TOWARDS A GLOBAL AI GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK THROUGH LESSONS FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping societies and economies, and in the absence of a unified global governance framework, regulations surrounding the governance of AI are siloed and fragmented. This undermines predictability in the governance, innovation and poses security challenges. Yet, a binding global treaty, as a unified framework, may be untenable given divergent national interests and technological capacities. The literature suggests that both imposition of goals does not produce greater participation whereas the absolute autonomy in setting the goals does not produce results either. Therefore, the paper proposes an alternative hybrid governance framework inspired by the Paris Agreement on climate change. The Paris Agreement balances state autonomy with international cooperation by combining voluntary commitments, peer accountability, and shared global goals. Drawing on this structure, the paper proposes a cooperative AI governance framework that would ensure equitable development and respect for national sovereignty.

The paper is based on doctrinal research on structure, strengths, and challenges with the Paris Agreement, and also looks into the literature around the existing frameworks on regulation of AI and the potential challenges in implementing the proposed framework for AI.

The paper presents the detrimental fragmentation and siloed development of global regulations surrounding AI. The hybrid structure of the Paris Agreement, legal character and form, and differentiation, with respect to its relevancy for the proposed AI governance framework is explained. The paper then critically evaluates the principal global AI governance models to identify the regulatory gaps that justify the proposed hybrid framework. Culminating the understanding of elements, an analysis is made whether the Paris Agreement model can be extrapolated to global AI governance. The analysis supports positive outlook provided certain steps such as phased implementation of the agreement, accommodations for developing nations, and technical assistance mechanisms are substantially considered. The potential challenges to such a governance framework is deliberated upon and a domain-specific multi-layered structure is proposed as a more practical as well as theoretically workable framework. Urging for a consensus-building exercise in the international community, the paper concludes that a domain-specific multi-layered structure, formed with an agreement similar to Paris Agreement, is a

potential workable global AI governance framework which respects National sovereignty and equitable development.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; AI; Global AI Policy; AI Governance; Paris Agreement.