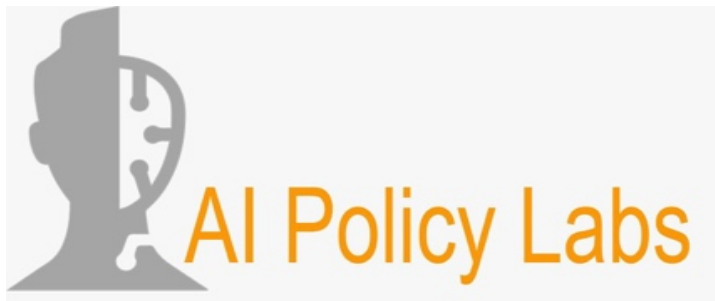# The Commonwealth: Advancing towards the Future with Emerging Technologies & AI

AI Policy Labs

FEBRUARY 2021

AI POLICY LABS, GLOBAL POLICY INSIGHTS (GPI)

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FOREWARD

UN Women's mandate places it at a unique position to safeguard and promote principles of gender equality, women's rights and empowerment in normative as well as programmatic functions of Governments across the world. The Agenda 2030 has advocated the adoption of the standalone goal to 'achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' through the Sustainable Development Goal 5. Furthermore, SDG target 5.b. focuses on enhancing "the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women".

'Digital is the new normal,' and more so given the Pandemic, with each individual being online for an increased period of time than ever before. Women and girls are using internet with greater frequency during the pandemic, although there is still a huge digital gender divide. Innovation and technology play a key role, in shaping our societies. Therefore, in these field, including AI and machine learning, gender norms and power relations need to built in, to ensure the benefit of all: women and girls, men and boys and persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities equally!

AI is disrupting every aspect of our society, from the way we work, communicate, learn, and even the way we socialise. There are growing examples of how AI is being used to empower women, close gender gaps and reduce inequalities. AI-powered chat bots are healing survivors of violence take the first step to seek information without the fear of stigma or judgment from a person. It is critical to ensure that any AI or legal framework brings many of these critical practices together, while being gender responsive. The focus needs to be on ensuring the ethical, transparent and accountable use of AI technologies. It is important to guard against the use of biased data or algorithms, ensure that automated decisions are justified and explainable, and help maintain user trust and individual privacy.

It is my hope that this report from the conference: "The Commonwealth: Advancing towards the future with Emerging Technologies & AI" in partnership with AI Policy Labs (AIPL), Global Policy Insights (GPI), Ramphal Institute, the Indian Association of Universities, the United Nations Global Compact and Swiss Cognitive, will greatly contribute on how we identify opportunities and come up with some equitable solutions.

UN Women has partnered with AI Policy Labs on *'Gender Responsive AI'* programme towards creating gender responsive and equitable technological solutions. This programme will focus on innovation in policymaking and implementation, to remove the barriers for those who are left farthest behind and most marginalized. It seeks to both inform and shape the discussion around gender responsive AI and leadership of women in Technology.

Ms Nishtha Satyam
Deputy Country Representative
UN Women India
(India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives)

Introduction

AI Policy Labs (AIPL), Global Policy Insights (GPI) in partnership with the Ramphal Institute and with associate partners UN WOMEN, the Indian Association of Universities, the United Nations Global Compact and Swiss Cognitive hosted a two-day virtual Conference on "The Commonwealth: Advancing towards the future with Emerging Technologies & AI" on 11-12 September 2020. The two-day conference witnessed the 'AI Conclave' on 11 September and 'Leaders Summit' on 12 September.

Seventy thought leaders were hosted at the conference comprising global leaders, Prime Ministers, Sectoral Ministers, Government Officials. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology experts, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, internationally celebrated dignitaries and youth leaders from around the world. The Conference witnessed a large participation of individuals from the Commonwealth and beyond, across several time zones, and particularly benefited from the partnership of youth organisations from low- and middle-income countries.

PARTNERS

"At the interface of the Commonwealth, AI and Youth"

AI Policy Labs was formed with a mission to use AI and Emerging Technologies as a force for social good with International Co-operation on AI, AI Governance & Policy, AI for SDGs, AI for Public Goods as key focus areas. AI Policy Labs was founded and headed by Uday Nagaraju.

At Global Policy Insights, 'The Commonwealth Project' aims to examine the role of the modern commonwealth in the 21st Century. 'The Commonwealth Project' was established under the leadership of Project Chair, Uday Nagaraju and Project Director, Neha Dewan with the aim to examine the role of the modern commonwealth in the 21st Century.

At the interface of a technological revolution, a growing, young population, a global pandemic and long-standing problems of our times, the Conference was conceived to present an interface between the Commonwealth Project and the AI Policy Labs. The research carried out by 'The Commonwealth Project' for the last two years informed AI Policy Labs for the need in conducting the conference and provided the academic direction. Uday Nagaraju led the conference as the Chair and Convener.

The Conference designed over two days deliberated crucial themes, critical debates and situated the priorities of young people in the Commonwealth across a context of international and multilateral partnerships, particularly on emerging technologies and AI. It also successfully mapped the road ahead for Commonwealth nations and networks, bringing together leaders, diplomats, scholars, entrepreneurs, the public and private communities.

While emerging technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) have permeated all aspects of human life, the Conference served its intention to examine how these can be channelled as positive forces for a progressive future of the Commonwealth, despite challenges of ethics and access that particularly AI might bring. Additionally, sustainable development and

ethical development require partnership, engagement and innovation. The conference facilitated this key agenda, creating spaces for youth leaders to voice their expectations, concerns and ideas, bringing them directly in conversation with institutional stakeholders.

This interface of GPI's Commonwealth Project and AI Policy Labs has motivated the necessity of a stronger Commonwealth for the 21st Century, while exploring opportunities for the youth especially with the drastic impact of Covid-19 and ultimately, furthered a more accessible and usable AI for policy making and implementation.

Objectives

The Conference was driven by the need to understand the role that emerging technologies and AI can play in a context of diversity yet linked histories of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth with large population comprising young people and presenting a unique set of policy challenges from blue economy to re-skilling and employment presents a special avenue for discussions on AI and emerging technology which should be best used to improve lives around the world. We designed the conference keeping the objectives of this thinking in mind.

A stronger Commonwealth would also imply greater partnerships across the globe and presenting linkages between multiple stakeholders and key actors was another major objective. The conference connected multiple stakeholders across a multitude of backgrounds, countries and networks from across the Commonwealth on a common platform to discuss its future in the context of emerging technologies, its youth population and AI for public good. We hope this detailed conference report would shed further light upon the key initiatives, recommendations and debates that emerged during the conference.

The conference was also designed as a platform to deliberate action plans, strategies and concrete outcomes which can be shared between the multiple actors and networks of the Commonwealth, and also with those outside of the established network, including private firms, companies and businesses. Through its keynotes, fire-side chats, addresses, panels and deliberative moments, the Conference has successfully mapped a new way of thinking on the Commonwealth, in the mainstream. The objectives of the Conference were put together under the framework of three key narratives, discussed below.

> **"A stronger Commonwealth would imply greater partnerships across the globe"**

A Young Future: Opportunities for the Youth and Progress for the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth is home to a third of global youth, with half of its citizens under 30. Optimising the opportunities presented to these future office-bearers and leaders by the various bodies and units working for the Commonwealth, was a key motivation in thinking of the conference. The discussions aimed to interrogate opportunities for investing in the future of the Commonwealth. While the coronavirus pandemic has disrupted lives across the board, the youth and its future has been largely disrupted, particularly raising concerns about employment, education and entrepreneurship. In this regard, the conference sought to derive the Commonwealth's ability and novelty to manifest its shared legacies in building a common future for its most promising demographic.

In addition, we covered aspects of sustainable development, good governance, green economies, climate change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly, in context of creating a better future for the youth.

Emerging with Technology: The Commonwealth in the AI Revolution

As technology seeps into mediums of national governance, how has the Commonwealth as a world body caught up? This was a key question and objective behind the two days of discussion.

