



DECODING THE GLOBAL POWER PLAY IN AI REGULATION

Webinar

18th September, 2025, Thursday | 16:30 – 17:30 hrs. IST

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 In the 21st century, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has evolved from a technological advancement into a strategic lever of global techno-economic influence. Increasingly, AI plays a critical role in shaping the architecture of technology, trade, and data governance. No longer confined to innovation and efficiency gains, it now serves as a key instrument of national and international tech policy.¹
- 1.2 From semiconductor manufacturing and critical digital supply chains to AI-enabled infrastructure and regulatory frameworks, both governments and private players are deploying AI to secure strategic and financial advantages in an intensifying global competition.
- 1.3 The emerging global regulatory landscape reflects not only economic priorities but also competing political values and strategic visions. Diverse approaches to AI governance, spanning safety, ethics, innovation, and national security, signal deeper geopolitical currents and shifting power centres in the digital age. In this context, regulatory frameworks are becoming arenas of influence through which countries project their interests, assert normative authority, and shape the trajectory of international cooperation or fragmentation.²
- 1.4 Given this backdrop, [CUTS Institute for Regulation and Competition \(CIRC\)](#) and [CUTS Global Affairs](#), a global think tank working on International Affairs to co-organise a timely discussion on the issue. This webinar seeks to unpack the global dynamics of AI regulation, focusing on how major economies, including the European Union, United States, China, India, and Russia, among others are leveraging governance models to influence markets and consolidate their positions within the evolving global order.
- 1.5 The session will examine how AI is reshaping trade, investment, data governance, and geopolitics, while also addressing the role of standard-setting bodies, multinational tech firms, and strategic tools such as export controls and industrial policy. As frontier AI models advance and national security concerns drive regulation, grasping these dynamics is crucial to navigating the evolving AI value chain.

¹ <https://unctad.org/publication/technology-and-innovation-report-2025>

² [World Bank: Global Trends in AI Governance](#)



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2. Objectives

- 2.1. To examine how major powers employ AI regulation as a tool of geoeconomic and geopolitical influence.
- 2.2. To identify key regulatory developments over the past five years that have reshaped global AI dynamics.
- 2.3. To compare how democratic and authoritarian regimes embed values such as privacy, fairness, and accountability into AI policy.
- 2.4. To analyse the role of national security concerns in shaping AI regulations, export controls, and industrial policies.
- 2.5. To evaluate the rationale, structure, and leadership models for a potential global AI regulatory body.

3. Expected Outcome

- Participants will gain insights into how AI governance through rules, standards, and international coordination is reshaping global competitiveness, national sovereignty, and cross-border collaboration in an interconnected world

4. Discussion Topics

- The discussion will first explore how major powers are leveraging AI regulation to shape global geopolitics, followed by a reflection on the space for smaller economies to assert influence in global AI governance.
- The panel will then consider the challenge of aligning AI regulations internationally while balancing national sovereignty, with a comparative focus on how democratic and authoritarian regimes embed values such as privacy and fairness into AI policy.
- Building on this, speakers will examine safeguards against bias, surveillance abuse, and rights erosion in AI systems, and how regulatory frameworks can enable innovation while ensuring accountability.
- The conversation will turn to dual-use technologies and defence concerns, with particular attention to risks posed by general-purpose AI models to national security and how states are responding.

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- Finally, the discussion will address whether there is a case for establishing a global AI regulatory body, and what powers, structure, and leadership such an institution should hold.

Session Flow

16:30 – 16:32	Introduction and welcome remarks by CUTS
16:32 – 16:37	Presentation and setting the context
16:37 – 16:40	Moderators remarks
16:40 – 17:10	Panel Discussion
17:10 – 17:28	Q&A Session
17:28 – 17:30	Closing Remarks

Agenda cum background Note_CUTS