



**WSIS
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Session Outcome Document

Human-Centred Model for Global AI Governance: What Can Be Learned from the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence (Vilnius Convention)

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to Geneva

8 July, 2026, 13:00-13:45 CEST

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/Agenda/Session/229>

Key Issues discussed:

- **The role of the Vilnius Convention as the first legally binding international treaty on AI**, and its contribution to advancing global AI governance beyond voluntary frameworks by establishing shared commitments based on human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.
- **The Convention's global relevance and openness to wider participation**, including how it can provide value for countries with different legal systems, regulatory approaches, and levels of AI development.
- **The balance between AI innovation and responsible governance**, ensuring that regulatory approaches protect fundamental values while supporting technological progress, competitiveness, and opportunities for businesses and societies.
- **The transition from signing to implementation/ratification**, including the need for effective institutions, regulatory capacity, oversight mechanisms, and national strategies to operationalise the Convention's principles.
- **The importance of multi-stakeholder cooperation**, bringing together governments, international organisations, academia, industry, technical experts, and civil society to make AI governance effective in practice.
- **Addressing emerging AI challenges**, particularly related to general-purpose AI, foundation models, and autonomous systems, while maintaining flexibility to respond to rapid technological developments.
- **The Convention's potential global impact**, including capacity building, knowledge exchange, and support for countries seeking to develop or strengthen their own AI governance frameworks.

Key Outcomes of the session:

- The session reaffirmed the importance of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (Vilnius

Convention) as the first legally binding international treaty dedicated to AI, providing a shared, human-centred foundation for international cooperation on AI governance.

- Participants highlighted the importance of moving from signature to ratification and effective implementation of the Convention, in order to translate its principles into concrete national policies, legislation, institutional arrangements, and oversight mechanisms.
- The Convention was recognised as an open and globally relevant framework with the potential to attract a broader and more geographically and economically diverse membership, including countries from all regions, least developed countries (LDCs), developing countries, and countries with different legal, institutional, and technological contexts.
- The session underscored the Convention's potential to serve as a backbone and common reference point for future multilateral negotiations and discussions on AI, helping to build greater coherence among international efforts in this field.
- Participants also highlighted the Convention's relevance for supporting national legislative and regulatory initiatives on AI, by providing common principles and a rights-based framework that countries can adapt to their own legal systems and national circumstances.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Actions:

- Promote the ratification and implementation of the Vilnius Convention as a contribution to WSIS implementation towards 2035, particularly in advancing an inclusive, human-centred, rights-based, and development-oriented approach to emerging technologies and AI.
- Strengthen outreach and capacity-building efforts to support countries interested in joining the Convention and developing the institutional, legal, and technical capacity necessary for its effective implementation, in line with the WSIS objective of reducing digital divides and ensuring that the benefits of digital transformation are shared broadly.
- Use the Convention as a common foundation for future multilateral dialogue and negotiations on AI, helping to promote WSIS vision for a greater coherence and complementarity among international AI governance initiatives.
- Encourage countries to draw on the Convention when developing national AI legislation, regulation, and policy frameworks, while allowing sufficient flexibility to reflect different national legal systems, levels of development, and technological capacities thereby supporting the WSIS objective of enabling an environment conducive to innovation, development, trust, and the responsible use of digital technologies.
- Deepen cooperation among governments, international organisations, the private sector, academia, technical experts, and civil society to ensure that the implementation of AI governance frameworks remains inclusive, practical, and responsive to technological developments