

Landscape of Artificial Intelligence Discussion in the United Nations System

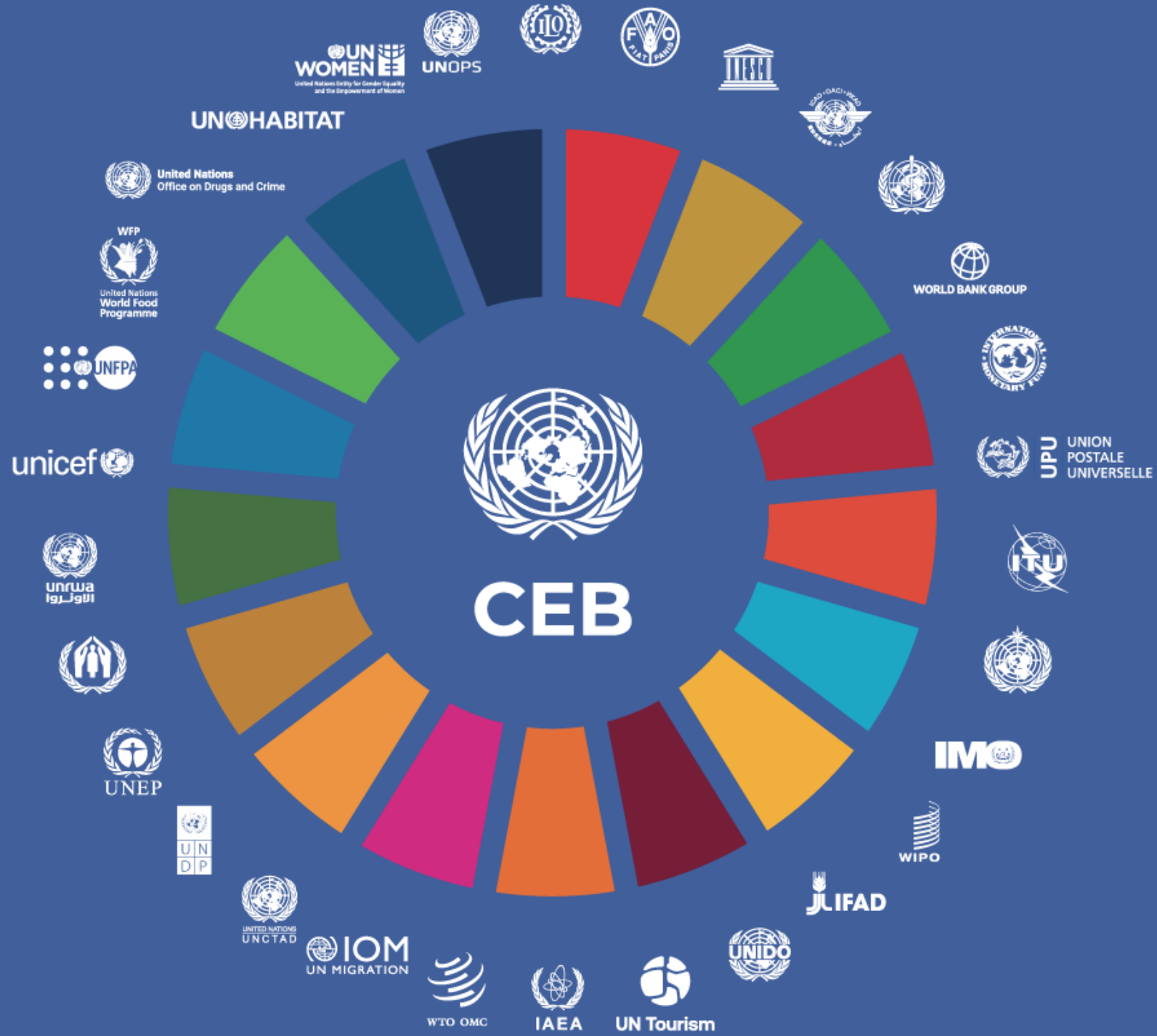
Preetam Maloor

Head, Emerging Technologies Division, ITU

15 September 2026



Part 1. UN Inter-Agency Working Group on AI



**CEB**

UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

[About](#)[Topics](#)[Products](#)[Reports](#)[Data](#)[Home](#)

Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence

- Co-chairs: Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas (Deputy Secretary-General, ITU) and Ms. Gabriela Ramos (Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO)
- Reporting to: High-level Committee on Programmes

At its 40th session in October 2020, HLCP decided to create an inter-agency working group on Artificial Intelligence (IAWG-AI), co-led by UNESCO and ITU, to bring together United Nations system expertise on artificial intelligence in support of the CEB and HLCP [workstreams on the ethics of AI and the strategic approach and road map for supporting capacity development](#). It combines the ethical and technological pillars of the United Nations to provide a solid foundation for current and future system-wide efforts on artificial intelligence with a view to ensuring respect for human rights and accelerating progress on the SDGs.

Inter-Agency Working Group on AI

- Established by the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) in October 2020
- Co-led by ITU and UNESCO, over 60 UN entities as members
- Concrete deliverables, work recognized in resolutions and reports
- Role underscored in the UNGA “AI Modalities” resolution
- Transitioned into a stable institutional coordination mechanism in its sixth year

Facilitate the
information
exchange

Strengthen internal
capacity

Contribute to existing
efforts

Facilitate capacity-
building cooperation

Enhance UN system-wide policy coherence and programmatic coordination on AI

RCs engagement in the IAWG-AI meeting





Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Distr.: General
17 June 2019

Original: English
English and French only

First regular session of 2019
Geneva, 9–10 May 2019

Summary of deliberations

Addendum

A United Nations system-wide strategic approach and road map for supporting capacity development on artificial intelligence*

I. Overview

1. The United Nations system-wide strategic approach, developed in line with the feedback and guidance of the High-level Committee on Programmes since its thirty-fourth session, was approved by the Committee at its thirty-seventh session. It outlines an internal plan to support capacity development efforts related to artificial intelligence technologies, especially for developing countries, with a particular emphasis on the bottom billion,¹ in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. The strategic approach includes a road map for action, which offers a proposed series of concrete steps for building capacity to best harness the benefits of artificial intelligence technologies and mitigate their risks. Ultimately, when adopted, the system-wide strategic approach on artificial intelligence capacity-building will guide United Nations agencies as they prioritize and assess their actions relating to artificial intelligence in support of Member States, particularly developing and least developed countries.

