

AmCham Italy, Assolombarda and Confcommercio sign the Manifesto to bring a new UN pillar on artificial intelligence governance to Milan

The promoters sign at the General Assembly of Assolombarda at the Teatro Dal Verme. Alongside them, rectors, presidents of scientific and cultural institutions and business leaders. On 9 November, the bid will be presented to the institutions.

Milan, 12 October 2026. The Milanese and Lombard system stands united in calling for Milan to become the seat of a new United Nations pillar dedicated to the governance of artificial intelligence. Today, at the General Assembly of Assolombarda at the Teatro Dal Verme, the American Chamber of Commerce in Italy, Assolombarda and Confcommercio Milano Lodi Monza Brianza signed the public Manifesto “Milan, global capital of artificial intelligence governance”.

Managing Director Simone Crolla signed for AmCham Italy, President Alvis Biffi for Assolombarda and President Carlo Sangalli for Confcommercio Milano Lodi Monza Brianza. The Manifesto originates from the work of AmCham Italy and is open to endorsement by the whole territory. The signing gives shape to a civic and cross-cutting Promoting Committee, in which every signatory carries the same weight, and which on Monday 9 November will officially present Milan’s bid to the institutions.

Simone Crolla, Managing Director of AmCham Italy

“On 26 December 1883, at the premiere of Ponchielli’s *La Gioconda*, the Teatro alla Scala lit up with electric light thanks to the Santa Radegonda power station, the first in continental Europe, conceived by Giuseppe Colombo, an engineer of the Politecnico, with Thomas Edison’s technology. 143 years later, artificial intelligence is once again arriving from the United States and knocking at the same door. Hence the name ‘Project Radegonda’,” says Simone Crolla, Managing Director of AmCham Italy. “The most concrete danger is not the machine that rebels, but a humanity that, delegation after delegation, remains formally in command without knowing how to exercise it any longer. That is why we are proposing a new United Nations pillar based in Milan, a load-bearing element, which does not write rules and does not impose sanctions, but helps States assess, with shared criteria, the capabilities and risks of the most advanced systems. Measuring does not mean prohibiting. I am delighted that institutions of the calibre of Assolombarda and Confcommercio are signing this appeal with us. We are moving from aspiration to determination. Now we ask the Government and all political forces to make this proposal a priority and a flagship for Italy in the world.”

Alvise Biffi, President of Assolombarda

“Artificial intelligence represents an extraordinary opportunity for growth, but precisely because of its capacity to profoundly transform the economy, work and society, it also requires governance capable of accompanying its development,” said Alvise Biffi, President of Assolombarda. “Going faster is not enough: we must be sure we are going in the right direction. We need shared principles, transparency, accountability and international cooperation. Decisions that affect the lives of workers, citizens and businesses must remain with those who can understand them, verify them and answer for them. This is where governance takes on its full ethical weight. That is why Assolombarda supports Milan’s bid to host a new United Nations pillar dedicated to AI governance. Milan has all the characteristics to play this role, starting with the Ambrosian spirit, deeply rooted in the business community as much as in civil society, which is a guarantee for identifying a governance model capable of accompanying development without slowing it down. With today’s signing we place these distinctive features at the disposal of the United Nations and open a path that seeks to involve the whole territory. Milan does not merely want to be a capital of artificial intelligence: it wants to help build the way this technology will be governed at the global level.”

Carlo Sangalli, President of Confcommercio Milano Lodi Monza Brianza

“Milan grows thanks to the great challenges it chooses to take on. As with Expo 2015 and the 2026 Winter Olympics. Putting our city forward to host a United Nations pillar dedicated to the governance of artificial intelligence is an achievable, ambitious and far-sighted goal. With its global reputation, capacity for innovation and cultural standing, Milan can win this new challenge. AI is an unprecedented technological evolution that is involving society and the business world. In particular the businesses that Confcommercio represents, which are the most direct link between innovation and people.”

— The signatories

The Manifesto has so far been endorsed by Claudio **Bassoli**, President & CEO of HPE; Elena **Beccalli**, Rector of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Francesco **Billari**, Rector of Bocconi University; Giovanni **Bozzetti**, President of Fondazione Fiera Milano; Marina **Brambilla**, Rector of the University of Milan; Vincenzo **Di Nicola**, Senior Partner of the Artificial Intelligence Fund of CDP Venture Capital, in a personal capacity; Fiorenzo Marco **Galli**, Director General of the Museo Nazionale Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci; Valentina **Garavaglia**, Rector of IULM University; Teodoro **Lio**, CEO of Accenture Italia; Daniela **Mainini**, President of Centro Studi Grande Milano; Emma **Marcegaglia**, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Marcegaglia Holding; Giorgio **Medda**, CEO of Azimut; Letizia **Moratti**, entrepreneur and philanthropist, former Mayor of Milan; Msgr. Vincenzo **Paglia**, President Emeritus of the Pontifical Academy for Life; Antonio **Palmieri**, President and founder of Fondazione Pensiero Solido; Mario **Peserico**, President of Indicam; Fabio **Pompei**, CEO of Deloitte Italy and Central Mediterranean; Silvio **Savarese**, Executive Vice President and Chief Scientist of Salesforce AI Research, Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University and member of the United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, in a personal capacity; Donatella **Sciuto**, Rector of Politecnico di Milano; Marco **Tronchetti Provera**, Executive Chairman of the Pirelli Group; Gianmario **Verona**, President of Human Technopole; Giovanna **Vitelli**, President of Fondazione Altgamma.