The deliberations looked at if and how AI can address the issues of equal access, stepping into a digital future. The discussions encapsulated the power of AI as a media for progress while also raising questions of equal access, particularly across the diverging national systems of the Commonwealth and the incongruencies of development within its system. Historical ties of culture, communities and traditions were also explored to understand the

way for shared futures through emerging technologies.

Narratives of the future

This overarching objective was designed to guide discussions that would bring in global narratives of the Commonwealth to deliberated upon the future it seeks to create. At the conference, we looked at aspects of structural reforms, strengthening the institutions and actors within the Commonwealth and how their potential can best be manifested to build global partnerships, in particular with their relationship with emerging technologies and AI.

Moving forwards within a digital revolution, the Conferenced looked at the universality and outreach of the Commonwealth and its vision. A larger objective was to understand how narratives of the Commonwealth can be shaped and reshaped to be made more in keeping with emerging technologies and the needs of the youth.

Inaugural Session

Welcome Address by Uday Nagaraju

Founder and director of the AI Policy Labs, Co-founder and Executive President, Global Policy Insights and Chair and Convenor of the Conference.

Uday Nagaraju discussed the intentions and objectives behind the conference and the necessity of bringing together different stakeholders from the globe to meet on its matter. He also highlighted the work of AIPL and GPI in furthering these objectives at large. Going over the programme of the two days, he also noted the diversity and width of discussions and how they shall enrich the landscape of emerging technologies, AI, Commonwealth, Youth and the debates they create in the global community. In the opening sessions, Uday also engaged with some of the invited global leaders, discussing recommendations on strategies for the future.

Keynote Session

Keynote Address by Hon. Carmelo Abela

Cabinet Minister within Office of Prime Minister (Sustainable Development, Implementation of Electoral Manifesto, Social Dialogue), Malta

Hon. Carmelo Abela highlighted the importance of technology in enabling the last few months given the Covid-19 situation, that generates a future which was hard to imagine. The same is an opportunity to make sure that 2.4 billion people living in nations are closer together, through globalisation, with the need of assisting people with technology to eliminate inequality.

Malta has endured several new endeavours in technology to alleviate the economy. The country introduced National AI Policy to be undertaken by 2019-

2020 for health, education and economy. This holistic vision would serve as the backbone of digitalisation, including of the government's operations. A key focus of this objective is ensuring maximum participation in the process with commitment to strengthen the digitalisation process. Education and life-long training will be crucial for technological developments.

Hon. Carmelo Abela concluded on the note of responsibility that there is an assurance that individuals have technological skills, are empowered and can avail the benefit of these steps towards digitalisation. Hence, for societies to flourish with technological developments, upskilling and reskilling of people is key.

Keynote Address by Hon. Nandcoomar Bodha

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius

The Hon. Minister discussed the need for the creation of national e-learning platforms. He noted the achievements and progress made by Mauritius in containing the Covid-19 pandemic locally and also highlighted systems like the government decision for a centralised system for achieving food security and setting up of a national laboratory has been created with the help of WHO, in this context. The Minister also noted Malta's vision and plan in developed for focus on the Commonwealth. He expressed the need for support for a Commonwealth cyber declaration and advancement in the digital arena for women, vulnerable groups and children, special attention to small and vulnerable states.

Youth Leadership and Empowerment in the Age of AI by
Cllr Mete Coban MBE

Chief Executive, My Life My Say

Cllr Mete Coban MBE restated the importance of connectivity through technology, and noted upon focusing on the youth and how they can be the core of IT.

IT is a means of creating a more exclusive society. Interactions change human beings, like social media and engagement with the community to make it a better place can be done through technology. There should be a comfort among people to be able to talk about technology and technological education should be given to young people to engage with them at a greater level. Cllr Mete Coban MBE highlighted the importance of all the work that can achieved through or in some cases, only be done through technology. In conclusion, Mete Coban suggested that there should be active discussions on raising the voice of young people for the development of technology.

Achieving the Impossible: Exploring New Horizons for the Commonwealth Youth by Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash

World's Fastest Human Calculator and Head, Exploring Infinities
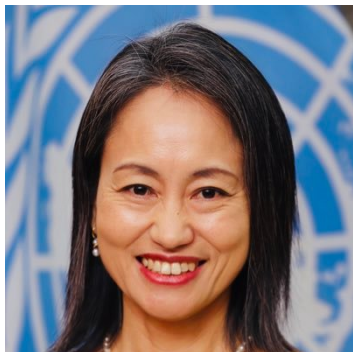
Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash spoke of eradicating maths phobia, pointing it as a main reason why children drop out of school. He further emphasised upon making maths accessible through digital arenas. Data driven pedagogical structures help reach out to the audience and understand the kind of maths education would work for them. The vision of maths is to make the world understandable by the child. Maths phobia translates to be a social problem concerning culture, language among other areas. He also noted that maths phobia can be eradicated by changing maths teaching structure to visual mathematics.

Advancing the SDGs with Youth and Technology by Shoko Noda

UNDP Resident Representative, India

Shoko Noda raised a discussion on India's potential, skills and enthusiasm, constituting half the population of Commonwealth nations and maximum youth potential. It is the country that produces the finest technology leaders.

Covid-19 may have effects on poverty and manual labour and have serious impacts on the 2030 Agenda. However, there is a huge engagement with the youth, and technology without bias is the need. She highlighted the importance of young people in co-creating roles and finding solutions. Youth has been central to the work of UNDP globally, and it continues to work more closely with younger people and for greener opportunities. Youth can be utilised in a limitless manner with respect to technology and communications and there are great opportunities in AI going forwards.

Shoko Noda noted major initiatives that serve as accelerators for development, for instance, the introduction of new services, initiatives from AI like monitoring air pollution control, AI based health regulators among others. She also highlighted the need to support women in developing AI technologies and for supporting young people for entrepreneurship, much of which the work of UNDP is exploring.

In-Conversation with UN Young Leaders: Future of SDG Implementation

Panel Chairs: Cllr Tele Lawal, Head of Engagement, My Life My Say and **Jonathon Cummings**, Vice President Americas (North and South) Region, Global Policy Insights

The panellists which comprised of a former United Nations Young Leaders cohort discussed the power of young people and their initiatives, mainly in the context of advancing equitable development. **Cllr Tele Lawal** and **Jonathon Cummings** chaired the panel, raising questions from motivations for leadership to the involvement of youth in SDGs, particularly within their own local communities. They also discussed incentives and needs for social enterprises for young people.

Victoria Alonsoperez, World Economic Forum Young Global Leader and Founder, Chipsafer discussed her long-standing interest in working with space technology and in bettering the life of livestock. She started Chipsafer with the realisation that space technology can be well used to track livestock. Victoria advised young people to look at the available technologies and deliberate strongly upon the right one to use and choose. Entrepreneurs often go to the market with a lot of advanced tech which makes their product expensive and not very user-friendly, a better option is to first look at the problem and then thinking of the best technology that can solve the problem.

Ezequiel Vedana da Rosa, Founder and CEO, Piipee noted that to work with SDGs, you need to have something much more than a business - you need to have a passion for something, that is much more important than having a business. The necessity as highlighted by Ezequiel Vedana da Rosa is to find the balance between having a sustainable business and making profits, while also helping someone and making a difference, it is about joining your passion with your abilities. Ezequiel noted the importance of timing one's business right and launching the

solution accordingly as per needs. Sometimes a viable solution might be too early for the market. The use of technology allows the saving of time and resources.

Faranisese Ratu, Founder and President, Youths Against Corruption, Fiji, mentioned the role of young people in calling out any injustices, raising awareness and in bringing people together. It is the passion in young people that incentivises them to act and bring all others together for social causes. Faranisese noted that technology is a major factor for sustainability, for instance, in its use for Agriculture to ensure we leave more nutrients in the soil. Technology and legislations should be brought together by countries so that technology can be used in the most sustainable ways, for social good.

