



Artificial Intelligence and International Law: Human-Centred Approaches to the Geopolitics and Governance of LLMs

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ABSTRACT: The rapid development of large language models (LLMs) has generated both enthusiasm and concern in global governance debates. These technologies promise to accelerate legal research, facilitate cross-border cooperation, and access to justice. Yet, their global diffusion has also exposed regulatory gaps, ethical dilemmas, and geopolitical rivalries that transcend national boundaries. The contrasting approaches of the European Union's AI Act, the United States' market-driven regulation, and China's state-centric control illustrate how LLM governance is shaped not only by technical concerns but also by strategic competition. This raises a critical question: how can international law regulate and guide the use of LLMs in a manner that balances state sovereignty, ethical standards, and human rights? This article explores the intersection of artificial intelligence, international law, and geopolitics through a human-centred lens. Using a normative-comparative approach, it examines emerging legal and ethical frameworks such as the EU AI Act, UNESCO's guidelines on AI ethics, and United Nations initiatives on global AI governance. By contrasting these regimes, the study highlights both convergence and fragmentation, particularly in reconciling innovation with accountability and human dignity. The analysis suggests that while ethical principles are increasingly acknowledged, enforcement remains weak at the international level, and geopolitical rivalries hinder the establishment of coherent norms. The article concludes that international law has the potential to function as a bridge between technological innovation and universal standards of justice. Effective governance of LLMs requires embedding human-centred principles into law and fostering transnational cooperation that mitigates risks, strengthens trust, and promotes global accountability.

Keywords: Large Language Models; International Law; Artificial Intelligence Governance; Human Rights; Geopolitics.



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INTRODUCTION

The accelerating development of artificial intelligence (AI) has produced profound changes across multiple domains of global life. Among the most transformative innovations are large language models (LLMs), a subset of machine learning systems trained on vast amounts of linguistic data to generate human-like text and perform complex reasoning tasks. Unlike earlier generations of expert systems, which relied on narrowly defined rules and datasets, LLMs are capable of synthesizing, summarizing, and generating content with a degree of fluency that blurs the line between human and machine communication (Bommasani et al., 2021). These advances have expanded possibilities in education, commerce, governance, and law, raising expectations that LLMs can improve access to information, streamline legal reasoning, and enhance cross-border dialogue. Yet, the very capabilities that make LLMs valuable also expose society to a range of legal, ethical, and political challenges that demand urgent scrutiny.

The emergence of LLMs coincides with a broader debate about the governance of advanced digital technologies in an interconnected world. AI tools do not operate within confined national borders; they are deployed globally through digital infrastructures controlled by multinational corporations and shaped by varying domestic regulatory frameworks. This inherently transnational character complicates regulatory efforts. While domestic laws such as the European Union's AI Act seek to establish baseline rules for AI transparency, safety, and accountability (European Commission, 2021), such initiatives cannot fully address cross-border concerns such as jurisdictional inconsistencies, divergent standards of human rights protection, or the potential weaponization of AI in geopolitical competition (Cath, 2018). In this sense, the challenge of LLM governance is not simply a matter of technical regulation, but of reconciling diverse political and legal traditions within a fragmented international landscape.

International law has traditionally been slow to adapt to technological disruptions. The history of international regulation of cyberspace, for instance, illustrates how legal norms struggle to keep pace with innovation (Tsagourias & Buchan, 2018). In the case of LLMs, the challenges are compounded by their dual-use nature: they can be applied for beneficial purposes such as legal aid or multilingual diplomacy, but also for harmful practices such as disinformation campaigns, automated propaganda, and cyber manipulation (DiResta, 2023). This duality underscores the urgent need for legal frameworks that are agile enough to encourage innovation while also preventing misuse a balance that international law has historically found difficult to achieve (Jubaidi & Khoirunnisa, 2025)

The growing reliance on LLMs has exposed at least three pressing problems. First, there is a regulatory gap at the international level. While domestic frameworks exist in certain regions, there is no binding treaty or widely accepted global standard to regulate AI in general or LLMs in particular. The United Nations has launched discussions on AI ethics and governance, but these remain at the stage of recommendations rather than enforceable law (United Nations, 2021). Second, the ethical dilemmas raised by LLMs are formidable. Concerns about bias in training data, lack of transparency in decision-making, and the potential erosion of accountability when human decisions are replaced by machine outputs point to risks of injustice and inequality (Bender et al., 2021). Finally, there is the problem of geopolitical competition. The race for AI dominance between major powers such as the United States, China, and the European Union is not only about technological innovation but also about setting global standards that reflect divergent political values and visions of governance (Feldstein, 2021). Taken together, these issues illustrate how the governance of LLMs cannot be understood in isolation from broader questions of ethics, law, and power.

