environmental Sustainability	“Digital technologies unlock new capabilities and opportunities for advancing environmental sustainability. Our cooperation will leverage digital technologies for sustainability while minimizing their negative environmental impacts;” “We recognize the immense potential of artificial intelligence systems to accelerate progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals. We will govern artificial intelligence in the public interest and ensure that the application of artificial intelligence fosters diverse cultures and languages and supports locally generated data for the benefit of countries and communities’ development. This includes, in particular, international cooperation to support developing countries in building artificial intelligence capacities as well as efforts to address potential negative impacts of emerging digital technologies on labour and employment and on the environment.”
Discriminatory Bias	“We commit, by 2030, to: Develop data and metadata standards designed to prevent and address bias, discrimination or human rights violations and abuses throughout the data life cycle, including through regular data auditing (SDGs 3, 5, 10 and 16);”

Document:
G20 Maceió Ministerial Declaration
on Digital Inclusion for All (2024)

Global Governance of AI	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “We reaffirm our commitment to leverage AI for good and our determination to take a balanced approach that unlocks the full potential of AI, promoting an equitable access to and sharing of its benefits. We also underline our engagement to promote the benefits and mitigate risks derived from this technology by committing to risk-based and human-centric, development-oriented, innovation-friendly AI policy and governance approaches that are consistent with applicable legal frameworks on security, privacy and protection of personal data, human rights and intellectual property rights.” “Recommendation: Developing and implementing agile innovation-friendly and forwardlooking governance frameworks and policies that promote digital and AI empowerment. These frameworks should enable countries to enhance their national AI capacity and readiness, digital and AI governance, promoting the safe, secure, and trustworthy development, deployment, and use of AI systems, in a transparent, ethical, responsible and reliable manner.”
Collaborative Governance	“Promote international collaboration and multistakeholder partnership. Recommendation: Enhancing exchanges on policies with a view to fostering interoperable frameworks to promote the safe, secure, and trustworthy development and deployment of AI systems in an ethical and responsible way.”
Digital Sovereignty	Not identified
Digital Economy	“We reaffirm the importance of building safety, resilience, security and trust and creating an enabling, inclusive, open, fair, non-discriminatory, safe, secure and sustainable digital economy that puts humans and their development at the center and enables the protection, promotion and full enjoyment of human rights.”

Data Governance	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “Promote international collaboration and multistakeholder partnership. Recommendation: Enhancing exchanges on policies with a view to fostering interoperable frameworks to promote the safe, secure, and trustworthy development and deployment of AI systems in an ethical and responsible way. These frameworks should promote economic growth, technological cooperation and development, as well as safeguard human rights, fundamental freedoms, inclusiveness, equity and accessibility. They should also enhance social welfare, facilitating interoperable approaches to AI to reduce inequalities and foster inclusive sustainable development. This can help to effectively address the challenges and mitigate the risks related to it, including those related to personal data protection, privacy, consumer protection and data governance, placing AI at the service of individuals, economies, societies and the planet.”
International Cooperation	“ We acknowledge the ongoing international efforts and initiatives on AI, particularly the adoption by consensus of the U.N. General Assembly resolutions “Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development” and “Enhancing International Cooperation on Capacity Building of Artificial Intelligence”, and look forward to the publication of the report of the Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence. “We also highlight our commitment to work together to promote international cooperation and further discussions on AI for inclusive sustainable development and inequality reduction. In this sense, we welcome the document “Enabling resources for the development, deployment, and use of AI for good and for all” (annex 4), leveraging the work of and in collaboration with UNESCO.” “Noting with concern the potential risk presented by AI in widening digital divides within and between countries, we call for the promotion of inclusive international cooperation in this domain, notably on capacity building, joint research and voluntary technology transfer and knowledge sharing, on mutually agreed terms, in order to expand participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in digital transformation to harness the benefits and effectively participate in the development, deployment and use of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems, in a responsible and ethical manner.”

