

Regulating Artificial Intelligence: The Need to Safeguard the Future

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force, reshaping industries, education, societies, and all facets of human endeavours. It has transcended its once-fictional status to become a driving force, simplifying human efforts done through erstwhile traditional methods, and making various mechanisms relied upon across the globe more precise and efficient. All aspects of human labour now have computers or computer-controlled machines performing tasks that usually are the exclusive preserve of human beings and run by human intelligence. However, with great power comes great responsibility. As artificial intelligence simplifies human tasks, like every technological invention, several issues emerge, creating risks and disadvantages that sometimes blur the beauty of this life-enhancing technological system. This article explores the importance and the beauty of the incursion of Artificial Intelligence into everyday human effort and highlights some attendant challenges to the reliance on artificial intelligence. The article also points out several attendant challenges that emerge with this novel incursion, acknowledges the existing legal void created by the absence of a legal framework to rein in the excess and fallout of the reliance on Artificial Intelligence, and explores the imperative for regulating AI through the law to ensure ethical development, protection of individuals who the technology seeks to assist, and foster further innovations. This article calls for the formation of an adaptive global legal framework created from the collaboration of critical stakeholders to address the growing ethical implications derived from the reliance on Artificial intelligence.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Law, Legal Framework, Robots, AI Regulation

1. Introduction

Technology keeps pushing contemporary boundaries, in a bid to make life easier for humans. The advent of the computer brought enormous benefits to mankind.¹ From finances to manufacturing, education, the legal sphere and indeed all facets of human endeavor, heavy reliance on these machines, for daily activities and sustenance, is inevitable.² The ensuing emergence of the internet broke down all borders, turning differing worlds into a global village, transporting and bringing all manner of information with incredible speed to individuals, and

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¹ RE Nduka, 'Cybercrime in a Cyber-dependent World: Enlisting the Developing World in Addressing the Growing Problem of Cybercrime', LL.D Theses, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa, 2019, p.4.

²Ibid.

opening the world to countless individuals from any part of the globe.³ Several advancements brought these computer systems to a point where they no longer regurgitate the information or data inputted, but are now designed to mimic the human intellect and to perform tasks that traditionally are only performed by Human beings.⁴ This assists human beings, simplifies work, and removes the burden of daily ingenuity. Sadly, every human intervention and advancement comes with some adverse effects. The law provides the only order that forestalls the chaos that follows every innovation.

This paper tries to proffer some basic understanding of Artificial intelligence, examines the pervasive influence and the profound changes AI brings to various sectors, highlights some challenges artificial intelligence brings, points out the existing ineffective regulatory framework tailored to specific AI issues, and points out the immediate need for a robust regulation to ensure that the system created to assist man, does not become man's albatross.

2. Defining the Term and Pointing out AI's Pervasive Influence in Various Sectors

Artificial Intelligence refers to the development of computer systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.⁵ It relates to the ability of a computer or computer-controlled machine to execute tasks typically associated with or the exclusive preserve of intelligent beings.⁶ These tasks encompass learning, the ability to reason, problem-solving, perception, speech recognition, learning from the past, language understanding, and other intellectual processes distinctive to human beings.⁷ At its core, Artificial Intelligence denotes the creation of intelligent agents capable of mimicking human cognitive functions.⁸ These agents possess the capacity to learn from data, adapt to new inputs, and perform tasks that typically require human intelligence.⁹ From machine learning and natural language processing to robotics, artificial intelligence encompasses a spectrum of technologies contributing to its versatility.¹⁰

In healthcare, Artificial Intelligence's growing influence in diagnostics, treatment recommendations, patient engagement, personalized medicine, administrative activities, drug discoveries, predictive analytics, robotics surgeries, greatly improve patient care.¹¹ Several researches suggest that artificial intelligence perform as well or even better than humans at key healthcare tasks like disease diagnosis.¹² For example Davenport et.al reported that "today,

³Nduka (n 1).

⁴ N Laskowski and L Tucci "Artificial Intelligence (AI)" <What is Artificial Intelligence and How Does AI Work? | Definition from TechTarget> accessed 8 April 2024.

