

# Understanding the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Approach to Addressing Artificial Intelligence Concerns

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Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been growing in use at a faster pace than many anticipated. With this growth, individuals and organizations across different industries and professions have found ways to use AI as part of their work. However, there is an international organization, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), that has been among some who have keeping an eye on the AI few years before the technology became popular.

## Who is the OECD?

The [OECD](#) is a forum and knowledge hub for data, analysis and best practices in public policy. The OECD works with over 100 countries to help build stronger, fairer, and cleaner societies through the development of better policies geared towards improving the lives of citizens throughout the world.

## OECD Approach to Dealing With the Growth of AI

In [May 2019](#), the OECD had worked with 42 countries to address the growing use of AI, while addressing potential risks associated with this technology. The collaboration among countries and OECD resulted in the creation of a set of guidelines to help organizations and countries practice responsible stewardship of Trustworthy AI. During the May 2019 meeting, the OECD council formally adopted five principles for member and non-member countries to consider in with regards to AI in their jurisdiction. According to the OECD, the principles set standards for the use of AI that are “practical and flexible enough to stand the test of time.”

## Five AI Principles

- AI should benefit people and the planet by driving inclusive growth, sustainable development and well-being.
- AI systems should be designed in a way that respects the rule of law, human rights, democratic values and diversity, and they should include appropriate safeguards—for example, enabling human intervention where necessary—to ensure a fair and just society.
- There should be transparency and responsible disclosure around AI systems to ensure that people understand when they are engaging with them and can challenge outcomes.
- AI systems must function in a robust, secure and safe way throughout their lifetimes, and potential risks should be continually assessed and managed.
- Organizations and individuals developing, deploying or operating AI systems should be held accountable for their proper functioning in line with the above principles.

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## Intent of the AI Principles

OECD and the members developed the AI principles as a way for countries to use it and the related tools and resources to shape policies and create AI risk frameworks. In addition, countries use the principles, tools, resources, and other information to establish global partnerships working together among jurisdictions. The hope is that countries use the OECD's definitions, principles, and lifecycle related to AI to create legislative and regulatory frameworks, as well as guidance for better practices of AI within their societies.

## Countries Involved in Adhering to the Five AI Principles

In May 2019, 42 countries had signed and adopted the AI guidelines to practice ethical development and implementation of AI. Those countries, member and non-members, became known as adherents who agreed to adhere to the Principles.

The 36 member countries are listed below.

Australia	Hungary	New Zealand
Austria	Iceland	Norway
Belgium	Ireland	Poland
Canada	Israel	Portugal
Chile	Italy	Slovak Republic
Czech Republic	Japan	Slovenia
Denmark	Republic of Korea	Spain
Estonia	Latvia	Sweden
Finland	Lithuania	Switzerland
France	Luxembourg	Republic of Türkiye
Germany	Mexico	United Kingdom
Greece	Netherlands	United States

In addition, the following six non-members countries had joined the 36 member countries adopt and adhere to the AI guidelines.

Argentina	Brazil	Colombia
Costa Rica	Peru	Romania

In October 2019, Ukraine became seventh non-member country, 43<sup>rd</sup> country, to join, adopt, and adhere to the AI guidelines.

In December 2019, Malta became eighth non-member country, 44<sup>th</sup> country, to join, adopt, and adhere to the AI guidelines.

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## More Countries Adopt the AI Principles

In March 2021, Egypt and Singapore had joined the 44 countries in adopting and adhering to the AI principles as non-members. As a result, there were 46 countries that agreed to adopt and adhere to the OECD AI Principles.

## AI Principles Updated to Reflect the Changing Times

In [May 2024](#), OECD and the adherents believed that the original AI principles needed to be updated to reflect the changing times and evolution of AI. The group updated the principles to take into consideration the new technological and policy developments that AI could impact society. OECD and the adherents intended the updates to be robust and fit for purpose in the current times.

In February 2024, the European Union, also known as the EU, joined to become the 47<sup>th</sup> adherents to adopt the AI principles.

## Not Everyone Is Part of the Adherents

Among the list of 47 adherents, you may notice members from the G20, as well as those not involved in adopting or adhering to the AI principles. The G20 is a group of 19 countries and the European Union that are considered a premier forum for international economic cooperation with a role shaping and strengthening major international economic issues.

### The G20 Members That Are Adherents to the AI Principles

Argentina	Australia	Brazil
Canada	European Union	France
Germany	Italy	Japan
Mexico	Republic of Korea	Republic of Türkiye
United Kingdom	United States	

### The G20 Members that Are Not Adherents to the AI Principles

China	India	Indonesia
Russia	Saudi Arabia	South Africa

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## **Growing Adoption of the OECD AI Principles**

The interest in adopting the OECD AI principles is growing more groups are looking for ways to practice good stewardship of AI, while addressing the growing risk associated with it. In addition, the Council of Europe, the United Nations, and other jurisdictions use the OECD's definition of an [AI system and lifecycle](#) as part of their legislative and regulatory frameworks and guidance. Along with the AI principles, the use of definition and lifecycle help develop key recommendations on the use of AI in society.

## **OECD Recommendations for Policy Makers Dealing with AI Emergence**

As part of dealing with the growing emergence of AI, the OECD developed five recommendations for government policy makers to consider as part of their legislative and regulatory work related to AI use.

1. [Public and private investments](#) in AI research and development to promote innovation in trustworthy AI.
2. [Foster AI ecosystems](#) with the digital infrastructure, technologies, and mechanisms to allow the sharing of data and knowledge.
3. [Create policy environments](#) that opens a pathway for the deployment of trustworthy AI systems.
4. [Equip people](#) with the skills and support for AI that ensures fair transition in the labor market.
5. [Cross border](#) cooperation to share information, develop standards, and work towards responsible use of AI.

Each of these recommendations will require partnerships among government, public, and private sectors to help foster and promote efforts towards good practices and polices related to the use of AI.

## **Takeaway**

AI is not going away and the race to evolving its use in society is ever changing. The OECD with its 47 adherents and other groups should be commended for establishing and adopting the five AI principles to stewardship of AI. These principles have evolved to include five recommendations that government policy makers should consider in creating legislative and regulatory framework to promote good stewardship of AI that creates a positive impact on society. The OECD seems to have a pulse on AI and its use through the organization's information and resources that includes research papers, meetings, and reports to help organizations and countries ensure that positive adoption of AI into society. The OECD's information could help countries, organizations, and individuals better understand AI and create ways to minimize the risks that goes with this new technology. Governments, individuals, and organizations can use these

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guidelines as a consideration to adhere to when developing and using AI in society. While the OECD's efforts are good, there are questions as to whether member and non-member will follow the principles when competition becomes tougher. Another concern is how to respond to countries that use AI, but do not adhere to the OECD AI principles or engage in questionable practices that pose risks to societies. Like any new technology, there will be positives and negatives, tests of ethics and morals, and benefits and risks. It will be up to the country, organization, or individual to decide what principles to adhere to when using AI. At least, the OECD provides a potential pathway to being good stewards of this changing new technology.