

Paris AI Summit: US and UK refuse to sign joint declaration, raising global concerns

Updated - February 13, 2025 at 07:23 PM. | Bengaluru

The implications of either country—especially the US—not signing the Paris Declaration are serious and concerning, highlighted Jaspreet Bindra, Co-founder of AI&Beyond

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Maëron, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and several world leaders & global tech experts join together for a group photo at the AI Action Summit, at the Grand Palais in Paris on Tuesday. (ANI Photo) | Photo Credit: Emmanuel Macron - X

Industry experts have linked the US decision to withhold signing the joint statement at the Paris AI summit to the Trump administration's stance that sustainability concerns related to energy could hinder the growth of the AI industry. This reflects an "American First" stance, they shared.

On Tuesday, 58 countries including India and China, signed the joint statement which calls for promoting the accessibility of AI and ensuring trust and safety in deploying the technology. However, this list excluded participation from the US and the UK.

The implications

The implications of either country—especially the US—not signing the Paris Declaration are serious and concerning, highlighted Jaspreet Bindra, Co-founder, of AI&Beyond.

“Often, signing such declarations is more about signaling intent than guaranteeing immediate action. Even if it’s just about intent, the refusal of the US to participate reflects an ‘America First’ stance, which increasingly feels like ‘America Alone’. This mindset is now evident across various sectors, with AI having become its latest victim,” he explained.

This is a significant issue because most major AI companies are based in the US. The US, along with China, leads in AI, and the US is still ahead in many areas. Key developments like large language models (LLMs) and other AI breakthroughs risk progressing in isolation and being disconnected from global collaboration.

On the other hand, the UK, often ranked third globally in AI, holds substantial influence in this field as well, he noted. The first and third-ranking nations distancing themselves from international agreements signal a troubling rupture, with this pattern visible in other global initiatives related to climate, medicine, and science—reinforcing the need for global cooperation.

Kashyap Kompella, an AI Industry Analyst, shared that the Trump administration is taking an America First approach, including in AI.

AI accessibility and safety

“The US and the EU paths on technology and AI have diverged. Trump’s administration views sustainability questions on energy as putting speed brakes on the growth of the AI industry. The US also views the EU as unfairly regulating its BigTech companies. Vice President JD Vance made these amply clear at the summit, so it’s not surprising they did not sign the joint declaration.”

He added that the UK’s decision, however, was surprising, as they championed the inaugural global AI Safety Summit. Their decision reflects their light-touch approach to AI regulation while not constraining their energy industry.