The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

Frequently Asked Questions

(Updated November 2021)

What is the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence?

The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence or GPAI (*Gee-Pay*) is an international and multistakeholder initiative to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence consistent with human rights, fundamental freedoms, and shared democratic values, as reflected in the OECD Recommendation on AI.

GPAI's founding members include Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Union.

What does GPAI do?

GPAI brings together leading experts from industry, civil society, governments, and academia to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities with the goal of fostering international cooperation. In its first few years, GPAI's experts will collaborate across four Working Group themes: 1) Responsible AI (including a subgroup on AI and Pandemic Response); 2) Data Governance; 3) Future of Work; and 4) Innovation & Commercialization.

How does GPAI offer something unique to the advancement of responsible development and use of AI?
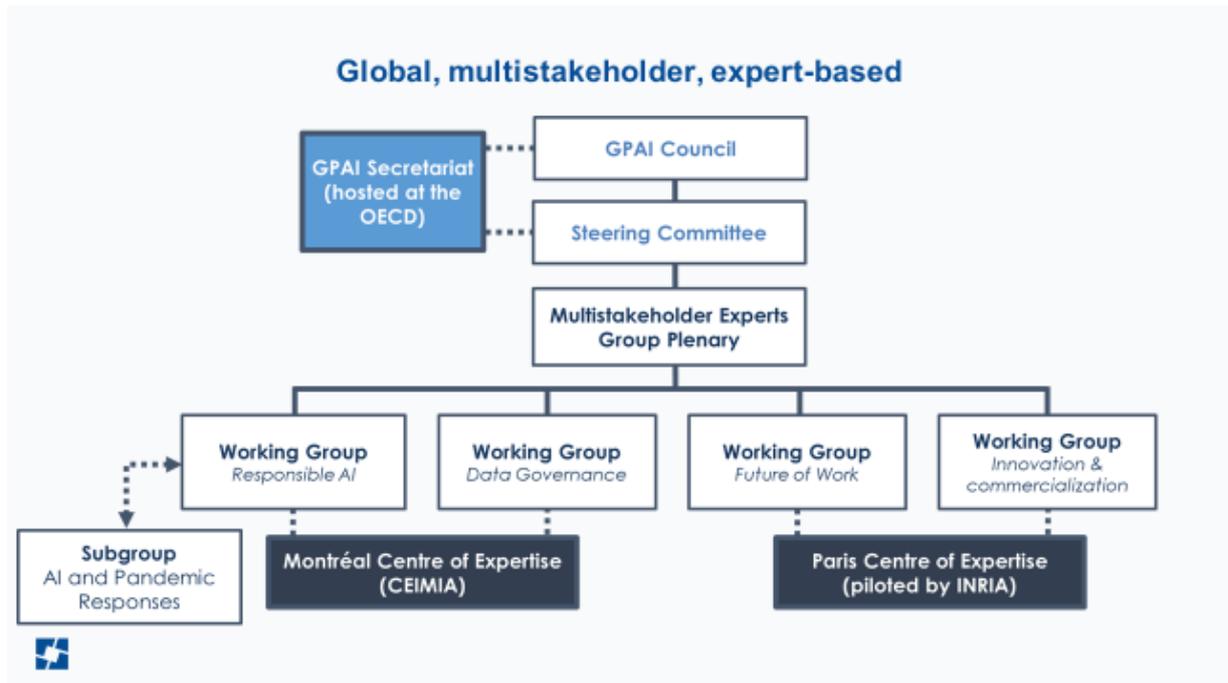
GPAI provides a mechanism for sharing multidisciplinary research and identifying key issues among AI practitioners, with the objective of facilitating international collaboration, reducing duplication, acting as a global reference point for specific AI issues, and ultimately promoting trust in and the adoption of trustworthy AI.

Through the collaboration within its working groups, GPAI assesses – on a comprehensive, objective, open, and transparent basis – the scientific, technical, and socio-economic information relevant to understanding AI impacts, encouraging its responsible development and options for adaptation and mitigation of potential challenges.

How is GPAI structured?

The structure of GPAI illustrated in the figure below includes a GPAI Council, a Steering Committee, and the Multistakeholder Experts Group Plenary(MEG), which includes a number of Working Groups. GPAI has a Secretariat, , hosted at the OECD in Paris, that supports the GPAI Council and the GPAI Steering Committee. GPAI's Centres of Expertise (one in Montreal and one in Paris) support the MEG and its working groups.

The **GPAI Council**, which is comprised of ministers or deputy-ministers from all GPAI members provides strategic direction to GPAI and retains ultimate decision-making authority for GPAI, including on membership and participation.

The **GPAI Steering Committee**, which is comprised of five government representatives and six non-government representatives, implements the direction provided by the GPAI Council, which includesdeveloping work plans and establishing Working Groups.

The **Multistakeholder Experts Group Plenary (MEG)** is the community of all GPAI experts, whether nominated by GPAI Members or self-nominated. It brings together 100-150 experts from science, industry, civil society, trade unions, international organizations and governments to develop annual reports and recommendations based on the results from applied projects undertaken by working groups. The MEG Chair is elected annually by a majority vote of experts and the community convenes at least once a year during the GPAI Summit.

