Terms of Reference for the High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence

The High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, convened by the United Nations Secretary-General, will undertake analysis and advance recommendations for the international governance of artificial intelligence. The Body's initial reports will provide high-level expert and independent contributions to ongoing national, regional, and multilateral debates.

The Body will consist of up to 32 members from governments, private sector, civil society, and academia, as well as a member Secretary. Its composition will be balanced by gender, age, geographic representation, and area of expertise related to the risks and applications of artificial intelligence. The members of the Body will serve in their personal capacity.

The Body will engage and consult widely with governments, private sector, academia, civil society, and international organizations. It will be agile and innovative in interacting with existing processes and platforms as well as in harnessing inputs from diverse stakeholders. It could set up working parties or groups on specific topics.

The members of the Body will be selected by the Secretary-General based on nominations from Member States and a public call for candidates. It will have two Co-Chairs and an Executive Committee. All stakeholder groups will be represented in the Executive Committee.

The Body shall be convened for an initial period of one year, with the possibility of extension by the Secretary-General. It will have both in-person and online meetings.

The Body will prepare a first report by 31 December 2023 for the consideration of the Secretary-General and the Member States of the United Nations. This first report will present a high-level analysis of options for the international governance of artificial intelligence.

Based on feedback to the first report, the Body will submit a second report by 31 August 2024 which may provide detailed recommendations on the functions, form, and timelines for a new international agency for the governance of artificial intelligence.

The Body shall avoid duplication with existing forums and processes where issues of artificial intelligence are considered. Instead, it shall seek to leverage existing platforms and partners, including UN entities, working in related domains. It shall fully respect current UN structures as well as national, regional, and industry prerogatives in the governance of artificial intelligence.

The deliberations of the Body will be supported by a small secretariat based in the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology and be funded by extrabudgetary donor resources.