⁵ E Glover "What AI is, why it matters, how it works" <What Is Artificial Intelligence (AI)? | Built In> accessed 8 April 2024.

⁶ BJ Copeland "Artificial intelligence" <Artificial intelligence (AI) | Definition, Examples, Types, Applications, Companies, & Facts | Britannica> accessed 8 April 2024.

⁷ C Collins, D Dennehy, K Conboy and P Mikalef 'Artificial intelligence in information systems research: A systematic literature review and research agenda' *International Journal of Information Management* Vol. 60, 2021, 1-17.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹ T Davenport and R Kalakota "The potential for artificial intelligence in healthcare" <The potential for artificial intelligence in healthcare - PMC (nih.gov)> accessed 25 December 2023.

¹²Ibid.

algorithms are already outperforming radiologists at spotting malignant tumours, and guiding researchers in how to construct cohorts for costly clinical trials”¹³

Artificial intelligence provides efficient operation of smart factories with AI-controlled processes for manufacturers, improves the manufacturing process with enhanced data analysis and decision-making, and assists in predictive maintenance to reduce downtime and increase efficiency.¹⁴

Artificial Intelligence in Finance mimics human intelligence and human decision-making processes for data analytics, performance measurement, assisting in dictation of how and where investments are made, data retrieval, customer servicing through AI-powered chatbots, predictions and forecasting, real-time calculations, risk management, enhanced fraud detection, algorithm trading and a lot more.¹⁵

Artificial Intelligence in entertainment, through its content recommendation algorithms, analyses scenes, objects, and metadata¹⁶ to enable precise genre recommendations and classifications for users; also helping to generate AI content in music, arts, and other entertainment spheres, ultimately leading to efficient personalization for the users, production efficiency, better audience analysis, marketing and promotion, cost reduction, and a lot more.¹⁷

In education, Artificial Intelligence provides personalized learning platforms, conversational learning tools, virtual tutors, task automation, smart content creation, provides educators with adequate recommendations to meet students' needs, adaptative educational tools, provides analytics for student performance assessments, helps generate research papers, organizes research papers, manage several administrative tasks and a lot more.¹⁸

In ensuring cyber security, artificial intelligence provides efficient threat detection, anomaly identification, real-time responses to malicious activities and breaches, adaptive security systems to counter evolving cyber threats, and automated security processes.¹⁹

In engendering a positive agricultural revolution, artificial intelligence provides precision farming through AI-powered drones and sensors, crop monitoring and yield prediction for sustainable agriculture, efficient weeding system through robots and drones, effective automation

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴ B Stackpole “For AI in manufacturing, start with data” <For AI in manufacturing, start with data | MIT Sloan> accessed 25 December 2023. See also, “What is AI in manufacturing” <What Is AI in Manufacturing? – Arm®> accessed 25 December 2023.

¹⁵ “What is AI in Finance?” <What is AI in Finance? | Glossary | HPE> accessed 26 December 2023.

¹⁶ Metadata refers to “data that describes other data, metadata is structured reference data that helps to sort and identify attributes of the information it describes”. See G Kranz “Metadata” <What is metadata and how does it work? (techtargget.com)> accessed 26 December 2023.

¹⁷ A Takyar “Role of AI in the Media and Entertainment Industry: Real-world uses cases and examples” <Role of AI in media and entertainment industry (leewayhertz.com)> accessed 26 December 2023.

¹⁸ D Gupta “10 ways AI in Education is Transforming the Industry” <Impact of AI in Education in Transforming Learning Industry (appinventiv.com)> accessed 26 December 2023.

