

<b>Forum:</b>	Group of 20
<b>Question of:</b>	On measures to harness the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for equitable economic development
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<b>Position(s):</b>	President Chair

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## **Introduction**

The astonishingly fast rate of technological development has brought the flourishing of human beings today. Some technologies have reduced hunger, some extended life expectancy, and some have opened the great potential of access to and processing of information; Artificial Intelligence is undoubtedly one of the technologies that are highlighted the most these days. Nevertheless, the significance of equity has been neglected in front of the economic income companies can accomplish in the short term. To prepare for the changes the technology will bring and to maintain equity in the global society, people have to realize and acknowledge the history and achievements of AI.

The concept of AI started with the pioneers, like Alan Turing and McCarthy. Turing introduced the idea that machines can resemble and stimulate any form of humankind-intelligence, which was coined into the term “Artificial Intelligence” by McCarthy, in 1956. During the 1950s ~ and 1960s, the rate of AI development peaked with significant innovations and advancements in areas such as neural networks and natural language processing. Early AI programs like ELIZA (a chatbot) and Shakey the Robot (the first mobile robot that navigates itself with reasons about its actions) emerged. However, by the 1970s ~ 1980s, the advancement of AI had reached stagnation due to the limitations in computing technology. It led to a decrease in the interest and funds for AI. From the 1990s to ~ 2020s, following the advancements in computer science which have greatly enhanced calculation speed, AI research revived. The defeat of world chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997 was one of the incidents that greatly increased the public’s awareness of the topic. By 2010, the global society has come upon the era of modern AI. The emergence of the concepts and technologies of big data, machine learning, and deep learning has been the notable cornerstones. Up to these days, AI has already become a

part of people's lives, and human beings are witnessing the present that AI is changing. ChatGPT, being made in 2022, has become one of the most-used research tools. Even the Nobel Prizes for Chemistry and Physics were awarded to AI-related experts. As of December 2024, ChatGPT boasts 300 million weekly active users and 123.5 million daily active users. The magnitude of the users well indicates the influence that AI has on people's lives.

The magnificent ability of AI can be harnessed to boost economic productivity and create economic value itself. In the past, human was inevitably engaged in making decisions in any process, which suggests a large number of the labor force had to be dedicated to simple and repetitive tasks. However, automation via AI not only can largely decrease the cost of wages for labor but also shorten the time and increase the accuracy of the decisions. Coca-Cola's introduction of AI in market analysis and production regulation is one of the examples of this. Coca-Cola uses AI in the optimization of its supply chain and distribution process. The auto-decision-making AI analyzes the statistics and market trends of demand of consumers in the market and adequately adjusts the quantity of its product produced. Coca-Cola has achieved a 15% increase in supply chain efficiency, with substantially decreased waste and operational costs. This is the case in which the AI replaces an economist and business management specialist. Being able to analyze and investigate a vast number of statistics and information, AI can provide many actionable insights for businesses. On the other hand, AI, itself being a technological innovation, has come together with innovations in many other fields. For example, the pharmacological application of AI was a hot issue yesterday. Without AI, it was an extremely time-consuming and labor-costing job to identify the 3D conformation of proteins. A single thesis about the structure of a protein could be a dissertation for the degree of Ph.D in the field. However, the awardee of the Chemistry Nobel Prize 2024, AlphaFold, has discovered a million times a greater number of structures of protein than that of human discovery so far. It has opened great potential in biochemistry and pharmacology. Also, AI-driven algorithms have enabled the targeted delivery of advertisements, content, and recommendations. While there have been debates concerning people's privacy and the extent of AI's right to information usage, it still greatly enhanced user experience and commercial outcomes. Furthermore, the recent development and advancement in quantum computer science once again opened the even larger potential of the ability of AI.

Recognizing the inequity that AI produces in its process of boosting economic development, 5 major equity concerns could be considered: job displacement and economic inequality, digital division, bias and discrimination, and lacking policy and regulation.

