

(Live Draft, Last modified on March 11th)

Symposium

The ASI Race: Policy Foresight for a Civilizational Challenge

LOCATION
Rome, Italy

CONVENING
**(tentative)
18 June, 2026**

VENUE
Palazzo Falletti

FORMAT
Invitations

PROGRAM

Morning of June 18, 2026 (Tentative Date)

9:00 Welcome & Opening Remarks

Framing the symposium: from moral principles to governance architecture.

9:15 Form Moral Guidance and Moral Leadership

In a geopolitical context whereby the soft power of the world's major civilization has greatly reduced and the world is faced with astoundingly profound choices, can the Vatican exceed its traditional moral guidance role and play an historical, co-leadership, interfaith and catalyzing role for a global AI treaty?

9:45 The Diplomatic Imperative

Is a historic deal on AI between the US and China needed or inevitable? Can it secure and future-proof US economic leadership, enhance Western, humanist, and Catholic values, contain China, and prevent catastrophic loss of control and great-power conflicts? What a treaty-making process led by Washington and anchored by the Vatican's moral authority could look like.

10:30 Faith, Prudence, and Ethics in AI Treaty-Making

Should religious institutions have a structural role in AI treaty-making — not just a moral voice? How does the virtue of prudence apply when the technology's consequences are radically uncertain? What are the implications of AI systems that may approach or simulate consciousness? How do Catholic anthropology, transhumanism, and secular humanism answer differently? And is a universal humanist ethics possible — one that evolves with technology while remaining anchored in human dignity?

11:15 From Principles to Architecture

Perspectives from diplomacy, academia, Catholic social teaching, and national security. Central question: Can a treaty making process be designed that both the US and China would sign, be durable, prevent major conflicts and reduce disparities in power and wealth?

12:00 Closing Synthesis

Synthesis of the morning's convergences and open questions — and their implications for Vatican-US cooperation on AI governance

12:30 Reception

Standing reception and lunch at the venue.

The symposium is followed by invitation-only working sessions on the afternoon of June 4 and the whole day on June 5.

CONVENED BY

Convened by the Coalition for a Baruch Plan for AI, in partnership with [to be confirmed]

The Coalition for a Baruch Plan for AI

The Coalition for a Baruch Plan for AI (cbpai.org) comprises [10 international NGOs and 40+ world-class advisors and contributors](#) — including former officials at the UN, National Security Agency, World Economic Forum, Yale, and Princeton. Launched in July 2024, seed-funded by Jaan Tallinn's Survival and Flourishing Fund.

The initiative draws its name from the Baruch Plan — history's boldest treaty proposal, presented by President Truman to the UN on June 14, 1946, for the international control of nuclear weapons.

The symposium is by invitation.

For inquiries, partnership proposals, or expressions of interest:

[**info@trustlesscomputing.org**](mailto:info@trustlesscomputing.org)

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