

Future of GPAI and the GPAI Secretariat: Integrated Partnership on AI with the OECD, under the GPAI Brand

Concept note, 3 December 2024

Overview

1. It is proposed that a new integrated partnership on AI be created between all current OECD and GPAI members, under the GPAI brand. It would leverage the synergies and complementarities between GPAI and the OECD's work programme on AI, facilitate inclusive participation at both the governance and expert levels, and promote more efficient processes, reducing costs and duplication. The integrated partnership would bring together GPAI and OECD countries on an equal footing (collectively, "the integrated partnership membership") and would allow more countries to join subject to agreement by consensus of the full integrated partnership membership. The integrated partnership would consist of a Council, a Plenary, a Steering Group and an Expert Community. A Secretariat at the OECD ("the Secretariat") would be dedicated to supporting the partnership, including all its governing bodies and chairs.
2. The integrated partnership would benefit from established OECD practices for planning and convening meetings, including Ministerial meetings, management of the expert community, communications and all other operations, and would operate under the OECD's rules of procedure, including for overall budgeting and execution of the programme of work.
3. The integrated partnership may decide by consensus on its specific working methods, based on the equal footing of all of its members irrespective of their OECD membership status.

Structure

4. The integrated partnership would include a governance layer and an expert layer.

Governance layer

5. The governance layer would draw on the existing structures in both GPAI and the OECD, and would include:

i) Plenary	
What	<p>The Plenary would be the primary working body of the integrated partnership. It would meet at least twice a year, in person, with remote participation available. Meetings could take place in a member country or at OECD headquarters. The Plenary would undertake the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Discuss topics of AI governance and policy▪ Develop, endorse, and oversee the implementation of the programme of work and budget▪ Decide on new members▪ Review, comment, approve and declassify the work of the integrated partnership. This would include, but not be limited to, policy work such as analysis, reports, guidance documents and frameworks.
Who	<p>The Plenary would be comprised of all members of the integrated partnership on equal footing. Its chair or co-chair (see proposed transitional arrangements) would be designated annually by consensus of the Plenary. The Chair of the Council (see below) will also chair (or co-chair) the Plenary and the Steering Group. The following stakeholder groups would participate as observers (i.e. contribute to the discussions but without decision-making powers): business,</p>

	<p>civil society, trade unions, technical community, the Expert Support Centres in France, Canada and Japan, and co-chairs of the expert working groups.</p> <p>Countries outside the membership and other intergovernmental organisations may also participate as observers, as decided by consensus of the Plenary and in line with OECD rules.</p>
Procedural aspects	<p>Integrated partnership members and the chair or co-chairs will be consulted in the scheduling of Plenary meetings. Meetings would be announced and convened by the Secretariat of the integrated partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decisions will be taken by consensus either during the sessions or by written procedure in between sessions. ▪ Documents for discussion at the meetings will be made available to delegates three weeks in advance. ▪ Meetings of the plenary may be conducted in English or French with simultaneous interpretation provided for both languages. ▪ Activities (including meetings, workshops, surveys, documents) would be governed by OECD financial regulations and OECD data protection rules. ▪ Outputs approved and declassified by the Plenary would include the “GPAI” branding and be published with the GPAI and OECD logos on a GPAI webpage hosted by the OECD and administered by the Secretariat.
Transitional measures	<p>Subject to agreement on the operational details, the following arrangements are envisaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The integrated partnership Plenary will hold its first official meeting in the Fall of 2024. ▪ For the remainder of 2024, the Plenary will be co-chaired by India (current GPAI Lead Chair) and the Slovak Republic (Chair of the OECD Working Party on AI Governance (AIGO)). ▪ In 2025, the Plenary will be co-chaired by Serbia (GPAI Incoming Chair in 2024) and a co-chair that will be designated from the Plenary at its Fall 2024 meeting. ▪ As of 2025, the Plenary will be invited to designate at its last meeting every year its chair or co-chairs for the following year, from among the integrated partnership member countries and the EU.

ii) Steering Group	
What	The Steering Group would support the integrated partnership in preparing proposals and decisions for the Plenary to advance the programme of work and budget (including agendas, membership, work programme) through frequent meetings (e.g., once a month) between Plenary meetings. The Steering Group would be non-decisional.
Who	The Steering Group would be comprised of a subset of interested member countries and the EU and the abovementioned stakeholder groups, including the GPAI Expert Support Centres, and the co-chairs of the expert community’s working groups. They may all propose agenda items including projects for consideration and discussion. The Steering Group would be designated annually by the Plenary.
Procedural aspects	The Steering Group would be convened by the Secretariat. The chair or co-chairs of the Plenary would also chair/co-chair the Steering Group.