¹⁹ “AI in cyber security: Pros and Cons, and What it Means for your Business” <AI in Cyber Security: Pros and Cons | Terranova Security> accessed 26 December 2023.

that saves water, pesticides, herbicides, elevates productivity and quality and efficiency in the management of manpower, and a lot more.²⁰

The incursion of artificial intelligence in transportation has made the advent of autonomous vehicles utilizing AI for navigation and decision-making, possible, enabling traffic management systems and analyzing real-time traffic data, adjusting traffic signals and rerouting vehicles to less congested areas, thereby optimizing urban mobility, and a lot more.²¹

Artificial intelligence tools optimizes human resource management by enabling efficiency in the recruitment processes for candidate screening and matching, enhancing employee engagement, monitoring performance analysis and reviews, talent development and trainings, workforce planning and a lot more.²²

In sum, the impact of Artificial Intelligence extends far beyond traditional computing, infiltrating diverse sectors and revolutionizing the way tasks are performed. Its towering influence on all facets of human endeavour is enormous and largely welcome because of its capacity to simplify everyday life tasks. Companies and individuals are constantly adjusting to this beautiful innovation and cynics are coming to terms with the fact that traditional computing is fast fading and reliance on artificial intelligence is becoming inevitable.

Typically, the world is at the early stages of these strides and will experience more evolutionary trends with the attendant shortcomings. As Artificial Intelligence continues to evolve, its influence on various industries underscores the importance of establishing ethical guidelines and legal frameworks to ensure responsible development and deployment.

3. Acknowledging Potential Benefits and Risks of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands as one of the most transformative and promising technologies of our time, offering a spectrum of potential benefits while simultaneously raising complex ethical, societal concerns, and inherent risks that demand thoughtful consideration.

On one hand, AI promises to revolutionize the way work is done by increasing efficiency and automating processes. It can streamline repetitive tasks and optimize complex processes, saving time and money.²³ These systems are excellent at quickly processing and evaluating data, which helps with decision-making.²⁴ The application of AI algorithms offers data-driven insights, lowering human error and increasing overall decision accuracy.²⁵ Its ability to comprehend user

²⁰ T Talaviya, D Shah, N Patel, H Yagnik and M Shah "Implementation of Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture for Optimization of Irrigation and Application of Pesticides and Herbicides" *Artificial intelligence in Agriculture* Vol. 4 (2020) 58-73.

²¹ "AI in transportation: using machine learning to improve mobility" <AI in transportation | PTV Group> accessed 26 December 2023.

²² K Mackenzie "How is AI used in human resources?" <How is AI used in human resources? 7 ways it helps HR (workable.com)> accessed 26 December 2023.

²³ SL Wamba-Taguimdje, S Fosso Wamba, KK Jean Robert and CE WANKO Tchatchouang 'Influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Firm Performance: The Business Value of AI-based Transformation Projects' *Business Process Management Journal* <(9) (PDF) Influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Firm Performance: The Business Value of AI-based Transformation Projects (researchgate.net)> accessed 8 April 2024.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ N Duggal "Advantages and disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence" <Advantages and Disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence [AI] (simplilearn.com)> accessed 8 April 2024.

preferences and actions makes it possible to provide tailored experiences across a range of industries.²⁶

On the other hand, regardless of these lovely benefits, several attendant risks emerge with the reliance on artificial intelligence. The possibility of bias and discrimination in AI is one of the foremost worries,²⁷ because AI systems may reinforce and magnify societal prejudices if they are trained on biased datasets, producing unfair and discriminating results.²⁸ For example, Amazon's AI recruiting tool, showing heavy training bias against women, kept shortlisting male applicants for hire while Amazon instead wanted to recruit more female candidates.²⁹

There are serious privacy problems with the widespread use of AI in data analytics and monitoring,³⁰ and without sufficient protections, the gathering and use of personal data for decision-making and profiling may violate people's right to privacy.³¹ Rijmenam posits that upon the advancement of AI, AI will acquire the ability to make decisions based on subtle data patterns that are complex for humans, making individuals unaware that their personal data is being used to make decisions that eventually affect the individual.³²

AI's capacity for automation has raised worries about job displacement. There is a chance of unemployment in some industries as machines take on ordinary duties, making it imperative that careful steps that will help handle labour transitions and reskilling must be embarked upon.³³