— A window that is opening now

The United Nations is building its own architecture for AI governance. Resolution A/RES/79/325 of August 2025 established the Independent Scientific Panel and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, which met for the first time in Geneva on 6 and 7 July 2026. However, there is still no structure dedicated to the horizontal coordination of the field.

The coming months will be decisive. The selection of the new Secretary-General is under way: the Security Council began it in July with the first informal straw polls, and it must be concluded by the end of the year, because António Guterres's term expires on 31 December 2026 and his successor will take office on 1 January 2027. The second session of the Global Dialogue is scheduled in New York on 3 and 4 May 2027. It is in this passage, between the installation of the new leadership of the United Nations and the New York meeting, that Milan's bid must be brought to the attention of Member States, within a broader horizon of about twenty-four months in which, according to the promoters, the new institutional geography of AI governance will be defined.

Other countries are also moving. The Republic of Korea is working to bring together the AI functions of six UN agencies in a single campus, while China has launched in Shanghai the World AI Cooperation Organization, an intergovernmental body outside the United Nations system. Milan is bidding to host a new-generation pillar within the UN, with a bid that comes from civil society and business, even before it comes from a government. The proposal is consistent with the Carolina Principles for Emerging Technologies, on which the G20 Ministers meeting in Chapel Hill reached consensus on 2 September 2026 and which will be submitted to leaders at the Miami summit in December. These are non-binding principles that call for building on existing sectoral rules, intervening with new rules only where they are truly needed, preserving national sovereignty and promoting voluntary international cooperation. The same approach underpins the White House Accord, signed at the White House at the end of September by the leading artificial intelligence companies, which relies on voluntary commitments by companies and on the external and independent evaluation of the most advanced systems. The Milan pillar follows the same path, because it does not write rules and does not replace the choices of individual States, but offers common tools for measurement and voluntary cooperation.

— Why Milan

The Manifesto recalls that Milan brings together a research system of European scale, with Politecnico, Statale, Bicocca, Bocconi and Human Technopole, and a manufacturing base that makes it a natural place to experiment with Physical AI, that is, artificial intelligence that acts in the real world through robots, machines and infrastructure. In 2024 private equity investment in Lombard companies approached 9 billion euros, 60% of the national total, and seven data centres in the Milan area were recognised as being of national strategic interest. The City of Milan has also adopted its own Manifesto for the use of artificial intelligence and already has 45 use cases in production in the administration and in services to citizens.

— How the pillar would work

AmCham Italy's second paper, Milan and the future of global governance of artificial intelligence – The functions of the new UN pillar for AI governance, describes the pillar through twelve technical functions, ranging from monitoring the capabilities of the most advanced systems to impact assessment, from human accountability to transparency, and including work, health and the protection of minors, training of regulators, linguistic pluralism, the environment and security. The

pillar would produce methods, measurements, alerts and expertise, without any regulatory, authorising or sanctioning power, in full respect of the sovereignty of States and without overlapping with existing UN agencies. Funding would rest on three tiers: assessed contributions from Member States, voluntary contributions from industry players on the model already tested by GAVI and CEPI in the health sector, and partnerships with foundations and international financial institutions.

— The commitments of the first signatories

By signing the Manifesto, promoters and signatories commit to publicly supporting Milan's bid, as presented on 27 July 2026 in AmCham Italy's first policy paper, Milan, global capital of ethical artificial intelligence, and developed in the second paper of September devoted to the functions of the pillar. They also commit to establishing a permanent Promoting Committee with an operational base in Milan, in dialogue with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT), the Lombardy Region and the City of Milan, to making research, data and experience available to the technical dossier, and to urging the Government and all political forces to make the bid a priority of Italian foreign policy with the UN Secretariat, Italy's Permanent Mission in New York and Member States, ahead of the May 2027 meeting. It is a commitment the signatories make in the awareness that the stakes go beyond the economy, because they concern the future of work, the quality of information and the resilience of democracy over the next twenty years.

— On 9 November, the presentation to the institutions

The first operational step after the signing will be the institutional launch of Project Radeconda. On Monday 9 November 2026, from 15:00 to 17:00, in Milan, the MilanoAI Promoting Committee will present to the institutions Milan's bid to host the UN pillar for artificial intelligence. Venue and details will be provided in the official invitation; updates on the initiative are available at MilanoAI.org.

— An appeal to political leaders

The Manifesto remains open to new endorsements from the business, academic, scientific, professional and financial communities of the area. The promoters hope that the country's political forces, regardless of party affiliation, will be able to unite around this far-sighted proposal and turn it into an action of Italy's international policy, because the game that opens in New York concerns the role that our country and Europe will play in governing this technology.

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