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Align with AI: Advancing Leadership, Integrity and Global Norms with Artificial Intelligence

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ABSTRACT

By influencing diplomacy, security, economic competition, global governance and other aspects of International Relation, the impact of Artificial Intelligence driving global politics is clearly visible. This paper focuses on how AI contributes to changing power dynamics, strengthen diplomatic practices while also raising ethical dilemmas and legal challenges that includes algorithmic biases leading to unfair outcomes and deep fake threats with a potential to spread misinformation, commit fraud and extortion, manipulate public opinion, harm reputation etc. Along with the analysis of global governance the paper also highlights the rise of techno-nationalism and the risk associated with digital colonialism. Further the paper points at key observations of AI strategies of states, illustrating the complexity surrounding adoption of AI. The study concludes with 'must haves' for AI governance which are binding international standards, set of ethical standards and lastly multi-stakeholder collaboration that promotes AI technologies for stability, justice and human dignity in ever evolving global order.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence, Global Policies, International Relations, Cyber Law.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The twenty-first century has witnessed the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (hereinafter AI) as a transformative force that extends beyond technological innovation into the domain of politics, economy, society, and international relations (hereinafter IR). Once largely confined to academic discourse and experimental projects, AI has turned into a disruptive phenomenon with the power to redefine the foundations of how states interact, compete, and cooperate on the global stage.[2]

At its core, AI refers to machine capable to do task that usually need human intelligence, which includes learning, language understanding, decision-making, and problem-solving.[3] Its

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[2] Ingvild Bode, *AI Technologies and International Relations: Do We Need New Analytical Frameworks?*, 169 RUSI J. 66 (2024).

[3] Stuart J. Russell & Peter Norvig, *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach* (3d ed. Pearson Educ. Ltd. 2016).

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applications in the context of international relations are vast including areas such as military modernisation, strategic decision support, real-time translation and communication, public diplomacy, and even cyber diplomacy.[4] AI's capacity to gather and analyse large quantities of data allows states to better predict geopolitical shifts, monitor threats, and formulate informed foreign policy strategies.

AI is becoming a critical asset in the power struggle among nations. The United States, China, Russia, the European Union, and emerging powers like India and Brazil are all investing heavily in AI, recognising its strategic value not only in economic competition but also in diplomatic influence and military superiority[5]. As highlighted by Zahra (2024)[6] and Bode (2024)[7], this competition is starting a new kind of arms race, where supremacy in AI development is equated with geopolitical dominance. This race is not merely about developing advanced algorithms but also about setting global norms, shaping digital infrastructures, and ensuring national security. The integration of AI into international relations is not without risks and ethical dilemmas. Issues such as algorithmic bias, accountability, the lack of transparency in AI decision-making, and the vulnerability of AI systems to cyber attacks have raised alarm among scholars and policymakers.[8] As Raissa Muhutdinova (2025)[9] and Najla Al Midfa (2024)[10] emphasize, AI-driven decision-making in diplomacy can unintentionally support biases, and trigger conflicts if not managed carefully. Hence, ethical concerns surrounding the use of autonomous weapons systems and the disintegration of human accountability in critical diplomatic or military decisions require urgent international attention[11] .

While initiatives such as the OECD Principles on AI, the EU's AI Act, and United Nations advisory frameworks represent early steps toward regulation still significant gaps remain in creating enforceable, universally accepted standards due to this the global governance of AI

[4] Christina Meleouni & Iris-Panagiota Efthymiou, *Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Its Impact in International Relations*, 2 J. Pol. & Ethics New Techs. & AI art. 35803 (2023).
[5] James Butcher & Irakli Beridze, *What Is the State of Artificial Intelligence Governance Globally?*, 164 RUSI J. 60 (2019).
[6] Zahra G. E., *How Artificial Intelligence Is Reshaping International Politics*, World Geostrategic Insights (2024), https://worldgeostrategicinsights.com (Last visited on April 26,2025)
[7] Ingvild Bode, *supra* note 1, at 1.
[8] Rowena Rodrigues, *Legal and Human Rights Issues of AI: Gaps, Challenges and Vulnerabilities*, 20 J. RESP. TECH. 100071 (2020).
[9] Raissa Muhutdinova, *The Rise of Artificial Intelligence in Diplomacy and International Relations*, TRENDS RES. & ADVISORY (2025), https://trendsresearch.org/insight/the-rise-of-artificial-intelligence-in-diplomacy-and-international-relations/. (Last visited on April 24, 2025).
[10] Trends Research & Advisory, *Artificial Intelligence in Diplomacy: Transforming Global Relations and Negotiations* (2025), https://trendsresearch.org/insight/artificial-intelligence-in-diplomacy/.(Last visited on April 29, 2025)
[11] Mary L. Cummings et al., *Artificial Intelligence and International Affairs: Disruption Anticipated*, Chatham House, (May 1, 2025,10.30 PM), https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2018-06-14-artificial-intelligence-international-affairs-cummings-roff-cukier-parakilas-bryce.pdf.

remains disintegrated and underdeveloped. There is a risk that AI technologies will further widen inequalities among states, create new forms of digital imperialism, and escalate existing geopolitical tensions if not supported by strong global cooperation[12].