Madelle Kangha, Founder of the Jumpstart Group, Jumpstart Africa, was a lawyer before starting her enterprise, had no idea how to go about it. Approaching a social incubator to get guidance on her business model, she also noted that while making money is important, the greater idea is to also make a difference, advising that it should be treated like a business but not for profits but for the people and the planet. Learning from others, learning by doing and making the most of freely available online resources was highlighted by her. With Covid-19, Madelle noted that we have really started using a lot of technology in education, but also the need to pay attention to the context, when you are using technology, as many students do not have good internet connections and to ensure that the content and its offline availability is relevant for all those who do not have internet. It must be ensured that technology is used to solve most relevant problems of the region it is used in.

National Strategies and a Common framework for AI

Panel Chair: Ivana Bartoletti, Technical Director, Deloitte UK and Author, An Artificial Revolution: On Power, Politics and AI, and Founder, Women Leading in AI

Ivana Bartoletti noted the need to create a common AI framework constrained by human values, for common good of the human society. The key question is how do we make sure that when it comes to AI and technology, there is a solid strategy from the government perspective and the industry perspective? To harness the value of data and the value of technology, there is a need to understand that AI, tools and techniques do not operate in isolation, but that technology is a socio-technical-political artefact. In the panel, she raised questions of regulation, data trust, innovation and collaborations between academia and industry.

Dr Bitange Ndemo, Chairman, Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence Taskforce, Kenya, talked about the first, second and third revolutions and noted how much more there is to gain from the new technology and AI despite some of the challenges. The regulators and innovators can work together for advancing AI. He discussed predictive analysis that can be used with the advancement in analytics, to predict and help, giving the example of banks where AI can now will help understand the patterns of human behaviour, make predictions about the credit scores. The need for a digital identity as with the onset of digitisation, biometric identities were recommended by Dr Bitange Ndemo.

Justin Flitter, Chief AI Officer, NewZealand.ai, discussed the long history of New Zealand with AI. AI is being widely accepted and used across all sectors like exports, photography, education, sports, banking, health, the agrarian sector among others. However, a national and government strategy is required for progress as well as funding. The AI Forum of New Zealand acts as an industry organization and their publication, discussed the key goals, development of a strategy, public awareness, adapting AI on ethics. Transparency and

accountability in use of data, ethics guidelines for AI algorithms data, policy recommendations around algorithms, automation engines and such will be the considerations upon the use of AI and algorithms can also facilitate these. A coordinated strategy between the public and private sector is pivotal to the increasing use of AI across sectors.

Nelishia Pillay, AI Strategy Lead, University of Pretoria, South Africa, raised three critical questions. First, what should be included in the national policy? Second, how to achieve this? And third, the role of academia linked to the idea of a common framework, also is it feasible and attainable. In context of a national policy, Nelishia Pillay discussed matters of ethics and regulations, non-encroachment in people's privacy and data, and rules governing those using the data, in a national policy. Discussing the case of unemployment, skill shift was brought into discussion and the promotion of AI literacy. At the same time, sustainable development goals and maintaining equality for everyone needs to be taken care of because technology makes the gap bigger, which requires a proactive approach rather than a reactive one. Defining different levels of commonalities depending upon the infrastructure is crucial for a common framework.

In conversation with Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence: Future of AI Partnerships
Presentation by Jordan Zed, Director-General, ISED
Moderator: Uday Nagaraju, Chair and Convenor of the Conference

GPAI will bring together experts from the scientific community, industry, civil society, governments and international organisations to foster international competition on applied AI issues among like-minded partners to shape the global agenda on artificial agenda. Some of the objectives behind GPAI are to bridge the gap between theory and practice, translating AI techniques, diversifying bilateral conversations to worldwide conversations with collaboration with the UN, among others. GPAI is collaborating with OECD in Paris and Montreal and seeing the expertise on the areas of AI technology.

There are shared principles such as accountability, safety, trustworthy AI, future innovation. GPAI is looking to focus on priority areas of responsible AI working group, data governance working group, future of work working group and innovation and commercialisation working group in December 2020. Jordan Zed highlighted that deliverables for responsible AI include tools to mitigate bias, discrimination and inequality in AI systems, while deliverables for data governance would include literature review and frameworks to define data governance for AI. Future of work entails training methods to upskill workers for jobs of the future and in disrupted sectors and creating links between external stakeholders and the deliverables is keenly required. Ultimately, the presentation also discussed the role of small organisations for research expertise, connecting external stakeholders, international partners and students for opportunities and dynamic conversations between stakeholders. GPAI has 15 international partners.

Emerging with Technology: The Commonwealth in the AI Revolution
Panel Chair: **Mark Minevich**, Digital Cognitive Strategist; Artificial Intelligence Expert; Venture Capitalist; Innovation CTO; Author and columnist
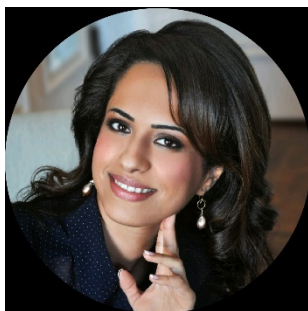
In this session, **Mark Minevich** brought a discussion on the meaning of the AI revolution to diverse countries and populations in the Commonwealth as compared to the G20, for instance. There were also questions on specific innovations and advances as enablers for a new digital economy for both Commonwealth and G20, entrepreneurship and AI, the creative digital economy, opportunities and gaps and the larger social impact of AI.

Ria Persad, President, European Chamber of Digital Commerce; Founder and CEO, StatWeather and Fellow, Cambridge Commonwealth Society discussed the role of AI and emerging technologies in levelling the playing field for people. The need to accelerate entrepreneurship and empowering people in the Commonwealth to realise their own potentials was noted. Skills like maths, computer science and others like innovative thinking and creativity to evolve technology, entrepreneurship and education in broader concepts are required.

Monique Morrow, Senior Distinguished Architect Emerging Technologies, Syniverse and TEDx speaker noted security as being a very important aspect of AI. In the context of Africa, areas of regulation, education and country experiences were raised. One important social aspect is dealing with climate issues and using AI for agriculture changes. The role of policy makers for ethical AI is important. Additionally, mentorship is necessary and has to work both ways and reverse mentorship can be very helpful.

Reem Alattas, Techpreneur; Inventor; NASA Datanaut; AI Strategist; Urban Mobility Enthusiast; First Female Manager, Executives in Saudi Arabia brought in discussion on the need for new skillsets for the workforce, especially women. The need to include youth in all conversations around AI and empowering them to ask the right questions in all matters surrounding AI is important. Governments

and educational institutes need to invest in talent to involve the younger generation in the development of AI to a great extent. Digital transformation is offering us flexibility, like never before. Establishing global initiative towards gender inclusivity, young people need to be encouraged to take initiative, while role models can encourage and motivate.

Roberto Alvarez, Executive Director and Secretary to the Board, The Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils; Recognized expert in International Development and Innovation; Researcher Scholar at Arizona State University discussed the opportunities for accelerating efficiency and more productivity. The biggest gap is in skills, for which development is urgently needed, else it would lead to an unprofitable situation. We need to work on framework and standards and empower ground workers in AI technology, along with a human touch and human component in higher education.

Seth Bergeson, Fellow at WEFl; Consultant in PwC strategy, Responsible AI, AI for Children and EdTech; Leads the WEF project on AI Governance, Ethics for Children; Worked at the US House of Representatives. Seth Bergeson discussed the huge governance gap, noting that national strategies are present, but AI is something that transcends borders and regions and thus we need global policy and principles even though operationalising AI principles is difficult. Covid-19 has provided both a crisis and opportunity for digital education. Smart curriculum can focus on strengths and weaknesses of students and personalised education is important. The need to protect student data, is most crucial.

Dalith Steiger, Co-founder, SwissCognitive discussed the need for sharing the nurturing of technology, making our products and services smarter. It is important to answer how we can engage AI for good and AI for economy together, converging the two for the future. Covid-19 has given a huge push to technology, particularly with increasing trust in online education and connecting with the

larger world, and the role of youth has been critical in this. Dalith Steiger discussed the need for IT and businesses to have a close collaboration.

The panel overall recommended the need for a global strategy on AI, responsible use of technology, greater infrastructure by addressing gaps, collaborations for opportunities and integrated ecosystems and importantly, the increasing role of youth in increasing the social impact of AI.

