

## **The impact of artificial intelligence on state: risks, challenges and governance consequences**

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The rapid evolution of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) over the past three years has fundamentally altered the global technological, social, and political landscape. Since the introduction of widely accessible generative models, AI-driven systems have become embedded across organizational processes, media ecosystems, and governance frameworks. Their capabilities to generate text, images, videos, and interactive content at scale present both unprecedented opportunities for innovation and substantial risks for state development.

The global expansion of GenAI tools marks a pivotal shift in the digital transformation of governance. According to the 2025 McKinsey Global Survey, nearly 90% of organizations report regular use of AI technologies. However, the survey also indicates that, despite widespread adoption, most institutions have not yet embedded AI deeply enough to achieve sustainable, high-impact benefits at the enterprise or government level. This technological inequality produces vulnerabilities: organizations possess advanced tools but lack the structural, procedural, and human capital readiness to use them responsibly and efficiently [1].

The relevance of this topic also stems from the broader implications of AI for democratic systems. As scholars such as Dahl conceptualized decades ago, effective democracy requires governments to accurately evaluate and respond to citizen preferences. GenAI disrupts this equilibrium by enabling large-scale manipulation of political communication [2].

GenAI's most profound impact on state development lies in its potential to disrupt information ecosystems. Simultaneously, the unprecedented growth of AI-generated content across social platforms has led to new socio-political consequences. Governments face rising pressure to combat misinformation, regulate content authenticity, and preserve civic trust, yet regulatory responses often trigger additional instability. The Nepal protests of September 2025 illustrate this complexity: the government's attempt to block major platforms as a means of combating fake content precipitated mass public unrest and ultimately resulted in the resignation of the prime minister [3].

Synthetic videos, deepfakes, and AI-generated narratives are increasingly deployed in political conflicts and cross-border influence campaigns. For example, recent fabricated videos circulating on social media purported to show Polish soldiers accusing Ukraine of conducting drone attacks and demanding territorial revisionism. Investigation revealed these materials to be artificially generated and tied to broader disinformation efforts aimed at destabilizing regional relations.

Such cases demonstrate: the accelerating ability of synthetic media to mimic authentic content; the vulnerability of publics to visual misinformation; the use of AI as a tool for psychological and geopolitical manipulation.

These dynamics threaten state development by eroding public trust in institutions, exacerbating regional tensions, and obstructing coherent policy responses to foreign interference [4].

Reports from Carnegie Europe emphasize that AI's sociopolitical disruptions extend beyond elections. As GenAI tools become embedded into consumer products, organizational workflows, and government systems, unintended consequences emerge. These include:

- automation biases in public services;
- overreliance on AI-generated analysis in governance;
- uneven distribution of benefits and technological inequalities;
- potential erosion of accountability when decisions are influenced by opaque algorithms.

States must therefore address systemic risks rather than focusing solely on electoral manipulation [5].

Given the wide-ranging implications of GenAI, states must adopt comprehensive governance strategies emphasizing:

- digital upskilling across public sectors;
- algorithmic transparency and clear accountability frameworks;
- robust media literacy programs for citizens;
- regulatory mechanisms targeting AI-generated political communication;
- international cooperation to counter transnational disinformation networks;
- balanced legislation that protects rights without provoking instability.

Effective governance requires a holistic approach where technological adoption is matched with institutional adaptation, ethical oversight, and proactive public engagement.

Generative AI is transforming the development of states, offering significant opportunities but also exposing critical vulnerabilities. While AI adoption is accelerating globally, uneven integration and limited institutional readiness are weakening state capacity. At the same time, the surge in synthetic content is threatening political stability, democratic integrity, and information security. Generative AI (GenAI) enables the artificial amplification of public sentiment and the deployment of sophisticated disinformation efforts, as seen in recent global events, increasing the risks of social unrest and geopolitical manipulation. To reap the benefits of GenAI while limiting its harms, states must strengthen digital skills, ensure transparent governance, and increase societal resilience to information manipulation. The future of state development will depend on managing this balance between innovation and democratic stability.

**Ключові слова:** generative artificial intelligence, governance, misinformation.

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