Given these dynamic transformations, it becomes obvious that AI is not merely a tool of power but is a complex actor capable of influencing the behaviour of states and non-state actors (for example terrorist organization). As Baele et al. (2024)[13]suggest, a clear understanding of AI's role in global politics which demands moving beyond the classical state-centric view and recognising the increasingly significant role of technological infrastructures and corporations.

This paper, therefore, aims to systematically explore how AI is reshaping international relations by addressing key areas such as changes in the balance of power, the transformation of diplomacy, challenges in global governance, ethical concerns, and emerging research directions. By doing so, it seeks to offer a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and risks posed by AI and to suggest ways in which international relations must evolve in response to this rapidly advancing technology.

II. IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Artificial Intelligence has altered global affairs, making its presence felt not only in technological sectors but also in diplomatic policies and influencing international relations. Over the past decade, AI's capabilities from autonomous decision-making to predictive analytics have grown at an amazing rate, ushering in a new era where geopolitical power is increasingly intertwined with technological supremacy.

The growth of AI from its conceptual origins in the 1950s to a tangible strategic tool **t**oday highlights its role in shaping the contemporary international system. Early research on AI, initially driven by the ambition to replicate human cognition, laid the foundation for later developments in machine learning, natural language processing, and autonomous systems. However, it was only in the 2020s with breakthroughs in computational power, data accumulation, and algorithmic sophistication that AI became a decisive force in international politics.[14]

[12] Megha Srivastav, *Paris AI Action Summit: A Missed Opportunity*, Observer Research Found. (Apr. 25, 2024, 05.50 AM), https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/paris-ai-action-summit-a-missed-opportunity..
[13] Fabrice Baele et al., *AI IR: Charting International Relations in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*, INT'L STUD. REV. (2024).
[14] United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), *Artificial Intelligence and International Affairs* (2024), https://www.unitar.org/epub/ai-and-international-affairs , (Last Visited on Apr. 25, 2025).

One of the most significant changes AI has brought to international relations is its ability to redefine state power[15]. Traditional sources of power such as military strength, economic resources, diplomatic networks are now complemented by the possession of AI technologies. Nations that excel in AI research, development, and deployment gain considerable advantages not only in military capability but also in economic competition, intelligence gathering, and influence operations. Artificial intelligence has started a global race where countries like the United States and China are investing billions to achieve AI supremacy.[16] AI's impact on international politics is particularly evident in the areas like strategic competition and national security, diplomatic innovation, and information warfare. In the security domain, AI technologies are central to the development of autonomous weapon systems, enhanced cyber defence, and intelligence analysis. It is now believed that AI-powered predictive models can predict conflict scenarios, assess strategic risks, and recommend policy responses more efficiently than traditional approaches, making militaries increasingly reliant on AI for decision-support functions, ranging from battlefield surveillance to logistics.

Diplomatically, AI is increasing engagements of states in global issues through real-time language translation, automated sentiment analysis, and predictive modellings[17] of negotiation outcomes. Diplomats now employ AI tools to interpret public sentiment in target countries, fine-tune strategic messaging, and manage complex multilateral negotiations with the aid of simulations[18]. Virtual diplomacy platforms further offer novel avenues for discussion, conflict resolution, and participation in global governance. However, AI has also introduced serious challenges in the area of information warfare for instance, Machine learning algorithms are capable of generating hyper-realistic deep fakes, spreading wrong information at large scale, and manipulating public opinion across borders, thereby threatening national sovereignty, democratic integrity, and trust in international institutions[19]. Recognising these implications, international policymakers have begun to embed AI into strategic planning, with national AI strategies and defence modernisation plans now identifying it as a critical element of future security and foreign policy. Many states are also advocating for strategic "techno-nationalism"