Role of AI in Innovation and Transformation Across Sectors

Panel Chairs: Arunima Sen, Outreach Officer, UNDP and **Swati Agarwal,** Programme and Research Manager, Global Policy Insights

The panel discussed the role and potential of AI in transforming various sectors. **Arunima Sen** and **Swati Agarwal** asked questions about the sectors that have exhibited the greatest potential of leveraging AI, the process of transformation and tackling the questions of ethics and governance of AI.

Dr Avik Sarkar, Faculty, Indian School of Business and Former Head, Data Analytics Cell, NITI Aayog, India noted that in India, a focus has been on agriculture as approximately 40-50% population is engaged in the sector. Healthcare and education, especially in remote areas would be critical to look at in the context of AI. As major players are coming into focus in India, it is very important to set the regulations of standards in India.

Darren Jones, MP, UK, House of Commons; Chair, House of Commons Business Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee and Chair, Institute of Artificial Intelligence discussed that geo-politics has had a major impact on regulations around AI. Despite differences between countries, we still need to figure out how to come together to create a framework to protect individuals.

Bhanu Ghantasala, Founder and CEO, Green Hats Innovation Labs, UK; TEDMED Research Scholar; LBS Sloan Fellow and Advisor to AI Startups Across Sectors noted that AI as a technology is fundamentally transformational but one still has to look at a problem and see how AI fits in, instead of counting on AI to solve entrepreneurial and business problems. The value all entrepreneurs should look at is empathy as that is what solves the basis of design thinking. Research and customer needs must go hand-in-hand.

Fuatai Purcell, Acting Secretary-General, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation, in the context of the Pacific, discussed the challenges of capacity-building. Digital tech must be affordable and inclusive, when it comes to emerging technology and AI, AI is really important because it helps the small islands in the Pacific region to transform public services such as education and healthcare among others. At the time of implementing a national ICT policy, one also needs to look at regulation and implementation. In the field of ICT, Fuatai Purcell noted that we need to keep a tab on emerging technologies to get more accurate and reliable data that can be used by our leaders to make responsive and informed decisions.

Closing Session

Opportunities for Youth in the Emerging Era by Kartik Sawhney

Co-founder, I-Stem; Queen's Young Leaders Award 2016 and UN Young Leader

As a young leader, Kartik Sawhney discussed how AI has helped impaired people access opportunities. In his own case, text readers helped him adapt to the world and live life with dignity, technology helped him gain access for education and gave him confidence. Being visually impaired, Kartik Sawhney was not allowed to take up STEM sciences. As he was so passionate about accessibility and technology, he decided to challenge the status quo and wrote a letter to the chairman of the educational board. Technology has helped him dream big and develop novel technologies for other visually impaired people. Kartik Sawhney now encourages and helps other visually impaired students through technology, fighting inequalities. Technology has enabled him to fulfil his vision of the world and address how to use technology to bridge the social gap present in the society.

Closing Remarks by Uday Nagaraju

Founder and director of the AI Policy Labs; Co-founder and Executive President, Global Policy Insights; Project Chair, The Commonwealth Project, GPI and Chair and Convenor of the Conference

Uday Nagaraju presented his remarks at the end of the first day of the Conference and main summaries of the various sessions of the day, noting the range of discussions and experts involved in discussing

important matters of emerging technologies and AI that affect everyone globally. He also noted the impact of AI on individuals around the world, especially young people, who are the main focus when discussing developments with AI and emerging technologies. Uday Nagaraju also mentioned the various recommendations and strategies raised during the day and discussed plans for the second day of the promising conference.

Closing Remarks by Neha Dewan

Consultant, UNESCO Cluster Office; Non-Resident Fellow and Political Affairs Officer, Global Policy Insights; Project Director The Commonwealth Project, GPI; Chair, Indian Women in International Relations (IWIR) Forum and the Conference Academic Coordinator

In her closing remarks, Neha Dewan noted that AI has been a game changer in the last few years. AI and emerging technologies act as an interface to bring in diverse perspectives and stakeholders, evolving with their myriad experiences. Neha Dewan also emphasised the need to address inequalities around the world in the realms of AI and emerging technologies, but even more so in the low- and middle-income countries of the Commonwealth, small and island states and developing nations at large. The discussion on AI in context of human and fundamental rights was also brought in, as she noted the multiple discussions of the day. The takeaway message that Neha Dewan raised was that t AI has affected each one of us irrespective of what our backgrounds are, and thus international and inclusive collaborations are key.

Closing Remarks by Arpit Chaturvedi

Co-Founder and CEO, Global Policy Insights, and Director of the Global Policy, Diplomacy, and Sustainability Fellowship.

Arpit Chaturvedi noted that the most important capability of humans outside of themselves is AI. Judicial decisions coming out of AI were significantly biased and this shocking result revealed how important the data fed to AI is. AI in many ways is an amplification of our capabilities and the world must look forward to figuring out how to use AI in the best possible manner, as it is the laying down of a foundation for humanity.

The Leaders Summit

The second day of the conference, 12 September 2020 (Saturday) hosted the Leaders Summit.

Inaugural Session

Inaugural Address by Uday Nagaraju
Founder and director of the AI Policy Labs; Co-founder and Executive President, Global Policy Insights and Chair and Convenor of the Conference.

Young people and their empowerment is key for any nation's development. During the pandemic we are witnessing a crisis regarding their education, their mental health and unemployment. It is in this light that GPI has been working on the Commonwealth project to ensure the development of this family of nations. Young people could be benefitted through technology and there are some countries that are doing well in this regard. We believe that we can work with the secretariat to bring all of it together and achieve our collective goals. In conversation with the Secretary General he also mentioned about AI Policy Labs' proposal for a joint AI Framework across Commonwealth nations working together with International Organisations and Global Partnership on AI so member states can utilise innovations made and also ensure responsible AI.

Keynote Session

Keynote Address by Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC

The Secretary General of the Commonwealth, **Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC** commenced her address by offering her tribute to the Late Chair of the Ramphal Institute, Mrs Patsy Robertson.

The keynote address highlighting the pioneering role of the Commonwealth in innovation and connectivity. The need to have ICT and AI infrastructure was brought into discussion particularly in context of the far-reaching advances in AI and emerging technologies.

Covid-19 has accelerated digital transformation across the world, opening up the way to technological innovations to enhance and support lives. The pandemic has become an extraordinary catalyst for change, it has exemplified the need for a digital engagement that has allowed us to retain some sense of normality. Building the necessary infrastructure to support a digitised world will be essential for any business or country to remain competitive in a post Covid-19 world.

Young people are at the center of national recovery plans. They have a special stake as programs that develop now will have effects far into the future. Young people have shown their readiness to be involved in ways that are practical and transformational and designed for effective and equitable support. The Commonwealth highlighted innovative talents through youth awards earlier in 2020. Some of the award winning innovations included sustainable energy extraction, portable water purification kits, digital applications that provide accessible information on reproductive health, and the largest online information hub for climate change. The youth will be the driving force to a future of health and harmony, and they need to be provided with the opportunities to succeed.

The pandemic has changed the way that we engage and deliver education. Technology and the internet can create safe spaces for our young people to express themselves creatively and it is an important part of their empowerment. Many AI diagnostic tools have been used effectively in suicide prevention and mental health interventions.

The possibilities are endless, however there are also ethical concerns that need to be addressed to ensure equity, inclusion and safety. The challenges faced by under-resourced communities, the digital divide, criticism of AI for not fully respecting the diversity of people are a few examples. Innovation and technology must be deployed to empower people positively in new ways.

There is a need to integrate national strategies for digital technology and national policies in investing in infrastructure, policy framework, resources and risk management.