3. The proposed United Nations system-wide strategic approach and road map for supporting capacity development on artificial intelligence is part of a broader United Nations system-wide effort on frontier technologies initiated by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) through the Committee. It supports the Secretary-General's strategy on new technologies, the stated goal of which is "to define how the United Nations system will support the use of these

* The International Monetary Fund opted out of endorsement on the basis of the scope of its individual mandate and specific legal status.

¹ In the present document, the term "bottom billion" refers to the people living in extreme poverty in middle- and low-income developing countries.



26/08/2020

CEB Chief Executives Board for Coordination

on Programmes (HLCP)

the UNESCO Ad Hoc Expert Group

on Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

(P Virtual Consultation, 29 July 2020)

(20/09/2022)

CEB Chief Executives Board for Coordination

on Programmes (HLCP)

Group on Artificial Intelligence

Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the United Nations System

- Do no harm
- Defined purpose, necessity and proportionality
- Safety and security
- Fairness and non-discrimination
- Sustainability
- Right to privacy, data protection and data governance
- Human autonomy and oversight
- Transparency and explainability
- Responsibility and accountability
- Inclusion and participation

The UN System White Paper on AI Governance was endorsed by the UN CEB in May 2024.

It analyzes the **normative instruments** and **institutional structures** within the UN that can inform and shape how AI is governed.

Read the paper:

www.unsceb.org/united-nations-system-white-paper-ai-governance

United Nations System

02/05/2024

Advance unedited version



CEB
Chief Executives Board
for Coordination

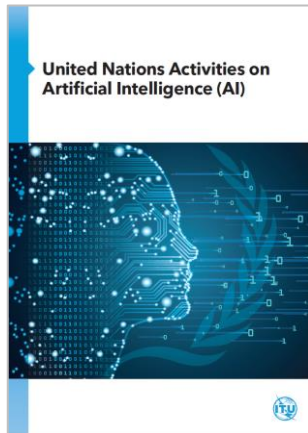
High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)

Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (IAWG-AI)

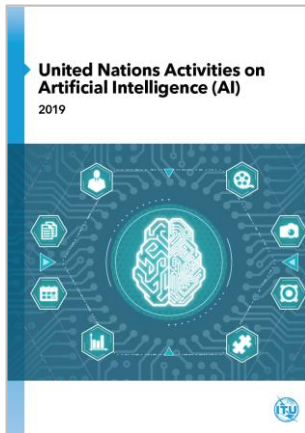
United Nations System White Paper on AI Governance:
An analysis of the UN system's institutional models, functions, and existing
international normative frameworks applicable to AI governance



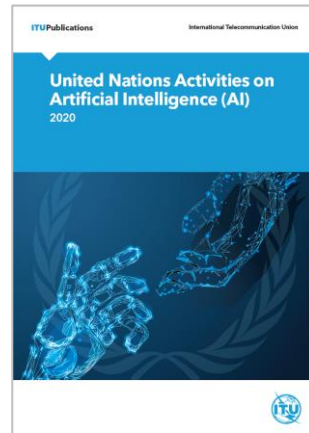
United Nations Activities on AI Since 2018



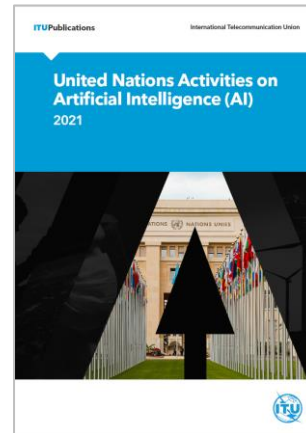
***Collection of
2-pager report
from 27 UN
agencies***



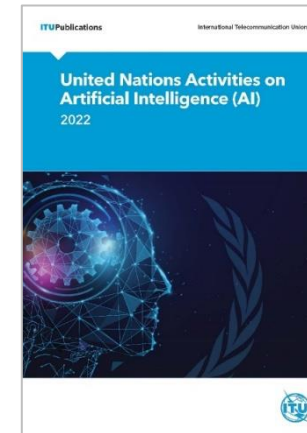
***Collection of
2-pager report
from 36 UN
agencies***



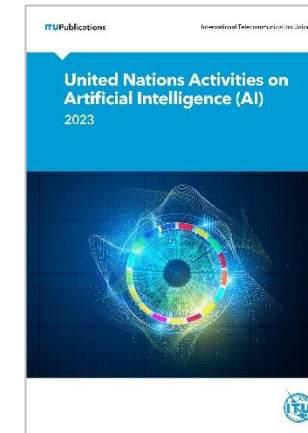
***Around 260
cases run by
36 UN
agencies***



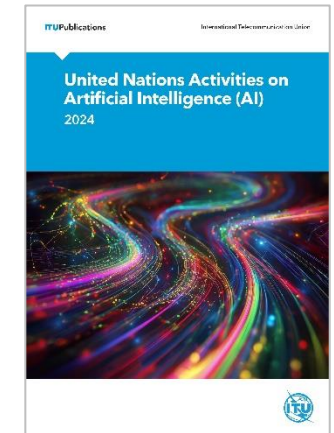
***40 entities
228 projects
Executive
Summary***



***40 entities
281 projects
Executive
Summary***



***47 entities
408 projects
Executive
Summary***



***53 entities
729 projects
Executive
Summary***



UN AI Resource Hub

One Platform. All UN AI Activities.