[15]The Geopolitics, *AI and Diplomacy: The Next Geopolitical Battlefield?* (2024), https://thegeopolitics.com/ai-and-diplomacy-the-next-geopolitical-battlefield. (Last Visited on Apr. 22, 2025).
[16] Stanford University, *Artificial Intelligence Index Report 2022: AI Policy and Governance* (Mar. 2022).
[17] Hannah Couchman, *Policing by Machine: Predictive Policing and the Threats to Our Rights*, Liberty Human Rights (2019)
[18] Noor, *AI-Powered Diplomacy: The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Global Conflict Resolution*, Trends Res. & Advisory (Apr. 24, 2024, 08.45AM), https://trendsresearch.org/insight/ai-powered-diplomacy-the-role-of-artificial-intelligence-in-global-conflict-resolution/.
[19] Iqra Bano Sohail, *Deepfakes and the Changing Face of War*, The Express Tribune (Feb. 22, 2025), https://tribune.com.pk/article/97950/deepfakes-and-the-changing-face-of-war/ .

the belief that technological dominance equates to geopolitical power.[20] Nevertheless, the benefits of AI are accompanied by significant vulnerabilities, inadequate governance, ethical oversights, and unrestrained military use which may weaken global stability rather than reinforce it. Scholars widely agree that international cooperation is essential to prevent an unregulated AI arms race and to establish ethical standards guiding responsible AI development[21]. Ultimately, AI's integration into international relations marks a shift in how states exercise influence, safeguard their interests, and shape the global order.

III. AI AS A STRATEGIC ASSET IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into national strategies has become a key factor in shifting the global balance of power. In traditional international relations, power was primarily associated with economic strength, military capabilities, and political influence. However, in the AI era, technological innovation is now considered a critical dimension of national power. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is fundamentally changing global power dynamics, particularly through its military, economic, and strategic applications. One of the most transformative impacts lies in military modernisation, where AI-powered technologies such as autonomous weapons systems, surveillance drones, cyber security platforms, and robotic warfare units are redefining how wars are prepared for and conducted. The concept of "decision-making at machine speed" underscores AI's ability to process data, simulate conflict scenarios, and offer real-time strategic recommendations far beyond human capabilities. AI is actively employed for predictive threat assessments, autonomous targeting, intelligence fusion, and logistics optimisation, with initiatives like the U.S. Department of Defence "Project Maven" demonstrating its role in analysing drone surveillance footage for tactical insights[22]. The integration of robotic combat vehicles (RCVs) and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) further illustrates how deeply embedded AI has become in operational doctrines. Militaries that acquire superior AI capacities can deter adversaries more effectively, execute precision strikes with reduced human risk, and assert dominance in digital and physical theatres of warfare.

Apart from defence, AI also plays key role in driving the economic competition by improving productivity, optimising supply chains, and opening new markets such as autonomous transportation and AI-assisted healthcare[23]. States that are giving a push towards research and

[20] Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), *Understanding Technonationalism* (2020)
[21] Cath C., *Governing Artificial Intelligence: Ethical, Legal and Technical Opportunities and Challenges*, 376 Phil. Transactions Royal Soc'y A 2128 (2018).
[22] Palantir Technologies Inc., *Palantir Expands Maven Smart System AI/ML Capabilities to Military Services*, Palantir IR - News (Apr. 23, 2025), https://investors.palantir.com/news-details/2024/Palantir-Expands-Maven-Smart-System-AIML-Capabilities-to-Military-Services/.
[23] M.J. Rigby, *Ethical Dimensions of Using Artificial Intelligence in Health Care*, 21 AMA J. Ethics 121 (2019).

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development in AI, may take advantages in sectors like telecommunications, finance, health and energy, improving their global influence**.**

Additionally the concept of technological sovereignty, especially within the European Union, has gained prominence as governments seek to reduce dependency on foreign AI infrastructures, while China's Digital Silk Road exemplifies the use of AI exports as tools of soft power expansion. This intensifying competition has been described as a new arms race more diffuse than the Cold War nuclear standoff, yet equally destabilising[24]. The dual-use nature of AI complicates regulatory efforts, as consumer technologies like facial recognition are easily repurposed for surveillance and targeting, increasing the risk of escalation. Studies have shown that current AI systems may even favour aggressive responses during crisis simulations, raising the spector of AI-induced conflict. These dynamics also reveal a deepening divide between AI "haves" and "have-nots." Developed nations are poised to consolidate power, while developing states may be rendered technologically dependent, fostering a new form of digital imperialism[25]. This imbalance not only severe global inequality but also threatens international stability. Unlike the relatively contained nature of nuclear arms, AI's civilian ubiquity and commercial development make control mechanisms harder to establish. To mitigate these risks, the international community must prioritise transparency, cooperative frameworks, and the creation of binding norms that guide AI development toward peaceful and equitable ends. As international relations grow increasingly data-driven and technologically complex, AI introduces powerful tools that enhance diplomatic effectiveness while simultaneously presenting new challenges.