Although, as mentioned above, a great improvement in productivity and speed of work processing was achieved in the presence of AI, it is definite that AI will cause the displacement of a tremendous number of job places shortly, if no appropriate regulation is done. According to Goldman Sachs via BBC, AI is expected to replace 300 million jobs worldwide by 2030, representing more than 9 percent of all jobs worldwide. 14% of workers will be inevitably forced to change his/her careers due to AI, according to IJSREM. 44% of global companies responded that they are using or planning to use AI, and they believe it will result in layoffs. 47% of US workers are at risk of losing their jobs to automation over the coming decade, and 40% of all jobs are exposed to AI threat... There are virtually endless statistics, surveys, and censuses that indicate the unrecoverable future in the job market. Some might argue that improvement in science has always resulted in the loss of jobs but also the generation of more jobs as the 1st and 2nd industrial revolutions did, and that does not seem to be the truth for AI. While the previous industrial revolutions created workplaces still people are needed to operate the technologies, and AI is automatic. This means, that if electricity is provided consistently, AI can work without people operating it. Also, due to its high scalability, other facilities and industries can be easily automatized, with a minimum number of people managing it. It includes food, industrial manufacturing, marketing, or even building, potentially. Nonetheless of such a vast devastating outcome, AI is expected to bring to our society, there are no particular policies or regulations at hand. People losing places to work will make the rich even richer, and the poor even poorer.

At the same time, the AI has given rise to another digital division of the world. The great significance and power of AI have caused international competition. Some experts have expected that the nation attaining technological dominance in AI technology will grab political and economic dominance in the future. As a nation's dominance in AI technology can lead to an overly strong influence on economic systems and social operations, a nation's monopoly should be regulated.

The fact that AI technology is mostly owned by More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) makes it true that some Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) have substantially insufficient access to the usage and technology of AI. Considering that AI can

substantially boost economic development in various aspects, it will increase the digital division of the world. The rich nations will get richer, the poor nations will get poorer. It is a situation that the global society wants to stop, to promote equitable economic development. The technological and digital division does not finish on a macro scale. It also has a profound impact on an individual's life. People in MEDCs can freely access education and instructions on proper and efficient ways to use AI technology. From both micro and macro perspectives, it is evident that LEDCs are less benefited by AI technology than MEDCs, which furthermore perpetuates the presenting economic disparities. To promote equitable global economic development, this issue of accessibility is one of the issues that must be addressed.

Another problem of AI in promoting equitable economic development is that we cannot be perfectly sure that AI is unbiased. In the process of deep learning and machine learning, AI can build a negative or positive bias towards particular objectives, which is one of the massive equity problems. Some examples are algorithmic biased hiring, algorithmic biased lending, and algorithmic biased law enforcement. Amazon, one of the biggest enterprises in the United States, had once used an AI algorithm in the hiring process to grade and assort job applicant's resumes. After the deep-learning studies on resumes over a 10-year period which had proportionally more male resumes, AI learned to favor male applicants' resumes, and showed a tendency of downgrading female applicants' resumes; hence, female candidates were penalized. On the other hand, in the financial sector, algorithm bias can affect lending decisions. For instance, research found that the AI-driven healthcare prediction algorithm was biased against black individuals. The algorithm used the healthcare cost as an indicator of health needs. However, historically, black individuals have had less access to the healthcare system, so showing a lower healthcare cost. Based on this indicator, the algorithm judged the black patients to be healthier than equally sick white patients, which decreased the chance for black individuals to receive necessary care. For the last case of bias, AI is also used in predictive policing, which can create biased outcomes. The University of Washington found that the AI tools used in mental health emergencies exhibited racial and religious disparities. It suggests that the bias presented in AI tools that are used in the law enforcement process can negatively impact specific groups/individuals based on religious and race issues. The listed cases point out points of improvements in AI technologies, to guarantee more equitable economic development, offer opportunities and services, and equitable policy introduction and enforcement.

