



**Center for AI & Digital Policy (CAIDP)
Statement to Civil 20 (C20) on Gender and Artificial Intelligence
30 September 2021**

CAIDP welcomes the opportunity to provide input to Civil 20 (C20) for the upcoming meetings. C20 provides a platform of Civil Society Organizations around the world to bring forth the political dialogue with the G20.

The **Center for AI and Digital Policy** is a global research organization. In 2020 we published ***Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values***¹, a comprehensive review of the AI policies and practices in 30 countries. We also created a methodology to assess AI national strategies. Our aim is to promote a world where technology promotes broad social inclusion based on fundamental rights, democratic institutions, and the rule of law.

In the CAIDP 2020 report ***AI and Democratic Values***, we stated:

- 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*

Earlier this year, the CAIDP wrote to the Members of the G20 Digital Economy Task Force (DETF) to express our support for the work of the G-20 in the field of AI policy.² We noted positive outcomes from previous meetings of the G20, including the establishment of the G20 AI Guidelines. We also recommend that the G20 endorse “red lines” for certain AI deployments that violate fundamental freedoms.

CAIDP further supports the C20 policy priorities in that “All policies, strategies and implementation must adopt a human rights-based, people-centered, equity-focused, and gender transformative lens.”³ We would like to point where AI systems can further deepen

¹ *Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values* (CAIDP, 2020), <https://www.caidp.org/aisci-2020/>

² *CAIDP Statement for the Digital Economy Task Force* (17 March 2021), <https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8303562963/CAIDP-DETF-03172021.pdf>

³ C20 Policy Pack 2021: <https://civil-20.org/2021/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/C20-Policy-Pack-2021-Building-a-sustainable-future-for-all-1.pdf>



marginalization and widen inequalities for communities. A recent UN Report⁴ shows data used to guide AI systems can be faulty, discriminatory, out of date or irrelevant. This can create bias in AI systems with regards to gender and race.

Gender Gap in Tech: Women and LGBTQI+ population are significantly underrepresented in professional AI fields (product design, development) and even when they are employed, they are rarely in decision-making roles. The representation of these groups drops further if they are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color). This means that not only are the emerging technologies developed without the crucial contributions, but they also do not represent the needs of a significant portion of global population, and in fact can work to discriminate against them.

Bias in Access to Jobs & Capital: When historical data is used in black box systems to make inferences about a person's creditworthiness or employability, which then determine a person's access to credit and jobs, bias can occur. Historical and ongoing gendered divide in ownership of property, gender gap in workforce and access to internet can result in discriminatory results, replicate historical institutional practices and denial of credit, capital and jobs.

Bias in Healthcare: Lack of diversity in design of AI systems and representation in datasets and use of historical healthcare access data can result in AI systems not accurately diagnosing certain health issues or prioritizing certain populations over other and penalizing marginalized communities for not having enough access to healthcare in the past.

Bias in Facial and Voice recognition systems: Bias in AI systems can result when faces and voices of Women, LGBTQI+ populations are not accurately recognized. When compounded with the intersection of BIPOC, accuracy rates drop further. This creates safety, security and fundamental rights issues for those using these systems to operate technologies (autonomous devices) or if the technologies are used on them (policing, access to benefits, jobs, education)

Deepfakes: This AI technology is disproportionality used to victimize women. 96% of deepfakes on internet are pornographic and are used to target women. The number of deep fake porn clips doubles every six months.⁵

⁴ *The Right to Privacy in Digital Age Report* (UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2021) <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/DigitalAge/Pages/ReportDigitalAge.aspx>

⁵ *The State of Deepfakes 2020: Updates on Statistics and Trends* (Sensity, 2020): <https://sensity.ai/reports/>



In CAIDP's Statement to G-20 Digital Economy Task Force (DETF)⁶, we **urged the G20 to focus on fairness, accountability, and transparency for all AI systems, particularly for public services**. We emphasized the importance of protecting human rights, including social rights, in the context of AI systems deployed by public authorities.

In CAIDP's Statement to African Commission on Human and People's Rights⁷, we supported the call for "human dignity, privacy, equality, non-discrimination, inclusion, diversity, safety, fairness, transparency, accountability and economic development" to be the "underlying principles that guide the development and use of AI, robotics and other new and emerging technologies."

In CAIDP's Statement to European Commission⁸, regarding the proposed AI Act, we asked European policy makers to respect human rights and ensure people with diverse backgrounds have equitable access to opportunities and that AI systems are build accessible and inclusively by design. We also called attention to several of draft UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁹

- All actors involved in the lifecycle of AI systems must comply with applicable international law and domestic legislation, standards and practices. They should **reduce the environmental impact of AI systems**. (Rec #18)
- Respect, protection and promotion of human dignity and rights is essential throughout the life cycle of AI systems. Human dignity relates to the **recognition of the intrinsic and equal worth of each individual human being, regardless of race, color, descent, gender, age, language, religion, political opinion, national origin, ethnic origin, social origin, economic or social condition of birth, or disability and any other grounds** (Rec #19)
- Peace, inclusiveness and justice, equity and interconnectedness should be promoted throughout the lifecycle of AI systems, in so far as the processes of the lifecycle of **AI systems should not segregate, objectify or undermine freedom and autonomous decision-making as well as the safety of human beings and communities, divide and turn individuals and groups against each other, or threaten the coexistence between humans, other living beings and the natural environment**. (Rec #24)

⁶ CAIDP Statement for the Digital Economy Task Force (17 March 2021), <https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8303562963/CAIDP-DETF-03172021.pdf>

⁷ CAIDP Statement to African Commission on Human and People's Rights Resolution 473 (Apr. 5, 2021): <https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8308244063/CAIDP-ACHPR-Res473-04052021.pdf>

⁸ CAIDP Statement on Proposed EU AI Act (July 28, 2021): <https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8334787563/CAIDP-Comments-on-EU-AI-Act-28072021.pdf>

⁹ UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI (UNESCO, 2021): <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377897>



- AI actors should make **all reasonable efforts to minimize and avoid reinforcing or perpetuating discriminatory or biased applications and outcomes** throughout the lifecycle of the AI system to ensure fairness of such systems. **Effective remedy should be available against discrimination and biased algorithmic determination.** (Rec #29)
- Governments should adopt a regulatory framework that sets out a procedure, **particularly for public authorities, to carry out ethical impact assessments on AI systems to predict consequences, mitigate risks, avoid harmful consequences, facilitate citizen participation and address societal challenges.** The assessment should also **establish appropriate oversight mechanisms, including auditability, traceability and explainability,** which enable the assessment of algorithms, data and design processes, as well as include external review of AI systems. Ethical impact assessments should be transparent and open to the public, where appropriate. Such assessments should also be **multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder, multicultural, pluralistic and inclusive.** The **public authorities should be required to monitor the AI systems implemented and/or deployed by those authorities** by introducing appropriate mechanisms and tools (Rec #53)
- Member States that acquire AI systems for human rights-sensitive use cases, such as law enforcement, welfare, employment, media and information providers, health care and the independent judiciary system should provide **mechanisms to monitor the social and economic impact of such systems by appropriate oversight authorities, including independent data protection authorities, sectoral oversight and public bodies responsible for oversight.** (Rec #62)

The Center for AI and Digital Policy offers assistance to governments for the work of creating artificial intelligence and digital policies which promote a better, fairer, and more just and accountable society in which technology promotes broad social inclusion based on fundamental rights, democratic institutions, and the rule of law.

We hope that some of the points raised above can be incorporated in the final recommendations of the C20.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

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