International Standards	“We recognize that data access and data sharing within jurisdictions, including through interoperability, and in compliance with applicable legal frameworks, including on security, privacy and the protection of personal data, human rights and intellectual property rights, can unleash the potential of data to both public and private sectors for public interest. In this regard, we also recognize the important role of open-source software, open Application Programming Interfaces (API) and the international standards that support them, including open standards, as well as secure-by-design solutions.” “We believe that content authentication and provenance mechanisms and related technical standards may help identify AI generated content, and enable users to identify information manipulation. Transparency, with appropriate safeguards, and explainability regarding data, algorithms and content moderation, that respects intellectual property rights, and privacy and data protection, can be key for building healthy information ecosystems. G20 members and invited countries encourage cooperation and information sharing on initiatives and best practices addressing the erosion of information integrity and its impact on the digital economy.”
Environmental Sustainability	“We recognize that safe, secure and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI), when applied in a transparent, ethical, responsible and reliable manner, may act as a catalyst for achieving economic growth and inclusive sustainable development within its three dimensions: social, economic and environmental. We reaffirm the G20 AI principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. Building upon our Leaders’ consensus as reflected in the G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration and building upon previous presidencies, we reaffirm our commitment to leverage AI for good and for all, as well as to unlock the full potential of AI, share its benefits for all and mitigate its risks.” “In terms of social and cultural dimensions, a need for the introduction or implementation of policies specifically addressing the gender gap and the environmental agenda and its relationship with AI emerge.”
Discriminatory Bias	“We equally recognize the challenges arising from the AI and other digital divides, and the need to narrow the existing disparities within countries and between developed and developing countries in terms of conditions, possibilities and capacities. We acknowledge the need to find pathways to leverage AI for inclusive and sustainable development, as a tool in combating poverty and contributing to global progress, to the benefit of all. In addition, while often global in reach, AI systems should seek to reflect a diverse range of linguistic, sociocultural, racial and geographical contexts, based on varied and representative datasets, to avoid reinforcing or perpetuating discriminatory or biased applications and outcomes throughout their life cycle.”

Document:
G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration (2024)

Global Governance of AI	“To unlock the full potential of AI, equitably share its benefits, and mitigate risks, we will work together to promote international co-operation and further discussions on international governance for AI, recognizing the need to incorporate the voices of developed and developing countries. We recognize the role of the United Nations, alongside other existing fora, in promoting international AI cooperation, including to empower sustainable development. Acknowledging growing digital divides within and between countries, we call for the promotion of inclusive international cooperation and capacity building for developing countries in this domain and welcome international initiatives to support these efforts. We reaffirm the G20 AI principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on Ethics of AI.”
Collaborative Governance	Not identified
Digital Sovereignty	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “In line with the UN Charter, all states must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state. We affirm that all parties must comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and in this regard condemn all attacks against civilians and infrastructure”
Digital Economy	“The rapid progress of AI promises prosperity and expansion of the global digital economy.”
Data Governance	“The rapid progress of AI promises prosperity and expansion of the global digital economy. It is our endeavor to leverage AI for good and for all by solving challenges in a responsible, inclusive and human-centric manner, while protecting people’s rights and safety. To ensure safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development, deployment and use, the protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, biases, privacy, data protection and data governance must be addressed.”

International Cooperation	“We will seek to promote a pro-innovation regulatory/governance approach to AI that will limit risks while enabling us to benefit from what it has to offer. To unlock the full potential of AI, equitably share its benefits, and mitigate risks, we will work together to promote international cooperation and further discussions on international governance for AI, recognizing the need to incorporate the voices of developed and developing countries. “
International Standards	Not identified
Environmental Sustainability	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “We emphasize the role of sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social, and environmental – as a guiding principle for cooperation for people, planet and prosperity, with the ultimate goal of overcoming our collective challenges. We reaffirm our respective commitments to scale up urgent action to address the crises and challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, ocean and land degradation, drought and pollution.”
Discriminatory Bias	“The rapid progress of AI promises prosperity and expansion of the global digital economy. It is our endeavor to leverage AI for good and for all by solving challenges in a responsible, inclusive and human-centric manner, while protecting people’s rights and safety. To ensure safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development, deployment and use, the protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, biases, privacy, data protection and data governance must be addressed.”

