11. An Inclusive Global Conversation on Artificial Intelligence
July 10, 2020

Summary recommendations

- Various religious communities and think tanks with theological links are exploring risks and benefits of the rapid development of AI. Their focus on values dimensions of different dimensions positions them well to contribute to global and local dialogue on AI policies and governance challenges at national and international levels

- Religious communities could themselves enhance discourse and identify responsibilities both within religious communities and in interreligious platforms. Specific contributions should focus on framing policy-focused ethical approaches and injunctions, developing an inter-religious understanding of cultural differences, and helping to identify vulnerable social groups in need of protection and uplift.

- The setting is the challenge for governments to act quickly to harness artificial intelligence (AI) for the public good and mitigate negative outcomes. Industry and civil society, including religious communities, should be involved in the governance process. It is at country and regional governance levels that norms and standards to guide regulations are best situated.

- A challenge where religious institutions can be effective advocates is in pressing for more global, inclusive approaches to AI governance, given the diversity of experiences and concerns facing the international community.

- Shared cultural values—often reflected in or emerging from religious practice—can guide national, regional, and international policies so that AI develops as a tool that assists and augments human capability.

A common and vital theme is to ensure that human beings are central to the organization of AI-enabled cybernetic systems. AI should be used to supplement, rather than replace, human judgment. Respecting human dignity could help ensure, for example, that systems should not influence individual choices by being designed in ways that nudge individual decisions in consumer-choice or democratic participation. Broadly, a human-rights based framework is critical to develop shared norms across countries.