28-30 November 2025 **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Artificial Intelligence Conference

The Role of Parliament in Shaping the Future of Responsible AI

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Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Session Summary

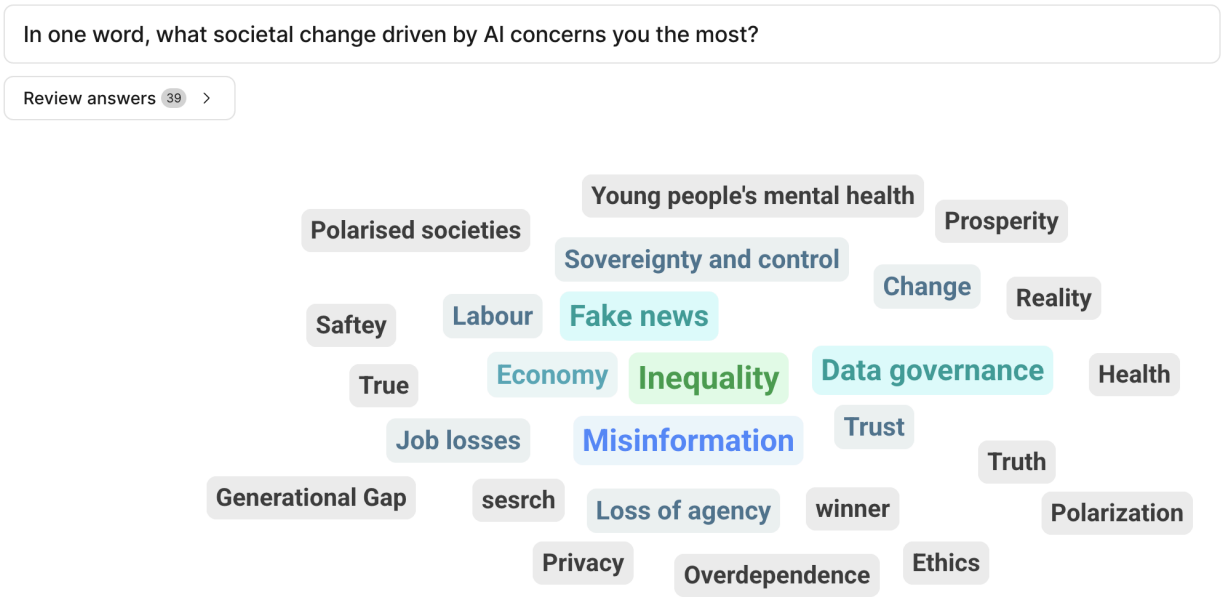
Navigating Societal Transformation in the Age of AI

29 November 2025

1. Interactive Poll (Slido) Insights

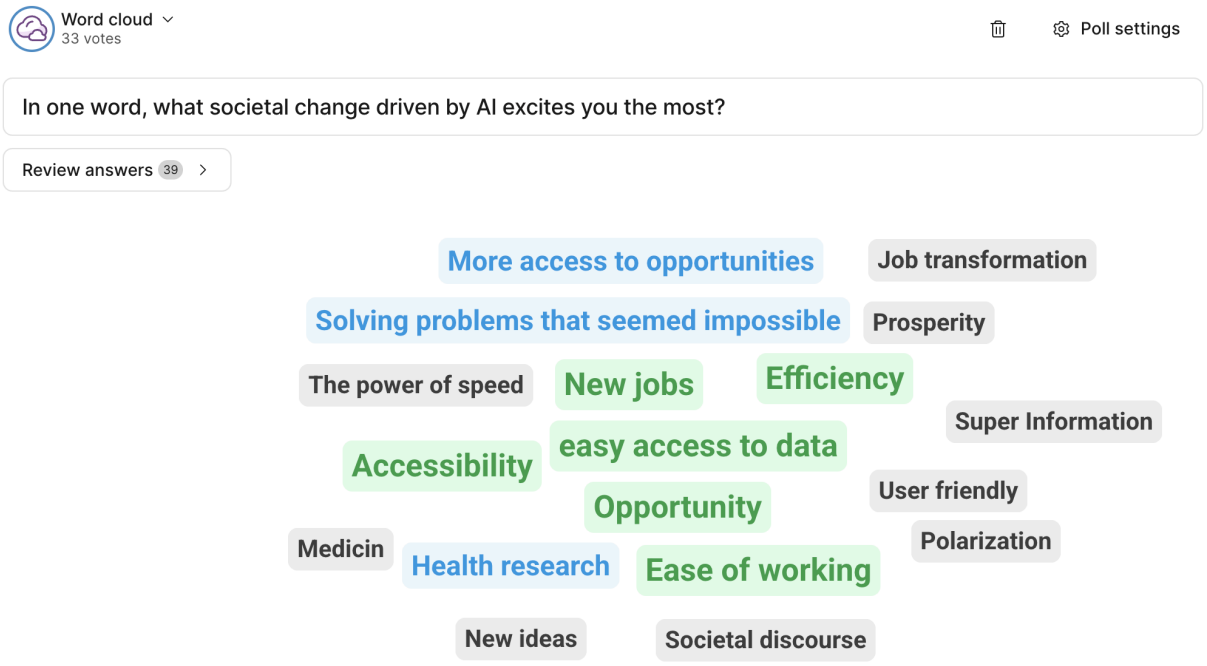
The session began with an interactive assessment led by Osama Al Jaber to gauge the room's energy and immediate sentiments regarding AI.

