



Introduction from the CEO

The Simon Institute's 2025 was defined by rapid progress on agentic AI, the second Trump term, international dialogues on AI and the adoption of two multilateral AI governance mechanisms. The necessity of international frameworks for AI has become undeniable. Simultaneously, the possibility of achieving them has moved further into the distance. SI actively bridged communication gaps, notably advising over 100 diplomats from dozens of countries on frontier AI, and supporting formal UN negotiations. Further, we started opening spaces for informal diplomacy by translating frontier technical and governance developments between western and Chinese stakeholders.

Recognizing the profound risks associated with frontier AI competition, we launched a dedicated workstream to mitigate tensions and build crisis preparedness capacity between great powers. By conducting multiple engagement trips and fostering relationships with Chinese and western stakeholders, SI successfully established its unique role as an impartial facilitator of exchange.

Internally, the year marked a period of consolidation and growth, advancing the organization's maturity. We expanded our staff from six to nine, securing our capabilities in tech diplomacy. This expansion was underwritten by a \$2.3 million funding round and culminated in the successful delivery of our 2023-2025 strategy, establishing a clear and ambitious new direction for the Institute.

As AI research and development continue to advance rapidly into 2026 and beyond, we are acutely aware of, and motivated by, the scale of the opportunities and challenges this moment presents. Our new strategic emphasis on frontier AI diplomacy will help ensure that the transition to a world with increasingly powerful AI systems is guided by principles of safety and benefit for all.

Maxime Stauffer
Chief Executive Officer



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In 2025, our team delivered

 **24**
publications

 **20**
events hosted
or co-hosted

 **41**
events
attended

 **41**
speaking
engagements

 **9**
headcount
increase
from 6 to 9

 **\$2.3M**
in funding



Team Retreat in August 2025

The SI Team & Board

We started 2025 with a team of six:

Max STAUFFER

Chief Executive Officer

Konrad SEIFERT

Chief Strategy Officer

(transitioned from Co-CEO to CSO in October)

Cecilia SAURA DRAGO

Director of Operations

(transitioned out in September)

Kevin KOHLER

Senior Tech Policy Specialist

Sofia MIKTON

Operations & Communications Specialist

(departing in 2026 for new ventures)

Alix PHAM

Governance & Operations Specialist

We welcomed:

Jan Pieter SNOEIJ

Senior Tech Diplomacy Specialist

(January 2025)

Amina MIR

Executive Assistant

(June 2025)

Gaëtan BIDAUD

Head of Finance & Operations

(August 2025)

Renata DWAN

Director of Tech Diplomacy

(September 2025)

Our governing board remained the same:

Naomi NEDERLOF

President

Adyasha DASH

Vice President

William ESPOSITO

Treasurer

Activity Report

In 2025, our efforts were focused on supporting the development of the UN's Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and Global Dialogue on AI Governance, as well as launching dedicated workstreams to understand the national priorities of frontier AI powers and support exchange between them. We also collaborated with the broader AI governance ecosystem to explore and enrich institutional frameworks for AI and policy measures to ensure responsible research and development.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, SI dedicated significant efforts to supporting the UN's Global Digital Compact (GDC) process, an international framework establishing global commitments for governing digital and emerging technologies. Stemming from the adoption of the GDC in 2024, the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and a Global Dialogue on AI Governance were established: entities designed to provide a global scientific basis for understanding AI's risks and opportunities and to facilitate inclusive policy discussions around AI.

As the details of both institutions were negotiated throughout 2025 and formally adopted in September, SI supported the process through workshops, public recommendations and advising. We organized strategic workshops with 100+ diplomats negotiating the texts, published a series of policy recommendations, and engaged bilaterally with over 30 countries and UN entities to provide technical and policy advice for the negotiation process.