Presented by

UN Inter-Agency Working Group on AI



Enhancing Internal Efficiency and Knowledge Management

Customized Chatbots and Virtual Assistants

- The **UN OICT** is developing an **AI-powered Knowledge Assistant** using Microsoft Copilot Studio to allow users to ask natural language questions and receive relevant responses, thus streamlining access to the UN Policy and Practice Database and UN Knowledge Gateway.
- [UN Policy and Practice, UN Knowledge Gateway - Knowledge Assistant](#)
- The **UN Women** Equality Lab launched ResultMate, an **AI copilot chatbot** integrated within Microsoft Teams and trained on the organization's Results-Based Management principles to offer real-time guidance on drafting annual reports.
- [ResultMate \(under UN Women Equality Lab\)](#)

Enhancing Internal Efficiency and Knowledge Management

Information and Data Retrieval

- **UNECE** launched a collaborative effort with **UNICC** and Cornell University to develop an Open **AI-enabled Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Platform** powered by LLMs, helping stakeholders efficiently query and extract insights from extensive UNECE PDF documentation, especially concerning sustainable energy and climate change.
- [Development of an Open AI-enabled BOT Platform for UNECE](#)
- The **UNFCCC** uses an **AI Diplomacy toolkit** that integrates knowledge graphs, Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAGs), and AI agents to create semantic knowledge spaces. This reduces the time needed to process and analyze textual data for discussions, decisions, and mandate tracking related to climate policy and official documents.
- [AI diplomacy toolkit](#)

Strengthening Thematic and Programmatic Delivery

Agriculture and Food Security

- The **FAO** is building a prototype using an **Open AI chatbot** to create easily digestible "key messages" for farmers from complex technical documentation.
- [Creating Key Messages for the DSP mobile application](#)
- The **WFP** is developing an **AI-powered system for Country Strategic Planning (CSP)** that analyzes complex documents to identify relevant outcomes and activities, supporting strategic decision-making in plan formulation.
- [AI for Country Strategic Planning \(CSP\)](#)

Strengthening Thematic and Programmatic Delivery

Health and Social Services

- **UNFPA's GENAIE** is an **AI-enabled e-Learning initiative** piloting the rapid creation of customizable e-learning modules in local languages for health workers, helping them stay updated with the latest standards and guidance.
- [GENAIE \(Generative Artificial Intelligence for Education\)](#)
- **ITU** is organizing **GenAI for Good Challenge**, connecting the global open-source GenAI community of practice to tackle real-world problems in health, agriculture, and climate resilience.
- ***The Gambia** - Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention Chatbot.*
- ***Bangladesh** - Extreme Weather Advisor.*
- [GenAI for Good Challenge](#)

Strengthening Thematic and Programmatic Delivery

Crisis Response and Peacekeeping

- The **IAEA** is investigating the **dual role of Generative AI** as both a risk and a tool in emergency public communication, examining how AI-generated content can disrupt public trust and how AI-enabled tools can support responders in countering misinformation.
- [Investigating the Use of Generative AI for Public Communication during Emergency](#)
- The **DPPA** Innovation Cell uses AI to **facilitate large-scale synchronous dialogues in multiple languages**, including local dialects, allowing mediators to hold real-time consultations with up to 1,000 people simultaneously to enhance inclusivity in peace processes.
- [AI-powered large-scale synchronous dialogues](#)

Advancing Governance, Policy, and Capacity Building

Policy and Ethical Frameworks

- **UN DESA** initiated the development of a **Data Governance Policy Toolkit** using Generative AI and LLMs to filter, cluster, and analyze millions of policy documents, enabling a faster and more accurate approach to policy benchmarking.
- [Enhancing E-Government Development Index Assessment with Generative AI](#)
- The **UNDP** Ethics Office is developing an **AI-powered internal chatbot** to provide Ethics Officers with prompt and tailored draft ethics advice based on internal ethical standards.
- [UNDP Ethics Office Internal Chatbot](#)

Advancing Governance, Policy, and Capacity Building

Capacity Building and Training

- The **DPPA** Innovation Cell organizes **Generative AI labs** focusing on how tools like Microsoft Copilot can support political affairs officers, leading to the creation of a Generative AI Reference Guide with exploratory prompts for political affairs work.
- [Exploring the Potential and Risks of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the UN System](#)
- **UNICEF**, in partnership with Microsoft and Accenture, developed the **Generative AI Learning Pathway**, a multi-level course focusing on foundational, practical, and ethical knowledge of the technology for youth.
- [Generative AI Learning Pathway](#)

Part 2. UN General Assembly established AI Processes



UNGA Resolutions on AI

Number	Title
<u>80/302</u>	International Day of Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence
<u>80/58</u>	Artificial intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security
<u>80/23</u>	Possible risks of the integration of artificial intelligence into command, control and communications systems of nuclear weapons
<u>79/325</u>	Terms of Reference and Modalities for the Establishment and Functioning of the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence and the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance
<u>79/322</u>	The role of Artificial Intelligence in creating new opportunities for sustainable development in Central Asia
<u>79/239</u>	Artificial intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security
<u>78/311</u>	Enhancing International Cooperation on Capacity-building of Artificial Intelligence
<u>78/265</u>	Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development

