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For democracy. For everyone.

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Global Dialogue on AI Governance

Geneva, 6 July 2026

Colleagues, welcome.

This is the first Global Dialogue on AI Governance. This new forum, anchored in the United Nations, has been established to bring governments and stakeholders together to shape common approaches to one of the defining governance challenges of our time. A basic fact is that the frameworks and common understandings that emerge from processes like this one will only shape how AI is governed if they are written into national law, funded in national budgets, and enforced by institutions that are accountable to the people. That is the core work of parliaments.

Parliaments legislate on AI. They scrutinise how governments and companies build and use it. They give citizens a voice in decisions that are otherwise made for them. This is why parliamentary oversight belongs in this Dialogue, and why it sits squarely within Cluster 4, on transparency, accountability and human oversight. Oversight keeps powerful actors and the systems they develop answerable to the public.

We are meeting at a moment of genuine disruption. The multilateral system that is being tested in ways we have not seen for decades. Parliaments around the world are working under pressure - including from declining public trust and the spread of disinformation that AI accelerates.

One of the lessons of the last several years is that frameworks negotiated internationally have limited effect when the institutions that must implement them at home are not part of the conversation. And multilateral decision-making must be informed by the people those decisions affect, and that is the role of parliaments.

The IPU and our partners can help to bridge that gap. Our purpose here in Geneva is to ensure that parliamentary perspectives – and through them the needs of the public - inform the outputs of this Dialogue before they are finalised.

The IPU brings a clear mandate to this work. Our Member Parliaments adopted a resolution in October 2024 on the impact of AI on democracy, human rights and the rule of law. In November 2025, parliaments adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Parliaments and Responsible AI, with 13 concrete recommendations for action.

Today you will hear from parliamentarians on what they are actually doing: legislating, holding government and industry to account, and building the expertise their institutions need.

I would then ask you to help us answer one question. What do parliaments need from this Dialogue, and from its Scientific Panel, to fully deliver on these critical duties? Your answers can shape what we take back into the Dialogue itself. Thank you.