Equally, AI can lead to ethical issues due to its lack of transparency and accountability.³⁴ For example, it was reported that ethical misuse of AI has increased notably 26 times since 2012.³⁵ Sadly, lack of transparency and accountability breeds utter chaos. It also brings to fore the issue of who bears liability for damages, injury, or negative consequences on human users, resulting from AI-generated results.³⁶

It is important that a balance be achieved, between the potential benefits of AI and the risks associated with it, and in order to achieve same, a collaboration with technology developers, policymakers, and society as a whole, must be done. It is essential that an awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of AI is created and steps taking by all stakeholders to address

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷ E Ferrara "Fairness and bias in Artificial Intelligence: A brief survey of sources, impacts, and mitigation strategies" <Sci | Free Full-Text | Fairness and Bias in Artificial Intelligence: A Brief Survey of Sources, Impacts, and Mitigation Strategies (mdpi.com)> accessed 8 April 2024.

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹ J Dastin "Insight-Amazon scraps secret AI recruiting tool that showed bias against women" <Insight - Amazon scraps secret AI recruiting tool that showed bias against women | Reuters> accessed 9 April 2024.

³⁰ MA Rijmenam "Privacy in the Age of AI: Risks, challenges and solutions" <Privacy in the Age of AI: Risks, Challenges and Solutions (thedigitalspeaker.com)> accessed 9 April 2024.

³¹Ibid.

³²Ibid.

³³Ibid.

³⁴ UNESCO "Artificial Intelligence: examples of ethical dilemmas" <Artificial Intelligence: examples of ethical dilemmas | UNESCO> accessed 9 April 2024.

³⁵ N Maslej et.al "The Artificial Intelligence Index 2023 Annual Report" <HAI_AI-Index-Report_2023.pdf (stanford.edu)> accessed 27 December 2023.

³⁶ For example, two lawyers were fined \$5,000 for citing bogus case laws created by ChatGPT in an aviation injury claim. See, L Neumeister "Lawyers submitted bogus case law created by ChatGPT. A Judge fined them \$5,000" <Lawyers submitted bogus case law created by ChatGPT. A judge fined them \$5,000 | AP News> accessed 28 December 2023.

these disadvantages in order to ensure that AI is used in a way that is beneficial to the society, promoting innovation, inclusion, and ethical practices.

4. The Reality of the Current Legal Void

In the rapidly evolving realm of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the legal landscape finds itself grappling with unprecedented challenges. These challenges are further exacerbated by the absence of efficient trans-national regulatory framework. As AI technologies permeate various sectors, the inadequacies in the existing legal framework become increasingly apparent. This is so because, no society or institution progresses without an adequate regulatory framework that stipulates acceptable parameters of operation, and reining in potential excesses. The enormity of the potential damage to intelligent systems with the capacity to mimic human intelligence portends are best left to the imagination. Several pundits predict the takeover by machines, leaving human beings at the mercy of these machines. Hunt opined that “artificial intelligence algorithms will soon reach a point of rapid self-improvement that threatens our ability to control them and poses great potential risk to humanity”.³⁷ Researchers found that AI systems pose serious environmental hazards, and 36% AI experts are afraid that AI decisions could cause nuclear-level disaster.³⁸ In 2021, Tesla’s Robot attacked an Engineer at the Company’s factory, raising more concerns about the negative effects of more reliance on Artificial Intelligence.³⁹ The pertinent question is what is the current state of AI regulation?

The current state of AI Regulation, being novel and astronomically evolving, is quite abysmal. First, the existing legal frameworks are replete with patchwork of laws and regulations, often developed in response to specific incidents or concerns.⁴⁰ According to the AI 2023 index, out of the 127 countries analyzed on the existence of certain AI legal frameworks, only 31 countries have passed some form of AI-related legislation, with the US leading the way.⁴¹ However, these AI-related bills are not comprehensive legislative interventions but are enacted to address specific incidents or concerns.⁴² For example, Australia does not have a dedicated AI legislation but relies on existing laws or government policies for its AI regulatory actions.⁴³ In Spain, the Spanish Bill – Right to Equal Treatment and non-discrimination, had a mention of artificial intelligence by establishing “that artificial intelligence algorithms involved in public administrations’ decision-making take into account bias-minimization criteria, transparency, and accountability, whenever technically feasible”, but also does not have a dedicated regulation for

³⁷ T Hunt “Here’s why AI may be extremely dangerous- whether its conscious of not” <Here's Why AI May Be Extremely Dangerous--Whether It's Conscious or Not | Scientific American> accessed 27 December 2023.

