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REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF
RESPONSIBLE AI HELD FROM 28TH TO 30TH NOVEMBER, 2025 IN KUALA
LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

PAPERS LAID	
DATE	25.02.2026
TABLED BY	Sen. Wambua
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Clerks Chambers,
Parliament Buildings,
NAIROBI.

February, 2026

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PREFACE

Honourable Speaker,

1. The artificial intelligence conference on the role of parliaments in shaping the future of responsible AI was organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the United Nations Development Programme and the Parliament of Malaysia, and was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 28th to 30th November 2025.
2. The conference brought together Members of Parliament, parliamentary staff, experts, and representatives of international and regional organizations to examine how legislatures can guide the development, governance and oversight of artificial intelligence in a manner that upholds human rights, advances sustainable development and protects democratic institutions. It provided a platform to share comparative experiences, explore emerging global standards, and identify concrete steps that parliaments can take to harness AI for more effective law-making, oversight and representation, while mitigating risks such as inequality, bias, disinformation and erosion of public trust.
3. The conference was opened by representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Parliament of Malaysia, who stressed that parliaments have a key duty to make sure AI is used in ways that protect human rights, build public trust and support fair, sustainable development. Hon. Margareta Cederfelt, Chair of the IPU Working Group on Science and Technology, said that parliaments cannot just watch from the sidelines and must instead lead efforts to keep people and democratic values at the centre of AI decisions.
4. The Speakers explained that AI is already changing politics and public life, including through AI-generated content used in election campaigns in countries like Ireland, the Netherlands and the United States, which can make it harder for people to know what is true. They noted that many citizens are worried about how AI is being used and about too much power sitting with a few big companies and a small number of countries.
5. Referring to the IPU's October 2024 resolution on AI and democracy, the Speakers emphasized on the need for clear and strong laws, as well as active

involvement in international talks on how AI should be managed. They also stressed that parliaments must encourage open public discussion and help both MPs and citizens better understand AI so that decisions reflect people's real concerns.

6. The Speakers discussed the growing challenge of technology advancing faster than laws and public institutions can adapt, leaving parliaments struggling to keep pace. To explore possible future scenarios, they examined five potential pathways for the use of AI in parliamentary work including how AI could enhance efficiency and decision-making, while others highlighting risks such as widening global disparities and the increasing influence of powerful technology companies.
7. Overall, the Speakers agreed that strong leadership from parliaments is essential to make sure AI supports democracy instead of harming it, and that closer cooperation between countries is needed because AI affects everyone. Parliaments were encouraged to invest in training, safeguards and public engagement so that AI is used in a careful, transparent and people-focused way.

Honourable Speaker,

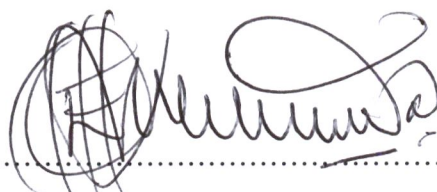
8. The Kenyan delegation to the artificial intelligence conference on the role of Parliament in shaping the future of responsible AI comprised-
 - i) Sen. Enoch Wambua Kiio, CBS, MP
 - ii) Hon. Robert Basil Ngui, MP
 - iii) Ms. Marlene Ayiro, Principal Legal Counsel, Secretary to the Delegation (National Assembly)
 - iv) Ms. Angela Macharia, Senior Clerk Assistant, Secretary to the Delegation (Senate)
9. During the conference, members of the Kenya delegation were actively involved in the deliberations that greatly enriched the resolutions. In his contribution, Sen. Enoch Wambua highlighted the practical opportunities that artificial intelligence presents for parliamentary work, noting that MPs could benefit from AI-assisted summarization of committee reports and smart search tools across Hansard and committee records to quickly retrieve relevant information for debates and oversight. He further observed that, at the institutional level, AI-powered virtual assistants on the parliamentary website could help respond to common public questions, while automated,

faster production of subtitles for video streams would enhance transparency and make parliamentary proceedings more accessible to all. However, he also drew attention to the challenge posed by the very rapid evolution of AI compared to the slower pace at which many parliaments, including Kenya's, are developing appropriate legislation and regulatory frameworks, and underscored the urgent need for sustained capacity-building for Members and staff so that Parliament can keep up with these changes and exercise effective oversight.

10. The delegation also paid a courtesy call to the Office of the High Commissioner of Kenya in Malaysia, where they held discussions with the Deputy High Commissioner and other officials on the state of bilateral relations between Kenya and Malaysia, focusing on trade, investment, education, labour migration, and the welfare of Kenyan citizens. The talks highlighted opportunities for enhancing trade. The delegation also noted the importance of attracting Malaysian investment to Kenya and addressing emerging concerns such as human trafficking and exploitation. The delegation is grateful to the Office of the High Commissioner for the warm reception and insightful deliberations.

Honourable Speaker,

11. On behalf of the delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring that Kenya was well represented during the artificial intelligence conference on the role of Parliament in shaping the future of responsible AI.
12. It is my pleasure and humble duty to submit this report, highlighting the proceedings and recommendations of the artificial intelligence conference on the role of Parliament in shaping the future of responsible AI for noting and necessary action.



SEN. ENOCH WAMBUA KIIHO, CBS, M.P.
LEADER OF THE DELEGATION

DATED 17/02/2026

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF RESPONSIBLE AI

A. BACKGROUND: ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

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B. INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS

3. The AI conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, brought together parliamentarians, experts, and institutional partners under the aegis of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Parliament of Malaysia. The event was inaugurated with remarks from representatives of the four host organizations.
4. Honorable Margareta Cederfelt, Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Working Group on Science and Technology and Member of Parliament from Sweden, opened the proceedings by emphasizing the responsibility of parliaments in ensuring that artificial intelligence advances human rights, upholds public trust, and contributes to inclusive, sustainable development.

