

Position Paper - Republic of Indonesia

Agenda: Regulating AI to Prevent Digital Colonialism

The Republic of Indonesia recognizes the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in reshaping economies, enhancing governance, and promoting sustainable development. However, Indonesia expresses serious concern over the growing threat of digital colonialism—a scenario where technological advancements, particularly AI, are monopolized by a handful of global actors, often multinational tech giants from the Global North, resulting in the exploitation of data and digital resources from developing nations.

As Southeast Asia's largest economy and the world's fourth most populous nation, Indonesia stands at the crossroads of opportunity and vulnerability. Our rapidly digitizing society, with more than 212 million internet users, generates massive data daily—an invaluable resource that, if inadequately protected, risks being extracted and commodified by foreign entities without fair compensation or oversight.

Indonesia views digital colonialism as a modern form of resource extraction, where the digital sphere becomes the new territory of conquest. AI systems developed using data from developing nations often fail to reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of the populations they impact. Worse, such systems may reinforce biases, promote surveillance, or concentrate power in ways that undermine our sovereignty.

To counter this, Indonesia strongly supports:

1. **Global Regulatory Frameworks:** We advocate for the establishment of a multilateral AI regulatory framework under the United Nations that ensures fair access to AI technologies, equitable data governance, and digital sovereignty. Any framework must prioritize inclusivity, ethical standards, and transparency.

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2. South-South Cooperation: Indonesia is committed to strengthening technological collaboration with fellow developing nations through knowledge exchange, joint AI research hubs, and localized AI solutions that respect cultural diversity and indigenous data rights.

3. Data Localization and Protection: We urge all nations to respect each country's right to regulate the storage, processing, and usage of its citizens' data. Data localization is not protectionism-it is digital self-determination.

4. Open-Source and Inclusive AI Development: We promote open-source AI tools that can be adapted locally without dependence on foreign licenses or software monopolies. This is crucial for innovation and empowerment.

5. Capacity Building: Indonesia seeks support from global partners to invest in AI education, infrastructure, and ethical development tailored to local contexts, enabling all countries to meaningfully participate in the digital economy.

Indonesia reaffirms its belief that AI must be governed not just by algorithms but by ethics, equity, and respect for sovereignty. As a nation guided by the values of gotong royong (mutual cooperation), we believe that the future of AI should be a shared global endeavor-not a new frontier for dominance.

The Republic of Indonesia stands ready to cooperate with all nations to build a digital future that is just, inclusive, and free from exploitation.