- Concerns regarding AI: Participants identified "inequality," "misinformation," "fake news," and "data governance" as top concerns.



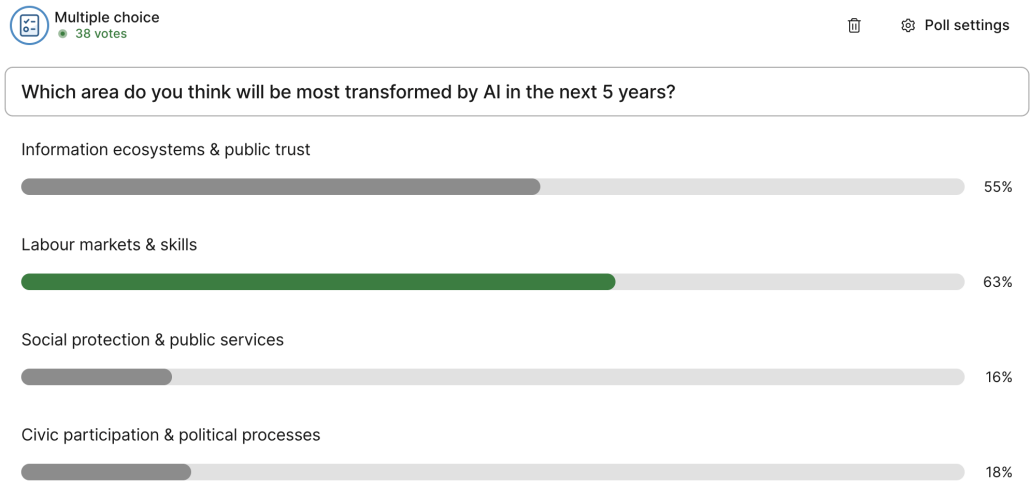
  - Nigeria's MP expressed specific concern regarding human genetics and cloning, questioning how to legislate ethics so that future generations are not altered.
  - *Frederico Costa (AWS)* highlighted "fear-mongering" and "missed opportunity" as key risks, warning that exaggerating risks could lead to a digital divide between countries that adopt AI and those that do not.

- Excitement regarding AI: Participants cited "efficiency," "new jobs," "access to data," and "accessibility" as primary opportunities.



  - *Jordanian delegate* noted that AI could enhance the identity and creativity of the younger generation if used properly.

- Impact forecast: The room voted that Labor Markets and Information Ecosystems/Public Trust are the areas where AI will have the greatest impact in the next five years.



2. Panel Discussion: Societal Transformation and Institutional Readiness

The panel explored how AI interacts with labor, rights, and the digital divide.

- **Chalat Ratchakitprakarn (Member of Parliament, Thailand)**

  - Labor Strategy: Thailand views AI as a tool to complement, not replace, humans. They focus on upskilling/reskilling the workforce to shift away from analytic tasks toward creative and empathetic roles .
  - National Action Plan: Thailand aims to develop 10 million AI-literate citizens and 90,000 professionals by 2027.
  - Access: The government is providing 3 million free accounts/programs to students to ensure inclusion.
  - Safeguards: Called for transparency in algorithms, independent audits, and aligning national frameworks with the EU AI Act and UNESCO ethics.