One another issue at hand to cope and achieve equitable economic development is the limited number and extent of legal regulation of AI. Firstly, the global society does not have enough inclusive policies on AI. Inclusive policies refer to guidelines, regulations, and practices designed to ensure that the development and deployment of AI technologies benefit all segments of society, especially marginalized to underserved communities. Global politicians must develop policies that enable all segments of society to have equal access and opportunities to education and training related to AI technology. Also, to mitigate the issues mentioned above like bias in various areas, relevant policies and regulations regarding AI and algorithm usage conduction have seemed to be necessary. On the other hand, governmental support to the displaced workers due to the AI's replacement must be reexamined, reestablished, and offered. It may include retraining programs, unemployment benefits, and job placement services to help those displaced individuals transition into new roles in society. At the same time, to mitigate the economic polarization in which the poor get poorer, and the rich get richer, policies that can promote inclusive growth should be considered. For the last issue to deal with, is the global agreement, cooperation, and coordination in favor of ethical AI development. There is a necessity in the world to develop and adhere to international standards for ethical AI development, which includes data privacy, security, and the responsible use of AI technologies.

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## **Definition of Key Terms**

### ***Artificial Intelligence (AI)***

Artificial Intelligence, AI, is a human-made computer program that can learn, create, and make decisions like a human does. Due to its incomparably high productivity in simple work and some decision makings compared to that of humans, it has caused and is expected to cause countless job displacements. Considering its vast economic potential, the committee must figure out a way to harness this technology to promote global equitable development.

### ***Accessibility***

The term accessibility refers to the ability of someone in a group to a certain service or resource. While AI bears great economic potential, it is often considered as an exclusive domain of developed countries. Globally, lacking policies that address the presenting problems regarding

inclusive policy and AI technology usage and management, LEDC nations and the economically lower segment of their people are evaluated to have poor accessibility to AI technology.

### ***Polarization***

Polarization is a term that refers to the division of a group or community into two that have opposing characteristics, properties, beliefs, or conditions. Different accessibility to AI technology has caused and exacerbated the economic polarization of wealth between LEDCs and MEDCs and between a wealthier segment of people in a nation and a poorer segment of that. To reach and promote equitable economic development harnessing AI, the presenting factors that cause AI-led polarization must also be mitigated.

### ***Discrimination and bias***

Discrimination is the behavior of making a decision or action in favor of one someone of a certain group than others. AI-related bias and discrimination are some of the biggest concerns of modern society as they resemble the way that humans think and learn; thus, it can also learn the way humans make religious and racial discrimination and biases. As the algorithm is used in a wide range of areas these days, the presenting bias is definitely one of the factors that deteriorate economic inequity between social segments. In order to mitigate this issue, member states can resort to measurements including policies and regulations that specifically aim to remove any potential AI deep learning algorithm-based bias and discrimination.

### ***Equity***

Equity and equality are a different concept. While equality highlights the same rights, positions, and power that individuals or certain groups retain, equity rather focuses on providing equal opportunities. Promoting economic equity does not mean making everybody the same wealthy as anyone else, but it means providing every individual in the society access to equal opportunities to generate economic values and promote well-being, regardless of the kind of it, like economic well-being, or mental well-being. AI technology advancement has led to a lot of development in human society and opened a great potential for economic development, but also gave rise to a large extent of equity issues.

### ***Job displacement***

Job displacement refers to the condition in which an individual loses his/her job for a certain reason. The emergence and rapid development of AI technology is expected to displace a vast number of jobs worldwide, due to its incomparably high productivity, information processing speed, and accuracy in decision making. Job replacement with AI is currently occurring. While people subjected to layoff sometimes get some social economic assistance depending on the nation, it is still a fact that the guidelines and policy that can inclusively reinvolve the replaced individuals to transit into another role in the society.

### ***Wealth gap***

Wealth gap is a term that refers to the difference in the extent of economic income and accumulated wealth between individuals, groups, or particular social segments and others. The wealth gap is often considered one of the indicators of social inequality and inequity. AI, bringing and opening a great economic potential for its users, expands the wealth gap between those who are accessible to AI technology and those who are inaccessible to that.

### ***Technological dominance***

For the latest century, global nations have been in an invisible competition for technological advancements, such as in the fields of weapons, computer science, quantum physics, and AI. Securing technological dominance has been one of the ways that nations obtain comparative dominance over other nations, as they necessitate it, or are frightened of it. Nowadays, certain nations are at the technological dominance in terms of AI, which allows them to readily collect magnificent amounts of information and process information at the fastest rate. Also, as the dependence of the global public on certain AI tools increases, the enterprise makes more economic income out of advertisements and subscriptions, and so does the government via taxation.