Transitional measures	<p>Subject to concurrence on the operational details, the following arrangements are envisaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For the remainder of 2024 the Steering Group would be comprised of countries currently on the GPAI Steering Committee and the current AIGO Bureau members¹, as well as one representative from each of the Expert Support Centres,² and the co-chairs of the GPAI and ONE AI expert/working groups.³ ▪ At its Fall 2024 meeting, the Plenary would designate the Steering Group of the integrated partnership that would serve in 2025. For 2025, this list will include Serbia and a co-chair as designated from the Plenary at its Fall 2024 meeting (see above). ▪ As of 2025, at the last meeting of every year, the Plenary would designate the Steering Group for the following year. This will include the annually designated chair. ▪ The participation of the co-chairs of expert/working groups would be adjusted as needed to reflect developments in the organisation of the expert/working groups (see below).
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iii) Council	
What	Meetings of the Council provide high-level direction to the programme of work and endorse outputs and decisions of the Plenary (e.g. welcoming new members, launching reports or other outputs). It is envisioned that the Council would adopt a statement or declaration at its annual meeting.
Who	<p>The Council would be a meeting of the membership of the integrated partnership at a Ministerial level. The Council meeting would also include the same stakeholder groups as the Plenary, at senior level.</p> <p>The chair or co-chairs of the Plenary will also host⁴ and chair/co-chair the Council.</p>
Procedural aspects	<p>The Secretariat of the integrated partnership will organise the Council meeting in cooperation with the Chair, the Steering Group and the Plenary.</p> <p>While it is envisioned that the Council would meet annually, the frequency can be adjusted by members and according to budget and available resources.</p> <p>Meetings of the Council are not included in the regular budget of the inclusive partnership. It is expected that the Council Chair would bear the costs of hosting the meeting whether in their home country or at the OECD. Other financial arrangements are possible.</p>
Transitional measures	In 2024, the current GPAI chair (India) has proposed to host an exceptional Council meeting in July. The current incoming chair of GPAI (Serbia) would chair the Council meeting in Q4 2024. Beginning in 2025, the chair or co-chairs of the Plenary will also host and chair/co-chair the Council.

¹ GPAI Steering Committee: India, Japan, Serbia, United Kingdom, United States. AIGO Bureau: Slovak Republic, Canada, Colombia, European Union, Germany, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Türkiye, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

² CEIMIA, INRIA, NICT. No arrangements are currently envisioned for creating new expert support centres however this could be considered at a later time.

³ Currently: GPAI: responsible AI; data governance; future of work; innovation and commercialization. ONE AI: AI data and privacy; AI index; AI risk & accountability; AI futures; AI incidents; compute & climate.

⁴ The hosting of the Council means bearing the cost of holding the Council meeting, whether in the home country of the chair/co-chair or in Paris at the OECD Headquarters.

iv) **Membership in the governance layer**

- At its launch, the integrated partnership would include all current GPAI and OECD countries on an equal footing, noting that all OECD Members and GPAI members have either adhered to the OECD Recommendation on AI or the principles drawn verbatim therefrom and set out in Annex A to the existing GPAI Terms of Reference.
- Equal footing means there will be no distinctions or disparities between members in any aspect of the operation of the integrated partnership. This applies to all discussions and decision-making by the integrated partnership including but not limited to the development and execution of the programme of work, any governance processes or activities of the integrated partnership, as well as membership and observership in the integrated partnership. Arrangements are currently being put in place for nationals of all members of the integrated partnership to be eligible to be recruited, following a merit-based selection process, to serve as Secretariat officials supporting the work programme of the integrated partnership.
- Membership would be fully open to other countries by consensus on the basis of agreed conditions such as a commitment to the shared values reflected in the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence by adherence thereto.
- Other forms of country participation, beyond membership, would be possible subject to the decision of the integrated partnership membership, in line with OECD rules. For example, the GPAI Council can invite agreed countries to participate at the Ministerial level to discuss specific themes or topics of mutual interest. This would allow the integrated partnership to be inclusive beyond full membership.

Expert layer

6. The expert layer aims to facilitate inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement to support the programme of work of the integrated partnership and inform the governance layer via meaningful, continuous exchanges between governments and experts, through Plenary discussions and the Steering Group, and by informing and providing input on proposed outputs, and dedicated events (e.g. workshops) (see workflow below). The expert layer of the integrated partnership would consist of an expert community as follows:

i) Overview of the expert community	
What	<p>The expert community would consist of an informal group of AI experts from government, business, academia, and civil society that provides AI-specific policy, research and technical advice to the integrated partnership. The expert community would provide an international venue for in-depth discussions about shared AI policy, research and technical opportunities and challenges. It would provide the integrated partnership with “on the ground” perspective and expertise on AI and serve as a forum to share information with other international initiatives and organisations. The community would raise emerging issues related to trustworthy AI, particularly when international cooperation is useful.</p> <p>The programme of work and budget of the integrated partnership would both guide and be informed by the work of experts. Continuous exchanges will ensure that the work programme remains relevant and addresses new issues. Experts would participate in working groups of the expert community that are undertaking projects in line with the programme of work and budget.</p>
Who	<p>AI experts from many sectors, disciplines and backgrounds including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ AI policy experts from national governments, international organisations, other institutions and the private sector. Expert community participants from national governments are often

