



Federation of International
Civil Servants' Associations

HLCM Task Force on the use of AI in the UN System

Updates to the 77th FICSA Council - Joint HRM / Legal / Field session on
Flexible Work and Use of AI in the UN System

Irwan Mohd Razali and Steven Eales

FICSA Information Officer and Member without Portfolio

Subgroup 1: to develop a normative guidance/model policy for the UN System on the use of AI, with the understanding that the guidance/model policy should be “operational”, i.e. that organizations could actually use it to concretely guide their internal use of AI

Information Officer, Irwan Mohd Razali

Subgroup 2: to identify and promote mechanisms for pooling technical capacity and knowledge sharing on AI, and to explore the feasibility of developing a UN Generative AI platform – the latter could, if judged “feasible” by the Task Force, become a separate, stand-alone project, following completion of the work of the Task Force.

Member without Portfolio, Steven Eales

Co-Chairs –

Ms. Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR

Mr. Guoqi Wu, Associate Vice-President, Corporate Services Department, IFAD

Mr. Bernardo Mariano Junior, Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO), Assistant Secretary-General, OICT, UN Secretariat.

Membership –

UN, FAO, UNESCO, WORLD BANK, IMF, IOM, ITU, WIPO, IFAD, IAEA, UNWTO, UNDP, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, UNWOMEN, UNOPS, UNFCCC, FICSA, UNISERV, CEB Secretariat

This Task Force is established to **develop guidance that aligns with existing UN principles and standards on ethical AI use**. Its mission is to **facilitate the responsible adoption of AI technologies across UN entities**, emphasizing adaptability to dynamic future needs.

This initiative seeks to cultivate a capable and ethical AI ecosystem across the UN system that complies with existing norms and anticipates and responds to emerging technological advances and ethical considerations. The overall work of the Task Force aims to contribute towards the safe and ethical use of AI across the UN system.

Work is ongoing, the Task Force met twice and will have one more meeting, before providing a status report to the next HLCM in Nairobi. Then the work will continue until the second HLCM session.