³⁸ N Maslej et.al “The Artificial Intelligence Index 2023 Annual Report” <HAI_AI-Index-Report_2023.pdf (stanford.edu)> accessed 27 December 2023.

³⁹ M Muzaffar “Tesla engineer attacked by robot at company’s Giga Texas factory, report says” <Tesla engineer attacked by robot at company’s Giga Texas factory, report says | The Independent> accessed 28 December 2023.

⁴⁰ For example, as at 2020, about 7 Countries have some industry-specific regulations regarding autonomous driving. See M Bayern “Autonomous vehicles: How 7 countries are handling the regulatory landscape” <Autonomous vehicles: How 7 countries are handling the regulatory landscape | TechRepublic> accessed 28 December 2023.

⁴¹ N Maslej et.al “The Artificial Intelligence Index 2023 Annual Report” <HAI_AI-Index-Report_2023.pdf (stanford.edu)> accessed 27 December 2023.

⁴² A Baig “An overview of emerging global AI regulations” <An Overview of Emerging Global AI Regulations - Securiiti> accessed 9 April 2024.

⁴³Ibid.

AI.⁴⁴ Developing countries, being mostly consumers of technology produced by developed countries, still grapple with capacity building and bridging the AI technology gap, leaving AI regulation as a non-concern.⁴⁵

Coincidentally, efficient regulation commences with some legislative intervention stipulating guidelines that show acceptable conduct and outlaw unacceptable conduct. Sadly, policymakers are yet to be unanimous in their views on Artificial intelligence and the aspects that need regulation. It was reported that an analysis of parliamentary proceedings of diverse nations shows that each country's policymakers view AI from differing perspectives.⁴⁶ Thus while lawmakers from the United Kingdom are concerned with the risks of AI-led automation, their Japanese counterparts deliberate more on the need to safeguard human rights in the face of AI, yet Zambia Parliamentarians are focused on the possibility of reliance on AI for weather forecasting.⁴⁷ Conversely, as at 2019, although many countries have developed or are in the course of developing national AI strategies and action plans, no jurisdiction has yet published such specific ethical or legal frameworks for to regulate AI, apart from the European Union.⁴⁸ This fragmented approach results in a lack of cohesive guidelines that can comprehensively address the multifaceted nature of AI.

Again, definitions of Artificial intelligence vary widely and the scope of its regulations differ across climes.⁴⁹ These differences contribute to legal ambiguity. Naturally, a proper analysis of the issues revolving around a phenomenon will be daunting without a common taxonomy.⁵⁰ The lack of a common taxonomy and standardized understanding of what constitutes AI and its applications complicates the enforcement of laws, leaving room for varying interpretations and exploitation of the existing gap.⁵¹

5. Inadequacies in Addressing AI-Specific Challenges

Artificial intelligence is bedeviled with several challenges. Its novelty, dynamic nature, enduring growth, and swift evolution, make existing legal frameworks struggle to catch up with the continuous advancement, leading to a disconnect between the law and the technological landscape in that regard.⁵² The lack of specific AI regulations further exacerbates the inability to address AI-specific challenges, since many jurisdictions lack specific regulations to address the

⁴⁴ N Maslej et.al "The Artificial Intelligence Index 2023 Annual Report" <HAI_AI-Index-Report_2023.pdf (stanford.edu)> accessed 27 December 2023. See Article 23 Comprehensive law for equal treatment and non-discrimination <BOE-A-2022-11589 Ley 15/2022, de 12 de julio, integral para la igualdad de trato y la no discriminación.> accessed 30 December 2023.