As AI technologies are now widely employed across key diplomatic functions such as Machine learning algorithms which are being used to analyse vast volumes of political, economic, and social data, offering predictive insights and strategic recommendations that support foreign policy formulation. These AI-powered analyses allow states to anticipate the behaviour of other international actors, evaluate the consequences of treaty commitments, and optimise diplomatic strategies. Furthermore, negotiation processes are being enhanced through AI-assisted simulations that examine historical agreements and adversarial behaviour, enabling diplomatic teams to model and test strategies likely to yield favourable outcomes in trade discussions or peace talks. According to Najla Al Midfa (2024)[26], such data-driven diplomacy enables foreign

[24] Ingvild Bode, *supra* note 1, at 1.
[25] Michael Kwet, *Digital Colonialism: US Empire and the New Imperialism in the Global South*, 60 Race & Class 3 (2019), https://doi.org/10.1177/0306396818823172.
[26] Najla Al Midfa, *Artificial Intelligence in Diplomacy: Transforming Global Relations and Negotiations*, Trends Res. & Advisory (2024),(Apr. 26,2025, 09.45PM) https://trendsresearch.org/insight/artificial-intelligence-in-diplomacy/

ministries to respond more quickly and effectively in high-stakes or crisis scenarios. Beyond negotiation, one of the most promising areas of AI application is in conflict prediction and prevention. By monitoring and analysing complex datasetsincluding social media trends, economic disruptions, military movements, and political developments AI systems can detect early warning signs of instability. Machine learning models are already being used to forecast election-related violence, mass protests, and insurgencies in volatile regions[27]. This predictive capacity marks a critical shift from reactive to proactive diplomacy, empowering policymakers to intervene before crises escalate. With AI-driven insights, diplomatic efforts can shift toward conflict de-escalation, early mediation, and the formulation of preventive strategies, ultimately enhancing global stability and reducing the likelihood of violent confrontation.

IV. DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN POLICY IN THE ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Currently Artificial Intelligence is not only changing traditional military structures but is also transforming diplomacy and foreign policy practices. As the world becomes more data-driven and technologically complex, powerful tools offered by AI enhance diplomatic effectiveness while simultaneously presenting new challenges. AI technologies are now widely employed across key diplomatic functions for instance real-time language translation systems, driven by AI, enable diplomats to communicate seamlessly across linguistic barriers, thereby facilitating more efficient negotiations and swifter consensus-building.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the landscape of public diplomacy by enabling governments to engage with foreign populations more strategically and in real time. One major innovation is sentiment analysis, where AI systems analyse data from social media platforms to monitor public opinion abroad[28]. This allows diplomats to tailor messages that align with the sentiments and cultural sensitivities of specific audiences.

In parallel, AI supports the design of more effective cultural diplomacy and public communication campaigns, ensuring that outreach efforts are targeted, timely, and resonant. These capabilities also introduce risks, as governments may exploit AI tools to manipulate narratives, spread misinformation, or influence political developments[29]. Alongside this evolution in public engagement, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly accelerated the adoption of virtual diplomacy. AI-powered platforms now support international meetings, high-level

[27] Max Murphy, Ezra Sharpe & Kayla Huang, *The Promise of Machine Learning in Violent Conflict Forecasting*, 6 Data & Pol'y e27 (2024)

[28]IBM, *Sentiment Analysis: Definition and Examples*, IBM Think (2024), https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/sentiment-analysis. (Last visited on April 05, 2025)

[29] Henrik Skaug Sætra, *A Shallow Defence of a Technocracy of Artificial Intelligence: Examining the Political Harms of Algorithmic Governance in the Domain of Government*, 62 Tech. in Soc'y 101283 (2020).

negotiations, and multilateral summits by facilitating seamless communication, simulating negotiation outcomes, and recommending response strategies during crises. Tools such as AI-enhanced chat bots and negotiation assistants provide real-time information, helping diplomats coordinate more efficiently. As Raissa Muhutdinova(2025)[30] stated, this shift toward AI-driven virtual diplomacy reduces reliance on traditional, slower diplomatic channels and enhances adaptability during emergencies.

The integration of AI into diplomacy is not without serious ethical and security concerns. Algorithms trained on biased data can misrepresent foreign societies, perpetuate cultural stereotypes[31], or generate inadequate recommendation leading to diplomatic blunders. The increasing reliance on digital platforms also heightens vulnerability to cyber security threats, including hacking, surveillance, and disinformation attacks. Moreover, the complexity of AI systems often results in a lack of transparency and accountability. When automated systems suggest critical policy or negotiation decisions, it becomes difficult to trace errors or assign responsibility.

V. GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE REGULATION

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies grows their impact on international relations deepens, the question of global governance becomes increasingly urgent. The disruptive potential of AI in military, economic, and diplomatic arenas demands international frameworks that can regulate its development, usage, and consequences**.**

Several initiatives have emerged in recent years to establish international frameworks for the ethical development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Among the earliest efforts was the OECD Principles on AI (2019)**,** which advocated for responsible, transparent, and human-centred AI systems, setting a foundational benchmark for global discussions. Building upon these efforts, the European Union introduced the EU AI Act (2024), a comprehensive regulatory framework that categorises AI systems based on risk levels and enforces strict compliance measures for high-risk applications. Following this, the United Nations launched its High-Level Advisory Body on AI (2023**)**, aiming to foster a global consensus on ethical AI development aligned with human rights principles[32]. Furthermore, regional organisations like the African Union have begun drafting their own AI strategies, reflecting the increasing recognition of AI

[30] Raissa Muhutdinova, *supra* note 8, at 2.
[31] Jeffrey Dastin, *Amazon Scraps Secret AI Recruiting Tool That Showed Bias Against Women*, Reuters, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-amazon-com-jobs-automation-insight-idUSKCN1MK08G (Last visited on April. 10, 2025)
[32] Stanford University *supra* note 5, at 3.

governance as a global necessity. However, most of these frameworks emphasize voluntary guidelines rather than enforceable legal obligations, raising concerns about regulatory fragmentation as different jurisdictions pursue conflicting standards resulting the governance of AI remains fragmented.

Effective international governance of AI is obstruct by several persistent challenges such as dual-use nature of AI technologies where civilian innovations can be easily adapted for military or surveillance purposes which complicates regulatory efforts, making it difficult to distinguish from malicious applications. Strategic rivalry among major powers such as the United States, China, and Russia further impedes cooperative governance, as states are reluctant to accept international constraints that might limit their technological ambitions.[33] Cultural, ethical, and political divergences add another layer of complexity; for example, the European Union emphasises privacy and individual rights, while China prioritises state control and societal stability[34]. Additionally, the rapid pace of AI innovation consistently outstrips the ability of legal frameworks to adapt, creating governance gaps. As Ingvild Bode (2024) highlights, the absence of a global AI regulatory authority remains a major vulnerability in managing these risks[35].

A critical dimension of AI governance is data control. Access to large, high-quality datasets is essential for training effective AI systems, and nations and corporations that dominate data infrastructures secure strategic advantages. This has given rise to the concept of digital sovereignty, where countries seek greater control over their data flows to resist domination by U.S. tech giants or China's digital expansion. Instruments like the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and calls for "data freedom" reflect the growing emphasis on data rights, privacy, and security as core components of AI governance[36]. Countries in the Global South are also making strategic moves. India, for instance, has adopted a distinctive approach with its *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence* (NITI Aayog, 2018)[37], promoting AI adoption in priority sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, smart mobility, and financial services rather than focusing primarily on military applications. India's policy

[33] Dan Milmo, *Global Disunity, Energy Concerns and the Shadow of Musk: Key Takeaways from the Paris AI Summit*, The Guardian (Feb. 26, 2025, 09.35 PM), https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/feb/14/global-disunity-energy-concerns-and-the-shadow-of-musk-key-takeaways-from-the-paris-ai-summit.
[34] Amit Kumar, *National AI Policy/Strategy of India and China: A Comparative Analysis*, Res. & Info. Sys. for Developing Countries, RIS Discussion Paper Series, Discussion Paper No. 265 (2021).
[35] Ingvild Bode, *supra* note 1, at 1.
[36] Michael Butterworth, *The ICO and Artificial Intelligence: The Role of Fairness in the GDPR Framework*, 34 Comput. L. & Sec. Rev. 257 (2018).
[37] NITI Aayog, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence*, Gov't of India (2018), https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2022-01/NationalStrategy-for-AI-Discussion-Paper.pdf (Last Visited on April 18, 2025)

emphasises AI for social empowerment under the theme of "*AI for All*," aiming to drive inclusive growth while addressing ethical concerns and digital inequality. India's strategy also acknowledges the need to enhance research capabilities, develop regulatory frameworks, and ensure security, recognising that strategic neglect could leave it vulnerable amid the intensifying global AI race. Recognising these complexities, it is necessary to use cooperative approach involving not only states but also private technology firms, academic researchers, civil society groups, and international organisations such as the UN and OECD. This kind of collaboration offers the best hope for balancing innovation with ethical safeguards, ensuring that a diversity of perspectives is embedded into governance structures. To address the disruptive potential of AI it is required to move beyond soft law principles toward enforceable agreements that reflect the complexity and urgency of the digital age.