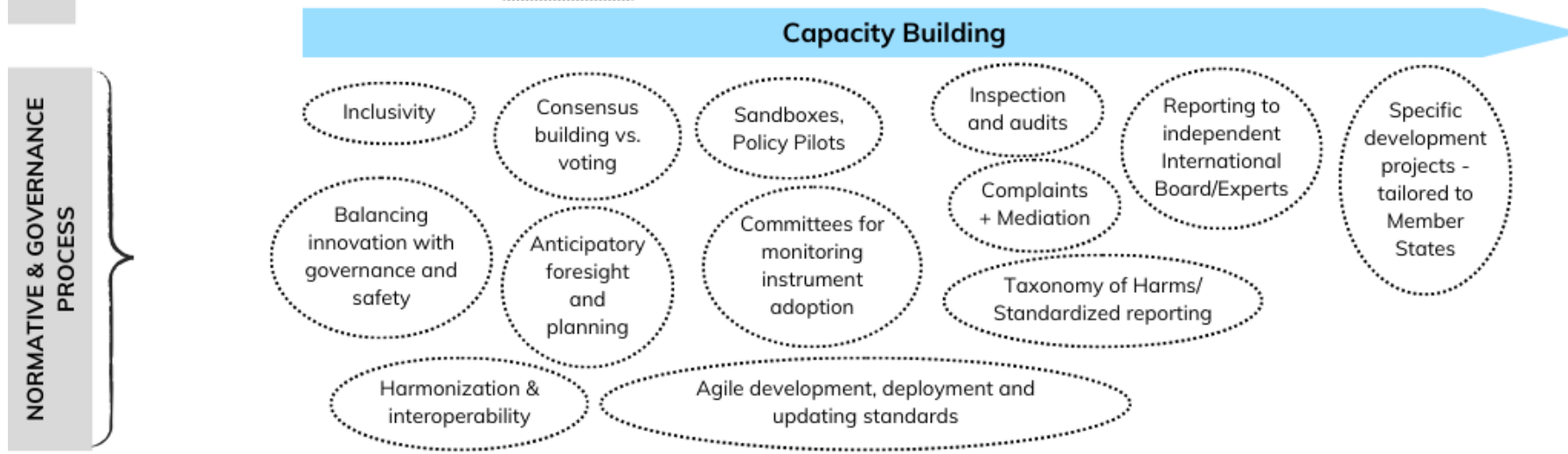
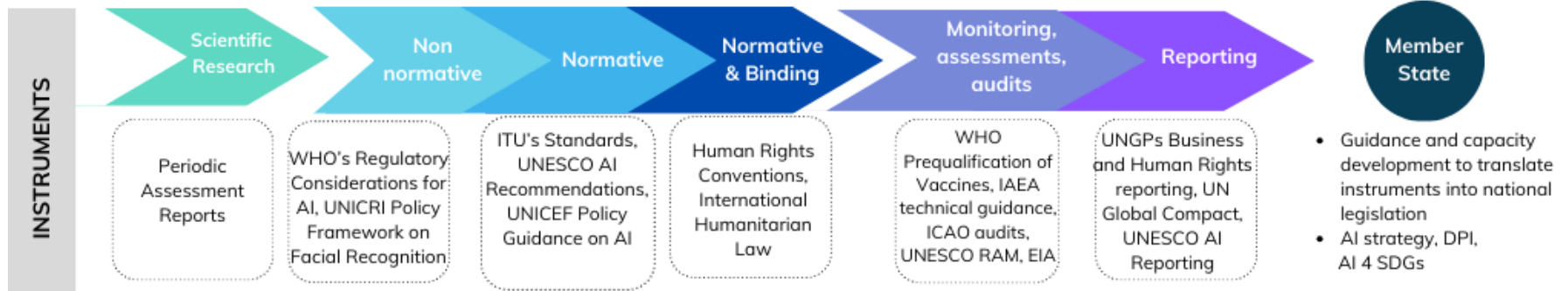
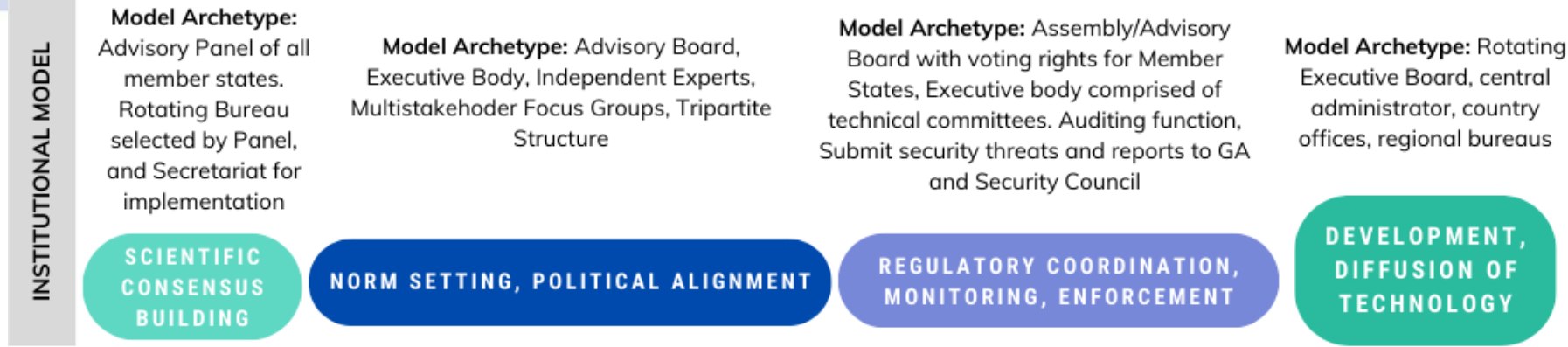
Task Force looked into:

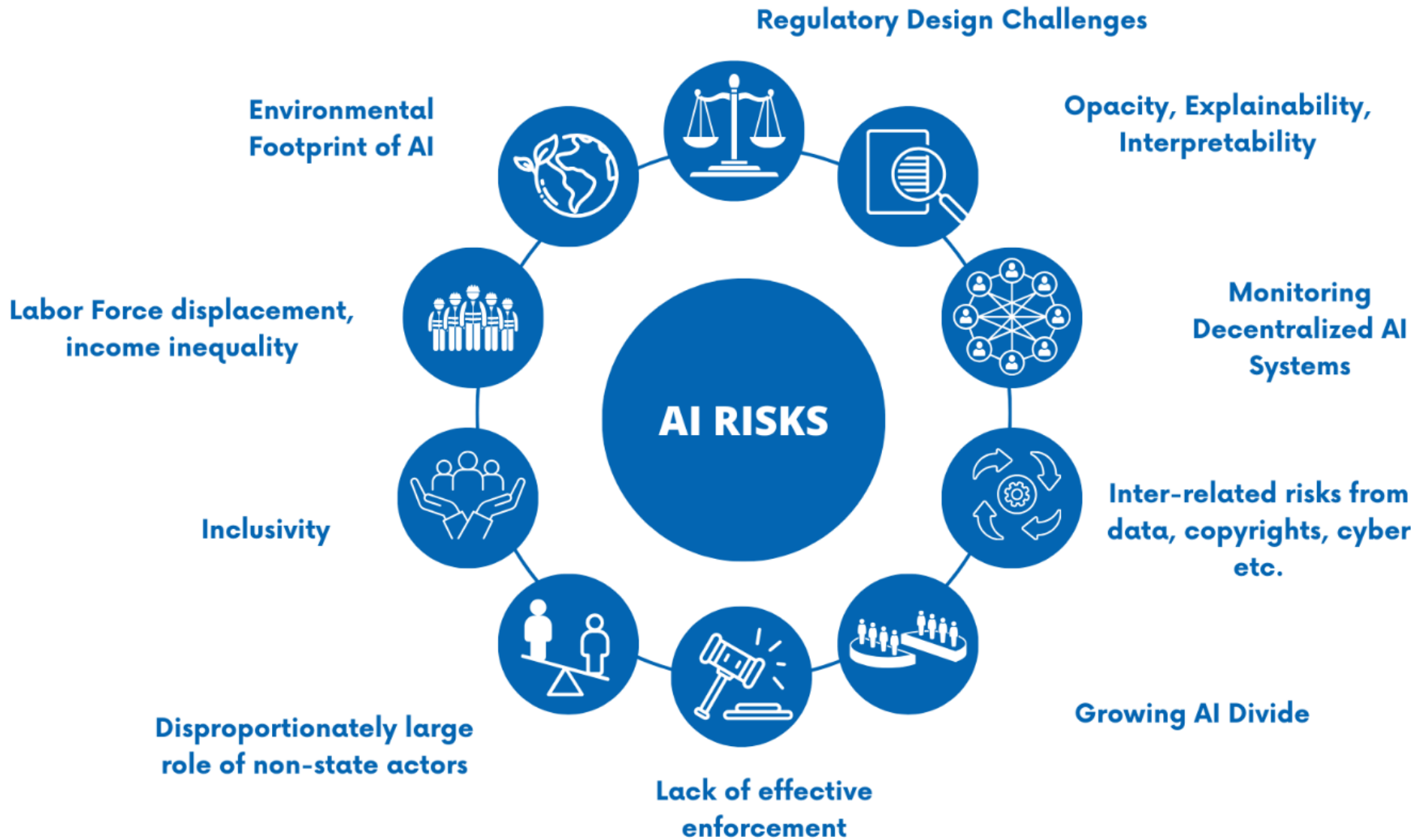
- a) Principles on the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the UN System;
- b) International Human Rights Law;
- c) UN Principles on Personal Data Protection and Privacy;
- d) International Data Governance – Pathways to Progress;
- e) UN 2.0 Quintet of Change.

- Input received favorably by the co-chairs and the task force members.
 - Impact on UN Staff Members
 - Capacity building, up-skilling and re-skilling programs – priority
 - Task Force composition – heavy in IT and Legal
 - Consultation with staff at large
 - Human in control principle being safeguarded
 - Impact of AI on managerial decision making, administrative/management review, appeals process, justice system, and all other existing policies.
 - Ensure to the extent possible that AI will do no harm, safety are taken into account, including avoidance of unfair bias and discrimination, sufficient oversight and checks to prevent errors in AI output being used in publication and normative work, therefore bringing reputational damage to the UN, and so on.
 - Prof Aditya Jain as FICSA's expert consultant also provided insight and feedback.