⁴⁵ MN Demaidi "Artificial intelligence national strategy in a developing country" <Artificial intelligence national strategy in a developing country | AI & SOCIETY (springer.com)> accessed 9 April 2024.

⁴⁶ N Maslej et.al "The Artificial Intelligence Index 2023 Annual Report" <HAI_AI-Index-Report_2023.pdf (stanford.edu)> accessed 27 December 2023.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ "Regulation of artificial intelligence in selected jurisdictions" <Regulation of Artificial Intelligence in Selected Jurisdictions (loc.gov)> accessed 28 December 2023.

⁴⁹ S Ghosh "What is artificial intelligence: 5 definitions to help you understand the science" <What is Artificial Intelligence: 5 Definitions To Help You Understand the Science (aithority.com)> accessed 28 December 2023.

⁵⁰ RE Nduka, (n 1) p18.

⁵¹ F Gama and S Magistretti 'Artificial intelligence in innovation management: A review of innovation capabilities and a taxonomy of AI applications' *Journal of Product Innovation Management* 2023, 1-36 <<https://doi.org/10.1111/jpim.12698>> accessed 28 December 2023.

⁵² T Wheeler "The three challenges of AI regulation" <The three challenges of AI regulation | Brookings>accessed 28 December 2023.

challenges of AI, while the existing legal frameworks designed for traditional technologies are incapable of addressing the intricacies of AI systems, leaving regulatory gaps. Thus, ethical issues and their attendant incidents become unending.

The ethical dimensions of AI, revolving around issues of bias,⁵³ transparency,⁵⁴ and accountability,⁵⁵ present challenges that are not currently adequately addressed by existing laws. The absence of ethical guidelines or a deluge of AI codes, on the other hand, leaves room for the deployment of AI systems with potential negative societal impacts that go unchecked, constantly raising the potential for misuse.⁵⁶

Proper attribution of responsibility and determining such responsibility in cases of AI-related incidents remains a complex issue.⁵⁷ The current legal landscape struggles to attribute accountability when AI systems make decisions with far-reaching consequences, blurring the lines between human and machine responsibility.⁵⁸ Sadly, part of what keeps society and its major actors in check is the ability to determine and properly attribute responsibility, holding the actors accountable for malfeasances that occur in their activities.

International variances and divergence in approaches to AI regulation, leads to inconsistencies and potential conflicts in the global landscape.⁵⁹ Incidentally, the application of Artificial Intelligence and its systems are ubiquitous likewise the issues emanating from its application.⁶⁰ The lack of international standards hampers the effective regulation of AI technologies that transcend geographical boundaries.⁶¹

⁵³ Artificial intelligence in its operations sometimes has human biases, discriminatory data, and algorithms baked into the AI system, thereby producing biased results reflecting and reinforcing existing human biases within the society, including historical and current social inequalities. See “Shedding light on AI bias with real world examples” <Shedding light on AI bias with real world examples - IBM Blog> accessed 21 April 2024.

⁵⁴ AI transparency is very fundamental because where there is a lack of transparency in artificial intelligence, users do not have the necessary information or understanding about the operation of the AI system, what decisions they make, and any other impact factors. The transparency of the AI system builds trust, ensures fairness and compliance with government regulations, while helping the users understand how AI system makes decisions, why the results they produce are in such form, and what data they access in producing those results, so the fairness and reliability of the system can be easily determinable. Transparency ensures that the ethical implications, legal implications and societal implications in the use of the AI system are well taken care of. See. H Wren “What is AI transparency? A comprehensive guide” <What is AI transparency? A comprehensive guide (zendesk.com)> accessed 21 April 2024.

⁵⁵ A trustworthy AI system is essential standard of practice and measure that must be demanded from AI creators, industry players and users, to ensure that someone takes responsibility for actions that have the potential of aiding or negatively affecting other humans. See, C Novelli, M Taddeo and L Floridi ‘Accountability in artificial intelligence: what it is and how it works’ *AI and Society: Knowledge, Culture and Communication*, 2023, <<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-023-01635-y>> accessed 21 April 2024.