Highlights:

- In January, we supported and attended a workshop on the UN Panel and Dialogue with the leaders of the International AI Safety Report held at MILA in Montreal.
- In January, we organized an [in-person workshop](#) with the Permanent Mission of Pakistan and a virtual workshop with the Permanent Mission of Iraq on options for the Panel and Dialogue modalities, both attended by 50+ experts from developing countries.
- In February, we published our [recommendations report](#) for the design of the Panel and Dialogue. Throughout the negotiation process, we also published regular commentary ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#)) highlighting our positions and keeping the broader ecosystem informed.
- In March, we facilitated a workshop on the Panel and Dialogue institutional design options to 50+ UN diplomats in New York.
- In July, we organized a side-event during AI for Good on [lessons from the International AI Safety Report](#) for the UN Panel with UK DSIT and MILA.

While much of our work focuses on the multilateral UN system, we recognize that an effective international AI governance regime will inevitably require institutions beyond it. Throughout 2025, we engaged technical experts, academics, and policymakers globally to explore governance approaches and interventions that could complement current AI governance efforts.



Parallel to our multilateral efforts, we invested resources in understanding the national priorities of frontier AI powers: how they approach governance, their AI safety priorities, and their perspectives on multilateral AI governance. We focused primarily on the US and China, as the countries where the leading AI developers are located.

In China, we completed three trips to Beijing and Shanghai, meeting with over 75 stakeholders. Through expert interviews and joint events, we established relationships with key government institutions, national AI think tanks, leading AI labs, and legal scholars advising on AI legislation. In the US, we completed two trips to San Francisco, New York, and Washington DC, meeting over 100 stakeholders across conferences, workshops, and bilateral meetings. These efforts allowed us to build and strengthen relationships with frontier AI developers, evaluators, hardware startups, think tank staff, and policymakers.



Event highlights:

- In February, we hosted a workshop in the Bay Area on designing an agenda for great power confidence-building with policy and technical experts, advancing participants' understanding of shared metrics to measure AI progress and standards for evaluation methodologies and reporting.
- In March, we convened a roundtable in Washington, DC with think tanks on international AI governance and evolving geopolitical dynamics, highlighting the need to increase bilateral engagement with Chinese actors.
- In June, we hosted a workshop with the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) on frontier AI governance and international cooperation in Shanghai, China.
- In October, we participated in the International Exchange on AI Governance hosted by China Academy of Information and Communications Technology in Beijing, where we gave a keynote on AI governance at the UN.
- In October, we spoke on AI safety, governance, and strategic AI competition at the Alliance of International Science Organizations General Conference and the AI Safety and Governance Forum in Beijing.
- In November, we convened meetings across San Francisco, Washington DC, and New York with staff from government, companies, academia, and think tanks, to facilitate international exchange on frontier AI development and governance, highlighting the need for continuous confidence building efforts and crisis communication channels for international resilience and emergency response.

In addition to our programmatic efforts, we dedicated time in 2025 to strengthening and scaling the SI team. We scaled up from 6 to 9 full-time employees, secured CHF 2.3 million in funding, and completed our planning for the 2026-2028 strategic period, ensuring our team is well-positioned to continue fostering international cooperation on frontier AI governance in the years to come.



Finances

From 2025 onwards, SI's financial statements are prepared in full compliance with Swiss GAAP FER 21, including the periodicity principle for grants. Grants are now recognised as revenue in the period to which they relate. As a result, CHF 716,882 received in 2025 has been recorded as deferred

income and will be recognised in 2026. As the 2024 figures were not prepared under this principle, the 2024 and 2025 figures are not directly comparable. Total funds raised in 2025 amounted to CHF 2,318,631 — CHF 900,000 more than in 2024.

Total funds raised in 2025

(reconciliation - not audited)

	2025 CHF
Grants and donations recognised (per audited statements)	1,601,749
Grants received in 2025, deferred to 2026 (periodicity adjustment)	+716,882
Total funds raised in 2025	2,318,631
Less: deferred to 2026	-716,882
Total income per audited financial statements	1,601,749

**This reconciliation is provided for information purposes only and has not been subject to audit*

Income statement summary

(from audited statements)