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## **Timeline of Key Events**

***“1974 - First International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), Kyoto, Japan”***

The conference brought together leading researchers, scholars, and scientists from around the world who are dedicated to the field of AI. The conference featured various sessions, presentations, and paper submissions that covered a wide range of topics related to AI, including expert systems, machine learning, etc. It provided a platform for researchers to network share ideas and collaborate on future projects. The significance of this event is that it was one of the first global collaborations in AI research. It stimulated advancements in AI technology and influenced its development.

***“1985 – The Establishment of the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI)”***

EurAI was established as the European Coordination Committee for Artificial Intelligence (ECCAI) in 1982 and later was renamed EurAI in 2015. The association aimed to promote the science and technology of artificial intelligence in Europe, encouraging education related to AI and publishing relevant journals. The significance of the event is that by building a collaborative association on AI, the association contributed to the development of a skilled workforce in the field of artificial intelligence; hence, it shared the technological advancement among its member states, promoting more equitable development in AI technology.

***“1987 - Publication of the Lighthill Report – Artificial Intelligence: A General Survey”***

Critically assessed the AI research projects at the time regarding the failure in the attainment of previous goals of AI research concentratedly discussed the practical applications of AI that can bring economic benefits via automation, computer simulation, and neurophysiological and physiological process, the report is mainly written and published by the British Science Research Council. They influenced the direction of AI research, encouraged a more pragmatic approach, and focused on practical applications that could deliver immediate economic benefits. Being one of the first events that suggests the economic application of AI it is remarkable.

***“1995 - the Establishment of the European AI Strategy”***

The strategy was developed by the European Commission, aiming to foster AI research and development in Europe. While the strategy emphasized the economic benefits of AI, it also discussed the equitable usage and distribution of AI technology. A key aspect of the plan was



ensuring that the benefits of AI advancements were equitably distributed across society. This included promoting equitable access to AI technologies for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and fostering inclusive growth.

***“2001 - the Establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations”***

Consisted of eight goals aimed at improving the lives of people in the world’s poorest countries by 2015, was a blueprint for tackling global issues such as poverty, hunger, disease, and technological inequality. The MDGs provided a unified framework for international development efforts, mobilizing resources and fostering partnerships to achieve measurable improvements in the lives of millions of people. The goals also highlighted the significance of leveraging technology, including AI, to achieve sustainable and equitable economic development and reduce global inequalities.

***“2005 - the Launch of AI for Sustainable Development Initiative”***

The initiative was launched by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 2005, and aimed to harness the potential of AI to achieve sustainable development goals and ensure equitable access to AI technologies and their benefits. The initiative aimed to contribute to the equitable access of every person from every part of the world to AI technology and usage encouraged AI-related innovation and collaboration between governments, and pursued sustainable development of the world economy.

***“15-17, May, 2018 - AI for Good Global Summit”***

The AI for Good Global Summit was a remarkable event organized by the ITU, in partnership with the XPRIZE foundation the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), and various sister United Nations agencies. The summit aimed to identify practical applications of AI that could accelerate progress towards the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including mapping poverty, predicting natural disasters using satellite imagery, etc. At the same time, the summit also aimed to ensure equitable access to AI technologies, which has to be developed in a trusted, safe, and inclusive manner, according to the ITU. It formulated strategies to address global challenges and promote the responsible use of AI. Unlike its last

summit in 2017, the summit moreover focused on the action-oriented approach to developing effective AI solutions.

***“December, 2023 – Agreement Upon the European Commission’s Artificial Intelligence Act”***

The act was proposed in April 2021 and was agreed upon by the European Parliament and the council in December 2023. The Act aimed to create a comprehensive legal framework for AI within the European Union. The Act provided a uniformed legal framework that was aimed to ensure that AI systems placed on the market and used are safe and respect fundamental rights of the European Union values. It also reduced the administrative and financial burdens for businesses by providing clear requirements and obligations. Being an international organization, the EU made one of the first legal regulations on AI development and usage in the world.