Document:**Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet / AI Action Summit (2025)**

Global Governance of AI	"We recognize the need for inclusive multistakeholder dialogues and cooperation on AI governance. We underline the need for a global reflection integrating inter alia questions of safety, – sustainable development, innovation, respect of international laws including humanitarian law and human rights law and the protection of human rights, gender equality, linguistic diversity, protection of consumers and of intellectual property rights. We take notes of efforts and discussions related to international fora where AI governance is examined. As outlined in the Global Digital Compact adopted by the UN General Assembly, participants also reaffirmed their commitment to initiate a Global Dialogue on AI governance and the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and to align on-going governance efforts, ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication"
Collaborative Governance	"We recognize the need for inclusive multistakeholder dialogues and cooperation on AI governance."
Digital Sovereignty	Not identified
Digital Economy	Not identified
Data Governance	Not identified
International Cooperation	"[...] we have affirmed the following main priorities: [...] Reinforcing international cooperation to promote coordination in international governance" "Harnessing the benefits of AI technologies to support our economies and societies depends on advancing Trust and Safety. We commend the role of the Bletchley Park AI Safety Summit and Seoul Summits that have been essential in progressing international cooperation on AI safety and we note the voluntary commitments launched there. We will keep addressing the risks of AI to information integrity and continue the work on AI transparency. "
International Standards	Not identified

Environmental Sustainability	“We have discussed, at a Summit for the first time and in a multi-stakeholder format, issues related to AI and energy. This discussion has led to sharing knowledge to foster investments for sustainable AI systems (hardware, infrastructure, models), to promoting an international discussion on AI and environment, to welcoming an observatory on the energy impact of AI with the International Energy Agency, to showcasing energy-friendly AI innovation.”
Discriminatory Bias	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “We recognize the need for inclusive multistakeholder dialogues and cooperation on AI governance. We underline the need for a global reflection integrating inter alia questions of safety, sustainable development, innovation, respect of international laws including humanitarian law and human rights law and the protection of human rights, gender equality, linguistic diversity, protection of consumers and of intellectual property rights. We take notes of efforts and discussions related to international fora where AI governance is examined. As outlined in the Global Digital Compact adopted by the UN General Assembly, participants also reaffirmed their commitment to initiate a Global Dialogue on AI governance and the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and to align on-going governance efforts, ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication”

Document:
Declaration of the 13th BRICS Science,
Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting (2025)

Global Governance of AI	Not identified
Collaborative Governance	Not identified
Digital Sovereignty	Not identified
Digital Economy	Not identified
Data Governance	Not identified
International Cooperation	“Conscious of the many challenges we face to maintain the international multilateral order, we discussed pathways to deeper international cooperation among our STI policymakers and research and innovation communities” “We celebrate the Accession Protocol to the Memorandum of Understanding for BRICS STI Cooperation to incorporate new BRICS members, as proposed in Moscow in 2024, during the 12th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting, thus reaffirming the BRICS spirit of mutual respect and understanding, equality, openness, solidarity, inclusiveness, and consensus to achieve and strengthen our STI partnership.” “We thank Brazil for hosting the 9th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on HighPerformance Computing and Artificial Intelligence, in the city of Petropolis, on the 17th and 18th of May 2025. We welcome of the working group proposal to foster the technicaland scientific cooperation in key areas of artificial intelligence and the promotion of integrated and equitable technological development among the BRICS countries through proposals such as the “Federated Social Network for BRICS”, the “BRICS Storage and Data Sharing” and the “Brazil Ambassador Program on HPC Resources” with support provided as deemed appropriate in line with each nation’s priorities and policies. “
International Standards	Not identified