Interactive Session with the Secretary General: Tackling Modern Challenges with the Power of the Youth

Panel Chairs: Kakembo Galabuzi Brian, Founder and Executive Director, WEYE Clean Energy Company and **Stephen Anurag P**, Founder, Yes We Can, Youth Organization for SDGs, India

The Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC engaged in an interactive session with young people from several youth organisations across the world, including

Zambia, India, Uganda, United Kingdom, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Tanzania among others. The discussions pertained from the role of the Commonwealth in ensuring equitable progress of AI in Africa, to not leave the youth behind, to integrating AI in sustainable development. The Secretary General also spoke of multilateral cooperation and inclusivity, especially across the Commonwealth to share toolkits, strategies and best practices with the advancing of technologies. A key focus of discussions was the mental

health of young people and both sides of the technology debate on mental well-being. Financial literacy, women empowerment, good governance and technological transformations were some of the other themes.

Keynote Address by Rt Hon Sir John Key

Former Prime Minister, New Zealand

Rt Hon Sir John Key in his keynote address highlighted experiences from his vast career leading the New Zealand government and globally. The former Prime Minister discussed the impact of Covid-19 on the world. The nature of jobs, challenges, education have tremendously changed. Business skills have also changed, since the advance of technology. The way people live have changed. Countries might differ in their perspectives, histories, culture but Commonwealth has held its significant place. Ultimately, he shared an empowering message with everyone, encouraging them to dream and have ambitions and go after them, as trying is the only way to begin achieving your goals.

Keynote Address by Hon Mohamed Maleeh Jamal

Minister of Communication, Science and Technology, Maldives

The Minister discussed the role of AI and Machine Learning (ML) in having a more transformational effect on society in the last decade. AI changes are so rapid that it is often difficult to keep up with the changes. However, the ethical and moral challenges are the same as those faced by our ancestors.

The impact of AI on privacy is of utmost concern. Patterns of behaviour are used to make predictions, meanwhile privacy is violated, often resulting in injustices against people of colour. Often technology is used to generate fake images, text and spread false information. Smaller nations, like Maldives with

limited resources, find it more difficult to deal with it. However, as for the benefits, a computer science research has increased connectivity.

Regulatory frameworks are much behind the state of the art. Even the comprehensive GDPR of Europe does not sufficiently define the limits. Other limitations include limited knowledge about the issues that can come up. Hence, it is either over regulated or under regulated. Maldives, a small island nation, is working on developing a framework for AI for small nations like Maldives. COVID-19 offers challenges and opportunities in AI. There is a great role for the research community that can offer feedback and legislation can then consider this for policy making.

Social good can be achieved, for instance, Maldives is using AI to identify high risk patients of diabetes, and there are training facilities on AI and ML in Maldives. AI is also being used to attain sustainability. Lastly, AI-based things are fast becoming an everyday necessity of our lives. A focus on balance between rights, privacy and services needs to be achieved, also including the increased participation of women in AI advancement.

Keynote Address by Hon Kyriacos Kokkinos
Deputy Minister to the President, Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, Cyprus

As the first minister of the new ministry that came into existence in March 2020, Hon Kyriacos Kokkinos discussed how AI will eventually become an everyday necessity. AI can also be a societal challenge as it is highly disruptive, as a double-edged knife, but it must be used for good. There is a need for a top-down approach, a knowledge-based digital economy supported by modern and efficient and reliable structures, and for targeting social welfare and global competitiveness. In Cyprus, there is a focus on achieving excellent universities and research ecosystems, moving to applied research to start-ups and entrepreneurship. The Minister gave the example of the past few months under lockdown, where the country identified 160 citizen services which could be injected with an AI element in a few months. Pillars of the AI strategy mentioned included talent cultivation,

task force to identify support, improving public services through AI, creating national data areas and repositories and an ethical and reliable AI.

Networking, encouraging partnerships with leading international organisations, digital and telecommunication infrastructure and a data environment created by AI in Public Administration alongside international visibility via research centres were also themes raised by the Minister. Cooperation with the Commonwealth to create AI opportunities for all was the concluding message.

Keynote Address by Hon Brigadier Mark Phillips

Prime Minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

The Prime Minster commenced his address by discussing how the Commonwealth is advancing towards the future with emerging technology and AI.

Youth have both opportunities and challenges. Multiple technological revolutions have been there, scientific, industrial and digital. Within the last two decades, technology such as computers, internet and AI have accelerated the transformation tenfold. Advancements speak of tremendous potential that AI holds for us.

Human beings have the power and choice to use the elements as a weapon or a boon. Youth are getting an enhanced communication, mobility, connectivity and children are capitalising on technology with billions of users on the internet.

There are large gaps in digital availability, the Digital Divide, children who have access and those who don't. Harmful content and cyberbullying are common problems. Knowledge and skills for the future are essential and require more academic and policy attention, and adequate infrastructure for digital skills development. Technology needs to be encouraged into practical usage along with responsible usage.

Guyana is working towards affordable access to AI in the country and bridging the digital gap. E-govt programmes are interconnecting Government for seamless operation and

access to public service in a convenient manner. The role of the youth must be realised in this. There must be lessons from the past and examples from the present, and the future will be more advanced.

International Cooperation on AI Strategies

Panel Chairs: **Neha Dewan**, Consultant, UNESCO Cluster Office; Non-Resident Fellow and Political Affairs Officer, Global Policy Insights; Project Director The Commonwealth Project, GPI; Chair, Indian Women in International Relations (IWIR) Forum and the Conference Academic Coordinator and **Swati Agarwal**, Programme and Research Manager, Global Policy Insights

The panel discussed the critical role of international cooperation and how it can be achieved. The Panel Chairs, **Neha Dewan** and **Swati Agarwal** raised the themes of the modalities of AI, cost of cooperation and investment, key stakeholders and importantly, bridging the gap for international cooperation. The role of different stakeholders such as inter-governmental agencies, civil society, private players and businesses, and shared interests were also highlighted by the Chairs.

Mohamed Shareef, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology, Maldives discussed the increasing demands of technology by the people, as it has tremendous potential, seen under Covid-19. The challenge of climate change was particularly highlighted, where the Internet of Things and AI can make a difference. Small countries like Maldives require international cooperation on several matters on e-waste, energy transformations, and the digital divide. The financial divide also needs to be looked at when looking at the cost of AI and the role of the Commonwealth, technology giants, civil society organisations and other players can be brought in here.

Uday Nagaraju, Founder and Director, AI Policy Labs and Co-founder and Executive President, Global Policy Insights mentioned how AI should not be looked at just as a technology, but as a set of activities, mainly because of the way it is growing and becoming an everyday part of our life. AI could impact the way international challenges are met and how even development is carried out. It will have great impact on policy and pose policy challenges. Regulations on AI are currently being done by people who don't have any experience in the sector, and regulations are happening at a rampant pace. To match this, current systems are not in a position to cope up. Multilateral initiatives like GPAI are looking at international cooperation. Commonwealth countries part of GPAI have a huge role in this. He mentioned about the need for International cooperation on AI and AI Policy Labs' proposal for a joint AI framework across The Commonwealth. AI Policy Labs will look into organising forums such as this and assist other countries.

Dr Avik Sarkar, Faculty, Indian School of Business and Former Head, Data Analytics Cell, NITI Aayog, India discussed the need to adapt technologies like AI for country needs. To do this, players with large R&D structures in place are required. In India, while discussing the national AI strategy, many think tanks, companies, consulting firms were reached out. Indian delegations are also working on ethical standards for AI. Having a framework to identify the gap between the conditions in a country as compared to another country, and have it in measurable terms, is something that is very difficult to do. A big aspect of developing AI is sharing data, and trust is a major factor in this. For international cooperation, thus, trust amongst nations is a key idea. This should be promoted amongst the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Forum

Panel Chair: **Neha Dewan,** Consultant, UNESCO Cluster Office; Non-Resident Fellow and Political Affairs Officer, Global Policy Insights; Project Director The Commonwealth Project, GPI; Chair, Indian Women in International Relations (IWIR) Forum and the Conference Academic Coordinator

The Commonwealth Forum highlighted the unique role of the Commonwealth in international cooperation and advancements of AI. The Panel Chair **Neha Dewan** emphasised upon the role of the Commonwealth and its special context in shaping a narrative of an inclusive and context-sensitive AI, while directing the discussion towards the key challenges of the Commonwealth, especially small states, in the prevalence of AI and in facilitation of collaborations and cooperation on AI. Ultimately, the key question was how can the gap between diverse nations be bridged in actuality?
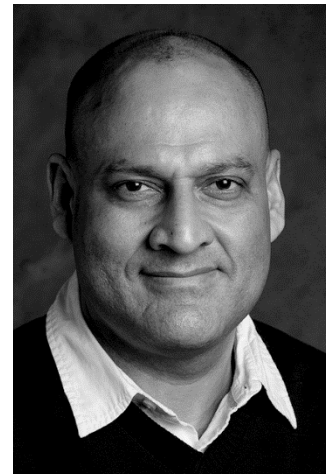
H.E. Kamela Palma, Former Belize High Commissioner to the UK noted how young people will drive the Commonwealth. The small states of the Commonwealth cannot be separated from technology when looking at development. AI can exacerbate poverty and distribution of assets within communities if policies are not worked on properly. The mindset of leaders should evolve, with a political will to make AI inclusive. Governments also need to be more resilient and strengthen their environment, health systems, education systems, and finally their governance.