5. The Speakers highlighted the rapid and evolving impact of AI on politics and society, citing recent AI-generated content in election campaigns across Ireland, Netherlands, and the United States. The remarks acknowledged public uncertainty about AI's influence, the urgency of distinguishing fact from fiction, and concerns over concentration of technological power among a limited set of actors and nations.
6. The Speakers agreed that parliamentarians must not be bystanders. Instead, they are called upon to act decisively and ethically, embedding human-centered values at the heart of technological governance. The IPU's October 2024 resolution on AI and democracy was cited as a key reference, advocating for transparent, robust legal frameworks and participation in global efforts to standardize responsible AI practices.
7. The Speakers also stressed that while parliaments are only one actor in a complex landscape, their action profoundly shapes outcomes. Effective regulation of AI requires ongoing public debate, education of both MPs and citizens, and broad-based engagement. Parliaments have the duty to stimulate informed public debate, enhance their own understanding, and conduct wide consultation to ensure AI policies reflect constituents' needs.
8. The Speakers described artificial intelligence as a truly global matter requiring new levels of international cooperation. While national action is essential, global partnership supported by institutions and events like such a conference was recognized as imperative for successful governance.
9. The Speakers underscored the pacing problem technology is advancing much more rapidly than the ability of laws and institutions to adapt. Parliaments face three main pacing challenges which include keeping pace with external technological change, matching executive branch adaptation, and addressing internal capacity gaps versus private sector or academia.
10. Reflections included examples such as the UK Parliament's AI steering group and Bahrain's administrative integration of technology, demonstrating global perspectives and approaches to legislative modernization. The importance of building technical expertise within parliaments, leveraging international best practice, and avoiding reliance purely on imported solutions were key discussion points.

11. The value of partnership was highlighted as central, with the IPU's Center for Innovation in Parliament and recent publications such as the maturity framework for AI in parliaments offering practical guidance for legislative institutions to assess their progress and plan their AI integration responsibly.
12. Across the sessions, all delegates reiterated the foundational importance of parliamentary leadership in shaping AI governance. Speakers recognized the need for inclusive, ethical, and accountable approaches, acknowledging global disparities in adoption and the risks of a two-tiered system. The speakers called for continued investment in skills, protections, and public engagement, with a firm commitment to international cooperation and locally adapted solutions.
13. Parliaments were urged to lead in the adoption of evidence-based, technologically confident, and human-centered governance of artificial intelligence, ensuring a future in which technology serves democracy and the public good.

C. THE SESSIONS

Session 1: The Fundamentals of AI

14. During the session, participants discussed how artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping governance and parliamentary work, emphasizing both its transformative potential and the accompanying risks for democracy and human rights. It was noted that AI functions as an umbrella term encompassing machine learning, deep learning, and generative AI, the latter referring to models capable of producing text, images, and other content. Intelligence was described as the capacity to perceive, analyse, decide, and act appropriately, with AI attempting to replicate aspects of this process through computational and mathematical methods.
15. Participants observed that rapid progress in AI has been driven by three main factors including the exponential growth of digital data, the development of high-performance computing infrastructure such as specialized chips, and advances in algorithms, including transformer architectures underpinning large language models. It was further recognized that AI operates through a complex, transnational value chain where data, models, and cloud infrastructure are often hosted in different jurisdictions, complicating national oversight and accountability.

16. Examples of AI's practical application were shared across several sectors, including navigation, agriculture, healthcare, and digital communication. It was noted that AI's capacity for efficiency and problem-solving also presents risks, particularly with generative models that can produce highly realistic but misleading information such as deepfakes, posing challenges for trust and information integrity in democratic life.
17. The discussions highlighted a broad risk landscape. Participants pointed to biases in training data, the opacity of "black box" models, vulnerabilities to cyberattacks, environmental effects of energy-intensive data centers, and inequalities in access leading to an AI divide. It was observed that AI growth remains geographically and corporately concentrated, leaving many countries as consumers rather than developers of AI technologies, thus reinforcing global asymmetries in knowledge and market power.
18. It was agreed that AI adoption within parliaments must be guided by democratic values, institutional culture, and human rights principles, particularly transparency, accountability, non-discrimination, and privacy. Participants emphasized the importance of translating ethical aspirations into enforceable legal and procedural mechanisms, including explainability requirements, impact assessments, audit trails, and clear lines of responsibility across the AI value chain.
19. Participants further noted that implementing AI in parliamentary contexts should be gradual and structured. This process encompasses conceptual design, strong data governance, secure infrastructure, and mechanisms for continuous user feedback. Building AI and digital literacy among members and staff was identified as essential, enabling informed decision-making, critical evaluation of algorithmic outputs, and responsible use of AI tools in legislative functions.
20. Concerns were raised about the transparency and interpretability of AI systems. It was observed that the "black box" nature of many models poses challenges for oversight and public trust. Delegates also questioned how much users especially MPs and parliamentary staff need to understand prompt construction, algorithmic behaviour, and cybersecurity measures to mitigate risks such as inaccurate outputs or data breaches.

21. Participants agreed that regulating AI presents a moving target, as the technology evolves faster than legal frameworks. It was emphasized that parliaments should pursue adaptive, principle-based, and risk-based approaches that evolve over time. Participants concurred that such flexibility, would allow parliaments to harness AI's benefits while safeguarding democratic legitimacy, transparency, and the public interest.

Session 2: The future of Parliaments

22. During the session, participants discussed how artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping the environment in which parliaments operate, emphasizing the need to balance technological innovation with democratic accountability and public trust. It was noted that AI offers significant opportunities to enhance legislative efficiency, analysis, and transparency, but also poses serious risks of deepening inequality, concentrating power, and weakening representative institutions if not governed responsibly.
23. Participants observed what they termed the “pacing problem,” in which technology evolves exponentially while lawmaking and oversight mechanisms advance incrementally. They identified three dimensions of this challenge including, externally, MPs struggle to understand and regulate fast-moving technologies; institutionally, executives and private actors often possess greater technical capacity than legislatures; and internally, many parliaments lag behind companies, universities, and younger generations in their own use of advanced tools.
24. It was agreed that scenario planning extending to 2040 could help parliaments anticipate different trajectories of technological change and test the resilience of present decisions against multiple plausible futures. Participants observed that such forward-looking analysis could guide timely, strategic interventions that steer technological progress toward strengthening democratic institutions rather than displacing them.
25. Discussions explored five illustrative scenarios including the Augmented Assembly, the Data-Driven Legislature, the Divided Democracy, the Shadowed Legislature, and the Corporate Commons. It was noted that an Augmented Assembly envisions AI functioning as a co-pilot across parliamentary tasks improving efficiency and insight while preserving final decision-making under elected members. The Data-Driven Legislature scenario was described as one where parliaments become highly

technocratic, driven by data and optimization, but risk drifting from the values of deliberation and representation.

