

# OECD Expert Group on AI Futures

AI has pervasive, far-reaching and global implications that are transforming societies, economic sectors and the world of work, and are likely to increasingly do so in the future.

- [OECD AI Principles](#)

While Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy discussions often cover existing AI challenges, the long-term implications of rapidly advancing AI systems remain largely unknown. Experts raise a wide range of **potential future risks** from AI, some of which are already manifesting in various ways. These potential risks include bias, discrimination, surveillance, lack of accountability, untrustworthy AI systems deployed in critical infrastructure, job displacement, and mass manipulation, among others. More generally, many experts are concerned about the ability to ensure increasingly general AI systems are safe and aligned with human values, prevent the misuse of advanced AI systems, and address other negative societal impacts. **Future benefits** of AI may be just as great, with the potential to address complex issues, improve health and education outcomes, and accelerate scientific progress. Future-focused activities, such as strategic foresight exercises, are critical to better understand AI's possible long-term impacts and proactively seize potential benefits and manage prospective risks to avoid future harm.

The OECD [Expert Group on AI Futures](#) aims to address these challenges by providing insights into the possible futures of AI and equipping governments with the knowledge and tools necessary to develop forward-looking AI policies. More specifically, the group provides insights on:

- Key milestones for possible future developments in advanced AI systems.
- Potential medium to long-term benefits and risks of AI.
- Suggested policy approaches and solutions to actively shape plausible AI futures to maximise benefits and mitigate risk.
- Future trajectories and considerations for present-day AI systems, such as generative AI.
- Best practices in AI safety.

In addition, the group considers the possible long-term advent of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), the stage at which AI systems could exceed human-level intelligence across a broad spectrum of activities. While views differ on the likelihood and timing of AGI, there is broad consensus among experts that the possibility of AGI should be planned for, and its risks mitigated well ahead of its development.

By engaging with policy makers, experts and partners from all stakeholder groups, the OECD is working to ensure governments are well-prepared for the future of AI. This work advances the OECD's mission to help implement the [OECD AI Principles](#), the world's first intergovernmental standards on AI.

The Expert Group on AI Futures is co-chaired by:

- [Stuart Russell](#), Professor of Computer Science, University of California, Berkeley.
- [Francesca Rossi](#), IBM Fellow and AI Ethics Global Leader, IBM
- [Michael Schönstein](#), Head of Strategic Foresight and Analysis; Policy Lab Digital, Work & Society; Germany.

## Broader context

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ([OECD](#)) is an international organisation with 38 member countries that works to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-

being of people around the world. Decision-making at the OECD is led by the OECD [Council](#), which oversees a number of Committees that bring together countries to share experiences, review policy actions, and propose solutions. Each Committee has one or more Working Parties under its purview focused on examining policy issues in specific subject domains. An OECD [Secretariat](#) carries out the day-to-day work of the OECD. It is comprised of directorates and divisions that provide input and analysis for the Committees and their Working Parties.

Consistent with this overall [structure](#), the Committee on Digital Economy Policy ([CDEP](#)) is comprised of delegates from OECD member and partner countries to examine issues related to digitalisation and innovation. Under CDEP, the Working Party on Artificial Intelligence Governance ([AIGO](#)) is the official body examining AI policy issues and trends, charged with helping governments implement the [OECD AI Principles](#). AIGO gives direction to the Secretariat's [OECD.AI Policy Observatory](#), which conducts analysis and builds international dialogue to support AIGO's mission. The Observatory operates under the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation ([STI](#)) and its Digital Economy Policy Division ([DEP](#)).

To advise AIGO and the OECD.AI Policy Observatory in an informal capacity, the OECD.AI Network of Experts on AI ([ONE AI](#)) was formed in 2020. It provides AI-specific expertise and advice about policy, technical, societal and business topics. Much of these efforts centre around a handful of expert groups, currently comprised of groups on [AI risk and accountability](#), [AI incidents](#), [AI compute and climate](#), [AI futures](#). Particular to the Expert Group on AI Futures, this group is created and operated in partnership alongside the OECD [Strategic Foresight Unit](#), part of the OECD Office of the Secretary General.

## Working methods and outputs

The Expert Group on AI Futures meets for 90 minutes every six to eight weeks. In general, meetings are held virtually, but there may be opportunities for in-person or hybrid meetings. Unless otherwise specifically discussed, all meetings will be held under the [Chatham House Rule](#).

Each meeting will be facilitated by the co-chairs and will address topics that the OECD.AI Policy Observatory team and co-chairs will propose to group members in advance. These topics may be selected based on a number of factors, including the OECD programme of work, emerging political and societal events and trends, and preferences from the expert group members.

The approach to the meetings will include a mix of facilitated discussion on the topics at hand, as well as specific strategic foresight methods (e.g., scenarios development and exploration) to help the group to imagine and respond to different potential futures.

Group members may be asked to participate in other activities to help advance relevant OECD workstreams. Such activities may include reviewing draft meeting summaries and reports relevant to group outputs, or completing questionnaires to help the OECD to inform and prioritise related initiatives. The OECD will strive to minimise the burden of these activities for group members.

The expert group will inform several known OECD outputs; however, the potential also exists for new ideas for other outputs to be generated organically from the group. In addition, the overall message and substance of the known outputs is open to group input. The known outputs consist of:

- A published summary of each Expert Group meeting (non-attributed).
- A stocktaking on existing AI futures research and expert opinion, incorporating Expert Group views.
- A report as part of the OECD programme on AI in Work, Innovation, Productivity, and Skills ([WIPS](#)).
- A capstone report synthesizing the findings from the Expert Group into an overarching narrative, set of conclusions on potential risks and governance opportunities for future developments in AI, and a set of policy recommendations.