Adirupa Sengupta, Group Chief Executive, Common Purpose Charitable Trust discussed the deep commitment of the Common Purpose to leaders across various spheres, including working closely with young Commonwealth leaders. The findings of a survey with young leaders on AI driven development were shared, noting the need for AI to be accessible, aware of intolerance and discriminations, interconnected and trust-based. On small states, Adirupa Sengupta discussed how they need to be a part of the process and not just recipients. The narrative should change from diversity to inclusion, to make it genuinely inclusive. True stakeholder engagement and a democratic process are key to ensure progressive development.

David Gomez, Director, Ramphal Institute discussed the implications of AI on not only government but also governance. There is a significant absence of youth at the government level, and the frameworks and mechanism in place need to allow for that to happen. Everybody assumes AI has only commercial applications, but the applications are way beyond that - in terms of public services, health, communications. These need to be addressed, while keeping data protection and privacy in mind. Transparency will play a key role in this process and multi-level collaborations need to happen simultaneously, while focusing on good governance and leadership.

Technology Leadership for Sustainable Development
Panel Chair: **Nero Ughwujabo**, Former Special Advisor to UK Prime Minister Theresa May

The panel chaired by **Nero Ughwujabo** discussed innovation and accelerations, and how technological developments are key for an equal advancement of AI across the globe. The absence of infrastructure in many countries, gaps in technological developments, issues with governance, health-tech, fintech, enviro-tech were some of the other themes raised. The Chair also discussed the role that different organisations and networks could play in assisting inter-sectoral progress which in turn, ensures equality in development.

Dr Victoria Chisala, Acting Director, Strategy and Operational Policies Department, African Development Bank highlighted how digital transformation could be a game changer for African people. Access to secure, reliable internet is critical to closing the digital divide and reducing inequality. In the area of national inclusion, the African Development Bank is working with the financial sector and mobile companies to promote financial inclusion especially digital finance. In the area of youth training and job, a number of initiatives, youth entrepreneurship donor trust fund are in place. The goal is to strengthen employment and entrepreneurship. However, infrastructure cannot be setup alone, partnerships with private sectors and other international organisations are essential. Lastly, Dr Chisala noted how Africa can and needs to find its own solutions and the key role of young people and opportunities in this process.

Samantha Cohen CVO, Chief Executive, Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council noted how there has been a rise of companies using AI from 2019-2020. There is a cognisance that AI would be an important driver of growth and development particularly in the developing countries. Emerging markets could gain more than developed markets owing to absence of legacy systems. The Commonwealth can play a leading role in forming new partnerships. It is important that AI and

technological considerations are included in the bilateral trade agreements. Development of AI will affect international trade, increasing productivity and growth, but there needs to be an investment in AI technologies.

Siamak Loni, Program Director, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network discussed the financial impact of Covid-19 on the world. One of the most important ways to come out of the pandemic, is to invest in human capital especially the young people. Many young people lack access to basic financing, networks and training. Powerful ecosystems are needed to enable them and scale their initiatives. AI can play a significant role in innovations, help accelerate progress towards sustainable development, and be a positive force for change. AI can have negative consequences and they must have robust legislation in place to ensure that AI is actually providing a positive result. While the power of AI is being harnessed, there is also a need to recognise underlying issues to lead a positive transformation. Despite all challenges that exist, there is opportunity to mobilise youth to shape a more resilient future.

Joseph Cox, Assistant Secretary-General, CARICOM discussed the lack of certification in the labour market even if they are skilled. Technological progress can deliver rapid growth if it accelerates structural transformation. Broadband coverage which is a prerequisite is notoriously low and will constrain and cause alienation of some regions. Increased emphasis on training would help circumvent challenges. Partnerships and trust would be need to make a effective and optimised government framework.

Innovation in Education with Emerging Technologies

Panel Chair: **Mirra Sondhi**, Global Head of Technology Risk, Schroders and **Shahana Joshi**, Programme and Research Manager, Global Policy Insights

The panel chaired by **Mirra Sondhi** and **Shahana Joshi** discussed the matter of education which has been seriously affected by Covid-19, increasing the need to the need to understand technological advances in the education sector. The themes of preparing students for the workforce, nature of upskilling, infrastructure and other needs, including country-specific needs were also discussed in the session. The role of universities and academic institutions in context of young people and the adoption of AI and emerging technologies, was also discussed.

Dr Joanna Newman, Chief Executive and Secretary-General, Association of Commonwealth Universities discussed how there is the presence of huge opportunities in digital learning spaces, but that some universities have been better equipped to grasp this. There are also infrastructural issues with access to data, putting some universities in a difficult position. There is a huge demand and need for higher digital education, but lack of supply, especially in areas like sub-Saharan Africa, where there is massive potential. Digital innovation is required in pedagogy for transition to digital education. AI can also improve the administrative front, enabling them to serve students even better.

Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary-General, Association of Indian Universities discussed the impact of COVID 19 and the subsequent Lock Down on the large and diverse higher education system of India. She mentioned that as India is the second largest higher education system in the world with about 1000 universities, 45,000 colleges and 37 million students with a lot of diversity in terms of access to technology, the transition to online education was not easy. However, the system quickly evolved itself by creating and updating digital infrastructure, undertaking capacity building of teachers to teach online and training students to learn online. The technology has in fact, helped in bridging the gap in terms of providing quality education to all in a big way. So the digital divide that was created due to absence of technology, is being addressed by technology itself as the availability of good teachers at remote places is now possible due to digitization of higher education. She also talked about the New National Education Policy (NEP 2020) of India recommending many innovative interventions in terms of multidisciplinary institutions, multiple entry and exit, flexible credit transfer, Academic Bank of Credit, establishment of foregin campuses on Indian soil, National Research Foundation etc.

Aseem Kumar, Head, Asia Pacific Resource Centre (APRC), UNGCNI noted how the new NEP has focused greatly on multi-skilling. The response of a huge country like India with all of its challenges to Covid-19 in the context of education has been positive. It has also showcased the need for innovation, and this has also been reflected in the NEP. AI can help with mechanising a lot of administrative work that teachers are expected to do, which will help them work and teach better, and engage with their students better. Content delivery and pedagogy needs to use technology, however, the human aspect and social capital in the education sphere cannot be forgotten.

Tackling Opportunities and Risks in AI through the Leadership of Women

Panel Chair: **Dr Allison Gardner**, Co-founder, Women Leading in AI and Programme Director, Data Science Degree Apprenticeship, Keele University

The panel noted the important role of women and their leadership in a more equal AI. The panel Chair, **Dr Allison Gardner** discussed how risks in AI are beyond just data gaps, requiring a strong discussion on gender politics in context of AI. The themes of gender diversity in digital skills and digital education were also raised. The need for diversity In AI and its ability to target specific gender issues, is serious, as the panel discussed.