⁵⁶ L Munn, ‘The uselessness of AI ethics’, <The uselessness of AI ethics | AI and Ethics (springer.com)> accessed 21 April 2024.

⁵⁷ M Coeckelbergh ‘Artificial intelligence, responsibility attribution, and a relational justification of explainability’ *Science and Engineering Ethics* Vol. 26, 2020, 2051-2068 <Artificial Intelligence, Responsibility Attribution, and a Relational Justification of Explainability | Science and Engineering Ethics (springer.com)> accessed 21 April 2024.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹ SB Zemello “Challenges to achieving a unified, global AI regulation framework” <Challenges to achieving a unified, global AI regulation framework | Media@LSE> accessed 21 April 2024.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

6. The Urgent Need for Adaptive Legislation

As Artificial intelligence continues to redefine industries and societal norms, the inadequacies in the current legal landscape stand as a formidable challenge. Domestic legal frameworks tailored to address specific incidents or concerns, are not adequate in addressing the ever-growing challenges associated with this novel ever-evolving technology.⁶² The old laws do not fit this current technological trend and the issues that arise from its daily application. AI being driven by computer and further enabled by the Internet, dictates that domestic legislative intervention will not be enough in dealing with this contemporary problem.

There is therefore the urgent need for the emergence of a globally accepted adaptative legal framework that will provide the basic foundation for varying specific AI technology.

It therefore becomes imperative that a comprehensive AI-Specific regulation emerges, carrying all stakeholders, interests and nations along in its creation. These regulations and legislative interventions should stipulate globally accepted definitions/taxonomies, minimum ethical considerations, standard frameworks for accountability, mechanisms to adapt to in technological advancements, and other minimum standards of acceptable conduct for stakeholders within the AI sphere.

In achieving this feat, there must be serious collaboration on the international stage in order to harmonise these AI regulations. This collaborative effort should be led by the United Nations with the active participation of regional bodies to ensure the participation of interested nations in fashioning out a harmonized AI regulatory legal framework that will provide the minimum standards expected of all stakeholders within each national precinct. This international collaborative effort will facilitate the establishment of common principles and standards leading to a more cohesive approach in ensuring that the legal framework evolves in tandem with technological developments.

It is submitted that a proactive and adaptive approach to AI-specific regulations, with the input of all critical stakeholders and international community, is crucial in addressing the dynamic nature of this technology. Only through collaborative international efforts and a commitment to ethical considerations can society hope to navigate the complexities of AI while upholding fundamental legal principles and safeguarding against potential risks.

7. Conclusion

Technology will keep advancing and Artificial intelligence will keep growing, making incursions into all facets of human endeavour in a bid to simplify them. However, every human endeavour without a corresponding legal order will throw up unimaginable anarchy. Abuse of these systems will become rife and accountability far-fetched, bringing more damage to the society that the system seeks to make better.

National governments, civil societies, international community and organisations must come together, pull together resources, to come up with minimum regulatory standards for this ever evolving intelligent system.

In safeguarding the future, it is submitted that:

⁶² J Longo “We’re not there yet: Current regulation around AI may not be sufficient” <We’re not there yet: Current regulation around AI may not be sufficient | ASIC> accessed 21 April 2024.

- a. Ethical guidelines that will govern and shape the development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence must be established, ensuring that these guidelines align with human values and rights
- b. Legislative interventions across nations and the international community must be enacted to prescribe minimum standards of operations and accountability.
- c. Enforcement mechanisms of these minimum standards must be created, to superintend AI development, usage, and potential risks.
- d. Transparency of these AI systems must be pursued to ensure a constant understanding of their decision-making processes.
- e. Increased public awareness about AI capabilities, limitations, and potential societal impacts, must be constantly pursued, to aid informed decision making.
- f. Increased collaboration of industry stakeholders, researchers, civil societies, policymakers, and international communities must be encouraged to keep addressing AI-related concerns and challenges.
- g. Industry stakeholders, users, and developers must be held accountable for the consequences of AI applications.

The need to safeguard the future is imminent and laying the foundations will guard against future implosion.