26. Concerns were raised about the Divided Democracy scenario, where parliaments in well-resourced countries accelerate ahead using advanced tools, leaving less-developed legislatures further behind and creating a two-tier global democracy. Participants observed that the Shadowed Legislature and Corporate Commons scenarios illustrate the dangers of executives or technology corporations filling governance vacuums left by slow-moving parliaments potentially centralizing power and undermining sovereignty and accountability.
27. Emphasis was placed on leadership and ethics as the cornerstones of responsible AI use in democratic institutions. It was noted that parliamentary governance extends beyond technical competence to include lawmaking, oversight, elections, and the preservation of trust all grounded in human accountability. Participants agreed that AI must be guided by ethical principles and transparent decision-making frameworks covering design, procurement, and deployment.
28. It was further emphasized that AI should not be personified or treated as a substitute for human authority. Participants stressed that, regardless of system sophistication, elected representatives must remain fully responsible for decisions and ensure that human judgment governs AI-assisted outputs in all legislative and oversight processes.
29. Participants recognized that AI outcomes reflect not just algorithms but also data quality and institutional context. They noted the importance of transparency regarding data sources, model design, and intended uses, along with audit mechanisms to evaluate AI tools used in parliamentary work. It was observed that official datasets, such as legislative texts, transcripts, and translations represent strategic public assets that can be safely leveraged for responsible AI development if managed under robust governance standards.
30. Attention was drawn to diversity, inclusion, and the danger of new forms of exclusion across geography, gender, and socio-economic divides. Participants observed the risk of creating societies divided between those able to engage effectively with AI and those left behind. They agreed that capacity-building in under-resourced parliaments, supported by shared

tools, open models, and inter-parliamentary learning networks, is crucial to prevent uneven progress. It was also noted that meaningful investment, both financial and human, is essential to ensure that AI systems developed for parliamentary use remain under democratic control.

31. Participants agreed that parliaments must adopt forward-looking, ethically grounded, and inclusive approaches to AI governance. By combining innovation with transparency, accountability, and collaboration, legislatures can ensure that AI strengthens representative democracy rather than redefining it.

Session 3: Navigating societal transformation in the age of AI

32. During this session participants discussed how artificial intelligence is reshaping societies and what this means for parliaments, with particular attention to human rights, equity, sustainability and coherence with emerging global digital governance frameworks. Participants noted that it was within broader international efforts to ensure that AI supports, rather than undermines, democratic values and the Sustainable Development Goals, including work by parliamentary and multilateral bodies on responsible AI governance.
33. Participants observed that AI is accelerating structural shifts in how people learn, work, access essential services and interact with public institutions, creating both new opportunities and heightened vulnerabilities. They underscored three overarching dynamics requiring parliamentary attention including differentiated and often gendered labour-market impacts, persistent connectivity and capability gaps that risk entrenching inequality, and a rapidly evolving governance environment marked by new international standards for rights-respecting AI and digital public infrastructure.
34. In considering “societal transformation and institutional readiness”, participants explored which AI-driven changes should be prioritized in parliamentary agendas and oversight. The discussions emphasized that, without proactive governance, AI could compound existing social and economic divides, weaken already fragile social protection systems and further erode trust in public institutions, especially among marginalized communities. Participants therefore stressed the need for parliaments to guard against the amplification of gender gaps, rural-urban disparities

and digital exclusion, and to ensure that AI deployment in public services is subject to strong safeguards, transparency and accountability.

35. The discussions also highlighted that AI is now shaping multiple core domains of public life, including labour markets, information ecosystems, social protection and digital public infrastructure, all of which intersect directly with parliamentary mandates. Participants noted that the same technologies that can improve service delivery and enable data-informed policymaking can also lead to exclusion, algorithmic bias, and the concentration of technological and informational power in a small number of public or private actors if left unchecked.
36. Participants discussed contrasting trajectories depending on the degree and quality of parliamentary engagement. A more pessimistic trajectory was associated with deepening inequality, outdated or under-resourced social protection mechanisms and sustained erosion of public confidence in democratic institutions, while a more optimistic path envisaged AI supporting just labour-market transitions, inclusive and trustworthy information environments and robust digital public infrastructure grounded in clear rights-based principles.
37. Against this backdrop, participants identified priority roles for parliaments in steering AI-driven transformation towards equitable and sustainable outcomes. These included ensuring that AI-related legislation and policy frameworks embed human rights, equity, inclusion and sustainability from the outset; exercising rigorous oversight of AI use by both public authorities and private entities; and deploying budgetary powers to support inclusive digital public infrastructure and reduce structural digital divides. Participants further underlined the importance of parliaments' representative and communicative functions surfacing citizens' concerns, shaping public debate on ethical boundaries and transparency, and maintaining a clear narrative that AI innovation must proceed within the guardrails of democratic accountability.
38. The exchange underscored the need for continuous capacity-building and the sharing of experiences between parliaments at different stages of AI adoption, from early adopters to those only beginning to confront these issues.