VI. ETHICAL AND NORMATIVE CONSIDERATIONS WHILE MAKING POLICY

While Artificial Intelligence (AI) promises to enhance diplomatic efficiency, strategic foresight, and global governance, it also raises profound ethical and normative challenges. These challenges question the very foundations of fairness, accountability, and justice in international relations.[38] Addressing them is crucial to ensure that AI contributes positively to global peace, security, and human development.

One of the most pressing ethical concerns surrounding the deployment of Artificial Intelligence in international relations is the issue of algorithmic bias. AI systems are only as objective as the data on which they are trained, if historical datasets reflect societal prejudices, exclusions, or inaccuracies, AI algorithms may not only reproduce but also amplify these biases. Such biases, if embedded into strategic decision-making tools, could inadvertently push states toward confrontation rather than diplomacy, thereby heightening the risk of miscalculation and conflict. Furthermore, diplomatic AI applications used to monitor public sentiments or predict behaviours may inaccurately represent marginalised communities or misunderstand non-Western political contexts if the underlying data is skewed. Addressing these challenges demands rigorous auditing protocols, transparent data governance, and inclusive algorithmic design practices.

Another critical issue is the “black box” nature of many AI systems[39]. Deep learning models often operate in ways that even their developers cannot fully interpret, making it difficult to trace the rationale behind specific decisions or predictions. In diplomatic or military contexts,

[38] Cary Coglianese & David Lehr, Transparency and Algorithmic Governance, 71 Admin. L. Rev. 1 (2018).
[39] Yavar Bathaee, *The Artificial Intelligence Black Box and the Failure of Intent and Causation*, 31 Harv. J.L. & Tech. 889 (2018).

this opacity is dangerous if an AI system recommends a particular course of action that leads to unintended or harmful consequences, questions of accountability become exceedingly complex. Without clear frameworks for responsibility whether assigned to developers, operators, or policymakers, AI risks undermining trust in diplomatic and international institutions. This concern has led to strong calls for "explainable AI" (XAI), ensuring that AI-generated recommendations remain understandable, auditable, and contestable[40]. Beyond technical transparency, there is a broader concern about the preservation of human dignity and judgment. Diplomacy, conflict resolution, and strategic decision-making demand qualities like empathy, cultural sensitivity, and moral discernment traits that AI, by its nature, cannot replicate. Over reliance on AI systems could encourage technocratic, overly rationalistic approaches that neglect the historical, cultural, and emotional nuances essential to successful international engagement. AI may optimise for short-term tactical victories without appreciating the need for long-term trust-building or historical reconciliation. Thus, maintaining human oversight is essential. AI should serve as an aid to human decision-making, not as a replacement for it. In the sphere of international relations, deep fakes pose serious threats they could be used to fabricate false declarations of war, fake peace announcements, or imitate diplomatic incidents, any of which could trigger real-world conflicts or irreparably damage public trust in international institutions. At present, international mechanisms to detect, prevent, or respond to deepfake-driven crises are minimal, highlighting an urgent need for stronger international cooperation to counter AI-driven disinformation. To truly embed ethics into AI and international relations, a multi-layered approach is necessary. Technological solutions must prioritise bias mitigation algorithms, explainable AI systems, and secure data management practices[41]. Institutional reforms are equally **vital**, including the establishment of AI ethics committees within foreign ministries, defence departments, and multilateral organisations to oversee AI deployments. At the global level, the negotiation of binding international agreements is critical to establish ethical standards governing AI use in warfare, diplomacy, and surveillance. Ethical governance must ensure that AI technologies are conceived, deployed, and monitored in ways that respect human dignity, fairness, accountability, and the overarching goal of global security[42].

[40] Center for Human Security Studies, *Artificial Intelligence and International Relations* (2025).
[41] OA. Osoba, W Welser, "*The Risks of Artificial Intelligence to Security and the Future of Work*", RAND Corporation Santa Monica, (2017)
[42] Mittelstadt BD., Allo P., et. al., *"The ethics of algorithms: Mapping the debate*", *Big* Data & Society, (2016).

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VII. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY ACROSS GLOBE

The real-world implications of AI in international relations can be better understood through examining how different regions and powers are engaging with AI. Among the most prominent examples is the strategic competition between the United States and China. Both countries have recognised AI's potential as a tool of economic, military, and political influence, and have embedded AI development into their national security strategies. The United States has focused on maintaining technological leadership through initiatives like the American AI Initiative and investments in AI military applications under the Department of Defence . Meanwhile, China's "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan" explicitly positions AI as a central component of its goal to become the world's leading technology power by 2030.[43] This intense rivalry has fuelled concerns about a destabilising AI arms race, particularly in areas like autonomous weapons and cyber operations.