Environmental Sustainability	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “We congratulate the leadership of Brazil for advocating for solutions to combat climate change and for hosting this year the 30th Conference of the Parties [COP30] of the UNFCCC. In this context, we thank Brazil for conducting, on the 12th of May 2025, in a virtual mode, the 3rd Meeting of the BRI-CS Working Group on Prevention and Monitoring of Natural Disasters, which resulted in a list of proposals and suggestions for future technical-scientific cooperation that will work as instruments to overcome obstacles, prevent disasters and provide innovative solutions to environmental degradation and climate change.”
Discriminatory Bias	Not identified

Document:
Declaration of the 11th BRICS
Communications Ministers Meeting (2025)

Global Governance of AI	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “Digital ecosystem governance has emerged as a strategic, cross-cutting priority for BRICS members. In the context of an accelerating global digital transformation, member countries can collaborate to foster innovative solutions. The inherently cross-border nature of the digital environment challenges traditional governance models. In the evolving digital ecosystem, governments have been reviewing their traditional telecommunications governance structures, broadening their mandate to encompass new digital issues.”
Collaborative Governance	Not identified
Digital Sovereignty	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “We also affirm that the technical reach of space telecommunications systems should not bypass state sovereignty in any case, and the provision of satellite services within the territory of a state should be carried out only if authorized by that state.”
Digital Economy	Not identified
Data Governance	Not identified
International Cooperation	“In this sense, building on the achievements of previous Chairships, we encourage further cooperation to harness Artificial Intelligence [AI] for good and for all. We take note of the launch of initiatives of BRICS members that aim to facilitate and foster AI technologies among all BRICS countries. . We take note of the launch of initiatives of BRICS members that aim to facilitate and foster AI technologies among all BRICS countries.”
International Standards	Not identified

Environmental Sustainability	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “BRICS members and partners acknowledge that the Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) sector can positively contribute to the objectives of environmental sustainability negotiations and dialogues, as exemplified by the work under development in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the goals of the Paris Agreement, and the related initiatives set forth in the UN SDGs structure. Taking into account the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), we encourage BRICS members’ respective and collective contribution to the global shift towards green and low-carbon development from the perspective of the ICT sector.” “We assert that digital technologies can contribute to environment protection and to address climate change through mitigation and adaptation, with initiatives in the ICT sector encompassing but not restricted to monitoring and reducing Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) and other emissions, the improvement of energy efficiency, waste management and fostering the circular economy, implementing nationwide emergency communications systems, and minimizing the risks of climate change induced infrastructure damage. They can also play a key role in monitoring climate, water, mineral resources, and the carbon footprint of a wide range of industries, as well as optimize the work on implementing emission reduction projects and issuing green finance instruments” “We recognize the diverse resources of BRICS nations — clean energy, advanced technologies, and favorable climates — and affirm that cooperation, through shared benefits, can advance sustainable digital development.”
Discriminatory Bias	Not identified

Document:
BRICS Data Economy Governance Understanding (2025)