AI Dialogue and Scientific Panel

AI Modalities UNGA Resolution (26 Aug. 2025)

Global Dialogue on AI Governance

- Two days, Geneva 2026 and New York 2027
- Multi-stakeholder plenary, high-level governmental segment, Scientific Panel report presentation, thematic discussions
- 2026 Dialogue in the margins of AI for Good Global Summit and WSIS Forum in Palexpo, Geneva
- **2026 Dialogue Co-Chairs: H.E. Ms. Egriselda López (El Salvador) and H.E. Mr. Rein Tammsaar (Estonia)**
- **Co-Chairs' summary**

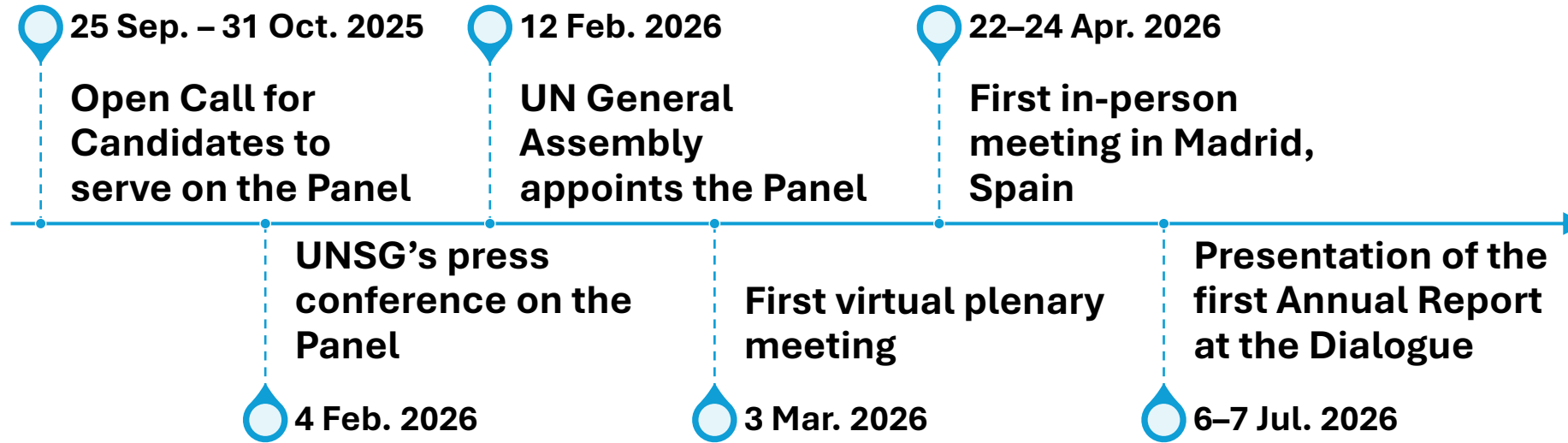
Independent International Scientific Panel on AI

- To issue evidence-based scientific assessments
- One annual policy-relevant but non-prescriptive summary report
- 40 members (from all five UN regions, various backgrounds)
- **Co-Chairs: Maria Ressa and Yoshua Bengio**
- Three-year term
- Provide updates up to twice a year
- **Present annual report at the Dialogue**

Joint Secretariat to the Panel and the Dialogue

- Joint Secretariat entities: EOSG, ITU, ODET, UNESCO
- Dialogue Co-Coordiators of the Joint Secretariat: ITU and UNESCO
- Panel Coordinator of the Joint Secretariat: ODET

Panel Timeline



Panel Working Groups





**United
Nations**



APPOINTED: The Independent International Scientific Panel on AI

Preliminary Report of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI

Evidence-based assessment of
opportunities, risks and impacts
of artificial intelligence



Independent International
Scientific Panel on
Artificial Intelligence

July 2026

Members of the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence



Girma Abebe Tadesso
Ethiopia



Yuka Atharaj
United Arab Emirates



Judith Barrai
France



Yohua Benji
Canada
Co-Chair



Mark Cockcroft
Belgium



Carlos Castro Coello
Mexico



Melahat Elise Demirköz
Turkey



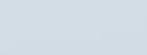
Adji Boussa Diang
Senegal



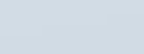
Sonia Livingstone
United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland



Qinghua Lu
Australia



Teresa Ludermir
Brazil



Martha Palmer
United States of America



Memetullah El-Assady
Egypt



Hoda Heidar
Islamic Republic of Iran



Julie Kim
Republic of Korea



Yipin Kumar
United States of America



Yutaka Matsuo
Japan



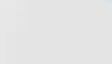
Joyce Nakamunda Lubiano
Uganda



Maria Ressa
Philippines
Co-Chair



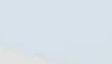
Lior Bakach
Israel



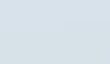
Benoit Schölkopf
Germany



Haitao Song
People's Republic of China



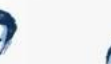
Leslie Teo
Singapore



Jian Wang
People's Republic of China



Bilal Mateen
Pakistan



Yutaka Matsuo
Japan



Joyce Nakamunda Lubiano
Uganda



Maria Ressa
Philippines
Co-Chair



Lior Bakach
Israel



Benoit Schölkopf
Germany



Haitao Song
People's Republic of China



Leslie Teo
Singapore



Jian Wang
People's Republic of China



Preliminary Report

1. Capabilities & adoption

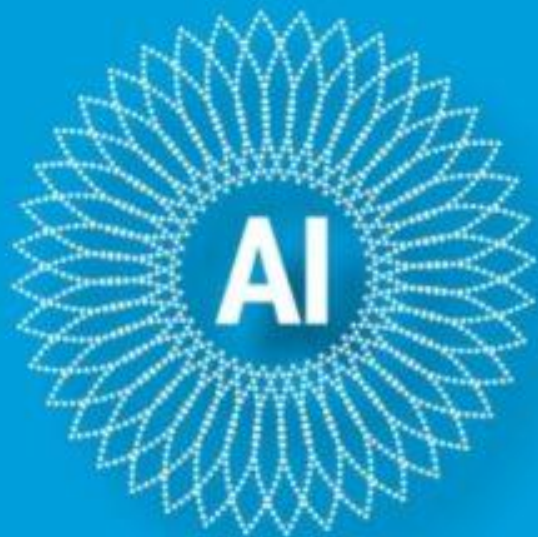
- Rapid, accelerating AI capabilities
- Expanding applications across sectors
- Uneven adoption across countries & sectors
- Shift toward AI agents
- Increasing autonomous knowledge work