The combination of these problems creates a volatile landscape where LLMs may be regulated unevenly, potentially undermining both the protection of human rights and the stability of international order. Without a shared framework, weaker states may be disadvantaged in negotiating AI governance, and global disparities in AI capabilities may exacerbate existing inequalities in the international system. This asymmetry calls for frameworks that not only address technical risks but also promote fairness and inclusivity in the global governance of AI.

This article seeks to address these challenges by examining how human-centred approaches to AI can inform international law and governance frameworks for LLMs. A human-centred approach emphasizes the prioritization of human rights, dignity, and social justice in the design, deployment, and regulation of AI systems (Floridi et al., 2018). It resists purely technical or market-driven solutions, instead grounding governance in normative principles that can command legitimacy across diverse political and cultural contexts. By situating human values at the heart of AI governance, this approach offers a lens through which fragmented regulatory efforts can be harmonized and made more responsive to global concerns.

The specific objectives are threefold. First, to analyze how international law currently addresses or fails to address the regulation of LLMs and AI more broadly. Second, to explore the ethical imperatives of human-centred design and their applicability in legal and governance

contexts. Third, to evaluate the prospects for international cooperation in mitigating the risks of LLMs while enabling their responsible use, with attention to the diplomatic and geopolitical dimensions of AI governance. These objectives, while distinct, are closely interrelated, as progress in one area necessarily informs and reinforces the others.

The significance of this study lies in its effort to bridge three ongoing debates: innovation and technological advancement, human rights and ethics, and geopolitical competition. Too often, these debates proceed in isolation. Technologists focus on optimizing algorithms; legal scholars emphasize statutory or treaty-based regulation; and international relations analysts prioritize questions of power competition. Yet LLMs demand an integrated perspective. They are at once technological artifacts, legal subjects, and instruments of geopolitical strategy. Recognizing these overlapping dimensions is essential to avoid siloed approaches that miss the complexity of the problem.

By highlighting the role of international law as a potential mediator between competing interests, this research offers a contribution to the broader discourse on global governance. It argues that rather than viewing LLMs solely as tools of competition or innovation, states and international institutions must also recognize their implications for justice, accountability, and trust. Furthermore, it stresses that global governance of LLMs cannot succeed if it ignores ethical foundations. Without a human-centred orientation, AI governance risks being captured by dominant powers or private corporations, leading to a fragmented and unjust digital order (Yeung, 2018). In other words, the sustainability of global AI governance depends on embedding ethical principles into enforceable legal norms that can withstand geopolitical pressures.

The article also situates LLM regulation within the emerging field of AI diplomacy—the use of diplomatic tools and institutions to manage the cross-border implications of AI technologies. AI diplomacy extends beyond technical standard-setting to encompass broader questions of legitimacy, human rights, and equitable access to innovation (Hoadley & Lucas, 2021). In this regard, international law can provide the normative anchor for diplomatic negotiations by articulating shared principles that transcend national interests. Thus, diplomacy and law together can serve as complementary mechanisms for shaping a more just and accountable framework for LLM governance.