Turning to Europe, the European Union (EU) offers a contrasting approach, emphasising regulatory leadership and ethical AI deployment. The EU's Artificial Intelligence Act seeks to establish comprehensive guidelines categorising AI applications by risk level and imposing strict requirements on high-risk AI systems. Rather than prioritising military dominance, Europe's focus on "trustworthy AI" highlights how governance frameworks can themselves become instruments of soft power in the emerging AI order.

Meanwhile, perspectives from the Global South reveal a different set of challenges and opportunities. Many countries in Africa, Latin America, and South Asia recognize AI's potential for economic development, enhanced governance, and improved service delivery. However, they also face significant barriers, including limited technological infrastructure, lack of investment, and concerns about digital dependency on AI systems developed by more powerful nations. Nations such as India have cautiously embraced AI, with initiatives focusing on sectors like healthcare, agriculture, and education, but strategic AI capabilities in defence and diplomacy remain underdeveloped.[44] The digital divide threatens to enlarge existing inequalities, with technologically advanced states consolidating their power while developing countries struggle to keep pace. Without inclusive AI policies and technology transfers, a form

[43] Sarah O'Meara, *"Will China Lead the World in AI by 2030?",* Nature, 572 (2019).
[44] Amit Kumar, *National AI Policy/Strategy of India and China: A Comparative Analysis*, Res. & Info. Sys. for Developing Countries, RIS Discussion Paper Series, Discussion Paper No. 265 (2021)

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of digital neo-colonialism could emerge, where the Global South becomes merely a consumer of AI technologies rather than an active participant in shaping them[45].

Thus, these studies illustrate the diversity of approaches toward AI in international relations. While the United States and China pursue competitive AI strategies for global dominance, the European Union seeks normative leadership through regulation, and the Global South grapples with leveraging AI for development amid structural constraints. Together, these dynamics reflect the complexity of managing AI's transformative impact on the global order and underscore the urgent need for more equitable, ethical, and collaborative governance models moving forward.

VIII. EXPECTED PROGRESS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN GLOBAL POLITICS

As Artificial Intelligence continues to evolve rapidly, its potential impact in area of international relations will have profound and lasting consequences for global stability, governance, and power dynamics. Several potential developments can be identified based on current trends, each presenting both opportunities and risks for the international system.

One likely trajectory is the deepening of AI-driven global power competition. As discussed earlier the strategic rivalry between the United States and China is expected to intensify, with both nations investing heavily in advanced AI research, quantum computing, and autonomous systems. The outcome of this technological race could reshape the global balance of power for decades to come. While both sides have incentives to cooperate on AI safety and ethical standards, mistrust and geopolitical tensions may hinder meaningful collaboration. If unregulated, this competition risks creating a fragmented and unstable world order, with countries aligning along AI-influenced blocs, leading to digital spheres of influence.

Alongside competition, there is also the possibility of multilateral cooperation in regulating AI technologies. International organisations like the United Nations, the OECD, and regional alliances such as the European Union are promoting frameworks to govern AI ethically and responsibly. Future diplomatic efforts may focus on developing binding treaties addressing issues such as autonomous weapons bans, deepfake regulations, AI transparency requirements, and cyber norms. While significant political challenges remain, the necessity of preventing risks associated with uncontrolled AI development may push states toward pragmatic collaboration.

Another important trend is the rising influence of non-state actors in the AI governance landscape. Tech companies, research institutions, and civil society organisations are becoming

[45] Robert Atkinson, *Digital Colonialism 2.0: How AI is Deepening Global Inequity*, LinkedIn (Apr. 10, 2025), https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/digital-colonialism-20-how-ai-deepening-global-robert-atkinson-6oxac.

central players in shaping the norms, standards, and technical pathways of AI . In many cases, companies like Google, OpenAI, and Alibaba are advancing AI capabilities faster than governments can regulate them[46]. Future global governance structures may therefore require innovative multi-stakeholder models that include not only states but also corporations and academia in meaningful ways. This democratisation of power could create opportunities for broader participation in shaping AI's future, but it also risks diffusing accountability and complicating coordination.

The normative dimension of AI development will also be crucial. Competing visions for the role of AI whether authoritarian, surveillance-based models promoted by China, or rights-respecting, citizen centred approaches recommended by the European Union will clash on the global stage. The values embedded in AI systems, such as transparency, fairness, privacy, and human dignity, will influence the future international order as much as hard power considerations. The contest over digital norms and standards could become one of the defining ideological struggles of the 21st century.