Session 4: Building national capacity

39. During this session, participants discussed what it means to “build national capacity” for artificial intelligence, focusing on how parliaments can help ensure that countries are equipped technically, institutionally and legally for the AI era. The discussions were framed by the concern that AI capabilities, data volumes and computing power are expanding so rapidly that many governments risk falling behind, with policy and legislation lagging behind real-world deployment. Participants linked national capacity-building to broader goals of national resilience, public trust and the prevention of a widening global AI divide between a small number of advanced countries and the rest.
40. Participants noted that effective AI governance depends on a set of foundational “building blocks” at national level, including safe and reliable access to AI tools, sound data-management practices, a domestic skills base with sufficient technical knowledge, and sustained investment in human capital. It was underscored that, without these elements, countries are more likely to be exposed to harms such as biased algorithms, vulnerability to foreign-controlled AI systems and national security risks, and less likely to capture opportunities for innovation and development. The discussions, therefore, highlighted that parliamentarians and parliamentary staff should be at the centre of efforts to understand these drivers of AI growth and to translate them into appropriate regulatory and policy responses.
41. In discussing “establishing technical understanding”, participants highlighted the importance of legislators and staff gaining a working grasp of AI applications and of the infrastructure underpinning frontier AI, including data, models and compute. This was not presented as turning parliamentarians into engineers, but as equipping them with sufficient literacy to interrogate claims, understand trade-offs and relate complex technical concepts to concrete safety, rights and security risks. Participants agreed that such understanding is a prerequisite for credible legislative scrutiny and for designing context-appropriate national AI policies.
42. In discussing “ensuring security and oversight”, participants emphasized the need for national capacity to identify, anticipate and counter critical AI-related harms facing constituents. Participants discussed risks such as

bias and discrimination in automated decision-making, large-scale misinformation, direct manipulation and other forms of misuse, and noted the value of practical exercises such as controlled “jailbreaking” demonstrations to expose vulnerabilities in AI systems. These exchanges reinforced the view that parliaments must be able to oversee not only the adoption of AI by the executive, but also the safety and integrity of AI systems offered by private providers within national jurisdictions.

43. In the discussion on “implementing policy frameworks”, participants focused on how global and regional AI governance models can inform national legislation without being adopted uncritically. They discussed the need to evaluate existing international frameworks, identify relevant best practices and adapt them to domestic legal, institutional and socio-economic contexts to provide clear legislative pathways for responsible AI. This included reflecting on how risk-based, rights-based and sectoral approaches could be combined in a way that is realistic for countries at different levels of digital and institutional maturity.
44. Participants stressed that parliaments have a pivotal role in driving national readiness for AI, rather than merely reacting to developments shaped elsewhere. This role encompasses adopting legislation that reflects a sound understanding of AI technologies, mandating safeguards and oversight mechanisms, supporting long-term investment in data and skills through budgetary and policy decisions, and questioning over-reliance on foreign AI infrastructure where this may pose sovereignty or security concerns. Participants also underscored that building national capacity is inseparable from maintaining public trust, citizens must see that their representatives understand AI’s implications and are actively working to prevent harms while enabling its benefits.

Session 5: Journey towards AI Adoption in Parliament

45. During this session, participants explored the journey towards AI adoption in Parliaments, noting that some are already deploying tailored AI tools across core functions while others remain at an early, exploratory stage with largely ad hoc use of generic applications. Discussions emphasized that these divergent starting points make peer learning essential, as parliaments can avoid repeating mistakes and accelerate responsible uptake by sharing concrete experiences, governance approaches and lessons from pilots.

46. Participants discussed on how AI is being used to support transcription of plenary and committee proceedings and to enable smarter search across Hansard and committee records, thereby strengthening control over parliamentary records and freeing human capacity for higher-value tasks. They also examined emerging uses such as AI-assisted summarization of committee reports and petitions for members, and virtual assistants on parliamentary websites to respond to routine public queries and improve accessibility through features like subtitles for video streams.
47. Participants distinguished between quick wins and longer-term transformations, stressing that early, contained pilots for example in research services or IT units can demonstrate value while embedding strong human-in-the-loop safeguards. Over the longer term, participants pointed to the potential for AI to support advanced policy analytics for members, end-to-end assistance along the legislative workflow for staff, and integrated AI strategies that link records management, archives, public engagement and internal operations so that parliaments become digitally mature, future-ready democratic institutions.
48. Participants linked well-designed AI adoption to better-informed decision-making by members, who can draw more quickly on synthesized evidence, stakeholder inputs and comparative legislative analysis when scrutinizing policy and drafting laws. For parliamentary staff and the institution as a whole, AI was seen as an opportunity for professional upskilling, efficiency gains in document processing and translation, and stronger scrutiny of executive use of AI through specialized committees.
49. Participants observed that AI adoption in parliament raises strategic, ethical, legal and operational challenges, including the need for clear internal governance frameworks that define acceptable uses, accountability lines, documentation standards and mandatory human oversight for AI-assisted outputs. Participants highlighted concerns around bias and discriminatory outcomes, limited AI literacy among members and staff, organizational resistance and fears of job displacement, and the imperative to align AI use with data protection, human rights and access-to-information norms to safeguard public trust and democratic legitimacy.
50. Participants emphasized that parliaments should not simply “import” technologies but instead shape deliberate AI adoption pathways that are

problem-driven, transparent and anchored in institutional mandates. It was noted that by combining incremental pilots with robust governance, continuous capacity-building and structured exchanges between early adopters and those just beginning the journey, parliaments can move from fragmented experimentation towards coherent, responsible AI ecosystems that enhance, rather than erode, democratic practice.



Sen. Enoch Wambua, CBS while making his contribution at the session on the journey towards AI adoption in Parliaments

Session 6: Lawmaking and Oversight

51. During this session, participants examined the urgent need for coordinated parliamentary action on artificial intelligence, emphasizing that effective governance requires not only legislation but also institutional readiness, ethical clarity, and democratic legitimacy. It was observed that while AI holds transformative potential for development, its trajectory is not technologically predetermined but rather shaped by deliberate political

and societal choices. Parliaments therefore have both the mandate and responsibility to ensure that AI supports human development and democratic accountability rather than deepening inequality or undermining human agency.

52. Discussions focused on the foundational steps that parliaments must take before embarking on advanced AI regulation. These included building parliamentary capacity through technical training and internal expertise, establishing dedicated oversight structures, reviewing existing legal frameworks on data protection, privacy, anti-discrimination, and cybersecurity, and engaging citizens in defining ethical boundaries for AI use. Participants stressed that such preparatory work is essential to ensure that legislation is well-informed, contextually appropriate, and implementable.
53. It was emphasized that clear distinctions must be made between AI policy and regulation. Participants reflected that while policies such as national AI strategies, voluntary standards, and cooperation mechanisms set out general directions, only legally binding regulations backed by penalties for non-compliance can ensure accountability. It was further highlighted that parliaments must guard against enacting laws that promise public protection without enforceable mechanisms, as this would undermine both trust and effectiveness.
54. Participants underscored the centrality of democratic participation in AI governance. It was observed that comprehensive and structured citizen engagement through public engagements is not optional but indispensable to ensure legitimacy and social acceptance. Participants noted that risk categorization in AI systems should be informed by community values and lived experiences rather than expert assumptions alone. Public education and awareness campaigns were also recognized as crucial in enabling informed citizen participation.
55. It was further recognized that there is no single regulatory pathway applicable to all jurisdictions. Participants discussed multiple models, including principles-based frameworks grounded in human rights, risk-based systems that apply stricter obligations to higher-risk applications, sectoral approaches managed by relevant ministries, and hybrid models drawing from different traditions. It was noted that parliaments should

learn from global good practices while tailoring frameworks to national legal contexts, institutional capacities, and societal priorities.