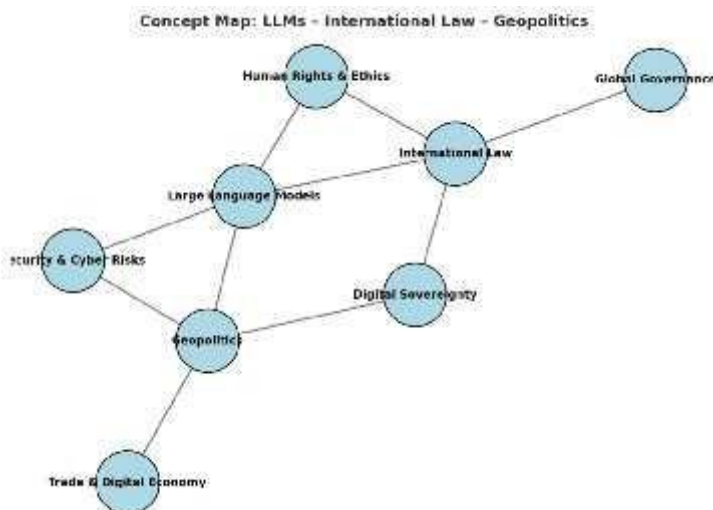
The stakes are high. If handled responsibly, LLMs can expand access to legal information, strengthen multilingual communication in international organizations, and support evidence-based policymaking. If neglected, they can fuel disinformation, deepen

inequality, and destabilize the fragile balance of power in the international system. Addressing these possibilities requires more than fragmented national legislation; it demands a genuinely global conversation grounded in international law and ethical responsibility. It is within this spirit that the present study positions itself, seeking to contribute to an evolving yet urgent dialogue on the future of AI governance.

This article, therefore, situates itself at the intersection of AI technology, international law, and global governance. It approaches LLMs not simply as technical tools but as actors that reshape the very fabric of international order. By adopting a normative-comparative method and grounding the analysis in human-centred principles, it seeks to provide a pathway for reconciling innovation with justice, and competition with cooperation. The following sections will examine existing regulatory initiatives, identify areas of fragmentation, and explore how international law can evolve to ensure that LLMs contribute not to division and domination but to a more just and accountable global order.

Accordingly, this article employs a normative-comparative approach by reviewing emerging legal and ethical frameworks—including the European Union’s AI Act, UNESCO’s ethical guidelines, and United Nations initiatives on AI governance—to assess both their convergences and limitations in shaping a coherent and human-centred global regulatory regime for LLMs.

Unlike most existing studies that examine AI governance within single jurisdictions or ethical frameworks, this article advances a normative-comparative analysis of LLM regulation across the EU, UNESCO, and UN initiatives. By integrating insights from international law, ethics, and geopolitics, it highlights the potential of a human-centred approach as a normative bridge in global AI governance. This multidimensional focus constitutes the article’s principal contribution to the literature.



Literature Review

Artificial intelligence (AI), particularly large language models (LLMs), has raised pressing questions within international law regarding accountability, liability, and transboundary governance. Current mechanisms under international law, such as human rights treaties and soft-law guidelines, provide partial frameworks but remain insufficient for regulating the global use of LLMs (Pagallo, 2020). For instance, while the EU AI Act introduces a risk-based regulatory framework, its jurisdictional reach is limited and may create regulatory fragmentation when applied in cross-border contexts (Veale & Zuiderveen Borgesius, 2021). Similarly, initiatives such as UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence offer normative guidance, but lack binding force, highlighting the gap between ethical aspirations and enforceable obligations (UNESCO, 2021). Scholars have therefore argued that international law must evolve to address emerging AI-related risks, particularly concerning human rights, non-discrimination, and access to justice (Kettemann & Tiedeke, 2020).

Building on these concerns, the notion of human-centred AI has emerged as an attempt to reconcile technological innovation with fundamental rights. This concept emphasizes designing and deploying AI systems that prioritize human agency, dignity, and accountability, thereby counterbalancing the risks of opaque algorithms and automated decision-making (Jobin et al., 2019). From a legal and ethical standpoint, human-centred approaches resonate with principles embedded in international human rights law, particularly regarding equality, privacy, and due process (Whittlestone et al., 2019). While the framework has gained traction in policy debates—most notably in the EU and OECD guidelines—its operationalization in global governance remains underexplored. Furthermore, some scholars argue that its scope should extend beyond individual rights to structural power asymmetries between states and corporations (Floridi & Cowls, 2021). In this sense, human-centred AI provides not only an ethical orientation but also a potential normative foundation for embedding AI governance within international law.