	2025 CHF	2024 CHF
Total income	1,601,749	1,455,738
Direct expenses	(271,492)	(113,230)
Personnel expenses	(1,046,110)	(736,385)
Operating expenses	(183,103)	(111,242)
Operating result	97,434	492,226
Financial result (incl. FX loss of CHF 143,676 in 2025)	(114,034)	4,441
Annual result	(16,600)	465,921

**2024 figures presented for reference only. Due to a change in accounting method (grant periodicity applied from 2025), the two years are not directly comparable – see note above.*



Simon Institute's Global Dialogue
Briefing Series

Balance sheet

(simplified)

	31 DEC 2025 CHF	31 DEC 2024 CHF
Assets		
Cash and bank deposits	1,406,868	643,650
Other current assets	20,143	43,321
Fixed assets	3,700	7,310
Total assets	1,430,711	694,281
Liabilities & Equity		
Deferred income (grants received, recognised in following year)	716,882	—
Total liabilities	789,527	36,497
Restricted fund capital (grants secured for following year)	243,822	—
Free capital	397,362	657,784
Total liabilities & equity	1,430,711	694,281

Annex:

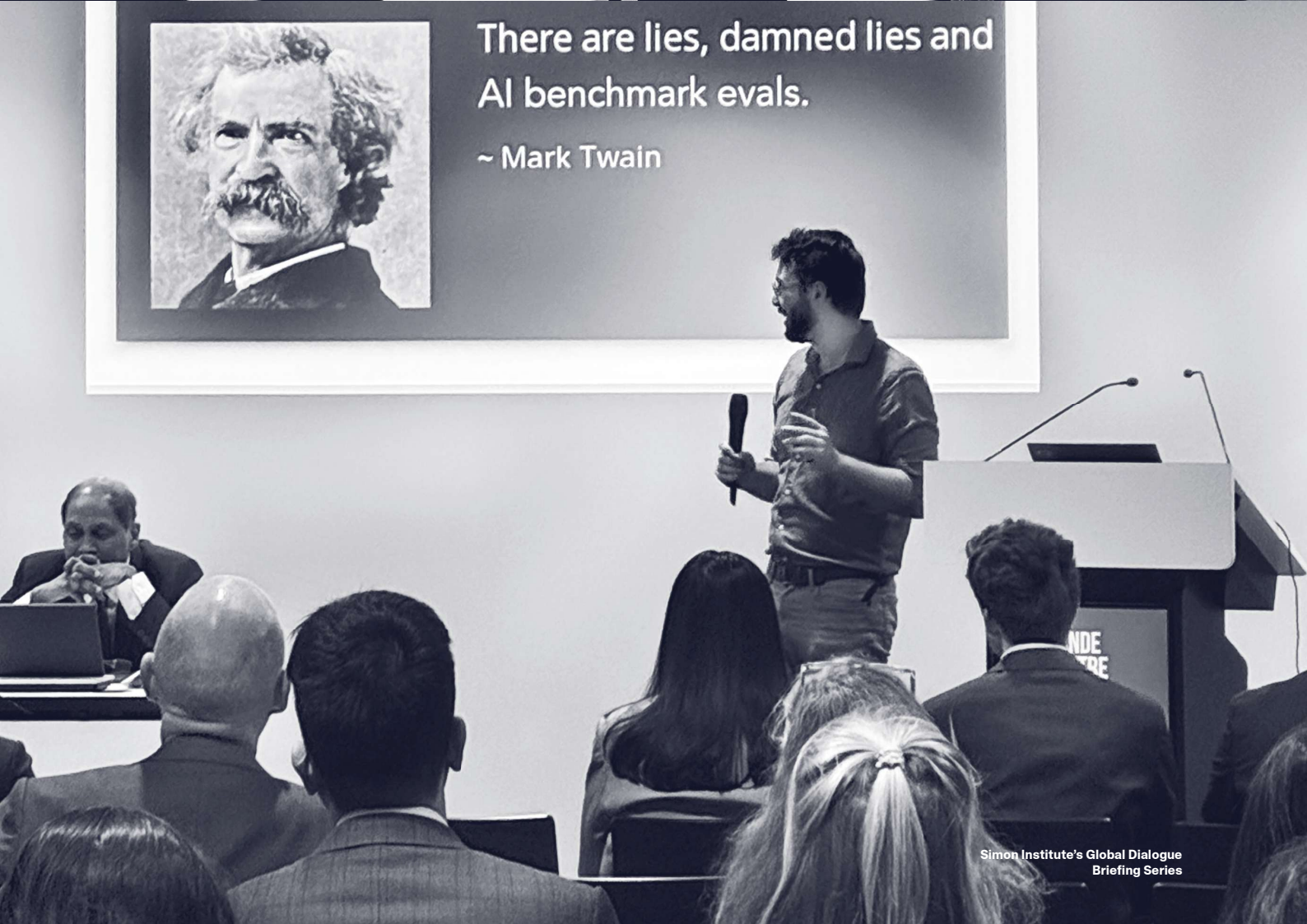
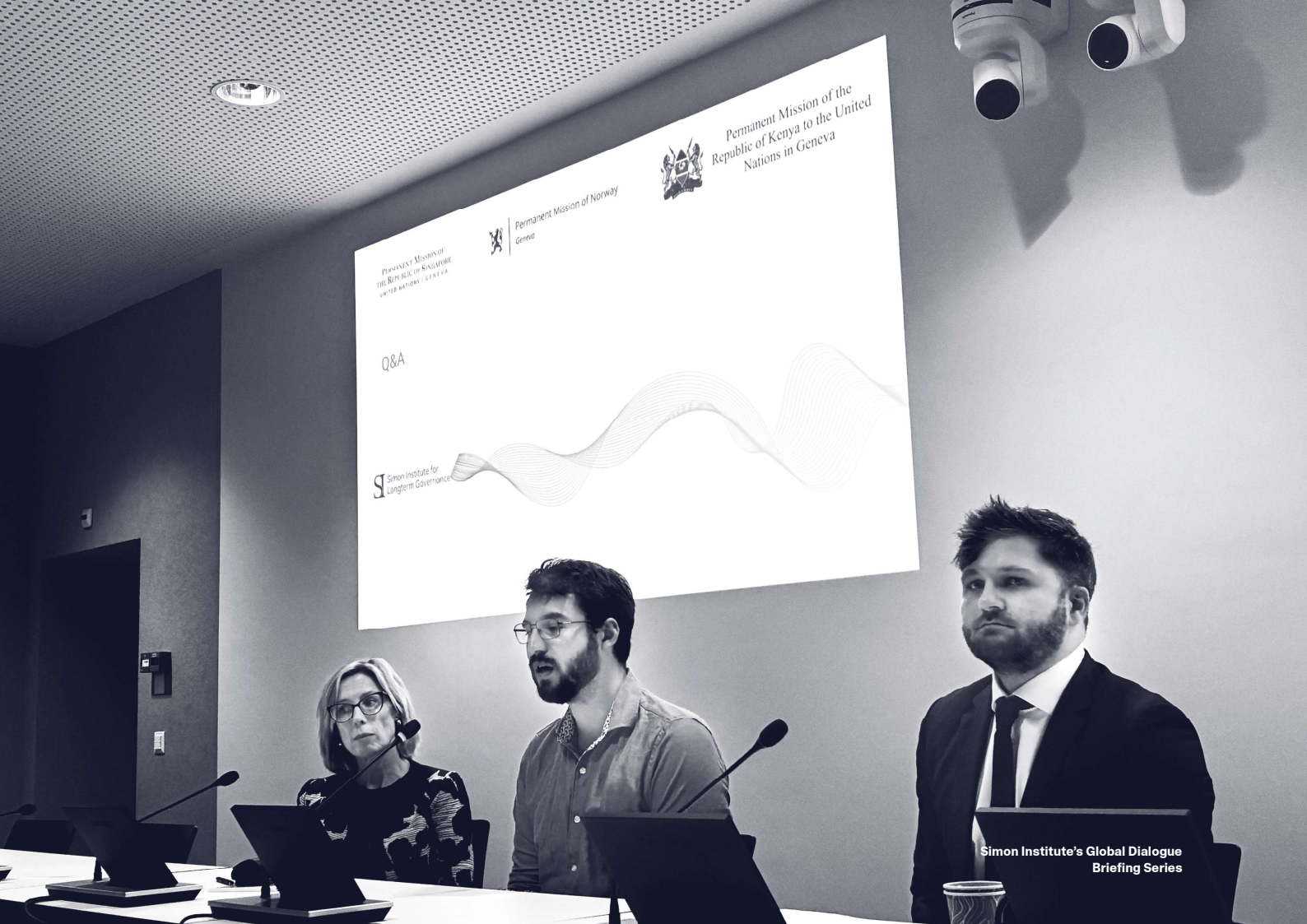
List of Publications