Global Governance of AI	Not identified
Collaborative Governance	Not identified
Digital Sovereignty	“To ensure data sovereignty while facilitating efficient, effective, safe, and trusted cross-border data flows, in accordance with national frameworks.” “To explore common regulatory practices in relation to trade and competition policies for the data-driven economy and study the impact of different regulatory practices on digital sovereignty as well as economic development.” “Sovereign Data Governance – Each BRICS nation retains the sovereign right to own and regulate data while enabling safe, secure, efficient, effective and trusted cross-border data flows under mutually agreed frameworks.”
Digital Economy	“While digital technologies increasingly permeate every aspect of daily life in terms of communication, social interaction, online purchases and production, there is a need to protect the individual and ensure that the data economy functions for the benefit of all. On the one hand, the global digital economy has experienced rapid development, with new spaces emerging for promoting wealth creation models, on the other, there is a need to improve the distribution of the benefits of the digital transformation with developing countries, ensuring the progress of human civilization. At the core of the digital economy is data.”
Data Governance	“Data is progressively recognized as a strategic asset, integral to policy-making, private and public sector innovation, production efficiency, job creation and performance management, creating new entrepreneurial opportunities for businesses and individuals.” “To enable developing countries to harness the benefits of the digital economy, an open, inclusive, secure, cooperative, non-discriminatory, fair, and equitable approach is critical to governance of data. While respecting applicable legal frameworks related to privacy, personal data protection, national security, public interest, and intellectual property rights, the BRICS nations acknowledge that participation in the global digital economy can be improved through the design of a global framework on data governance, including cross-border data flows, to address the principles of collection, recording, storage, organization, processing and transfer of data; promote the interoperability of national data policy regulations; and seek to distribute the monetary and non-monetary benefits of data among developing countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and their citizens.”

International Cooperation	“To enhance cooperation on digital infrastructure, respecting national laws and regulations on personal data protection, to support innovative business models, such as trusted data spaces, local digital platforms, data markets, data exchanges, among others.”
International Standards	“Interoperability, Portability and Standardization – Foster mutual recognition of standards in data and metadata, promoting interoperability of governance frameworks and portability of data wherever possible, subject to national regulatory frameworks.”
Environmental Sustainability	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “Advance people-centered digital transformation, including through digital public infrastructures, taking into account ethical aspects and sustainability, as part of a mutually supportive digital and green transformations.”
Discriminatory Bias	Not identified

Document:
G20 South Africa Summit: Leaders' Declaration (2025)

Global Governance of AI	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “We reiterate the potential of digital and emerging technologies including AI for good and for all; to reduce inequalities and we welcome the work of the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, Data Governance and Innovation for Sustainable Development and commend the leadership of the South African G20 Presidency in advancing global discussions on AI.” “To ensure safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development, deployment and use, the protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, biases, privacy, data protection and data governance must be addressed. We recognise the role of the United Nations, alongside other relevant existing fora, in promoting international AI cooperation, including to empower sustainable development”
Collaborative Governance	Not identified
Digital Sovereignty	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “We encourage the development of the African AI ecosystem through voluntary contributions of technical and financial resources, and the development of Africa-centric sovereign AI capabilities, based on long-term partnerships with a focus on investment models that generate sustainable value on the continent.”
Digital Economy	“We recognise the importance of building safety, resilience, security and trust and creating an enabling, open, fair, non-discriminatory and sustainable digital economy, which puts humans and their development at the centre, and which enables the protection, promotion and full enjoyment of human rights.”
Data Governance	“We reiterate the potential of digital and emerging technologies including AI for good and for all; to reduce inequalities and we welcome the work of the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, Data Governance and Innovation for Sustainable Development and commend the leadership of the South African G20 Presidency in advancing global discussions on AI.” “To ensure safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development, deployment and use, the protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, biases, privacy, data protection and data governance must be addressed. We recognise the role of the United Nations, alongside other relevant existing fora, in promoting international AI cooperation, including to empower sustainable development”

International Cooperation	“We will work to promote international cooperation and further discussions to unlock the full potential of AI, equitably share its benefits and mitigate risks, recognising the need to incorporate the voices of developed and developing countries. To ensure safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development, deployment and use, the protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, biases, privacy, data protection and data governance must be addressed. We recognise the role of the United Nations, alongside other relevant existing fora, in promoting international AI cooperation, including to empower sustainable development.”
International Standards	Not identified
Environmental Sustainability	[RELATED – contextual evidence] “We recognise the role of the United Nations, alongside other relevant existing fora, in promoting international AI cooperation, including to empower sustainable development.”
Discriminatory Bias	“To ensure safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development, deployment and use, the protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, biases, privacy, data protection and data governance must be addressed.”