Finally, the future scope of AI in international relations will depend heavily on how humanity addresses existential risks. As experts increasingly warn, the development of highly autonomous systems especially those capable of lethal action without human oversight poses serious dangers. The possibility of AI-enabled miscalculations during crises, cyber sabotage of critical infrastructure, or even the emergence of super intelligent systems misaligned with human values, represent catastrophic threats if left unregulated. Anticipating these risks and embedding precautionary principles into AI governance frameworks is therefore an urgent imperative.

In sum, the future of AI in international relations will likely be characterised by a complex interplay of competition, cooperation, innovation, and ethical contention. Whether AI ultimately serves as a force for global empowerment, peace, and prosperity or becomes a catalyst for conflict, inequality, and instability depends on the collective choices made by states, corporations, and societies today. Navigating this uncertain future will require wisdom, foresight, and above all, a commitment to placing human values at the heart of technological progress.

[46] Ahmed Mustafa, *All Things AI: OpenAI's SearchGPT, Google's AI Integration, and the Regulatory Race*, People Matters (Apr. 25, 2025), https://www.peoplematters.in/article/technology/ai-and-chatgpt-baidus-140m-fund-jpmorgans-indexgpt-and-nvidias-trillion-dollar-triumph-and-govts-regulation-crossroads-38066.

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IX. CONCLUSION

Artificial Intelligence has moved past the domain of technological innovation and entered the very core of international relations. As this research has shown, AI is modifying how states exercise power, engage in diplomacy, construct governance frameworks, and deals with ethical dilemmas. The technological impact of AI is wide-ranging from military modernisation and economic competition to diplomatic innovation, information warfare, and global regulatory efforts. AI's dual role as both an enabler of strategic advantage and a source of profound ethical risks underscores its centrality to the evolving global order[47].

The analysis of AI's influence on the balance of power illustrates that technological supremacy now complements military and economic strength. As the United States and China engage in an intense technological rivalry, concerns mount that an AI arms race could destabilise global strategic stability[48]. Meanwhile, the European Union's normative leadership in setting ethical AI standards, and the cautious but aspirational approaches of the Global South, reflect a world grappling with how to harness AI for development without deepening inequalities[49].

In diplomacy, AI has introduced powerful tools that can augment negotiation processes, crisis management, and public diplomacy initiatives. However, it has also brought vulnerabilities, from algorithmic biases in decision-making to cyber threats and the risk of escalating disinformation campaigns through deepfake. AI's application in diplomacy demands a careful balance between embracing technological efficiencies and safeguarding the irreplaceable human elements of empathy, cultural sensitivity, and judgment.

Efforts to establish global governance mechanisms for AI remain unsupported by developed nations like US and China. Although promising initiatives like the OECD Principles on AI, the EU's AI Act, and UN advisory panels offer frameworks for ethical development, binding international regulations are still lacking. Without strong cooperation, there is a serious risk that AI's deployment will deepen existing tensions, undermine human rights, and fragment the international order into competing technological spheres.

From a concluding perspective, the unregulated use of AI in international relations hinges on some critical factors, like the balance between competition and cooperation among major powers will determine whether AI drives the world toward conflict or collaborative innovation.

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[47] A. Taeihagh, M. Ramesh et al., *Assessing the Regulatory Challenges of Emerging Disruptive Technologies*, 15 Regulation & Governance 1045 (2021).

[48] E.N. Ravizki, L. Yudhantaka & R.C.V. Wijaya, *Legal Policy on Artificial Intelligence (AI): A Comparative Study of Global Practices*, 2023 Nusantara Sci. & Tech. Proc. 330 (2023).

[49] M. Azam, *Artificial Intelligence and EU Law: Balancing Risk, Innovation and Public Good*, in *Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Rights* 85 (C. Granmar, K. Fast Lappalainen & C. Storr eds., 2019).

Secondly, the effectiveness of emerging governance frameworks in establishing enforceable ethical standards will shape AI's role in supporting or undermining global justice and equity. In addition, the commitment to maintaining human-centered values amidst technological advancement will decide whether AI becomes a tool for liberation or domination.

Ultimately, AI itself is not inherently benevolent or malevolent, it reflects the priorities, values, and governance structures established by humanity. States, international organisations, corporations, and civil society must act with foresight and responsibility to guide AI development toward serving collective human interests rather than narrow national or corporate gains[50]. In the end, navigating AI's profound implications will require a reimagining of international relations one that embraces innovation while steadfastly upholding the principles of peace, equity, dignity, and shared global stewardship.

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[50] Cath C., *Governing Artificial Intelligence: Ethical, Legal and Technical Opportunities and Challenges*, 376 Phil. Transactions Royal Soc'y A 2128 (2018).