These normative debates cannot be separated from the geopolitical context in which AI governance is unfolding. Indeed, the governance of AI is increasingly shaped by strategic rivalries among the United States, China, and the European Union. The U.S. has generally adopted a market-driven, innovation-first approach, relying on industry self-regulation with limited federal oversight (Cave & ÓhÉigeartaigh, 2019). In contrast, the EU seeks to project normative leadership through its human-centric regulatory agenda, positioning itself as a global

standard-setter in AI ethics (Newman, 2020). China, meanwhile, integrates AI development into its broader strategy of technological sovereignty and digital authoritarianism, raising concerns about state-centric models of governance that prioritize national security and political control (Roberts et al., 2021). These divergent models underscore the absence of a unified global framework and highlight the role of AI as both a technological and diplomatic instrument. Increasingly, this has been conceptualized as “AI diplomacy,” where states seek to embed their normative preferences into emerging global governance regimes (Radu, 2021).

Taken together, the existing scholarship reveals progress but also notable limitations. First, much of the literature remains jurisdiction-specific, analyzing national or regional initiatives without sufficiently addressing cross-border implications (Wagner, 2022). Second, while ethical guidelines for AI abound, their integration with binding principles of international law is underdeveloped, with most works treating ethics and law as parallel rather than mutually reinforcing domains. Third, the relationship between human-centred AI and the geopolitics of AI governance remains underexplored. Few studies explicitly investigate how human-centred approaches could operate as a normative bridge in AI diplomacy, reconciling innovation with human rights and international cooperation. Addressing these gaps is therefore crucial to advancing a coherent framework that embeds ethical principles within enforceable legal mechanisms while acknowledging the geopolitical realities of AI governance.

Addressing these gaps is therefore crucial to advancing a coherent framework that embeds ethical principles within enforceable legal mechanisms while acknowledging the geopolitical realities of AI governance. In line with the introduction, this study positions itself at the intersection of LLMs, international law, and geopolitics, employing a normative–comparative approach that reviews key legal instruments such as the EU AI Act, UNESCO guidelines, and UN initiatives.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a normative–comparative legal analysis to examine the regulatory and ethical challenges posed by large language models (LLMs) within the framework of international law and global governance. The normative component emphasizes how existing legal norms ranging from binding treaties to soft-law guidelines can be interpreted and applied to AI technologies, particularly in relation to human rights, state responsibility, and accountability. The comparative dimension enables a cross-jurisdictional exploration of regulatory approaches, highlighting both convergences and divergences that shape the evolving global discourse on AI governance (Siems, 2018).

The sources of analysis are drawn from multiple levels of governance. At the international level, documents such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021), and initiatives emerging from the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Body on AI provide normative reference points. At the regional level, the European Union's AI Act offers a comprehensive and binding regulatory model, while the Council of Europe's work on AI and human rights serves as an additional framework. National strategies, particularly from the United States and China are also considered, as they influence the geopolitical dimensions of AI governance. These legal and policy texts are complemented by academic literature and think-tank reports that contextualize the broader ethical and diplomatic implications (Floridi, 2022; Wagner, 2022).

The analytical strategy proceeds in three stages. First, the study maps the regulatory landscape by identifying legal instruments and policy frameworks relevant to AI governance. Second, it compares these instruments to assess areas of convergence, such as shared commitments to human-centred AI principles, and divergence, such as competing interpretations of sovereignty and data governance. Third, it situates these findings within the context of international relations, exploring how law, ethics, and geopolitics interact in shaping the diplomacy of AI. This approach allows for a balanced evaluation of how a human-centred perspective can reconcile the tensions between innovation, rights protection, and geopolitical competition in global governance (Abbott & Snidal, 2000).

By combining normative and comparative methods, this research not only identifies the strengths and weaknesses of existing frameworks but also underscores the importance of embedding ethical considerations and human rights into the evolving global order for AI.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Global Governance and Regulatory Gaps

The rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly large language models (LLMs), has outpaced existing international legal frameworks, creating significant governance gaps. Unlike domains such as nuclear energy or international aviation, where global treaties provide clear legal standards, the regulation of AI remains fragmented and largely dependent on national or regional initiatives (Crootof, 2022). This regulatory pluralism has led to inconsistencies in how states conceptualize risk, human rights safeguards, and accountability mechanisms, resulting in a patchwork regime that complicates the pursuit of universal governance.