56. The discussions also emphasized that AI regulation must be grounded in a rights-based approach to address tangible harms such as discrimination, bias, loss of privacy, misuse of personal data, and threats to democratic processes. It was noted that lawmakers need to assess existing gaps in data protection, anti-discrimination, and cybersecurity laws and ensure that new frameworks mandate human rights due diligence as a baseline safeguard.
57. Importantly, it was observed that parliaments already possess oversight tools that can be deployed even in the absence of comprehensive AI legislation. These include parliamentary questions, committee inquiries, budget scrutiny, and public hearings to examine government AI usage and its societal impacts. Participants agreed that such evidence-based oversight would help create a strong factual foundation for subsequent legislative action.
58. A recurring theme throughout the discussions was the recognition of significant capacity gaps in most parliaments. Participants acknowledged that few legislatures have sufficient technical expertise or institutional structures dedicated to AI. It was therefore emphasized that building in-house capacity, appointing AI champions among members and staff, creating specialized committees or cross-party working groups, and forming partnerships with universities, civil society organizations, and international bodies are crucial next steps.
59. Participants identified pressing AI use cases requiring immediate parliamentary attention, including the use of opaque AI systems in public service delivery, the proliferation of AI-generated harmful content, risks to data privacy, unregulated AI use in healthcare, and the weaponization of AI by state and non-state actors. It was agreed that early parliamentary interventions should focus on mapping current AI deployments, auditing existing legislation, and consulting stakeholders to ground future reforms in solid evidence.
60. Participants proposed that Parliaments should set their priorities on identifying AI champions, organizing introductory briefings on AI fundamentals, and initiating public dialogues on shared ethical standards.

In the medium term, actions should include establishing cross-party committees on AI governance, building structured advisory relationships with academic and civil society experts, conducting legislative audits, and launching national awareness campaigns to promote AI literacy.

61. It was emphasized that evidence must guide legislation, and that each parliament's approach should reflect its specific legal and cultural context. Participants recognized that expertise is widely available through academic and international networks, but that parliaments must intentionally institutionalize access to it.

Session 7: Gender and AI

62. During this session, participants examined the intersection of gender and artificial intelligence (AI), noting that AI is transforming societies in ways that can either advance equality or deepen existing inequalities. It was observed that the same technologies capable of enhancing inclusion, improving service delivery, and supporting online safety can also entrench and amplify long-standing gendered harms. These harms, it was stressed, are not merely technical malfunctions but manifestations of deeper societal patterns, biases embedded in data, assumptions in system design, and inequalities in access that AI systems replicate and scale.
63. It was noted that AI does not create bias independently; rather, it reproduces inequalities that persist within society. When social disparities enter AI systems through training data or biased design processes, they can multiply rapidly, producing outcomes that reinforce discrimination. This understanding set the foundation for the discussion to address gender bias in AI meaningfully, parliaments must first grasp the social context within which technology operates.
64. It was emphasized that AI is already amplifying structural gender inequalities. Speakers highlighted that when women are underrepresented in datasets, leadership positions, and technical fields, resulting AI tools inevitably mirror those distortions. Examples were drawn from healthcare diagnostics, credit evaluations, recruitment systems, and online content moderation, all areas where algorithms have demonstrated significant gender bias. Deepfake abuse, algorithmic discrimination, and unequal treatment of online voices were cited as clear indicators that digital spaces often replicate offline inequities.

65. Participants observed that algorithmic bias produces both representational and allocative harms. Representational harms include AI-driven stereotyping in language models and generative imagery such as female-voiced virtual assistants reinforcing service-oriented gender roles or translation tools assigning male pronouns to professional titles. At the same time, allocative harms where AI systems directly shape access to jobs, credit, or healthcare were noted as producing profound real-world consequences. Cases were presented in which hiring systems downgraded CVs inferred to belong to women or ethnic minorities, and in healthcare, diagnostic tools demonstrated discriminatory patterns in describing patients' decision-making capacity. It was agreed that these outcomes demonstrate the tangible, systemic effects of unaddressed bias.
66. Attention was drawn to the rise in technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV). It was highlighted that in 2023, nearly all deepfake pornographic content online targeted women, marking an alarming surge in online abuse, blackmail, and harassment. Participants recognized that AI contributes both to the creation and rapid dissemination of such content, with cross-border implications for enforcement and victim protection. It was emphasized that, although promising tools for deepfake detection and content authentication are emerging, their effectiveness depends on international cooperation, strong accountability mechanisms for digital platforms, and survivor-centred support systems. The session underscored that legislation and reporting frameworks have fallen far behind the pace of technological change, leaving victims without adequate recourse.
67. It was further observed that gender imbalance in AI development continues to undermine equity and safe innovation. Participants noted that women constitute less than 30% of the global AI workforce and only about 20% of computer science graduates. Structural barriers such as hostile workplace cultures, unequal career progression, and insufficient family support contribute to this. However, examples from countries such as Malaysia demonstrated that deliberate policy interventions such as targeted STEM programs and inclusion incentives can increase women's representation. Participants agreed that individual participation by women in AI cannot, by itself, correct systemic imbalance; institutional reforms focused on equity, ethics, and accountability must accompany technical progress.