	<p>AI policy experts in charge of coordinating, designing and implementing national AI strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AI technical experts, such as researchers, computer scientists, engineers etc. ▪ Experts from social sciences and humanities, such as experts in AI-related legal and ethical issues <p>Expert Support Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paris ▪ Montreal ▪ Tokyo <p>National AI Institutes (see below)</p>
How	<p>The expert community would be formed by a merger of the current GPAI Multistakeholder Experts Group (MEG) and the OECD ONE AI expert network and their existing expert/working groups into a single expert community of the integrated partnership. Experts would be nominated by members of the integrated partnership. Experts may also be invited to participate by the Secretariat, to ensure broad representation in terms of disciplines, stakeholders, regions and gender balance in the expert community of the integrated partnership.</p> <p>Nominations for participants in the expert community would be on a rolling basis and according to the programme of work and the needs of the integrated partnership. It is not envisioned to have time limits on the participation of experts in the community.</p>
Procedural aspects	<p>The expert community would be overseen by all members of the integrated partnership and coordinated by the Secretariat to ensure meaningful interaction between experts and policymakers. To facilitate engagement and co-operation between policymakers and experts, the working groups would be represented via their (co-)chairs as institutional stakeholders in the Plenary and Steering Group. Projects and outputs developed by the expert community could be taken up by the Plenary and, if approved and declassified by the Plenary, would be published with the GPAI and OECD logos.</p>
Transitional measures	<p>Subject to concurrence on the operational details, the following arrangements are envisaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All experts currently participating in the GPAI MEG and ONE.AI would be contacted to inform them on the creation of the integrated partnership. ▪ The Secretariat, in consultation with the Steering Group, would assess the structure of the expert community to make any adjustment needed to account for the integration (e.g. identify gaps and duplication). ▪ The working groups will commence (resume) their meetings in September. ▪ An update on the work of the Expert Community would be provided to the Plenary before the end of 2024.

ii) Expert Support Centres (ESCs)	
What	<p>The ESCs would be represented across the governance layer of the integrated partnership, and may take an active role in shaping and implementing its workplan through their participation in the Steering Group and Plenary.</p>

Who	A core part of the expert community, the ESCs are nationally funded AI-focused entities in three countries: Canada (CEIMIA), France (Inria) and Japan (NICT).
Procedural aspects	The ESCs would each have a seat on the Steering Group and would each be represented in the Plenary as observers. Based on the process outlined in annex A, the ESCs may propose practical projects as appropriate for the consideration of the Plenary and lead initiatives, such as the proposed Lab, Incubator, and Academy, and innovation workshops to support the implementation of the workplan through concrete cooperation projects that may also involve other stakeholder communities. To be branded GPAI, outputs/outcomes would need to be reviewed and approved by the Plenary.

iii) National AI Institutes	
What	Public research organisations or private not-for-profit institutes with significant research activity in the field of artificial intelligence, demonstrating their potential to contribute to the integrated partnership's mission and priorities. ⁵
Who	In addition to individual experts, all members of the integrated partnership would be invited to designate national AI institutes (NAII) to participate in the expert community.
Procedural aspects	The NAII could be supported by the Expert Support Centres (see above) and could serve as anchors for the operational incubation, implementation and scaling-up of projects in specific geographic areas, fostering collaboration with potential external partners.

iv)	Other institutional stakeholders: Stakeholders from business, civil society, the technical community and trade unions would participate in the Plenary and in the Steering Group.
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v)	Intergovernmental organisations participating in GPAI or the OECD's programme of work on AI as Observers, such as UNESCO, could maintain this status. Other intergovernmental organisations could also be invited to participate as observers, upon consensus decisions of the members of the integrated partnership.
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Workflow

7. The proposed structure of the integrated partnership, with all stakeholders involved in all levels of the governance layer, aims to ensure open, flexible and streamlined communication between the expert layer and the members.

8. This section provides examples of the processes to develop different outputs under the integrated partnership. The Secretariat has the responsibility to execute the workplan under the direction of the members, and in ongoing consultation with the expert layer. The Secretariat ensures the integrity of the process, quality of outcomes, and ownership of the outputs by integrated partnership members (see also Annex A for completion):

a) Document-type outputs (reports/papers/technical frameworks):

- In line with the programme of work, the Secretariat develops a draft outline, in collaboration with the relevant participants in the expert community.