At the global level, efforts to establish common frameworks remain limited. The United Nations has initiated discussions through the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and the establishment of the High-Level Advisory Body on AI. However, these initiatives remain at the stage of principles rather than binding obligations (United Nations, 2023). Similarly, UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence provides the most comprehensive global soft law instrument, yet its non-binding nature raises questions about enforceability (UNESCO, 2021). These developments highlight the tension between the need for universal standards and the reality of state sovereignty and divergent regulatory philosophies.

Regional frameworks have advanced more quickly but are marked by significant divergence. The European Union's AI Act positions itself as a global standard-setter, adopting a risk-based regulatory model that emphasizes human rights and consumer protection (Floridi, 2023). By contrast, China's regulatory approach is anchored in state control, emphasizing security, censorship, and social stability, reflecting its governance philosophy and strategic priorities (Ding, 2022). The United States, meanwhile, has relied on a sectoral and market-driven model, where innovation is prioritized over comprehensive regulation, although recent executive orders signal a shift toward greater federal oversight (Kerry & Park, 2023). This divergence illustrates how geopolitical rivalries shape the global governance of AI, with each major power projecting its regulatory vision as part of a broader competition for technological leadership.

The ethical challenges of creating universally acceptable standards are equally significant. Norms such as transparency, accountability, and fairness have been endorsed in principle by most states, but their operationalization varies widely. For instance, transparency in the EU context requires explainability of AI decisions, while in China, it is framed primarily around traceability and state oversight (Zeng et al., 2023). These conceptual differences make convergence difficult, particularly when values such as freedom of expression, privacy, and human dignity are interpreted differently across jurisdictions.

The absence of a binding international treaty on AI governance further exacerbates the regulatory gap. Without clear mechanisms for enforcement, soft law instruments risk remaining aspirational. This fragmentation not only creates compliance uncertainty for global technology companies but also undermines efforts to address cross-border risks such as algorithmic bias, disinformation, and potential misuse of LLMs for cyber operations. In this context, the pursuit of a human-centred governance approach becomes essential for bridging normative divides,

ensuring that technological innovation does not erode fundamental rights while promoting international cooperation.

2. Human-Centred AI in International Law

The debate on artificial intelligence (AI) within the realm of international law increasingly underscores the importance of adopting a human-centred approach. This perspective rests on the premise that technological innovation, particularly large language models (LLMs), cannot be divorced from fundamental values such as human dignity, justice, and accountability. In this sense, global regulation of AI must move beyond economic imperatives or geopolitical competition and instead prioritize human rights protection and inclusive ethical governance (Floridi & Cowls, 2021).

One entry point for understanding the integration of human-centred principles is to examine how different international normative frameworks address the ethical challenges posed by AI. The European Union's AI Act, for example, adopts a risk-based classification system that designates "high-risk AI systems" and subjects them to strict requirements of safety, transparency, and non-discrimination (Veale & Borgesius, 2021). This regulatory model reflects Europe's normative orientation toward individual protection, embedding fairness and accountability into binding regional legal instruments and situating human dignity as the foundation of technological governance.

By contrast, the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021) adopts a broader ethical vision rooted in global solidarity. The Recommendation emphasizes social justice, openness, and environmental protection, explicitly linking AI to the pursuit of sustainable development. Unlike the EU's legally enforceable framework, UNESCO advances soft-law norms designed to guide member states in shaping domestic policies. This highlights the organization's role in fostering inclusive value frameworks at the global level, even in the absence of binding obligations.

The United Nations has also begun to recognize AI not merely as a technological issue but as a challenge of global governance. Initiatives such as Our Common Agenda (UN, 2021) and the establishment of the High-Level Advisory Body on AI in 2023 demonstrate a growing consensus that principles of responsibility and human security must be central to AI governance. Although these initiatives remain at an early stage, they signal the potential emergence of international norms with greater binding force in the future (UN Secretary-General, 2023).

Taken together, these frameworks suggest both the promise and the limits of embedding human-centred principles into international law. A key difficulty lies in regime fragmentation, which makes universal principles difficult to apply consistently. For instance, while the EU mandates risk audits and non-discrimination testing, many states in Asia and Africa continue to emphasize innovation and economic growth with less robust oversight of individual rights (Calo, 2022). Power asymmetries further complicate matters, as the United States and China tend to advance regulatory models aligned with strategic flexibility and geopolitical interests, diverging from the EU's normative approach.