- Focus Area I – Existing international law, normative frameworks, and instruments within the UN System that could be applied or extended to AI
- Focus Area II – Institutional models that could inform an architecture for global AI governance
- Focus Area III – Learnings from existing governance structures, normative processes, and agile and anticipatory approaches from the UN System that could inform AI governance

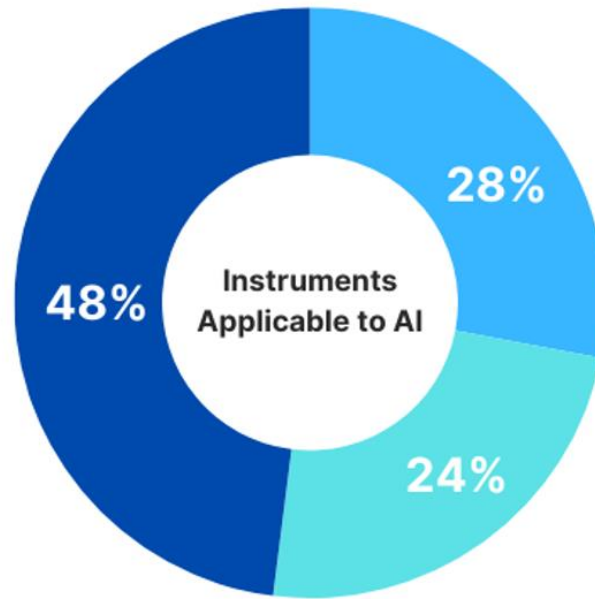
Draft AI Governance White Paper





Over 50 Instruments
shared by entities in the survey

Legally binding instruments - enshrined in human rights, also includes examples from labor, postal services, patents and proposed convention on online criminal activities, international humanitarian law and others



Normative & Non-binding - includes recommendations on the ethics of AI, policy guidance, technical standards and others

Non-normative Instruments includes considerations, frameworks, preliminary guidance, non-normative declarations and others

Illustration - Instruments divided by type of Instrument

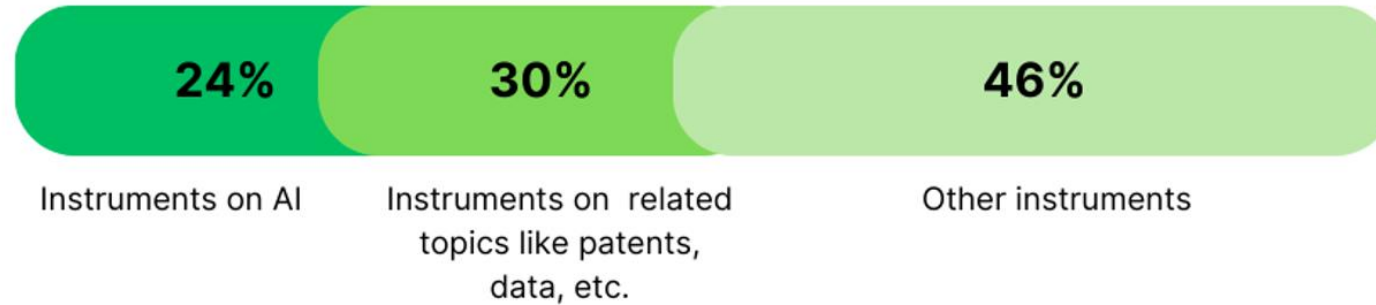


Illustration - Instruments divided by focus areas of Instrument

Illustration 3: Instruments within the UN System applicable to AI

- Discuss with your management and provide input specific to your organization's needs, mandates and norms.
- Bring your concerns / input / suggestions to the Task Force through FICSA (ficsa@un.org)
- FICSA will provide updates during Heads of Delegations meetings throughout the year – actively participate



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Thank you!

Any questions?