- **Tigran Parsilyan (Member of Parliament, Armenia)**

  - Hybrid Warfare & Disinformation: Highlighted the use of AI in political manipulation, citing an example where a political force in Armenia received 95% positive comments generated by AI bots.
  - Deepfakes: Noted that deepfakes are becoming indistinguishable from reality, posing threats to elections and becoming a tool for harassment.
  - Legislation: Emphasized the need for mandatory labeling of AI-generated content and prohibiting algorithms from using characteristics like gender and age as starting points for hiring to prevent bias.
  - Infrastructure: Announced that NVIDIA is establishing a $500 million AI data center in Armenia to support job creation.

- **Frederico Costa (AI & Data Policy Lead, AWS)**

  - Adoption speed: Reported that five companies adopt AI every minute in Europe and Southeast Asia, with productivity gains of up to 50% in writing tasks.
  - The "Two-Tier" Problem: Most businesses are using AI only for basic efficiency (summaries) rather than true innovation. Startups are 2-3 times more likely to use sophisticated AI than incumbents.
  - Barriers: The main obstacles are skills (specifically "AI-adjacent skills") and regulatory uncertainty. In Europe, companies spend 40% of their digital budget just on compliance .
  - Regulation: Advocated for risk-based regulation (like the EU AI Act), where high-risk cases (medical) get high scrutiny, but low-risk uses are not overburdened.

- **Jin Cui (Emerging Trends Analyst, ITU)**

  - Global Connectivity: Reported that 2.2 billion people remain offline. While 5G covers 84% of high-income populations, it covers only 4% in low-income countries .
  - Gender Gap: There are 280 million more men online than women globally.
  - UN Action: Highlighted the "UN Activities on AI Report," detailing 729 AI projects across the UN system, including WHO using AI for medical screening and FAO for crop optimization.
  - Resources: Announced the upcoming UN AI Resource Hub and an AI toolkit for policymakers launching in 2026.

Josefin Pasanen (UNDP Human Development Report)

- Macro Context: Noted that the Human Development Index (HDI) saw its first-ever decline in 2020, and the recovery has been uneven, widening the gap between high and low-income countries.
- Complementarity Economy: Argued against the "replacement" narrative. Cited the "Radiologist" example: AI did not replace radiologists; instead, demand for them increased because AI made diagnostics cheaper and more accessible, allowing doctors to focus on care and complex cases.
- Policy Choice: Stressed that the future of AI is a matter of choice. Policies must steer AI to augment human capabilities rather than just optimize efficiency.

Panel Q&A Segment:

- Sophie Mette (France): Raised the issue of the "fifth estate" (internet/AI) and foreign interference via fake news. She called for social dialogue to manage labor transitions.
- Nigerian Delegate: Asked how to close the skills gap for legislators in Africa to ensure they can mature AI regulations.
- Delegate from Trinidad & Tobago: Pointed out the lack of discussion regarding tertiary education and skills training.
- Panel Response:
    - *Tigran Parsilyan* reiterated the need for systems that automatically label AI-generated content .
    - *Frederico Costa* emphasized that literacy should start at school, not just PhDs, and advocated for public-private partnerships to identify necessary future skills.

3. Working Group Report-Backs

Led by Aisha Marzouki (UNDP), participants split into groups to conduct a foresight exercise. They mapped changes, developed positive/negative scenarios for 2028, and created specific action plans.

Group 1: Labor Markets

Scenario: A future where AI helps organize the labor market to drastically shrink unemployment.

Action Plan:

- 3 Months: Gather comprehensive market data to understand the scope of the issue .
- 6 Months: Open dialogues with labor unions, chambers of commerce, and companies to discuss transition programs.
- 12 Months: Issue new legislation based on the collected data to control labor market changes.

Group 2: Information Ecosystems and Trust

Scenario: A world with transparent, verified information embedded in health and education sectors.

Action Plan:

- Immediate: Engage stakeholders (civil society, private sector).
- 3 Months: Conduct "Readiness Assessments" of institutions.
- 12 Months: Establish a specific authority to address AI security and strengthen cyber-defense.

Group 3: Labor Market and Skills

Scenario: Workers move to higher-value "cognitive and care" functions while AI handles mundane tasks. Governments share data collaboratively.

Action Plan:

- Immediate: Secure political buy-in from Heads of Government to ensure strategic trajectory.
- Short Term: Establish a "Joint Planning Committee on AI and Emerging Tech" to prevent the topic from being siloed in different departments.
- Long Term: Implement a common treaty between parliaments and legislative amendment of national school curricula.

