

AI Action Summit Paris



Reflections from the AI Action Summit 2025: Dr. Ranjana Kumari

Key Announcements & Global AI Landscape

Attending and actively participating in the AI Action Summit 2025 at the Grand Palais, Paris, was an incredible experience. It was exciting, it was hopeful, it was futuristic—it was a lot of money promised, and it was about reconnecting with friends, both old and new. The summit was pivotal in shaping the global AI landscape, balancing the scales between fostering innovation and implementing regulatory frameworks. It underscored the necessity for international collaboration, substantial investments, and thoughtful policy-making to harness AI's potential responsibly.



One of the major highlights was President Emmanuel Macron's announcement of €109 billion in AI investments for France. However, India remained silent on any commitments, which was disappointing.

Beyond the serious discussions on AI regulations and investments, the AI Action Summit 2025 was filled with moments of celebration, inspiration, and human connection. The event was a reminder that while AI is shaping the future, the real joy comes from how it brings people together.

Highlights from the Summit

A particularly exciting moment was when Elon Musk made an unannounced appearance, sparking enthusiasm among attendees. His spontaneous Q&A session was both entertaining and insightful—he even joked about AI-powered coffee makers while emphasizing the need for “AI that makes life fun.”

The summit also celebrated groundbreaking AI projects with the first-ever "AI for Good" Awards.

One of the most intriguing highlights was the "AI Art Showcase", an extraordinary AI-generated art exhibition. I was truly awe-struck by:

AI-created paintings inspired by Van Gogh and Monet.

A digital mural that changed based on attendees' emotions, detected through AI-powered sensors.

AI-generated poetry readings, where AI "learned" Shakespeare's style and composed new sonnets.





Gender and AI: A Marginalized Discussion

Despite the excitement, I also had my share of disappointment. Gender considerations and technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) were addressed only at the margins and did not dominate the agenda. The only session I attended that focused on these issues barely scratched the surface of what needs to be done.



Key Highlights on AI and Gender

Global Partnership's Advocacy:

Prior to the summit, the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse—comprising countries like Australia, Canada, France, and the UK—issued a joint statement emphasizing the necessity of integrating gender perspectives into AI discussions. I only wish India had joined and signed the declaration, especially since it was a co-chair of the conference.





The summit's final declaration underscored the importance of ethical, safe, and trustworthy AI, with a focus on human rights and reducing inequalities. It specifically called for attention to human rights, gender equality, and linguistic diversity in AI development. However, while these initiatives indicate that gender issues and TFGBV were acknowledged at the summit, the primary focus remained on broader AI governance, innovation, and investment topics.

One positive step was the Expert Committee on Women's Rights Online, of which I am a member. Our committee successfully distributed five projects to laureates, selected from 140 applications, to support gender-focused AI solutions.

Final Thoughts

The AI Action Summit 2025 was a defining moment for the global AI community, setting the stage for future innovations and policy decisions. However, there remains a pressing need to push gender-related discussions to the forefront. AI must be inclusive, and that means ensuring gender equity and safety online are core to all AI-related policies and investments.

While I left the summit with a sense of excitement and hope, I also left with a renewed determination to advocate for stronger commitments to gender justice in the AI era.