68. It was recognized that international frameworks such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) provide actionable guidance for parliamentarians. Particular reference was made to General Recommendation No. 40, which reframes gender parity as a minimum requirement rather than an aspirational goal. Participants noted that by applying CEDAW standards to digital and AI sectors, parliaments can adopt clear legislative directions mandating equity in recruitment and procurement, addressing discriminatory practices in technology industries, and embedding gender considerations in AI governance structures.
69. To operationalize these insights, participants proposed a set of practical recommendations. It was suggested that within three months, legislators should table written or oral questions to relevant ministers on safeguards against gender bias in public-sector AI systems. Within six months, parliaments were encouraged to ensure equitable representation of women in decision-making bodies overseeing digital services and AI adoption. Within twelve months, participants advised initiating or supporting committee inquiries into gender bias and diversity in AI development, and advocating amendments to digital safety laws to address non-consensual synthetic media.
70. It was noted that if left unchecked, AI will continue to replicate the inequalities it encounters, however, with deliberate policy, oversight, and inclusive participation, it can become a tool for advancing fairness, representation, and digital safety.

Session 8: Building blocks for AI in Parliaments

71. During this session, participants explored the foundational elements required for adopting artificial intelligence (AI) in parliaments, beginning with a candid acknowledgment that, despite accumulated expertise, most parliaments are still finding their way. It was noted that, much like during the COVID-19 pandemic, parliaments are once again navigating uncharted technological terrain and must do so collaboratively, through experimentation and shared learning rather than rigid planning.
72. A key reference point for discussion was the European Parliament's experience implementing the EU AI Act. It was explained that the Act has not slowed innovation but has instead created clarity by embedding principles of transparency, documentation, and accountability throughout

the project lifecycle. Participants recognized that this framework had transformed the institution's approach from piecemeal pilots to system-wide governance. It was emphasized that AI cannot be managed like traditional IT systems; it requires integrated legal, ethical, operational, and technical competencies. The European Parliament's internal structures including governance boards, inter-directorate steering groups, and an AI center of competence were cited as examples that even smaller parliaments could adapt conceptually within their resource limits.

73. It was brought forward that members require three essential enablers; trust in accurate and secure AI tools, digital literacy to understand algorithmic logic, and clear ethical boundaries. It was also noted that these expectations translate into demands for institutional leadership, strong governance, and transparent systems. Examples from Thailand's Senate demonstrated integration of AI and data systems within national strategies and inclusion features like captioning and multilingual support to enhance public trust. It was further observed that building acceptance among legislators required persistent engagement through workshops and visible peer adoption. It was stressed that lawmakers must exemplify ethical AI use, reminding peers that AI can be both a tool and a threat in politics.
74. The discussions highlighted the IPU AI Maturity Framework, a diagnostic tool assessing parliaments across six maturity levels and four domains governance, technical capacity, organizational capability, and democratic impact. Participants agreed that AI applications require accurate data, underscoring that strong data governance is the indispensable foundation for any AI initiative.
75. It was observed that the greatest obstacle to AI advancement lies not in technology or budget, but in the disconnect between political leadership and technical staff. Participants described situations where IT departments innovate without political uptake, and where members express priorities that never reach implementation. It was emphasized that bridging this divide requires cross-functional working groups combining technical, legal, and political perspectives. The appointment of political AI champions, empowerment of younger staff with digital fluency, and informal dialogues between members and IT units were identified as practical strategies.

76. Participants also addressed the question of resources. While financial constraints were frequently cited, it was emphasized that strategic priorities, not funding levels, determine progress. The capacity gap skills, literacy, and cultural readiness was identified as the true constraint. Investment in training for both MPs and staff, alongside peer learning networks, was recognized as essential for sustainable innovation.
77. In discussing collaboration, it was noted that sharing tasks across parliaments such as translation, summarization, and search tools offers more value than attempting to replicate entire systems. This approach, facilitated by the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament, enables regional cooperation, particularly among parliaments sharing common languages. Participants acknowledged that curiosity and willingness to learn are more decisive for success than age, budget, or technological infrastructure.
78. The shared takeaway was clear that every parliament has the means to begin by strengthening data foundations, building internal skills, fostering connection between technical and political leadership, and embracing peer collaboration.

Session 9: International Cooperation

79. During this session, participants examined how parliaments can engage with the rapidly evolving global landscape of artificial intelligence (AI), considering perspectives from academia, international organisations, industry, and legislative representatives across regions. The discussions revealed four interlinked themes; increasing fragmentation of global AI governance, the essential role of multi-stakeholder collaboration, widening capacity gaps between countries, and the emergence of shared “red lines” that could anchor coherent global action.
80. It was noted that global AI governance remains fragmented, marked by diverging regulatory philosophies and inconsistent standards. Some states prioritise innovation and market freedom, while others emphasise precaution, security, and state oversight. It was observed that this divergence begins with basic concepts, there is still no internationally accepted definition of an “AI incident” or unified procedure for reporting one. The absence of common benchmarks, participants warned, undermines coordination during crises and fosters uncertainty for both governments and industry.

81. It was further emphasised that political and economic competition has deepened regulatory inconsistency. Some countries position themselves as “AI-friendly” to attract investment, whereas others opt for stringent control to protect sovereignty and safety. In this vacuum, private actors particularly major technology firms and insurers often end up setting de facto standards. Participants stressed that this fragmentation also threatens cross-border interoperability and limits effective responses to transnational harms such as cyber risks and misinformation.
82. Consensus emerged on the importance of multi-stakeholder approaches in building legitimate and sustainable AI norms. It was observed that inclusive frameworks bringing together governments, civil society, academia, youth, and the private sector, prevent dominance by powerful states or corporations. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and UNESCO’s 2021 Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence were cited as notable examples. Participants noted that UNESCO’s Readiness Assessment Methodology, now applied in over 80 countries, combines technical assessment with national ownership through broad consultation, reinforcing ethics and accountability in AI policy. Such participatory processes, it was affirmed, enhance public legitimacy and ensure that AI governance reflects social values and local priorities rather than narrow commercial interests.
83. It was also recognised that capacity gap is widening between technologically advanced countries and developing states still establishing basic digital infrastructure. Participants observed that rapid AI progress leaves many parliaments struggling to keep pace; limited technical expertise, data access, and institutional capacity hinder their ability to regulate effectively. Without deliberate capacity-building, this imbalance could entrench a new global AI divide reminiscent of past technological epochs. Regional initiatives such as ASEAN’s AI Safety Network were highlighted as promising models for cooperation, enabling member states to share expertise and harmonise standards. Speakers agreed that international organisations and advanced economies bear responsibility to support such efforts through knowledge-sharing, technical assistance, and equitable access to resources.
84. Participants also noted that broad agreement exists on prohibiting autonomous weapons systems, unrestricted biometric surveillance,

deepfake impersonation, and AI designed to exploit human vulnerabilities. It was emphasised that these areas represent minimal ethical baselines essential for protecting human dignity and democratic integrity. Concern was expressed about the rise of “agentic” AI systems capable of autonomous decision-making, which could unpredictably disrupt critical sectors such as finance, health care, and infrastructure.