SI Publications

1. [Advancing Multilateral AI Governance: Recommendations for the 2025 Paris AI Action Summit](#)
January 13, 2025, by Konrad Seifert, Max Stauffer & Alix Pham
2. [Crosspost: The case for a Cosmic Endowment Fund](#)
January 16, 2025, by Kevin Kohler
3. [Developing the Modalities of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI & the Global Dialogue on AI Governance – A Workshop Series](#)
January 17, 2025, by Sofia Mikton & Alix Pham
4. [Distinguishing between Internet Governance and AI Governance](#)
January 30, 2025, by Kevin Kohler
5. [Three considerations for the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI](#)
February 19, 2025, by Kevin Kohler
6. [Report: Recommendations for the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance](#)
February 20, 2025, by Kevin Kohler
7. [Response to the Zero Draft of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance](#)
March 21, 2025, by Kevin Kohler & Max Stauffer
8. [Response to the G77 proposal on the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI](#)
April 9, 2025, by Kevin Kohler & Max Stauffer
9. [How Formal Should It Be? Outcome Formats for the Global Dialogue on AI Governance](#)
April 23, 2025, by Kevin Kohler & Julia C. Morse
10. [2024 Annual Report](#)
May 1, 2025, by Sofia Mikton, Konrad Seifert & Max Stauffer
11. [Response to Revision 1 of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance](#)
May 19, 2025, by Kevin Kohler & Max Stauffer
12. [What is Artificial General Intelligence \(AGI\)? An Explainer for Policymakers](#)
June 10, 2025, by Kevin Kohler
13. [Response to Revision 2 & 3 of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance](#)
June 20, 2025, by Kevin Kohler & Max Stauffer
14. [CERN for AI: One Analogy, Many Visions](#)
July 8, 2025, by Kevin Kohler
15. [Three Lessons from the International AI Safety Report for the Independent, International Scientific Panel on AI](#)
July 10, 2025, by Kevin Kohler
16. [Three requirements for a «CERN for AI» – a Geneva Security Debate](#)
July 26, 2025, by Kevin Kohler
17. [The first UN Global Risk Report: A welcome addition with room for future ambition](#)
July 31, 2025, by Kevin Kohler & Max Stauffer
18. [Adoption of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance](#)
September 4, 2025, by Kevin Kohler & Max Stauffer
19. [Mapping IAEA Verification Tools to International AI Governance: A Mechanism-by-Mechanism Analysis](#)
September 18, 2025, by Christina Krawec (Guest Author)
20. [The UN and AI: Framing the Future](#)
September 24, 2025, by Kevin Kohler & Max Stauffer
21. [SI Participates in Exchange with China Academy of ICT](#)
November 12, 2025, by Sofia Mikton & Julia Chen

External collaborations

22. [The Future of the AI Summit Series](#)
February 3, 2025, Oxford Martin AI Governance Initiative (Contributor: Max Stauffer)
23. [The Politics of AI Benefit Sharing](#)
April 16, 2025, Tech Policy (Authors: Joanna Wiaterek, Jan Pieter Snoeij)
24. [AI Benefit-Sharing Framework: Balancing Access and Safety](#)
December 2025 (Contributor: Jan Pieter Snoeij)





Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2
Case postale 1672
1211 Genève 1, Switzerland

info@simoninstitute.ch
www.simoninstitute.ch