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Center for AI and  
Digital Policy

**RELEASE: December 12, 2020 08:30 EST**

## **New Report Ranks AI Policies in 30 Nations: *Urges Action on Democratic Values***

**Boston and Washington, DC** -- The **Center for AI and Digital Policy** (CAIDP) today released the first global ranking of countries, based on national AI policies and practices. The report – ***Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values: the AI Social Contract Index 2020*** – measured progress toward AI policies that safeguard human rights and democratic values.

The ground-breaking analysis of AI in 30 countries was conducted by a team of international experts. They found ambitious plans and wide disparities on metrics such as data privacy, facial recognition, and public participation in policy development. Some countries are making progress. Others have work to do to catch up with democratic norms.

“The response of governments to the challenges of artificial intelligence is critical to translate the promise of this technology into economic progress that respects democratic values,” said **Governor Dukakis**. “The goal of the ***AI Social Contract Index*** is to develop a baseline for best practices and to ensure that AI fulfills its potential to improve growth and well-being around the world.”

The assessment focused on global norms found in the OECD/G20 AI Principles, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other AI frameworks. Policies and practices were evaluated for top 25 countries by gross domestic product and five other high-impact countries. The AI Index will be updated annually as national policies evolve and as more countries and new issues are added to the assessment.

The top tier of countries was not surprising, but the study found that many countries need to implement stronger policies and better practices. Germany scored the highest. The country has promoted public participation in AI policy making, established strong standards for data protection, and led AI policy efforts within the EU. Canada, France and Korea, and others, filled out the second tier with innovative approaches for AI safeguards and new government initiatives.



The AI superpowers, the United States and China, did not score as well. The United States placed in tier 3 because its policy-making process is opaque, and the U.S. lacks strong laws for data privacy. China ranked in tier 4 because of its use of facial recognition against ethnic minorities and political protesters. “As China is now rapidly developing AI systems, there is an urgent need to assess China’s actual practices against global standards for human-centric AI,” according to the report.

Many global organizations, most notably the OECD and the G20, have produced policy frameworks for AI. Human rights groups and technology experts have also backed such proposals as the **Universal Guidelines for AI**. The **AI Social Contract Index** bridges the gap between policies and practices with fact-based evaluations of individual countries.

“One of our central objectives is to see whether countries are fulfilling their commitments for trustworthy AI. We examined whether countries are willing to draw red lines with certain AI applications, such as facial recognition in public spaces,” said **Marc Rotenberg**, director of the **Center for AI and Digital Policy**.

The book-length report sets out key recommendations to guide policymakers and the public toward the goal of ensuring AI that is fair, accountable, and transparent.

- 1) *Countries must establish national policies for AI that implement democratic values*
- 2) *Countries must ensure public participation in AI policymaking and also create robust mechanisms for independent oversight of AI systems*
- 3) *Countries must guarantee fairness, accountability, and transparency in all AI systems*
- 4) *Countries must commit to these principles in the development, procurement, and implementation of AI systems for public services*
- 5) *Countries must halt the use of facial recognition for mass surveillance*

The **AI Social Contract Index** was released on December 12, 2020 in conjunction with the presentation of the 2020 World Leader for Peace and Security Award to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, by Governor Michael Dukakis. President von der Leyen has said that the EU and the US must work together on a human-centric vision on AI – and develop “a global standard aligned with our values.”

## **About**

The Center for AI and Digital Policy, founded in 2020, aims to ensure that artificial intelligence promotes a better society, more fair, more just, and more accountable. Working under the auspices of the Michael Dukakis Institute, the Center promotes global frameworks for AI policy, and publishes the CAIDP Update (weekly) and the AI Social Contract Index (annually). **Marc Rotenberg** is the founding director.



## Links, Hashtags, and Key Words

### **Center for AI and Digital Policy**

<https://caidp.dukakis.org>

### ***Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values: The AI Social Contract Index 2020***

<https://caidp.dukakis.org/aisci-2020/>

### *CAIDP Updates*

<https://caidp.dukakis.org/news/>

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## Endorsements

*“The AI Social Contract Index provides an extremely useful tool for researchers and decision makers to quickly engage in this complex and rapidly changing field. In addition to a surprisingly comprehensive review of the most relevant global and national policies, the book contributes with an analytical framework that both enables empirical analysis and civil society accountability of governmental action. Definitely, a reference required in any competent bibliography of AI policy.”*

- Suso Baleato, Harvard University

*“This is a vital resource for global policymakers today. The value of the information, its comprehensiveness, and its breadth make this resource incredibly valuable at a time when the world is changing and policy needs to keep pace.*

- Gabriela Zanfira-Fortuna, Future of Privacy Forum



*“The AI Social Contract Index is a major milestone in creating more transparency in Artificial Intelligence, a field which is touching every human being and every society in such a profound and not yet fully understood way already now but even more in the future.”*

- Marcel Zutter, Boston Global Forum

*“This is a very comprehensive report that brings together many data points and narratives not connected before by any other publication on AI policy. This publication contributes without a doubt to our understanding of how countries are bringing the OECD AI principles to practical implementation.”*

- Laura Galindo-Romero, OECD

*“This is an excellent document, providing a snapshot assessment of AI policies and practices not only now, but potentially in years to come so that we can monitor progress.”*

- Robert Whitfield, One World Trust / World Federalist Movement

*“An impressive AI policy landscape review with detailed reports on efforts in many countries. This document will do much to open discussions and advance the implementation of human-centered AI that is reliable, safe, and trustworthy.”*

- Ben Shneiderman, University of Maryland

*“Modeled after the groundbreaking Privacy and Human Rights report, the AI Social Contract Index begins the important task of evaluating the AI practices of national governments. This annual report will become the essential resource for tracking the global AI policy landscape just as Privacy and Human Rights did for global privacy.”*

- Joichi Ito, Center of Complex Interventions

*“The AI Social Contract Index is an excellent overview of the state of play of AI globally, and a key contribution to future work in the field.”*

- Katitza Rodriguez, co-editor, *Privacy and Human Rights*