Saniye Gülser Corat, Former Director of Gender Equality, UNESCO Headquarters, France and expert on Artificial Intelligence and Gender Equality discussed her work on the UNESCO report on the matter of gender equality and AI, the goal of which was to identify current trends and issues, with a view to engage with various stakeholders. There are several creative innovations that improve the lives of women, like, the app developed by five teenage girls from Kenya, that provides 200 million victims of genital mutilation with support and includes a panic button that alerts authorities. The UNESCO report also discussed the impact on gender bias and the presence of AI powered voice assistants mainly being female voices, giving examples of Amazon's Alexa, Siri by Apple (meaning beautiful woman who leads you to victory), Microsoft's Cortana. Research shows that using virtual assistants increases the amount of command-based speech at women. This gradually hurts the connection between women's voices and subservience. There are several other such factors where AI reflects society and to solve the bias, more women are needed in the technology sector, especially in leadership. All forms of diversity, including gender diversity must be recognised for inclusive AI.

Elena Sinel, Founder and CEO, Teens in AI discussed her work in building a framework for girls in AI in partnership with Microsoft and taking it across the world. We've been able to connect girls to what is known as a complex technology. There is quite a shortage of women in tech and only 30% go into research. Covid-19 has disrupted the way of life and it has shown that women are those who suffer the most, and girls are the ones who have missed out on the opportunities regarding education. Even in the UK there are people who do not have access to basic WiFi or good enough ones to be part of online education. It is worse in many other parts of the world. There is a to empower young women and make them believe that they can make change, they can be examples of what others look up to.

Victoria Bolin, Research Assistant, Women in AI and Vinnova mentioned the work of Women in AI with partners in Sweden to explore applications of AI in five different inequality areas; gender, unpaid work, gender related violence, uneven funding for entrepreneurs and gender and health. It is important to gather people from various backgrounds to put together structures that help such collaborations. The approach has been to discuss barriers and missing elements in AI that are supplied, and forming concrete solutions and who should be involved in the process. Finally, shedding light on best practices that exist. Within these areas of inequality there are multiple facets and aspects to be covered. It is important that we start looking at gender disparity and ethics at the design level, and how the usage of AI can address the needs of the user.

A Young Future: Opportunities for the Youth and Progress for the Commonwealth
Panel Chair: Dalith Steiger, Co-founder, SwissCognitive

The youngest panel at the Conference was unique in bringing out the experiences and leadership of some very young innovators, thinkers and panellists. Chaired by **Dalith Steiger**, the panel presented the exceptional work of its young panellists, highlighting the need for empowering young people with opportunities and investments in their future, particularly in AI and emerging technologies to solve problems.

Samridhi (Simi) Singh, Co-founder, girlscancode.ch; Co-Teacher, goTech and SwissCognitive Youngest Ambassador shared how it is her mission is to close the gender gap in the coding world for girls. As a huge AI enthusiast, Simi Singh strongly believes that AI cannot achieve its full potential till when people do not see its full potential. There are only 20% girls in the coding industry and hence it is very important to extend access to coding to girls too. Using AI properly, creating a new technology can be the best thing that the world has heard of. AI will change everything and we must know how to adapt to the changing insights.

Jacques Ho Ludik, Founder, Fury Games; Software Developer and Smart Technology Experimenter shared his interest in data engineering which includes AI, something he is very passionate about. Jacques Ho Ludik shared his work on AI and mentioned how AI should be used for greater good. Human-centric AI, where it is used to give to the society and create an equitable society is needed and AI should focus on helping humanity and not be used for malicious activities. It should be unbiased and fair.
AI is needed in areas where more compassion is needed, it will help people be more productive.

Joshua Agboola, Chief Programmer, Joshfortech; Techpreneur and Software Engineer in Training, Semicolon Africa mentioned how he aspires other children towards AI and is passionate about technologies like voice assistants. Joshua Agboola shared his story and the role of his parents in driving his exposure to technology from a very young age.
Children should be taught about the practicalities of the technology that they use. The future of AI is going to gain the nature of jobs and help the world solve large issues like the refugee situation, but its negative impacts should be monitored.

Okezue Bell, Founder, Inventor of non-profit organization InspoX; AI, Quantum and Crypto Enthusiast shared his own experiences and successes in AI, particularly his development of network models which are capable for transferring data without the use of the internet. Okezue Bell shared wanting to create a machine that links brains to machines, and his passion for entrepreneurship. Passion drives product development.

Schools should inculcate the habit of using technology and the older generation should also teach children about the ideal uses of technology. AI can be used for something good and the future of AI really lies in medical and finance fields.

Bridging the Gap: Opportunities for a Young Commonwealth and AI

Panel Chair: **Mandy Sanghera**, Philanthropist; Global Campaigner on AI for Social Good and TEDx UK Speaker

The final panel of the Conference was critical in discussing opportunities and steps ahead for AI and youth. Chaired by **Mandy Sanghera**, the panel discussed the themes of leaving no one behind as AI advances, the role of the youth of the Commonwealth, an inclusive AI and the diversity of experiences. The Chair also asked important questions and details of looking at biases that are input into AI designs and the concrete steps in addressing them. Mandy Sanghera encouraged the Commonwealth youth to "take a chance, embrace the change, and move with the times. Be innovative, be creative, and leave no one behind."
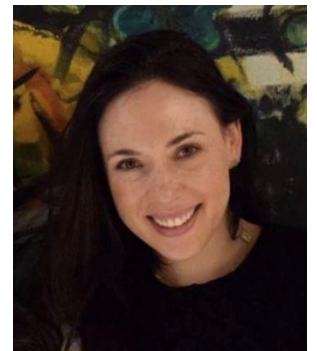

Shelley Zalis, CEO, The Female Quotient shared that diversity of experiences are a key in removing biases. As multiple generations are in the workplace together, some of them opt-in to sharing data and some of them do not, which can also create data misrepresentation. Demographic profiling cannot work in such a case. Shelley Zalis called out to the Commonwealth youth to "be bold; don't wait and watch, and don't be afraid to create those next step solutions. Also, don't be competitive, be collaborative"

Nitendra Rajput, Vice President and Head, AI Garage, Mastercard mentioned how as human beings, we all are actually making decisions based on our prior experiences. When you reflect that on AI and if AI can understand such human actions, biases can be done away with. An assessment of biases that could have creeped into data can be addressed by this reflection. There are a significantly large number of problems which have not been solved yet, AI can enable a bigger leap to help solve things faster. Thus, it can have larger applications in developing countries as compared to developed countries. It is important for everyone, including the youth to embrace AI, irrespective of their profession or background. To build a solution, you don't need to reinvent the wheel. The idea is to ride on top of what has already been done, pick what has already been done and customise it according to your context. People can grow by learning from each other.

Natasha Birnbaum, Senior Vice President of Global Strategy, Mogul shared how providing young people an education and awareness about biases is necessary. There is also a need to provide the youth with a platform and ensure that they feel heard. Mechanisms must be present to support youth further, to provide them a safe and secure platform and give them the tools and resources to navigate the future.

Oniel Cross, Principal, Deloitte Consulting LLP discussed their work on 'AI Trustworthy Framework' which is about how you can ensure biases don't creep in when data is represented. How do we create a framework and share it across the Commonwealth is an important question we need to answer. For instance, some universities do not even have AI in their curriculum, so we need to figure out how to make it accessible to them, in all countries across the Commonwealth. Oneil Cross made a call to the Commonwealth youth to 'be bold and challenge the orthodoxy."

Closing Session

Closing Remarks by Richard Bourne

Trustee, Ramphal Institute

In his closing remarks, Richard Bourne shared his congratulatory message. Speaking on behalf of the Ramphal Institute, Richard Bourne noted how increasingly AI has become a part of daily lives and of the future. The idea of discussing youth in context of these innovations has been critical. The risks of divides in societies, between countries, have been focused upon in the two days and the challenges have been discussed at length. The divide between those who are technologically aware and those outside of it is massive, and this needs to be carefully seen. What goes 'viral' also needs to be closely examined. A Commonwealth-AI framework to be adopted by the Commonwealth is a very important idea and young people, citizens' assemblies should be involved in this. Ideas and safeguarding mechanisms, and also implementation strategies need to be discussed and interrogated at length, to have serious achievements for the Commonwealth. Richard Bourne closed his remarks with his tribute to Mrs Patsy Robertson.