Even so, the human-centred paradigm retains potential as a normative bridge between fragmented regimes. Human dignity, for example, could serve as a universally recognized foundational principle, akin to *jus cogens* norms in human rights law. Accountability might be operationalized through cross-border mechanisms, including global transparency reports or multilateral monitoring bodies. Likewise, the principle of fairness could help mitigate algorithmic bias and ensure protection of vulnerable groups, combining the EU's legal rigor with UNESCO's participatory ethos.

Ultimately, integrating human-centred AI into international law will require more proactive "AI diplomacy." States must negotiate minimum ethical standards that command universal acceptance while leaving space for local adaptation. Such efforts would reframe global AI governance not merely as a theatre of geopolitical competition, but as an opportunity to strengthen international solidarity in addressing complex technological challenges.

3. Geopolitical Dimensions of AI Diplomacy

Artificial intelligence (AI), particularly large language models (LLMs), has become not only a technological breakthrough but also a strategic domain of geopolitical competition. Unlike earlier waves of technological rivalry, such as nuclear weapons or space exploration, AI is deeply intertwined with economic competitiveness, societal governance, and global security. This reality has prompted the United States, China, and the European Union (EU) to engage in what can be termed "AI diplomacy"—efforts to shape international norms, standards, and governance frameworks in a way that reflects their respective values and interests (Allan et al., 2022).

The United States positions itself as a global leader in AI innovation, driven by its dominant private sector actors such as OpenAI, Google DeepMind, and Microsoft. Washington's strategy emphasizes maintaining technological superiority while promoting an open, market-driven ecosystem. However, the U.S. also faces a dilemma: balancing innovation

leadership with the need to address ethical concerns and international calls for regulation (Zeng et al., 2021). In practice, American diplomacy on AI often prioritizes voluntary principles and multi-stakeholder governance models, resisting binding international treaties that might constrain its technological edge (Cave & Dignum, 2019).

China, in contrast, has framed AI as central to its national development and global influence, encapsulated in the New Generation AI Development Plan launched in 2017. Beijing integrates AI diplomacy with its broader foreign policy, positioning itself as an advocate of “technological sovereignty” and state-led governance models (Roberts et al., 2021). At the international level, China actively participates in UN initiatives on AI ethics and promotes South–South cooperation, presenting its approach as a counterbalance to Western dominance. However, critics argue that China’s emphasis on state control and security raises concerns about surveillance, censorship, and the erosion of universal human rights standards (Mozur, 2022).

The European Union occupies a distinctive position by advancing a “regulatory power” strategy through instruments such as the AI Act. Unlike the U.S. and China, the EU does not seek to dominate in AI innovation; rather, it leverages normative authority by setting legally binding standards that reflect its values of human dignity, privacy, and democratic accountability (Floridi, 2021). This approach reflects the EU’s tradition of “normative power Europe” in international relations, where the Union seeks influence by exporting legal and ethical frameworks rather than military or technological dominance (Manners, 2002). The EU’s attempt to internationalize its AI regulations, including through partnerships with the OECD and UNESCO, highlights its ambition to shape global governance structures in a human-centred direction.

The interplay between these three actors creates a fragmented global landscape. The U.S. and China’s rivalry risks bifurcating the digital world into competing spheres of influence, with differing technical standards and governance models. Meanwhile, the EU seeks to bridge these divides by offering an alternative based on ethical regulation. Yet, the diffusion of these models is uneven. For example, while some states in the Global South have welcomed Chinese infrastructure investments in digital technologies, others align more closely with Western regulatory frameworks due to trade ties or normative affinities (Kiggins, 2021).

The Global South occupies a crucial, albeit often overlooked, position in AI diplomacy. Many developing countries face technological dependency, lacking the resources to develop domestic AI industries or to meaningfully shape international standards. This dependency

creates vulnerabilities, as states may adopt AI systems without adequate safeguards for human rights or democratic accountability (West & Allen, 2018). At the same time, the Global South is not a passive actor. Coalitions within forums such as UNESCO, the G77, and the African Union increasingly demand more inclusive governance structures that address issues of inequality, capacity building, and technology transfer (Taylor, 2020).

