Center for AI and Digital Policy

***CAIDP Update* 2.23 (June 10, 2021) -** *US Announces National AI Task Force, Advisory Committee to Follow*

On June 10, 2021, the White House announced the **National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Task Force**. According to the White House press release, Task Force members will help develop a roadmap to democratize access to research, "tools that will promote AI innovation and fuel economic prosperity."

The Task Force will submit two reports to Congress that together will present a comprehensive strategy and implementation plan — an interim report in May 2022 and final report in November 2022. The Task Force is comprised of twelve individuals from government, higher education, and private organizations. Lynne Parker, Director of the Science and Technology Policy, and Erwin Gianchandani, Director of the National Science Foundation are the co-chairs. Currently, there are no representatives from civil society or individuals with expertise in privacy and data protection on the Task Force

As directed by Congress in the National AI Initiative Act of 2020, the Task Force will serve as a Federal advisory committee to help create and implement a blueprint for the National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) — "a shared research infrastructure providing AI researchers and students across all scientific disciplines with access to computational resources, high-quality data, educational tools, and user support."

The Act suggests the use of personal data held by federal agencies for AI research, as the Task Force is expected to conduct an "assessment of, and recommend solutions to, barriers to the dissemination and use of high-quality government data sets as part of the national artificial intelligence research resource." At the same time, the Task Force is expected to provide an "assessment of privacy and civil liberties requirements associated with the national artificial intelligence research resource and its research" and an assessment of security requirements to manage access controls.

In the report Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values, CAIDP identified the absence of a data protection regime in the US as a strategic weakness in US AI policy. CAIDP has also noted concerns about lack of meaningful public participation in the development of the US National AI Strategy. And leading computer scientists, including Professor Judea Pearl (author of The Book of Why), have questioned the assumption that expanded access to personal data is necessary for effective AI research.

According to the White House, a National AI Advisory Committee will also be established. "The AI Advisory Committee will provide recommendations AI topics, including on the implications of AI on the future of learning and workers; research and development; economic competitiveness; societal, ethical, legal, safety, and security matters; commercial application; and opportunities for international engagement." A Federal Register notice, to be published in the next several weeks, will call for the nomination of experts.