Group 4: Social Protection and Inclusion

A socially inclusive community where digital infrastructure is ubiquitous.

Action Plan:

- 3 Months: Establish a baseline of current capacity and commence community dialogue.
- 6 Months: Secure a policy commitment (intent) for universal access to digital infrastructure (citing the Kenya 2032 example).
- 12 Months: Move from dialogue to a regulatory framework that enables full civic participation.

Group 5: Education

Focus: The need for critical thinking education for youth to maintain human control over AI.

Action Plan:

- Short Term: Accelerate the "securitization" of AI in legislation.
- Medium Term: Specific training for elected officials and parliamentary administrators, as many lack initiation.
- 12 Months: A new evaluation of laws to ensure they are virtuous.

Group 6: Youth and Mental Health

Young people using AI (like ChatGPT) to solve mental health problems, which creates significant risk.

- Immediate: Create regulatory frameworks regarding age limits for social media (citing Australian ban for under-16s) and smartphones in schools.
- Long Term: Invest in regulated, controlled systems for youth mental health data protection. Ensure young people own and control their data.
- Mechanism: Establish parliamentary committees to constantly review data sets and programs in an iterative process.

Top 5 Takeaways

1. **From Replacement to a Complementarity Economy**

The fear that AI will inevitably destroy jobs is increasingly viewed as a limited perspective. The session highlighted that while automation will occur, the goal of policy should be a complementarity economy where AI augments human capabilities rather than replacing them. Legislation and labor policies must focus on "human-in-the-loop" systems where technology handles analytic drudgery, freeing humans for creative, empathetic, and complex decision-making roles.

2. **Information Integrity is a Key for Credible Democratic Institutions and Processes**

AI has evolved into a "fifth estate" capable of distorting reality through deepfakes and algorithmic manipulation, posing a direct threat to democratic processes and election integrity. There is an urgent need for "Truth in Technology" laws, such as mandatory watermarking and labeling of AI-generated content, to protect the information ecosystem.

3. **Infrastructure is the Prerequisite for Rights**

AI benefits are currently concentrated in high-income regions, risking a widening gap between the AI-haves and AI-have-nots. Without universal digital infrastructure, AI-driven public services will exclude the most vulnerable.

4. **AI Literacy Must Move Beyond Coding to Critical Thinking**

The definition of AI Readiness has expanded. It is no longer just about training data scientists; it is about equipping the entire population, and parliamentarians themselves, with AI-adjacent skills and critical thinking to navigate an AI-saturated world.

5. **The Future is a Matter of Choice**

The trajectory of AI is not technologically determined; it is shaped by political and societal choices. Parliaments have the agency to steer AI toward human development goals rather than passively adapting to market forces. Parliaments must move from reactive regulation to proactive "Anticipatory Governance," using tools like foresight and impact assessments to define the "preferred future" before technology locks in a negative one.

Module Recommendations (Priority actions)

WITHIN 3 MONTHS

- Request the parliamentary research service or external partner to produce a data-driven report mapping specific sectors where AI is currently replacing versus augmenting labour, and identify gaps in current legal protections for affected workers
- Organize a public hearing and dialogues with CSOs, educational partners, government institutions and other stakeholders on AI to gather evidence on how AI is changing work, access to services, and public participation.
- Survey government agencies and the parliament to establish a baseline of current AI capacity, infrastructure gaps, and digital literacy levels required to manage societal transformation.

WITHIN 6 MONTHS

- Create a cross-party, inter-committee body (or assign clear mandate to an existing one) to coordinate AI response across silos (Labor, Education, Security) and ensure political buy-in from the Head of Government, contributing to a global partnership in AI legislation
- Convene trade unions, chambers of commerce, and tech companies to co-design reskilling programs and transition support systems, ensuring AI is used to augment rather than replace human labor.
- Request a paper from the research service on possible approaches to social and human-rights impact assessments for high-impact public-sector AI systems to inform future deliberation when appropriate.

WITHIN 12 MONTHS

- Initiate a dialogue with the Ministry of Education on strengthening digital literacy, critical thinking and civic skills in the national curriculum, including AI awareness, media literacy and responsible online engagement.
- Secure a government commitment to a timeline for universal digital access (broadband/devices) to ensure marginalized communities are not excluded from the benefits of AI-driven public services and have access to digital infrastructure.
- Review progress on national reskilling and digital transition programmes, and identify areas where parliament may need to request additional reporting, evidence, or updates.