GPAI Working Groups provide in-depth expertise on relevant AI issues and work within the four key areas of focus: 1) Responsible AI (including a subgroup on AI and Pandemic Response); 2) Data Governance; 3) Future of Work; and 4) Innovation & Commercialization. Working group members are comprised of experts nominated to the MEG (either by Members or self-nominated). Topics for Working Groups are directed by the GPAI Council and Steering Committee, based on input from the MEG. Working Group leads (Chairs or Co-Chairs) meet

regularly throughout the year to update one another on the respective GPAI Working Group activities and to discuss potential areas of collaboration. Updates about working group projects will be provided on the GPAI website.

Why is the GPAI Secretariat hosted at the OECD?

Hosting the GPAI Secretariat at the OECD will facilitate strong synergies between GPAI's scientific and technical work and the international AI policy leadership provided by the OECD, strengthening the evidence base for policy aimed at responsible AI. The OECD is also a Permanent Observer to GPAI's governing bodies and contributes experts to participate in GPAI's Working Groups and the annual Multistakeholder Experts Group Plenary.

What is the membership process to join GPAI?

Membership in GPAI is open to all countries, including emerging and developing countries. Countries interested in applying should email the GPAI Secretariat an application that includes the following:

- A **letter of intent** setting out reasons for seeking membership and signed by a ministerial-level official or Ambassador

- Confirmation that the applicant endorses the shared values reflected in the **OECD Recommendation on AI** or, for applicants that are not adherents to the OECD Recommendation, the Principles on Artificial Intelligence in Annex A to the **GPAI Terms of Reference**.

On receipt of an application, the GPAI Steering Committee will assess the following criteria and provide a recommendation to the GPAI Council, which will decide on membership by a two-thirds majority vote.

- The applicant's commitment to the shared values reflected in the OECD Recommendation on AI or the Principles on Artificial Intelligence.

- The degree to which the applicant takes a proactive role in advancing responsible AI, grounded in human rights, both on domestic and international levels, as well as with organizations and initiatives; and

- The level of expertise of AI experts working in the region, across a variety of sectors and disciplines.

Assessment tools include the **letter of intent and selected reference metrics**.

Members are expected to provide funding for the GPAI Secretariat principally through voluntary financial contributions. In-kind contributions (i.e. loaning or seconding staff) may be accepted by the OECD, in accordance with OECD's accepted rules, procedures, and policies. Members will be responsible for funding their officials' own travel and accommodations for GPAI meetings and events.

How can experts participate in GPAI?

GPAI provides opportunities for participation to experts from a variety of sectors, including science, industry, civil society, labour/trade unions and regional or international organizations.**Experts are selected as individuals and do not represent their organisation or country**. Experts can be nominated by GPAI members or self-nominated to the **Multistakeholder Experts Group Plenary** for a term of three years. Experts are then assigned to **GPAI's working groups** in the beginning of each calendar year.

Experts are expected to voluntarily contribute approximately 6-8 hours a month to participate in working group meetings. The working group Co-Chairs may invite additional individuals, as Observers, to fill specific gaps in expertise or experience, as well as to contribute to specific projects and deliverables.

Experts will also be invited to participate in the annual Multistakeholder Experts Group Plenary annual meeting, which gathers all GPAI experts to engage in critical conversations about AI and discuss the findings and recommendations from the Working Groups' activities.

Experts will be responsible for funding their own travel and accommodations for GPAI meetings and events, but may seek funding from their respective countries or organisations.

To join GPAI as a self-nominated expert, candidates will undergo a competitive process administered by the Centres of Expertise, before being selected by the Steering Committee and approved by Council. Interested candidates should prepare and submit the following elements:

- **A curriculum vitae.**

- **A statement of interest** stating why the candidate seeks to join GPAI and what contributions the candidate hopes to make, and demonstrating a track-record of excellence to achieve such goals. The statement of interest should also include, to the extent possible, evidence of activities carried out by the candidate that show alignment with the GPAI values, as enumerated in the **OECD Recommendation on AI**.

- **A form** with information on the candidate's background.

- Candidates are given the option of including one **reference letter**.

    Please see **GPAI projects** for more information about GPAI's work and feel free to **contact the Centre of Expertise** with any related questions.

When can experts apply?

In 2021, GPAI is welcoming 15 self-nominated experts for the first time. **A new call for self-nominated experts will be open in May 2022** for 45 days. Watch this space for further details about the 2022 call for self-nominated experts.

How are GPAI meetings and events held?

GPAI meetings and events, including the GPAI Summit, will be held in-person, virtually or in a hybrid format, based on public health recommendations and the host country. Information on events that have public-facing sessions are posted on the GPAI website along with videos from past events.

Key contacts

- The GPAI Secretariat, for questions about membership in GPAI, the GPAI Council, or the GPAI Steering Committee

- the Montréal Centre of Expertise, for questions about GPAI's Working Groups on Responsible AI (including the subgroup on AI and Pandemic Response) and Data Governance or the Multistakeholder Experts Group Plenary

  the Paris Centre of Expertise, for questions about GPAI's Working Groups on Future of Work and Innovation & Commercialization