85. A critical gap identified was the lack of governmental preparedness for large-scale AI crises. It was observed that while private companies often maintain technical response teams, few governments possess the institutional mechanisms to manage cascading AI-driven disruptions such as misinformation floods or cyberattacks. Participants underscored the need for comprehensive AI emergency response protocols to ensure public trust and resilience.
86. Participants recognised that while the quest for comprehensive global alignment remains distant, early consensus on prohibited practices and emergency coordination could serve as foundational pillars for cooperation. It was affirmed that parliaments have a central role in promoting these shared standards, bridging policy divides, amplifying inclusive dialogue, and ensuring that the accelerating advance of AI strengthens, rather than fragments, democratic governance worldwide.

Session 10: Equipping Parliaments for the AI Era

87. During the session, participants discussed how legislatures can strengthen their capacity to understand, evaluate, and responsibly apply artificial intelligence (AI) in their work. It was observed that as AI becomes deeply embedded across legislative research, drafting, translation, transcription, and public engagement, parliaments must prioritize skills before systems. Participants noted that meaningful adoption depends not on technology acquisition, but on cultivating the competencies required to use these tools transparently, ethically, and effectively.
88. It was noted that AI literacy for both members of parliament and staff involves more than technical awareness and encompasses critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and the confidence to question algorithmic outputs. Participants agreed that while AI tools may enhance efficiency, their value depends on informed human oversight. MPs and staff therefore need to understand how AI systems function, recognize potential biases,

interpret results critically, and make decisions that preserve public trust and democratic integrity.

89. It was further noted that structured learning pathways are essential for sustaining AI readiness. Participants discussed possible frameworks for regular training, ranging from introductory workshops and peer learning sessions to partnerships with universities, civil society, and international organizations offering specialized support. It was emphasized that parliaments should institutionalize continuous learning processes so that knowledge keeps pace with technological advancement rather than relying on ad hoc initiatives.
90. Participants also reflected on how they already use AI in their personal and professional lives, sharing examples such as automated transcription, summarization tools, and language translation applications. It was recognized that familiarity with these everyday tools can serve as an entry point for understanding broader implications of AI adoption within parliamentary work.
91. It was observed that AI literacy supports parliamentary oversight and accountability, allowing legislators to ask the right questions of vendors and governments deploying AI systems. Participants agreed that knowing what to document, such as data sources, model design, and decision processes and what to publish for transparency are integral to responsible adoption. It was further noted that Parliaments must establish governance routines defining when to escalate ethical concerns or pause an AI deployment to safeguard institutional credibility and public trust.
92. Participants also observed that maintaining literacy over time requires collaboration. International partners, regional networks, and technology providers were identified as potential allies in creating parliamentary AI learning ecosystems. Joint training programmes, shared curricula, and access to global best practices can support smaller or less resourced parliaments in keeping pace with AI developments.

Session 11: Priorities for parliamentary action to shape the future of responsible AI

93. During the session, participants agreed that there was need to-

- i. hold structured dialogues with civil society, educational institutions, government agencies, trade unions, chambers of commerce and technology companies in order to gather evidence on how AI is reshaping work and service delivery.
- ii. undertake a baseline survey of AI use within government and parliament, including an assessment of institutional capacity, infrastructure gaps and digital/AI literacy needs among members and staff.
- iii. conduct a comprehensive review of existing legislation on data protection, privacy, anti-discrimination and cybersecurity to determine the extent to which current frameworks address AI-related harms and to identify areas where amendments are required.
- iv. constitute a dedicated parliamentary committee, or cross-party working group, on AI governance with a clear mandate to scrutinize AI development and deployment across all sectors and to coordinate with relevant standing committees.
- v. identify and support AI champions among members and parliamentary staff to lead internal capacity-building, promote responsible innovation and sustain institutional momentum on AI-related reforms.
- vi. design and deliver structured capacity-building and training programmes for members and staff on AI fundamentals, risk awareness (including bias and disinformation), governance options and practical skills for scrutinizing AI-generated outputs.
- vii. establish advisory partnerships with universities, research institutions, civil society organisations and international bodies to secure ongoing expert input, policy analysis and forward-looking assessments on AI.
- viii. put in place mechanisms to promote nationwide public education and dialogue initiatives on AI literacy, information integrity and shared ethical boundaries for AI deployment, ensuring inclusive participation of diverse communities.
- ix. formulate legislation to safeguard against gender bias in public-sector AI systems and to strengthen protection against technology-facilitated gender-based violence, including non-consensual synthetic media; and advance measures to ensure equitable representation of women in parliamentary bodies responsible for technology deployment, digital services and AI adoption, including support for inquiries into gender bias and diversity in AI systems and sectors, as well as broader legislative and policy measures to

address deepfakes and other AI-enabled abuses within digital safety and human rights frameworks.

- x. develop and adopt internal policies on acceptable AI use, transparency, data governance and accountability within parliament.

D. KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

94. Declaration

“We, more than 200 parliamentarians and staff from national parliaments and devolved legislatures in 65 countries, have met in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 28 to 30 November 2025 at the parliamentary conference The Role of Parliament in Shaping the Future of Responsible AI. We acknowledge with gratitude the Parliament of Malaysia, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for convening this event, the first of its kind internationally.

We stand on the threshold of technological innovations that have the potential to transform every aspect of society. Artificial intelligence (AI) holds great promise in many areas, from opening new areas of scientific inquiry and optimizing energy grids to improving public health and agriculture and promoting broader progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. AI also presents significant opportunities for parliaments to become more efficient and effective institutions, enabling them to better serve citizens and facilitating public engagement in political processes.