***“20-21, September, 2024 – UN Summit of the Future, New York, UN Headquarters”***

Gathering thousands of diverse stakeholders including delegates of the member states, civil society, the private sector, academia, local and regional authorities, and youth, the UN Summit of the Future was a landmark event aimed at reimagining the multilateral system and addressing long-term global challenges. The centerpiece of the summit was the adoption of the Pact for the Future, which is a comprehensive action-oriented agreement covering a wide range of themes, including sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, etc. The summit also introduced the Global Digital Compact, which aims to promote responsible digital cooperation and ensure equitable access to digital technologies, including AI.

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## **Position of Key Member Nations and Other Bodies**

### ***International Telecommunication Union (ITU)***

ITU plays a crucial role in harnessing the potential of AI for equitable economic development. ITU organizes the AI for Good Global Summit, which is an action-oriented platform that brings together stakeholders from around the world and seeks realistic AI applications that can advance the UN SDGs. ITU also co-leads the Inter-Agency Working Group on AI (IAWG-AI), in partnership with UNESCO. This group gathers expertise from across the

UN system to support AI governance efforts and ensure that AI development respects human rights. Apart from that, ITU organizes, works, plans, and provides various events, summits, organizations, platforms, etc. Being a technology-specialized international organization, ITU bears its remarkable mandate to ensure that AI technologies are developed and harnessed in ways that promote equitable economic development and benefit all of humanity.

### ***United States of America***

The United States plays an indispensable role in harnessing the potential of AI for equitable economic development. United States has been proactive in establishing a framework for trustworthy AI. For example, the White House published a blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights to counter harms perpetuated by AI, such as discrimination in the hiring process. Also, the U.S. government has issued executive orders to ensure that AI development is safe, secure, and equitable. The United States has made substantial efforts to close the digital divide by expanding access to cutting-edge AI models, compute credits, and open-source tools. Apart from the aspects that have been mentioned, the United States, being one of the nations with the most developed AI technology, is also one of the member states that is concerned with the disproportionate distribution of the benefit of AI technology, and has implemented strategy and policy.

### ***Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)***

OECD is the organization that made the world's first intergovernmental standard on AI. The OECD AI principles, adopted in 2019 and updated in 2024, promote innovative, trustworthy AI that respects human rights and democratic values. They provide practical and flexible guidance for policymakers and AI actors to maximize IA's benefits while minimizing its risks. OECD also runs a platform called OECD AI Policy Observatory that collects and shares data on AI policies and initiatives from around the world. Apart from that, the OECD is actively engaged in various AI regulation and equitable usage and development-related issues. By adhering to principles and initiatives, the OECD plays a crucial role in guiding the development and deployment of AI to maximize its benefits for economic growth, social welfare, and environmental sustainability while ensuring equitable access to its benefits.

### ***Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)***

GPAI is an international initiative aimed at guiding the responsible development and use of AI. GPAI focuses on several key aspects, which are human-centric AI development, supporting UN SDGs, multistakeholder collaboration, research and pilot projects, policy guidance, and global reach. GPAI focuses on ensuring AI development respects human rights, inclusion, diversity, and democratic values. GPAI gathers experts from the comprehensive area and promotes collaboration on AI priorities, especially practical applications. GPAI provides guidelines on ways to implement policies in ways that can stimulate equitable development and harnessing of AI.

### ***People's Republic of China***

China, being one of the world's leaders in the field of AI, plays a significant role in promoting equitable economic development by harnessing the potential of AI. One of the remarkable accomplishments of China is the development of the AI ecosystem. In 2015, China established the "Internet Plus" strategy. Since then, China has been integrating AI with various sectors such as finance and healthcare. This strategy has led to the creation of a comprehensive industrial ecosystem for AI. China is also one of the proactive leaders of global cooperation. China supports the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolution on Enhancing International Cooperation on Capacity Building of AI, for sustainable and equitable development. China's finance sector is actively utilizing AI to transform traditional financial services such as customer support, investment, and risk management.

