

COLOMBO DECLARATION ON DATA PROTECTION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION IN THE CONTEXT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

*Adopted at a conference on data protection convened by the LAWASIA Committee on Communications, Technology and Data Protection, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 6 September 2024 and endorsed with amendment by the LAWASIA Council on 13 October 2024**

MINDFUL OF:

- (1) The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) as an important research and investigative tool;
- (2) the potential value of AI to legal practice, law enforcement, and the administration of justice;
- (3) Notwithstanding the clear benefits that AI can bring to all aspects of legal administration and the rule of law, the need to ensure that the personal rights of individuals are not unreasonably or unnecessarily compromised and
- (4) in particular, the capacity of AI to reinforce, rather than eliminate, discriminatory practices and thereby undermine public confidence in the legal process,

THIS CONFERENCE RESOLVES that all LAWASIA member organisations:

- (A) have a responsibility to understand the potential uses and benefits of AI with respect to legal education and ongoing professional development, and with respect to the administration of justice.
- (B) nevertheless have a responsibility to understand and promote an awareness of the potential limitations inherent in various applications of AI and other forms of artificial enhancement of human deliberation.
- (C) should encourage the adoption of regulatory and ethical practices applicable to any usage of AI which has the potential to unnecessarily compromise the rights of individuals or adversely affect the fundamental principles of the rule of law.

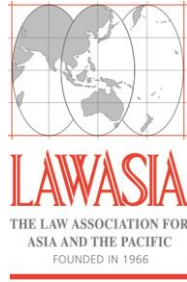
**The original Colombo Declaration was not a formal LAWASIA resolution or statement but reflected the views of a majority of attendees at the conference on 6 September 2024. The Declaration was endorsed by the LAWASIA Council at its meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 13 October 2024, subject to minor amendment.*

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Resolution regarding respect for international rule of law in times of conflict

Noting the increased incidents of armed conflict throughout the world, and various orders and actions taken by the International Court of Justice in that regard, particularly in Myanmar, Ukraine and Gaza,

And noting further Part II (International Peace and Security) of the Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact, and Declaration on Future Generations, published by the United Nations Summit of the Future in September 2024, particularly Actions 14 (Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict), 15 (Support for people affected by humanitarian emergencies) and 17 (Compliance with decisions of the International Court of Justice),

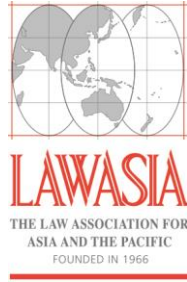
LAWASIA urges all world leaders and governments to ensure compliance with International Court of Justice orders including those in relation to the various conflicts ongoing around the world and respect, protect and fulfil international human rights law and international humanitarian law obligations.

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Resolution regarding modern slavery in the Asia-Pacific region

Noting that an estimated 15 million people in the Asia-Pacific region are in forced labour or other forms of bondage,

And noting further the vulnerability to modern slavery of individuals in some jurisdictions due to discrimination based on gender or ethnicity,

And noting further the disparate responses amongst countries in the Asia-Pacific towards recognizing and addressing the problem,

LAWASIA expresses its concern at the prevalence of modern slavery in the Asia-Pacific region and calls for a uniform and meaningful approach by governments to identifying and criminalising the practice, eradicating modern slavery from supply chains and providing support to survivors.

LAWASIA, The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific

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