2. Risks & risk management

- Risks to human rights, society & environment
- Growing capability—risk management gap
- Potential for catastrophic outcomes
- Uneven distribution of AI risks
- Concentrated AI development & economic gains

3. Governance

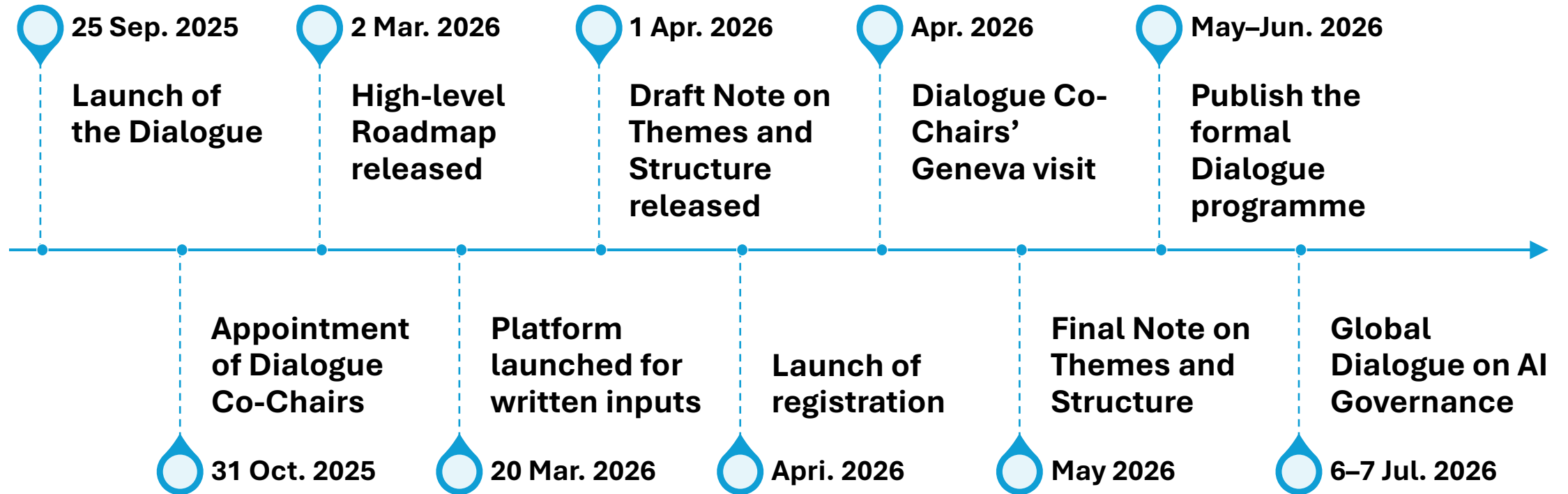
- Governance to maximize benefits & mitigate risks
- Evidence lagging behind AI development
- Uneven capacity to act on AI evidence
- Need to strengthen Member State capacity
- Sustained investment in AI governance



**Global Dialogue
on AI Governance**



Dialogue Timeline







United Nations DIGITAL COOPERATION AI GOVERNANCE

SHAPING THE NEXT STEPS ON GLOBAL AI GOVERNANCE TOGETHER

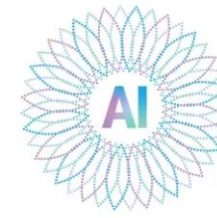
Discussion with the Global Dialogue on AI Governance Co-Chairs

18 February 2024, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, New York, New York



Programme at a Glance

Global Dialogue on AI Governance



Global Dialogue on AI Governance

6–7 July 2026
Palexpo Geneva, Switzerland

DAY 1 · 6 JULY

Setting the Scene: Science, Context & Shared Understanding

Programme subject to change · Times indicative (CEST, Geneva) · Official sessions livestreamed on UN Web TV

8:30–09:30

OPENING CEREMONY

09:30–10:30

PLENARY PRESENTATION – ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON AI

10:30–12:30

HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENTAL PLENARY SEGMENT

Interventions by inscription

Harnessing the benefits of AI for all through inclusive & interoperable approaches

12:30–13:30

HIGH-LEVEL MULTISTAKEHOLDER PLENARY SEGMENT

Harnessing the benefits of AI for all through inclusive & interoperable approaches

13:30–15:00

LUNCH & SIDE EVENTS

15:00–18:00

*Fireside chat,
moderated panel
and inscription*

THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS [BREAKOUT]

Cluster 1

AI opportunities & implications: social, economic, ethical, cultural, linguistic, and technical dimensions

Cluster 2

Bridging AI divides: capacity building, access, and digital foundations

DAY 2 · 7 JULY

Reflections, Convergences & the Way Forward

07:30–08:45

SIDE EVENTS

09:00–12:00

*Fireside chat,
moderated panel
and inscription*

THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS [BREAKOUT]