⁵ GPAI National AI Institutes (GPAI/C(2023)10/REV2).

- The outline is presented to the Steering Group for input.
 - The outline (revised as needed) is presented to the Plenary for input.
 - In consultation with the expert community, the Secretariat develops the full document based on the input.
 - When ready, the document is presented to the Plenary for input or for approval and declassification.
 - Once approved and declassified, the output is published on the GPAI webpage hosted by the OECD with the GPAI and OECD logos.
- b) Event-type outputs (e.g., workshops/roundtables etc.):
- In line with the programme of work, the Secretariat develops concept notes/agendas for events. This can be the initiative of one or several members, the Plenary, the Steering Group, the expert community or specific parts thereof, or the Secretariat.
 - For events branded GPAI, the Secretariat is responsible for planning, organisation and execution. The ESCs may host events pertaining to GPAI as set out in Annex A.
 - The Steering Group and the Plenary are informed of the event.
 - The event takes place with the participation of the integrated partnership.
 - The Secretariat prepares a summary and shares it with the Plenary.
- c) Online platforms/databases:
- In line with the programme of work, the Secretariat develops a proposal for the data infrastructure of the integrated partnership (database, survey, online repository, etc.).
 - The proposal is presented to the Steering Group and the Plenary.
 - Subject to views, the proposal is revised and is shared with the Plenary for input, before being made live.
 - Regular updates are shared with the Plenary.
 - The data infrastructure is updated regularly by the Secretariat.

Budget and cost-saving

9. The funding for the Secretariat would rely primarily on the core budget of the OECD's AI work programme to which all OECD countries contribute. Members of the integrated partnership that do not already contribute to the OECD's core budget would contribute an annual fee proposed to be set initially at EUR 20 000⁶. Additional voluntary contributions would be possible (e.g., to support a specific project or for the organisation of the annual Council meeting).

10. Understanding that it will ultimately comprise a part of the adoption of the overall OECD budget, the integrated partnership will approve its budget and financing, including the financial contribution of members of the integrated partnership not contributing to the OECD's core budget.

11. Because the financing will be based on OECD rules, it is not necessary to develop an MOU or any new form of agreement solely for funding purposes.

⁶ GPAI members who are also Participants in the OECD Digital Policy Committee on its Working Party AIGO would only pay the GPAI membership fee.

12. The integrated partnership would avoid two separate but overlapping Secretariats (as compared to the current GPAI model of a hosted secretariat) and thus deliver important efficiencies and eliminate administrative complexity. As a result, the total financial contribution of members of the integrated partnership would decrease relative to current contributions to support the GPAI Secretariat (i.e., EUR 54 000).

13. For Council meetings, the host/chair country would be expected to bear the organisational and logistical costs, as is the case today.

14. The ESCs and NAIIs would continue to be funded directly by their countries as per the current arrangement, with the continued possibility of obtaining financial and in-kind support to projects contributing to the implementation of the GPAI work programme.

Workflow for the development of projects and outputs by the Expert Community of the integrated partnership, including with the support of the Expert Support Centres

A key asset of the integrated partnership will be the unique skillset of multistakeholder expertise drawn from the AIGO and GPAI Expert communities joining forces. This will reinforce the capacity to deliver impactful assets to members on a continuum of projects – from policy analysis and recommendations to practical applied projects and tools.

As previously outlined, the Expert Community of the integrated partnership informs and contributes to the development of outputs under the programme of work of the integrated partnership, including with the support of the Expert Support Centres. Outputs that are approved and declassified by the Plenary would be published with the GPAI and OECD logos.

This annex outlines a process through which the Expert Community of the integrated partnership, including with the support of the Expert Support Centres, could develop projects and outputs that would be affiliated with the GPAI brand yet outside the integrated partnership programme of work, for example, through initiatives such as the proposed Lab, Incubator, and Academy.

In order to distinguish between (i) the Plenary-approved integrated partnership programme of work and related activities and outputs and (ii) outputs and projects developed outside of or in complement to the programme of work by participants in the Expert Community of the integrated partnership, including with the support of the Expert Support Centres, the latter type of outputs and projects would be carried out or published under a specific affiliated brand. Logos, colour schemes, and other elements would be developed to ensure a visual identity that emphasises the links with the integrated partnership while at the same time distinguishing expert outputs and projects from those carried out under the integrated partnership programme of work and/or approved and declassified by the Plenary.

In addition, for transparency and to ensure the integrity of the GPAI brand, where experts wish to carry out a project or develop an output under the affiliated brand, a process would be put in place to inform the members of the integrated partnership, via the Secretariat, of the proposal. Integrated partnership members would then have three weeks to comment on the proposal and use of the affiliated brand.

Projects and outputs developed outside of or in complement to the integrated partnership programme of work would not be funded by the budget of the integrated partnership.