



# DECODING THE GLOBAL POWER PLAY IN AI REGULATION

## Webinar Report

### Decoding the Global Power Play in AI Regulation

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CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC), a leading research and capacity-building organisation dedicated to competition, regulation, and sustainable development, in partnership with CUTS International, a forty-two-year-old global public policy, research, and advocacy group, hosted the high-level webinar, titled “Decoding the Global Power Play in AI Regulations”. The webinar deliberated on the geopolitics of AI regulation and examined the balance among power, innovation, and ethics. The session featured insights from distinguished experts across various domains.

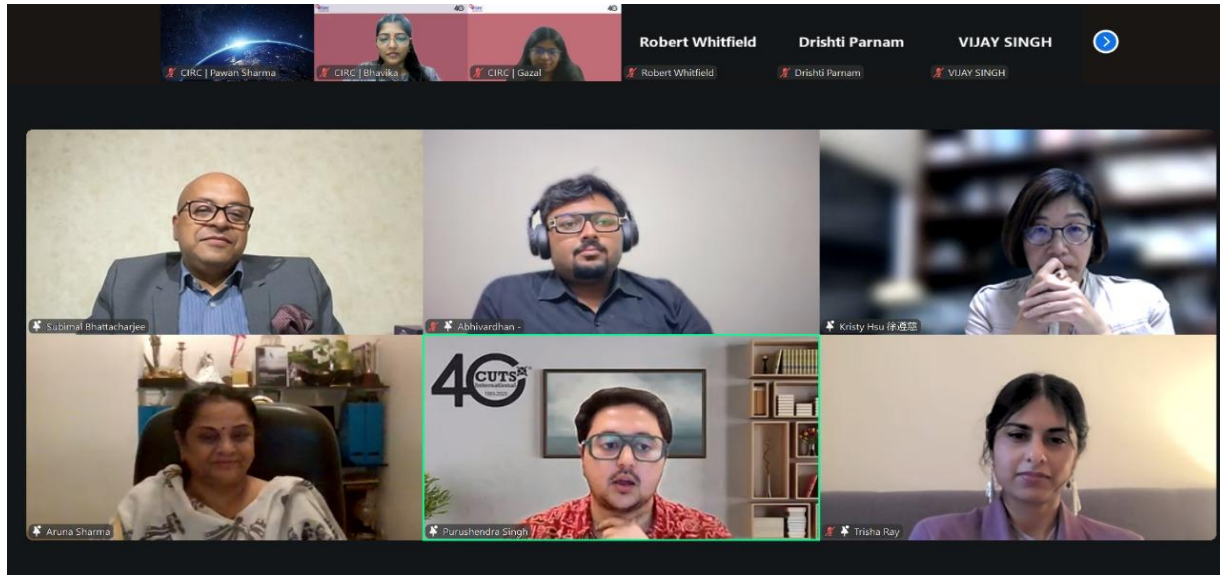
#### Moderator

- **Mr. Subimal Bhattacharjee**, Independent Tech Policy Analyst

#### Panellists

1. **Ms. Trisha Ray**, Associate Director & Resident Fellow, Atlantic Council
2. **Dr. Kristy Hsu**, Director, Taiwan ASEAN Studies Centre
3. **Dr. Jia Kai**, Associate Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
4. **Dr. Aruna Sharma**, Distinguished Fellow, CUTS International
5. **Mr. Abhivardhan**, President, Indian Society of Artificial Intelligence and Law

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## Background and Context

In the 21st century, artificial intelligence has moved beyond being a technical breakthrough to become a tool of global economic and strategic influence. It now shapes technology, trade and data policy, extending well past efficiency and innovation to sit at the heart of national and international decision-making. From chip-making and digital supply chains to smart infrastructure and regulation, governments and businesses alike are turning to artificial intelligence to secure both strategic and financial advantage in an increasingly competitive world.

The rules being drawn up reflect not just economic priorities but also political values and strategic ambitions. Different approaches to safety, ethics, innovation and national security reveal the wider geopolitical currents at play and the rise of new centres of influence in the digital age. In this setting, regulation itself is becoming a way for countries to project power, claim authority and steer either cooperation or division across borders.

This webinar aims to explore these **shifting global dynamics**, looking at how nations are shaping **policy, regulation and industry**. It will weigh the balance between **innovation and security**, review the strategies of the **United States, China and Taiwan**, and consider whether a shared ethical foundation is possible. The session will also look at new international initiatives and their part in shaping the future of global governance in this field.



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## Key Discussions Points

- The webinar examined global power dynamics in AI governance, highlighting the concept of Sovereign AI, where countries align technology with their cultural and political priorities.
- United States: Focus on technological leadership and innovation.
- China: Emphasis on shaping global AI governance and setting international norms.
- Taiwan: Efforts towards self-sufficiency in digital infrastructure and a plan to reach \$80 billion in value.
- India: Discussion of the Digital India policy and the need for a framework to integrate emerging technologies effectively.
- Key theme: Balancing innovation, security, and ethics, recognizing AI's shift from a tool for innovation to a strategic instrument of power.
- The dual-use nature of AI technologies highlights their applications in both civil and defence sectors.
- Consideration of risks from export controls and widening geopolitical divides.