Diplomacy in the AI era thus mirrors broader patterns of international relations, where technological standards become instruments of soft power and influence. The struggle is not merely about who builds the most advanced systems, but also about whose values and norms underpin the governance of those systems. A key challenge is whether human-centred principles—such as dignity, fairness, and accountability—can serve as common ground across divergent geopolitical agendas. Without such convergence, the risk remains that AI governance will deepen global divides rather than promote shared progress.

In this sense, AI diplomacy is both an arena of rivalry and an opportunity for cooperation. While competition among the U.S., China, and the EU often dominates headlines, there are instances of convergence, such as shared concerns over safety, transparency, and the prevention of harmful misuse. Multilateral forums, including the UN's efforts to establish a global AI advisory body, represent potential venues for bridging gaps. However, their effectiveness will depend on reconciling power asymmetries and ensuring meaningful participation from states beyond the traditional centers of AI power.

In conclusion, the geopolitical dimensions of AI diplomacy underscore the dual character of technology as both a driver of rivalry and a platform for cooperation. The United States, China, and the European Union each promote distinct visions of AI governance that reflect their political economies and normative traditions. Meanwhile, the Global South faces structural challenges but also has agency to demand more equitable governance structures. Whether the emerging global framework for AI will be inclusive, human-centred, and ethically grounded depends on how these competing forces interact in the coming decade.

4. Towards a Human-Centred Global Framework

Meskipun berbagai inisiatif telah muncul di tingkat regional maupun global, hingga kini belum terdapat satu kerangka tata kelola yang benar-benar menyatukan prinsip etika dengan kebutuhan inovasi teknologi. Tantangan utama terletak pada bagaimana hukum internasional dapat memainkan peran sebagai jembatan yang tidak hanya mengatur penggunaan Artificial Intelligence (AI), tetapi juga memastikan bahwa nilai-nilai kemanusiaan tetap menjadi fondasi dalam pengembangan Large Language Models (LLMs).

Hukum internasional memiliki tradisi panjang dalam merumuskan norma-norma universal yang melintasi batas negara, seperti dalam rezim hak asasi manusia dan hukum humaniter. Tradisi ini dapat dijadikan titik pijak untuk mengintegrasikan prinsip-prinsip human dignity, fairness, dan accountability ke dalam tata kelola AI. Dengan demikian, kerangka hukum internasional dapat berfungsi ganda: pertama, memberikan legitimasi terhadap prinsip etika yang bersifat universal; kedua, menyediakan mekanisme akuntabilitas yang dapat diterapkan lintas yurisdiksi (UNESCO, 2021; Wagner, 2023).

Salah satu pendekatan yang menjanjikan adalah mengadopsi kerangka human-centred AI sebagai standar global yang diakui bersama. Model ini tidak bertujuan untuk menyeragamkan secara kaku regulasi di semua negara, melainkan menciptakan kesepakatan normatif minimum. Hal ini sejalan dengan gagasan pluralistic governance, di mana sistem internasional dapat menampung keragaman nilai, namun tetap berpegang pada prinsip inti yang melindungi martabat manusia (Floridi & Cowls, 2021). Dengan cara ini, hukum internasional berfungsi sebagai arena kompromi antara kebutuhan inovasi negara maju dan tuntutan perlindungan dari negara berkembang.

Dalam konteks diplomasi AI, arena multilateral menjadi krusial. Forum seperti Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa (PBB), G20, dan UNESCO dapat berperan sebagai ruang negosiasi standar etika global. Proses ini mencerminkan dinamika konstruktif dalam hubungan internasional, di mana norma dan wacana dibentuk melalui interaksi antaraktor, bukan semata oleh distribusi kekuasaan (Finnemore & Sikkink, 1998). Melalui diplomasi AI, negara-negara dapat membangun konsensus mengenai batasan penggunaan LLMs, termasuk dalam isu-isu sensitif seperti deepfake, surveillance, atau penggunaan AI untuk kepentingan militer.

Selain itu, kerangka human-centred juga membuka peluang bagi Global South untuk berperan lebih aktif. Negara-negara berkembang sering kali diposisikan hanya sebagai konsumen teknologi, bukan pembentuk norma. Namun, dalam tata kelola AI, mereka dapat memperjuangkan kepentingan yang berkaitan dengan kesenjangan digital, transfer teknologi, dan perlindungan terhadap eksploitasi data. Kehadiran Global South dalam diplomasi AI dapat memperluas basis legitimasi rezim global sekaligus mencegah dominasi narasi tunggal dari blok besar seperti Amerika Serikat, Tiongkok, atau Uni Eropa (Smuha, 2021).

