

Why UN GA leadership on global governance of the transition from today's AI to future Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is critical

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Two UNGA resolutions on AI have been adopted this year. The UN Summit of the Future's *Global Digital Compact* calls for international governance of artificial intelligence. These Resolutions and the Compact are good foundations for the next step: governing the transition from the current forms of AI to future forms of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI).

There are three kinds of AI: narrow, general, and super. Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI) including generative AI (or GenAI) is a tool with narrow focus, and is pre-trained exists today and will continue to improve over the coming years. Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) does not exist yet, but could before the end of this decade. AGI is expected to act more like an agent than a tool, and can re-write its own code as need to achieve objectives. It can create novel solutions to novel problems similar to humans (sometimes called human-level AI) and can learn moment by moment to continually get smarter and smarter.

Artificial Super Intelligence (ASI) sometimes called Artificial Superintelligence is expected to emerge from AGI. It will have the ability to set its own goals independent from human control. We cannot directly control how ASI emerges and acts. But we can control how AGI is created and used; and hence, have indirect control of Artificial Superintelligence.

There are good statements about values and ethics for AI development and use by UNESCO, OECD, ITU, and the Global Partnership on AI, and good regulations with the EU AI Act and China's Artificial Intelligence Law. **These international and national efforts address artificial narrow intelligence, not AGI.** Now we have to begin to define how AGI should be created and used worldwide before it arrives.

Unregulated AGI systems created by several countries and many corporations could proliferate creating millions of AGI agents that interact on the Internet and everything connected to the Internet producing serious threats to humanity. Some countries and corporations are racing to be the first to create AGI and may cut corners on safety to win that race. Since many AGIs could arrive within this decade, and since it will take several years to create both national licensing systems and international coordination and governance, it is wise to begin addressing the transition to AGI now.

Some suggestions for UN Council of Presidents of the GA:

- Recommend AGI experts who understand the urgency of working on AGI governance be appointed to the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI as called for in the Global Digital Compact.

- Recommend a special GA session specifically on AGI that would stimulate Member States to review their readiness to address this issue and focus world attention on the GA's role in leading a global conversation on AGI cooperation.
- Such a GA session could call for a group of the willing to draft the text of a UN Convention on AI with two sections: one on ANI and one on AGI.
- Call for a feasibility study of establishing an International AI Agency

Governing the transition to AGI could be the most complex, difficult management problem humanity has ever faced. To which AI pioneer Stuart Russel states, "Failure to solve it before proceeding to create AGI systems would be a fatal mistake for human civilization. No entity has the right to make that mistake."