## Expert Insights:

### 1. AI Regulation and Global Governance

In his opening remarks, Mr. Subimal Bhattacharjee, Independent Tech Policy Analyst, underlined that we are at a pivotal moment in human history, where advances in technology are reshaping the global balance of power. He stressed the growing strategic competition among nations, each striving to influence and define the emerging world order. The session featured panellists from the US, China and Taiwan, along with a global audience.

Delving into views from the US, and on the recently coined concept of Sovereign AI, Ms. Trisha Ray, Associate Director and Resident Fellow at the Atlantic Council, stated, **“Whether in the West or South Asia, sovereign AI isn’t just about data infrastructure—it must reflect and protect a nation’s own values.”**

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She highlighted the rise of *Sovereign AI*, shaped by the desire of nations to safeguard their cultural and political identity in the digital era. Ray drew a contrast between the United States, which prioritises technological leadership, and China, which pursues a narrative-driven strategy aimed at influencing global governance.

## 2. China's AI Strategy and Governance Challenges

Dr Jia Kai, Associate Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, spoke on China's priority in global AI governance, stressing the integration of emerging technologies across sectors such as education, healthcare and government. He underlined the challenges of balancing innovation with security concerns, particularly in relation to open-source models, and called for a new governance framework that moves beyond traditional regulatory approaches. Dr Kai also emphasised the need to view AI safety as a public good and highlighted the importance of governance innovation to ensure both progress and protection.



**“Artificial Intelligence is rife with uncertainty”,** said Dr. Kai, emphasising the limitations of conventional frameworks. **“The traditional model no longer applies. This opens a significant space for both governance and innovation—provided it's carefully balanced with robust security measures.”**, he added.

## 3. Taiwan's AI Strategy and Infrastructure

Dr Kristy Hsu, Director of the Taiwan ASEAN Studies Centre, outlined Taiwan's self-sufficiency in AI infrastructure, highlighting its capabilities in data centres, chip production and the export of chips and servers. She discussed Taiwan's AI Action Plan, which focuses on talent development, industry growth and improving the overall work environment. Dr Hsu also referred to the drafting of the Artificial Intelligence Basic Act, which introduces measures such as risk classification, output labelling and accountability mechanisms. She further stressed the importance of guidelines for the use of generated AI by government agencies and the need to strengthen mechanisms to address deepfakes.



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**“On AI regulation and global standards, Taiwan stands largely self-sufficient—we’re building nearly everything ourselves, from data centres to advanced chips.”, stated Dr. Hsu.**

## 4. India's AI Strategy and Digital Governance

Dr Aruna Sharma, Distinguished Fellow at CUTS International and former Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, spoke on India’s extensive databases in governance and commerce, stressing the urgency of creating a framework to harness technology effectively. She underlined the significance of its application across sectors such as finance and operations, noting the need for a unifying thread to integrate these uses. Dr Sharma also highlighted the challenges posed by technology-generated information and the necessity of policies to manage these issues. She placed particular emphasis on talent cultivation and industry development as central pillars of India’s strategy.

**“There can be no one-size-fits-all AI Regulation—cultural context matters. And while massive data is a challenge for training models, India is meeting it impressively”,** said while discussing the aspect of a Uniform global AI regulatory body and framework.

**“AI regulation should remain simple and accessible,”** she asserted, underscoring the need for global alignment and added that **“Legal frameworks across countries must strive for uniformity. The fairness of fair play can easily come under question when AI analytics are scrutinised. That’s why it’s essential to fine-tune the complexities and ensure clarity in governance.”**

Mr. Abhivardhan, President, Indian Society of Artificial Intelligence and Law, sharing his views, mentioned **“Geopolitics of AI has to be seen in how the AI Community globally is, with start-ups doing better than US-based Big Techs.”** He further added that **“Global political regimes face a new hurdle- saturation. Our algorithmic systems and economic infrastructure are nearing their limits, creating challenges that can no longer be ignored”.**

## 5. Conclusion and Final Remarks

Moderating the expert panel of speakers, Mr. Bhattacharjee mentioned, **“While AI brings immense benefits, it also presents serious challenges—particularly in the realm of cybersecurity”,** as he cautioned. **“Addressing its darker side is critical, as it can be exploited to target cyber infrastructure. Deepfakes, for instance, are a growing threat.”,** he added further.





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The webinar concluded with a call for ongoing discussion on the global power dynamics in AI regulation and their impact on governance and innovation. Key strategies highlighted include balancing innovation with security concerns through mechanisms such as peer review and framing AI safety as a public good. Participants reviewed Taiwan's AI Action Plan 2.0 and the proposed Artificial Intelligence Basic Act to understand its approach to industry development and risk management. The session also explored avenues for establishing a global ethical baseline for regulation and considered the potential role of a Shanghai-based World AI Cooperation Organisation in shaping international AI governance.

Delivering the closing remarks, Purushendra Singh, Associate Director at CUTS International, said, **“Just as AI is weaving into every aspect of life, we need tailor-made governance that is modern yet classical, flexible enough to meet the fresh surprises it delivers each day.”**