Dengan demikian, arah menuju kerangka global yang berpusat pada manusia mensyaratkan tiga pilar utama. Pertama, harmonisasi norma etika dengan instrumen hukum internasional yang sudah ada, sehingga prinsip human dignity dan accountability memiliki

landasan hukum yang jelas. Kedua, pembentukan mekanisme diplomasi multilateral yang inklusif, di mana setiap negara memiliki ruang untuk menyuarakan kepentingannya. Ketiga, penguatan kapasitas Global South agar mampu berpartisipasi aktif dalam perumusan standar, bukan sekadar mengikuti.

Secara keseluruhan, hukum internasional berpotensi menjadi instrumen yang tidak hanya mengatur AI, tetapi juga menegosiasikan keseimbangan antara inovasi teknologi dan perlindungan hak asasi manusia. Dengan mengintegrasikan pendekatan human-centred AI ke dalam rezim global, tata kelola AI dapat bergerak ke arah yang lebih adil, berkelanjutan, dan inklusif. Diplomasi AI pada akhirnya tidak hanya menjadi ajang perebutan standar, tetapi juga sarana kolektif untuk memastikan bahwa perkembangan teknologi tetap berpihak pada kemanusiaan.

This analysis ultimately demonstrates that a coherent governance of LLMs requires the integration of a normative–comparative legal method, constructivist insights from international relations, and a human-centred approach, providing a solid foundation for developing inclusive and effective international frameworks such as the EU AI Act, UNESCO’s Recommendation on AI Ethics, and UN-led initiatives.

CONCLUSION

This study set out to examine the evolving challenges and opportunities of regulating large language models (LLMs) within the framework of international law, ethics, and global governance. The findings suggest that current regulatory efforts remain fragmented across jurisdictions, often reflecting divergent political, economic, and cultural priorities rather than a unified normative framework. While ethical principles such as transparency, fairness, accountability, and human dignity are widely endorsed in global discussions, they are more often aspirational than enforceable, leaving significant gaps between policy declarations and actual regulatory implementation. Furthermore, geopolitical rivalry, particularly between the United States, China, and the European Union continues to complicate consensus-building, as each actor pursues regulatory models aligned with its strategic interests and values.

The implications of these findings are twofold. First, international law has the potential to function as a bridging mechanism, harmonizing fragmented regulatory landscapes and offering a common platform where ethical values and legal obligations can converge. In particular, embedding human-centred principles into treaty-making and soft law instruments could strengthen both legitimacy and compliance in AI governance. Second, recognizing the agency of the Global South is crucial, as these countries often serve as testing grounds for

technological deployment yet remain underrepresented in regulatory negotiations. Failure to include these voices risks deepening asymmetries of technological dependence and exacerbating global inequality.

Against this backdrop, three key recommendations emerge. First, there is a pressing need to reinforce inclusive and transnational governance structures, such as a multilateral treaty framework or a specialized UN agency dedicated to AI, ensuring equitable participation across regions. Second, regulatory initiatives should be explicitly grounded in human rights law, making dignity, fairness, and accountability non-negotiable principles rather than optional guidelines. Third, AI diplomacy must be strengthened as a forum for dialogue and negotiation, where states, international organizations, private actors, and civil society can collectively define norms that balance innovation with the protection of fundamental human values.

These conclusions reinforce the value of a normative-comparative legal approach combined with constructivist insights, ensuring that global AI governance frameworks such as the EU AI Act, UNESCO's AI Ethics Recommendation, and UN initiatives are critically assessed and adapted to diverse geopolitical realities.

In conclusion, moving towards a human-centred global framework for AI governance requires not only technical regulation but also a normative commitment to justice, equity, and shared responsibility. International law, though imperfect and contested, remains one of the few instruments capable of anchoring such a framework in legitimacy and universality. By advancing inclusive diplomacy and embedding human dignity at the core of regulatory design, the international community can better align the transformative potential of LLMs with the broader goals of sustainable and rights-respecting global governance

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