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## **Suggested Solutions**

To promote equitable economic development by harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence, delegates must consider and examine comprehensive aspects of the problems currently existing. Seven major aspects may be considered to solve and mitigate the current issues that the world faces. They are addressing bias and fairness, enhancing data privacy and security, promoting inclusive AI development, fostering public-private partnerships, regulating AI development and deployment, bridging the digital divide, and supporting research and innovation.

### ***Addressing Bias and Fairness***

To prevent the artificial intelligence used in various areas such as hiring or healthcare management from being biased due to the one-sided data set given to it to learn, the policies that ensure that AI is unbiased in the analysis and assessment of the data given to it can be made. Formulating a global standard for AI fairness can also be key to the approach. Establishing international standards for fairness in AI, ensuring that AI itself is programmed to self-eliminate the potential bias and discrimination. On the other hand, policies that promote research and development of techniques to investigate and mitigate AI systems can be made. Promoting to creation of an internal governmental institution or a global organization specialized in assessing the fairness of AI can be the solution, as well as expanding the mandate of currently existing organizations.

### ***Enhancing Data Privacy and Security***

Although the development of AI is one of the greatest goals of the world nations, imprudent usage of information on the internet may give rise to privacy issues and data security issues. There are substantial necessity to consider of establishment and enforcement of laws that safeguard and protect personal information from being used without consent or transferred indiscreetly. In a slightly different approach to the issue, promoting the development of privacy-preserving AI technology may be considered. Similar to the one mentioned earlier, delegates also may consider encouraging the establishment of an internal inspection governmental organization, establishing a new inspectorate policy, or expanding the mandate of existing international/internal organizations to reach the goal.

### ***Promoting Inclusive AI Development***

Supporting capacity-building initiatives, like AI for Sustainable Development Initiative by ITU may be considered. Delegates may consider providing training and resources to underrepresented groups to ensure they have the skills and opportunities to participate in AI development. Putting the inclusion of every community in the development of AI and promoting the proportionate distribution of benefits from AI can be one of the key pathways to go through.

### ***Fostering Public-Private Partnerships***

To meet one of the commands of the conference, ‘equitable’ economic development, investigating the existing needs of stakeholders and meeting their demands is one of the key goals to be attained. Delegates may consider facilitating multistakeholder collaboration in the development of AI. It can be done by encouraging collaboration between governments, private companies, civil society, and academia to develop ethical, sustainable, and community-inclusive IA solutions. Delegates also may consider operative clauses that focus on aligning global AI development to SDGs or other UN development goals or protocols.

### ***Regulating AI development and Deployment***

Because the development of AI has been at an unprecedentedly rate in recent decades, a lot of the member states do not have the effective governance framework that allows member states’ governments to put the AI development and creation of economic wealth within the extent of ‘equitable’ range. Delegates, putting that into regard, may consider implementing the AI governance frameworks in association with other international bodies like ITU, or GPAI. Also, establishing ethical guidelines can be one of the solutions that delegates might want to put into their regard. The guideline may focus on fairness, accountability, and transparency.

### ***Bridging the Digital Divide***

Ensuring every individual in every community can access AI technology is where the bridging of the digital divide starts, as it allows the benefit of AI to reach everyone in society, including marginalized communities and developing countries. Starting a global-scale fundraiser or association to support LEDCs to develop and invest in digital infrastructure may be considered. The economic dominance of MEDCs originates from the deficiency of time and opportunity for LEDCs to develop their economy. By sharing the value that MEDCs have accomplished so far, we can moreover pursue equitable economic development, yielding the capacity to access AI technology to harness. On the other hand, for marginalized communities like elderly communities who are not familiar with technology and AI, additional training may be suggested to allow them to access and enjoy the benefits from the potential of AI.

### ***Supporting Research and Innovation***

Having the agenda of “on measures to harness the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for equitable economic development”, this aspect might be one of the most important ones out of the 7 aspects. Delegates may attempt some operative clauses that fund the research on equitable AI development, and grant them to investigational institutions in the form of subsidy. Also, delegates may attempt to establish an academic institution such as an international laboratory for AI development, developing and figuring out ways to harness AI technology in a practical and equitable method. Discovering and excavating the potential of AI that can foster or create economic growth while promoting equitable development should be the goal of the institution in this case.

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