The Ramphal Institute remain key partners of Global Policy Insights, particularly on the Commonwealth Project and will continue working closely with them via GPI and the AI Policy Labs.

Closing Remarks by Uday Nagaraju

Founder and director of the AI Policy Labs, Co-founder and Executive President, Global Policy Insights; Project Chair, The Commonwealth Project, GPI and Chair and Convenor of the Conference

Uday Nagaraju presented his final remarks at the end of the second day of the Conference by thanking all partners and those involvement in the success of the conference. From this platform he proposed AI Policy Labs' AI Framework for the Commonwealth working with partners, governments and other players to bring this into place. Uday Nagaraju also shared his heartfelt tribute to Mrs Patsy Robertson, who has been a key partner, friend and mentor, and who unfortunately passed away before the Conference. The attendees of the Conference were from across different parts of the Commonwealth around the world and saw great participation from young people, serving its key purpose. The hope is to keep working together with old partners, make new partnerships and work for the betterment of AI and emerging technologies around the world.

Conclusion and the Way Forward

As a result of the discussions from the two days of conference bringing together experts and thought leaders, key areas for future work emerged and will be taken up subsequently and implemented with partnering institutions and by forging new partnerships in the process. Broader areas of work include:

AI Policy Labs

- **AI for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- **International Cooperation on AI**
  - **AI Joint Framework for The Commonwealth**
  - **Multilateral and Bi-lateral cooperation on AI**
- **Gender Responsive AI**
- **Emerging Technologies and AI in Africa**
- **AI in National Policy Making**
- **AI and Climate Change**

1. AI for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

With the aim to promote the positive applications of AI for achieving sustainable development, the work programme will focus on identifying the potential, challenges, gaps and solutions of AI which will help in achieving SDGs. This programme will focus on identifying Identify Potential areas for AI Intervention and Challenges with AI in achieving SDGs. The Programme was launched on 15th December 2020 in partnership with Albert Hirschman Center of Democracy, Graduate Institute, Geneva along with high level representations from UN, SDG Lab, UK Parliament's All Party Parliamentary Group on AI, I-DAIR. A Podcast series has also started with five podcasts so far on various SDGs.

2. International Cooperation on AI

a. AI Joint Framework for The Commonwealth

As a result of the work conducted at the conference, AI Policy Labs proposed an *AI joint framework and taskforce in The Commonwealth* and cooperation between Commonwealth countries. This platform could potentially promote innovations and facilitate AI for Public Goods and Social good. Uday Nagaraju conceptualised this proposal for a 'Commonwealth Partnership on AI' similar to Global Partnership on AI(GPAI) and for collaboration with GPAI and International Organisations.

b. Multilateral and Bilateral cooperation on AI

Promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation on AI and Emerging Technologies with an underpinning theme of utilising AI for Social Good.

3. Gender Responsive AI

AI technologies along with their tremendous benefits also have the potential to be biased either through design or owing to skewed training data sets. There is a dire need of developing and designing frameworks that are fair and equitable. Therefore, AI Policy Labs will set up its 'AI and Gender' programme to understand the fundamental barriers to

equality embedded in AI and the ways in which AI can be made gender responsive in both process and outcome.

4. AI in National Policy Making

As discussed during the sessions, AI gives plenty of opportunities to governments to innovate, replace traditional methods by implementing automated methods backed by machine learning, computer vision, natural language processing and robotics techniques of AI to bring its benefits in the healthcare system, education system, agriculture, fintech etc. AIPL will be working with policy makers to identify ways in which new innovations can be identified, incubated and then replicated along the supply chain.

5. AI and Climate Change

The aim of this work programme will also be to put specific emphasis on how AI & Emerging Technologies can help tackle the climate challenges that are being faced by the world today. The programme will critically assess the potential and impact of AI on greenhouse gas emission reductions and in helping the society to adapt to climatic changes quickly and in a resilient manner.

6. Emerging Technologies and AI in Africa

AI Policy Labs is working with its partners in Africa to create an enabling environment for multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder collaboration for innovation, finance and entrepreneurship, to accelerate Africa's transition to an innovation-led economy. In the uptake of AI, sometimes there are trust issues or lack of clarity on account of developments taking place in the region separate from where it is to be deployed and hence are seen as major barriers to the adoption of AI. AIPL will work with research institutions in Africa to identify those barriers and ways in which these can be addressed for long term gains.

The conference has been an excellent opportunity to share mutual experiences. The knowledge that has been generated and shared needs to be disseminated throughout the region, and stakeholders need to continue working together for an inclusive and equitable AI.

The Commonwealth Project:

- o **The Commonwealth and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- o **Leveraging a Common History for a Shared Future**
- o **Leveraging the Networks of the Commonwealth**
- o **The Blue Economy and the Commonwealth**
- o **Democracy, Development and Commonwealth Nations**
- o **Policy-Making through Multi-level Partnerships**

1. The Commonwealth and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

As we enter the final decade in pursuing Sustainable Development Goals, the Commonwealth must focus on supporting its constituting states through a collaborative process, which the Commonwealth Project hopes to contribute to. While Covid-19 has obstructed the progress on SDGs and even reversed it in some cases, the Commonwealth has shown that through collaborative work and efforts, goals can be revisited, and plans can be shaped keeping in mind new needs. To this, the Commonwealth Project and its affiliates would promote revisiting SDGs in the context of the Commonwealth, to plan for this all-important decade. Focused sessions on key priorities of SDGs and the context and needs of different Commonwealth nations, will be a major part of the project plan.

2. Leveraging a Common History for a Shared Future

The Commonwealth has always benefitted from its shared past and shared legacies. As the world and global economies may their way into a post-Covid-19 world, leveraging shared pasts and legacies could not be of more importance. The Commonwealth Project will focus on reinvigorating these ties and connections and help facilitate partnerships between the Commonwealth stakeholders to plan and work towards a shared future and in particular, shared priorities.

3. Leveraging the Networks of the Commonwealth

At GPI, the Commonwealth Project has focused on building partnerships, particularly between governments, and government and civil society networks. The various accredited and affiliated organisations of the Commonwealth have played a key role in building these bonds. The Project will continue working closely with the networks of the Commonwealth across its member states, to build a sustained partnership from the grassroots to the highest levels of policy-making.

4. The Blue Economy and the Commonwealth

While the blue economy, covering resources from oceans and water bodies, is a newer and developing concept, the Commonwealth has made serious progress in the area through its Commonwealth Blue Charter. The Commonwealth Project will focus on raising in-depth and important debates on the nature and future of the blue economy. Important to the climate agenda, SDGs, in particular SDG 14, the blue economy needs much more attention. The Commonwealth Project will further focus on the aspects of a sustainable blue economy, the role of developing nations, and also local communities including women and the youth.

5. Democracy, Development and Commonwealth Nations

An identified framework across all discussions during the Conference, were the key concepts of democracy and development as fundamental ideas for the Commonwealth. As one of the oldest political associations in the world, the Commonwealth has always focused on building and promoting institutions for good governance, and strengthening democratic systems. The Commonwealth Forum at the Conference in particular, discussed the conceptual framework and narratives of the Commonwealth going forwards. The Commonwealth Project will institute various discussions and focus its research on enhancing these concepts, discuss the ways and means of incorporating them in a sustainable and inclusive manner within states and between states, and ultimately, offer an academic insight and recommendations on best policies for mutual knowledge sharing and benefit of societies.

6. Policy-Making through Multi-level Partnerships

The Commonwealth Project has facilitated several institutional and governmental partnerships across the Commonwealth in the past two years. As a think tank, GPI can offer a unique perspective and bring together a host of different stakeholders to build a stronger policy structure, especially for new priorities and emerging trends. The Commonwealth has a uniqueness in the international system and through rigours policy effort, civil society and think tank partnerships, it can continue to better influence the world for social good and positive impact.

Disclaimer: The report is a succinct and analysed version of the two full days of the Conference. For verbatim content and detailed discussions, please visit: www.aipolicylabs.org and www.globalpolicyinsights.org.

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