Cluster 3

Safe, secure & trustworthy AI:
interoperability and compatibility of
approaches

Cluster 4

Respecting, promoting and protecting
human rights: transparency,
accountability and human oversight

12:00–13:30

LUNCH & SIDE EVENTS

13:30–15:00

AI GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES AND APPROACHES *Moderated panel*
Experiences, lessons and complementarities

15:00–16:30

HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENTAL PLENARY SEGMENT *By inscription*
Harnessing the benefits of AI for all through inclusive & interoperable approaches

16:30–18:00

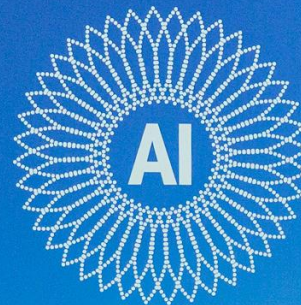
**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLENARY WITH A HIGH-LEVEL
GOVERNMENTAL SEGMENT — DIALOGUE OF DIALOGUES**
Reflections, complementarities & the way forward

18:00–18:30

CLOSING CEREMONY



United
Nations



Global Dialogue
on AI Governance

6 – 7 July 2026



Themes emerging across the AI Dialogue

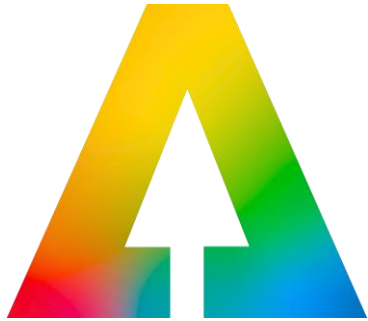
- Harnessing AI's opportunities for people and planet
- From access to capacity
- Financing capacity and inclusion
- Governance based on international human rights law
- Protection of children
- Gender-responsive governance
- Linguistic and cultural inclusion by design
- International cooperation for AI governance
- Interoperability anchored in technical standards
- A shared, independent evidence base
- Environmental sustainability and transparency
- Governing increasingly autonomous systems

Part 3. Example AI Initiatives of UN Entities



AI for Good

Solutions & Knowledge



Global Summit



UN AI Resource hub



Impact Initiatives



Neural Network



**Discovery webinar
series**



Young AI Leaders



Innovation Factory



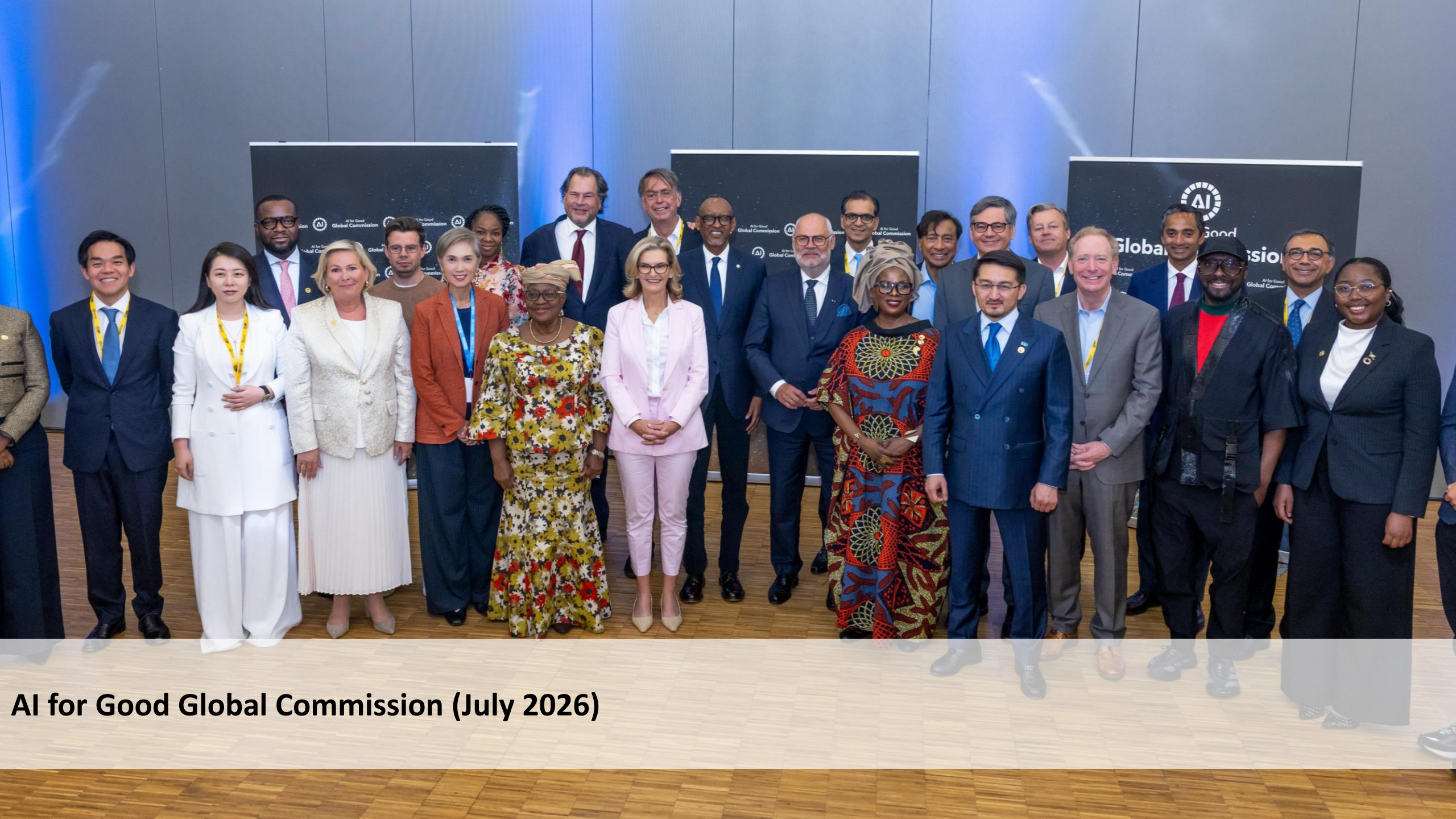
Canvas of the Future



Film Festival



Impact Awards



AI for Good Global Commission (July 2026)

Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory

A platform for knowledge, expert insights, and good practices on the ethics and governance of artificial intelligence



The 4th UNESCO GLOBAL FORUM ON THE ETHICS OF AI 2026



GFEAI
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
14 - 17 Sep 2026



LEARN MORE
AND REGISTER

**A global call for innovative private sector
AI partnerships seeking to support
data, green compute and talent in Africa**



AI Hub

for Sustainable Development

Strengthening Local AI Ecosystems through Collective Action

ITALIAN G7 PRESIDENCY - UNDP

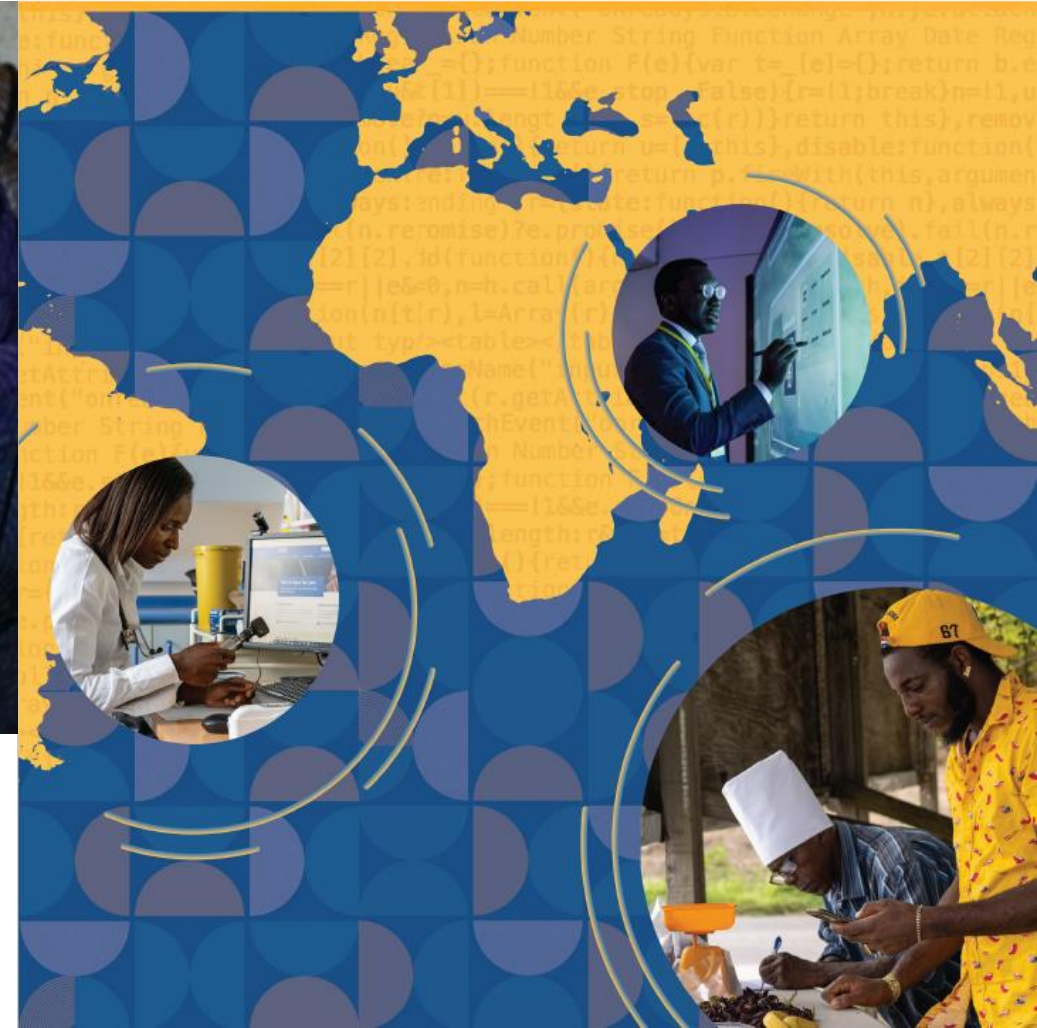
AI HUB FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CO-DESIGN

Startup Acceleration Pilot

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS >



Supported by:





International
Labour
Organization

► Launch of the ILO Observatory on AI and Work in the Digital Economy

Date: 25 September 2024

Time: 16:30 - 17:30 CEST

Where: Online



Gilbert F. Houngbo
Director-General
ILO



Marina Elvira Calderon
Minister for Labour and
Social Policies, Italy



Roberto Suárez Santos
Secretary-General
IOE



Amandeep Singh Gill
UN Secretary General's
Envoy on Technology



Cathy Feingold
Deputy President
ITUC



Richard Samans
Director
ILO Research Department

Guidance of the Secretary-General

Human Rights Due Diligence for Digital Technology Use

Call to Action for Human Rights
May 2024

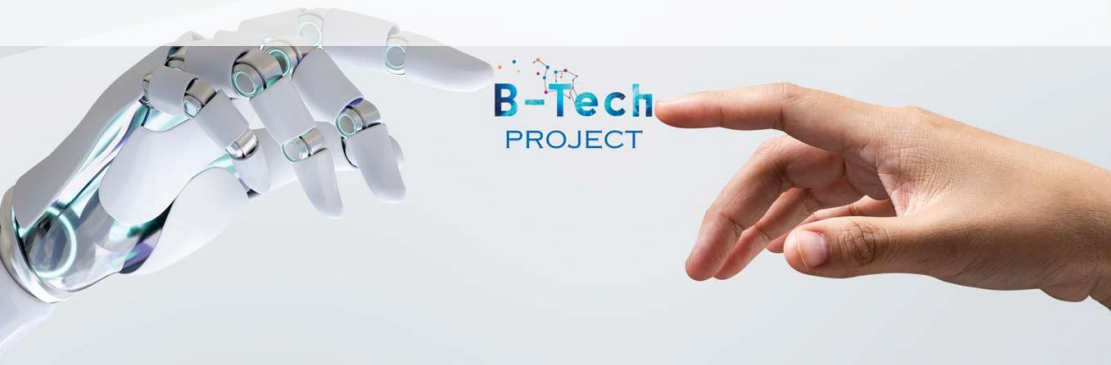
B-Tech



Generative AI Human Rights Due Diligence Project
UN Human Rights



Human rights must be at the core of generative AI technologies, says Türk



B-Tech
PROJECT

The Human Rights Dimensions of Generative AI: Guiding the Way Forward

Wednesday, February 14, 4:30 - 6 pm
Stanford Law School, Room 290



Moderator

Eileen Donahoe

Special Envoy for Digital Freedom,
U.S. Department of State



Keynote

United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights

Volker Türk



Panelist

Nathaniel Persily

James B. McClatchy Professor,
Stanford Law School

International Policy Co-Director,
Stanford Cyber Policy Center



Raffi Krikorian

Chief Technical Officer of
Engineering, Emerson Collective



Panelist

Alexandria Walden

Global Head of Human Rights,
Google



Panelist

Peggy Hicks

Director of Thematic Engagement,
UN Human Rights Office

Stanford

Center for Human Rights
and International Justice



Stanford PACS
Digital Civil Society Lab

Stanford Immigration and
Human Rights Law Association

Stanford

Global Digital
Policy Incubator
Cyber Policy Center

HAI

Stanford University
Human-Centered
Artificial Intelligence



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
Progress by innovation



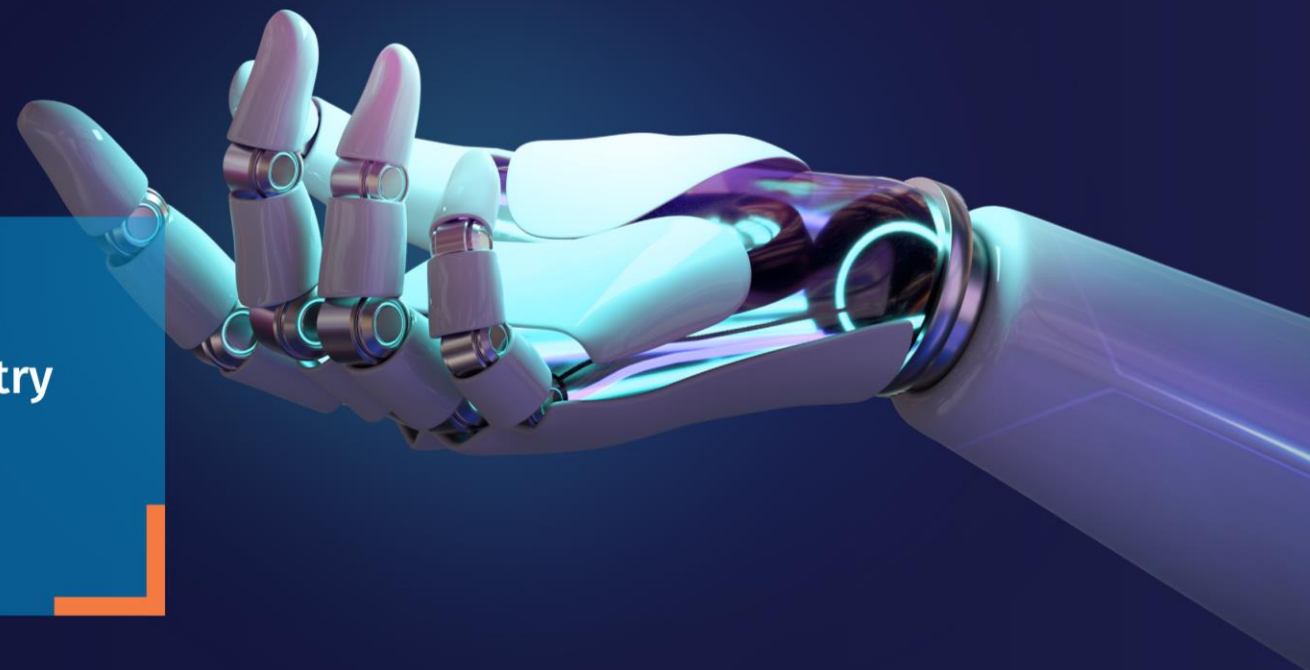
Global Alliance on AI for
Industry & Manufacturing

UNIDO AIM Global Forum

AI for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future: Industry
and Manufacturing Perspectives

12 December 2024

Vienna International Centre, BoardRoom A, and Online



UNU Global AI Network

聯合國大學全球人工智能網絡啟動儀式



Director, UNU-AI (D1)

 On-site  Bologna, Emilia-Romagna, Italy  UNU-AI

Launch event

AI Infrastructure Interchange (AIII)

March 17, 2026



WIPO



Committed to connecting the world

Thank you