Yet we are deeply concerned by the widening gap between the speed of AI development and the ability of societies, institutions and regulatory frameworks to keep pace. If the technology is not governed responsibly, there is a risk that AI systems could undermine public trust in democratic institutions and elections, entrench existing inequalities and discrimination, accelerate climate change, and widen the economic and technological divide between and within nations. We must urgently work to prevent these outcomes.

AI is a global issue that demands responsible governance in the common interest of humanity, with an equal voice for the Global South. We do not accept the concentration of power in the hands of a few actors. We believe that international cooperation should prioritize AI safety, accountability

measures, capacity-building and public awareness, and privacy and personal data protection.

In particular, we wish to see a commitment from governments, the private sector and all stakeholders to rapidly come to an agreement on safety measures and on the red lines that this technology cannot be allowed to cross.

We recognize the emerging body of international and regional initiatives on AI, including within the United Nations and other multilateral forums, which seek to promote safe, secure and trustworthy AI grounded in human rights. We encourage all parliaments as institutions that play a central role in ensuring the democratization of international AI governance to engage actively with these efforts and ensure coherence between domestic legislation and evolving international standards.

Many parliaments are undertaking legislative and oversight initiatives on AI. We call on all parliaments to accelerate their AI policy work, to hold governments accountable for advancing international cooperation, and to take the lead in stimulating public awareness, debate and multi-stakeholder dialogue around AI.

We acknowledge that parliaments must adapt and innovate in the AI era. We encourage parliaments to pursue their unique AI journeys responsibly and transparently, ensuring that AI meaningfully enhances their democratic functions.

We affirm that it is still possible for parliaments worldwide to come together and shape the future of AI, although that window of opportunity may not remain open for long. Every country has a stake in responsible AI. Alone, we are vulnerable. Together, we can shape the future that we want. The time to act is now.”

E. RECOMMENDATIONS

“Building upon the IPU resolution the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law, adopted by the 149th IPU Assembly, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in October 2024, we recommend the following priorities for parliamentary action on AI:

Recommendation 1: Assess the current level of AI readiness in parliament, both for parliamentary engagement in AI policy and for

the use of AI within the institution, and develop a strategic road map to increase parliamentary capacity where needed.

Recommendation 2: Convene political parties to establish common rules, codes of conduct and, where appropriate, regulatory frameworks for the use of AI in political life, covering issues such as AI-generated simulations of politicians, political mis- and disinformation, technology-facilitated gender based violence, and the use of AI in election campaigns.

Recommendation 3: Hold inclusive national dialogues to define shared values and ethical boundaries on AI, and support public education campaigns to improve literacy in AI and other emerging technologies.

Recommendation 4: Carry out capacity-building activities for parliamentarians and staff on digital technology and AI, with a plan for continuous learning cycles to keep up to date with emerging technologies.

Recommendation 5: Identify national and international sources of expertise that can support parliamentary committees and research services with policy briefs, analyses and regularly updated information on AI developments, harms and risks.

Recommendation 6: Create or empower parliamentary bodies and specialized oversight mechanisms with a mandate to scrutinize AI development, deployment and impact, and examine sector-specific regulation in relation to the impact of AI.

Recommendation 7: Conduct an initial assessment of the existing legislative framework in areas that are foundational to AI, such as data protection, privacy, anti-discrimination and cybersecurity, and identify where legislation may need to be strengthened.

Recommendation 8: Scrutinize the state of national AI readiness and hold government to account for progress on national AI strategies, including efforts to foster an AI ecosystem and develop AI-related skills, public digital infrastructure and data governance frameworks.

Recommendation 9: Conduct thorough, evidence-based inquiries into gender bias, diversity and equity in the development, deployment and impact of AI systems.

Recommendation 10: Engage with international and multi-stakeholder dialogues relating to AI governance, while also exploring new opportunities for international forums, bilateral engagements and parliamentary diplomacy initiatives on AI.

Recommendation 11: Promote the responsible and effective use of AI in parliament by establishing or strengthening key building blocks, including parliament's internal AI governance, technical and organizational capabilities.

Recommendation 12: Participate actively in inter-parliamentary exchanges on AI policy and the use of AI in parliaments, including by sharing experience, good practices and parliamentary AI use cases.

Recommendation 13: Participate, through the IPU, the CPA, UNDP and other international partners, in the co-design of a shared parliamentary AI platform, built on a common core with nationally adaptable components, that would address resource gaps, facilitate cross-border collaboration and knowledge-sharing, and support parliamentarians and staff with casework, scrutiny, legislative drafting and policy development.

We request international partners to support parliaments in the implementation of these recommendations. We call upon all parliaments to provide a progress update by 1 June 2026, and upon the conference organizers to publish a status report by 1 August 2026.”

F. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

95. Parliament of Kenya is called upon to translate the conference's recommendations into a deliberate strategy that positions both the institution and the country as an early, principled adopter of artificial intelligence that reinforces, rather than erodes, democratic governance. The discussions made clear that AI now permeates all core parliamentary functions, lawmaking, oversight, representation and budget control and that inaction risks deepening inequalities, undermining public confidence

and widening the technological divide between Kenya and more advanced jurisdictions. At the same time, the conference showed that, with sustained political leadership, targeted capacity-building, robust data governance and inclusive public dialogue, AI can accelerate legislative work, sharpen scrutiny of the Executive, broaden meaningful citizen participation and help tackle entrenched gender, regional and socio-economic disparities. Parliament of Kenya should therefore adopt an integrated, long-term roadmap for AI readiness, systematically embed human rights, gender equality and sustainability into every AI-related decision, and engage actively in regional and global parliamentary networks so that Kenya moves from being a passive consumer of imported technologies to a confident, values-driven architect of responsible AI governance.

Recommendations by the Kenya delegation

96. The Parliament of Kenya Delegation to the artificial intelligence conference on the role of Parliament in shaping the future of responsible AI, urges the two Houses of Parliament to-
- i. note this Report; and
 - ii. implement the recommendations that arose from the conference.
