MODEL UNITED NATIONS

BELARUS

UNGA (UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

Regulating Artificial Intelligence to Prevent Digital Colonialism

Position Paper

STEPS TAKEN BY BELARUS

1. Belarus adopted a model law on Artificial Intelligence

The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS) crafted a draft model on artificial intelligence, aiming to regulate the use of AI and promote online security. This draft was presented on March 26, 2025. The working group, led by Vladimir Gusakov, Chairman of the Presidium of the NASB (National Academy of Sciences of Belarus), was discussing key aspects of AI development and its legislative regulation. A key focus was on creating a model law, potentially within the [Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)](https://www.google.com/search?client=opera&sca_esv=f7156635f6e9a261&cs=0&sxsrf=AE3TifNy06jwin5-6XP5JK0Ty9BIOBMRJw%3A1752079812833&q=Commonwealth+of+Independent+States+%28CIS%29&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjincT2nbCOAxUtSGcHHRz6JYUQxccNegQIBRAB&mstk=AUtExfCYyTHV1yT3LRDW41BPX4bgWOps9S_7F7ApiW41_oePAfdOwSciAAM9wEX6d4mC7WYAL7b0Ajd14LteDjHhA-ho4P6QHLpR9OoIaqpiolrcr6TK6cRBu5QEjR0_E-E0goQxWNzgtmtERxdTYc44zcfPHapFn0n48OQCsz3Br2h6uTlylLsvcnKUrCLBOYiYeyEV7nbnTcvxVYdGsu7ulIoQlYXpZRq6Cy84oHXXOJ_uGbCPNxcoF4pz7I5U1EQ-FoPzkcgJ4JM4yC9FFvbNAbWJXbCSiayvm7QrpjWbUJtgcQ&csui=3), to address the risks, threats, and opportunities presented by AI.

The NASB meeting on March 26, 2025, highlighted the need for a law to regulate AI in Belarus, especially considering the growing cybercrimes and other issues associated with AI. The law was also intended to encourage AI development across various industries.

Source: https://nasb.gov.by/eng/news/14755

2. Sustainable development with the help of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

 Artificial intelligence is reshaping Belarus's economy and society, from healthcare and education to transport and environmental management. The country's National Strategy for Sustainable Development, which extends until 2040, envisions the integration of AI across all economic sectors.

Yet, the rapid expansion of AI applications presents society with a question: how to maintain the momentum of technological progress without compromising security or ethical standards?

With the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Belarus is developing a comprehensive official framework for artificial intelligence, drawing on international best practices and working on national priorities.

With the support, Belarus is getting approximately ten national standards on AI.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/belarus/news/how-belarus-improving-quality-ai-services>

3. Establishing a National AI Center

On February 27, 2025, Belarus officially established a **Scientific Artificial Intelligence Center** under the National Academy of Sciences with assistance from China. This center focuses on machine vision, natural language processing, neural network programming, supercomputing, and cybersecurity.

Source: <https://eng.belta.by/society/view/belarus-sets-up-center-for-artificial-intelligence-165859-2025>

4. Strengthening Digital Oversight through Government Decrees (an official order given by a government)

On April 1, 2025, Decree No. 135 was signed, declaring artificial intelligence and digital technologies as national priorities for the 2026–2030 period, specifically linking them to technological independence.

Source: <https://eng.belta.by/president/view/lukashenko-approves-priorities-for-scientific-sci-tech-and-innovative-work-for-2026-2030-166749-2025>

5. Promoting Digital Independence to Prevent Foreign Dominance

Belarus approved a **Concept of Digital Development Sovereignty Until 2030** under a government resolution on December 31, 2024. This concept frames digital independence as a matter of national security, ensuring state control over infrastructure and information resources.

Source: <https://news.by/eng/news/obshchestvo/belarus-approves-concept-of-digital-development-sovereignty-until-2030>

6. **Joint Russia-Belarus AI Initiative (Cultural Protection)**

* In **July 2025**, Belarus and Russia agreed to co-develop a **sovereign AI model based on “traditional values.”**
* This was framed as a **cultural defense** against foreign AI systems that may carry ideological influence.

Source: <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/07/11/russia-and-belarus-to-develop-ai-rooted-in-traditional-values-a89790>

7. Expansion of Digital Governance Through Decree No. 200

In May 2025, Belarus issued **Decree No. 200**, expanding the Ministry of Communications’ authority over digital technologies and AI. The decree placed the High-Technology Park (HTP), the country’s main tech innovation hub, under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister. This centralization strengthens government control over AI development and digital infrastructure, ensuring these technologies align with national interests. By doing so, Belarus aims to protect its digital sovereignty and prevent foreign influence from dominating its tech sector. This move helps the country maintain oversight and control over its digital future.

Source: <https://president.gov.by/en/documents/ukaz-no-200-ot-19-maa-2025-g-1747748378>

8. **State-Led AI Initiatives**

Belarus places strong emphasis on state-led AI initiatives to build its internal technological capabilities and reduce reliance on foreign AI providers. Many AI projects are funded, managed, or supported by the government, ensuring strategic control over critical technologies. This approach helps the country develop homegrown AI solutions tailored to national needs while safeguarding against external influence. By fostering a government-backed AI ecosystem, Belarus aims to retain control over data, intellectual property, and AI infrastructure. This strategy also encourages collaboration between public institutions and local tech companies, boosting innovation and digital sovereignty in the face of global technological competition.

Source: <https://eng.belta.by/society/view/belarus-sets-up-center-for-artificial-intelligence-165859-2025>

9. Data Protection Laws

Belarus has strengthened its data protection laws to better safeguard personal and sensitive information within its borders. These legal updates aim to prevent unauthorized foreign access or misuse of data, addressing concerns about digital colonization and data sovereignty. By aligning its regulations more closely with international standards, Belarus seeks to build trust in its digital economy and protect citizens’ privacy. Strong data protection laws also support the development of local AI technologies by ensuring that data remains secure and controlled domestically, reducing dependence on foreign cloud providers and tech companies that could exploit data for geopolitical or economic advantage.

Source: <https://dig.watch/updates/belarus-adopts-data-protection-regulation>

10. Belarus is also a partner in BRICS

(i) Collaborative Frameworks

At the 17th BRICS Summit in July 2025, countries discussed the importance of working jointly on AI regulation. They want to create shared rules that reflect the needs of developing countries and protect digital sovereignty. The goal is to ensure that AI technology doesn’t just benefit a few big players, especially Western tech giants, but is accessible and fair for everyone. By cooperating, they aim to build a more balanced and inclusive digital future that respects each nation’s control over its own data and technology.

Source: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-07-09/BRICS-leaders-issue-landmark-statement-on-global-AI-governance-1ESdCUbQNxK/p.html>

As we enter this new era shaped by artificial intelligence, Belarus stands with those who believe technology should serve all people, not just a powerful few. Today, we must talk openly about the risk of **AI colonization**. In this world, control over AI, data, and digital infrastructure is concentrated in the hands of a few countries or corporations.

If we’re not careful, AI could become another tool of inequality. Nations without access to advanced AI could be left behind, our languages ignored, our data extracted, our voices silenced.