

16TH ITU ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

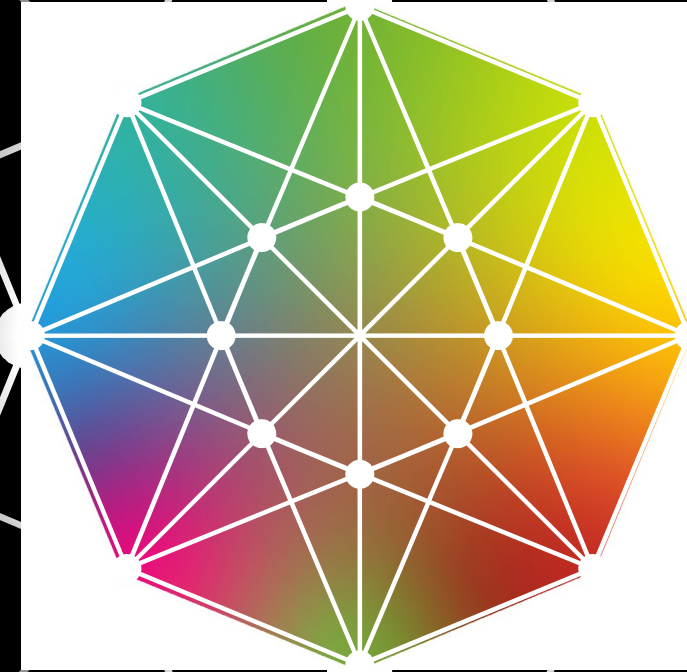
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*AI and frontier
technologies for good*

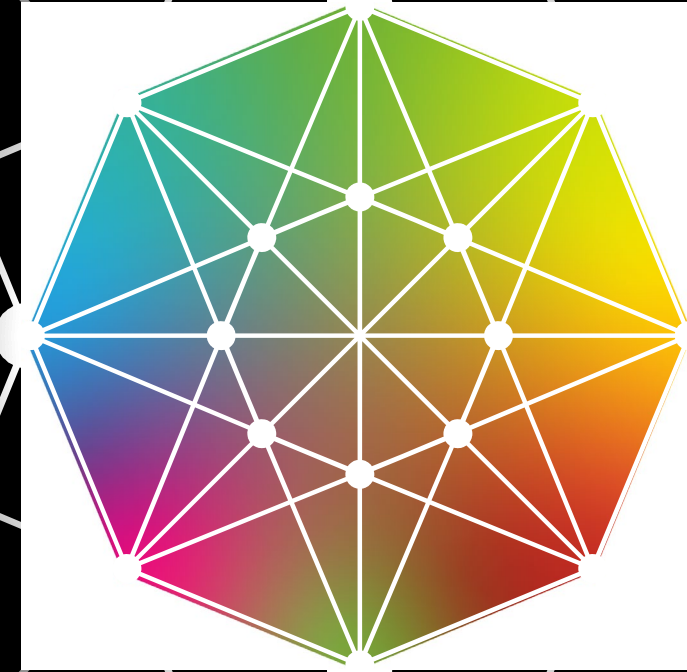
7-9 July 2026
Geneva, Switzerland

Hosted by  **AI for Good**
Global Summit



FROM INNOVATION TO INTEGRITY: WHY AFRICA'S ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FUTURE DEPENDS ON ETHICS

7 July 2026



16TH ITU ACADEMIC CONFERENCE



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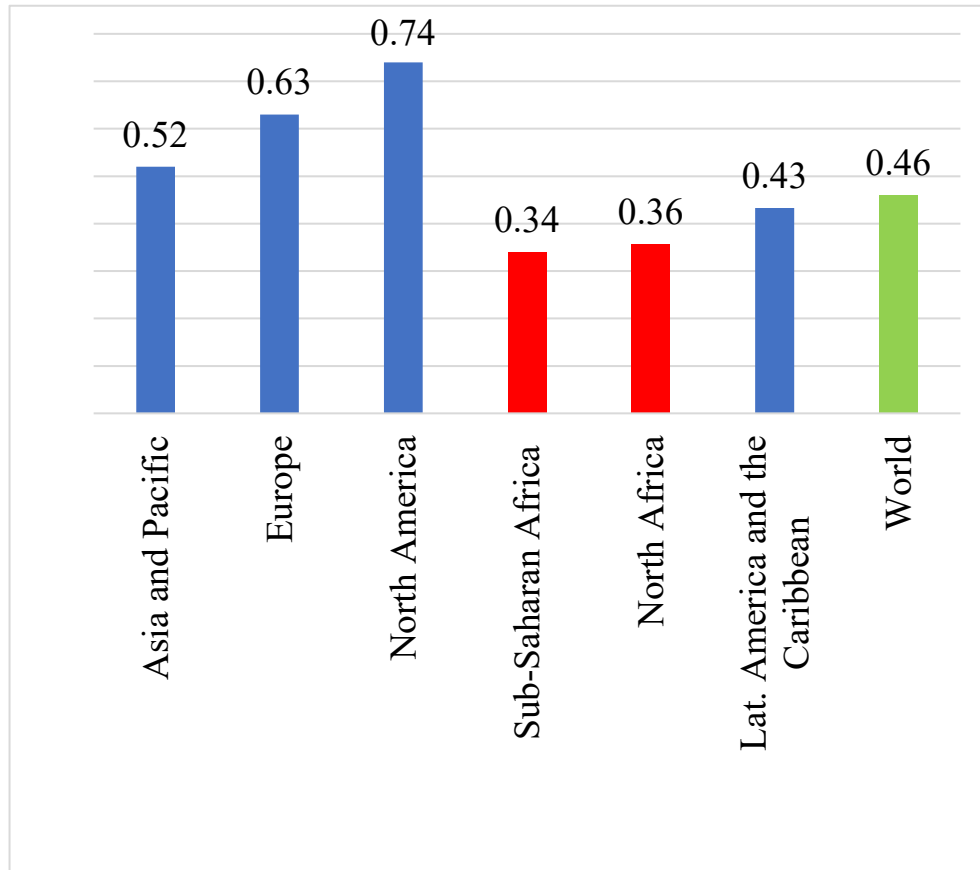
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General overview and introduction

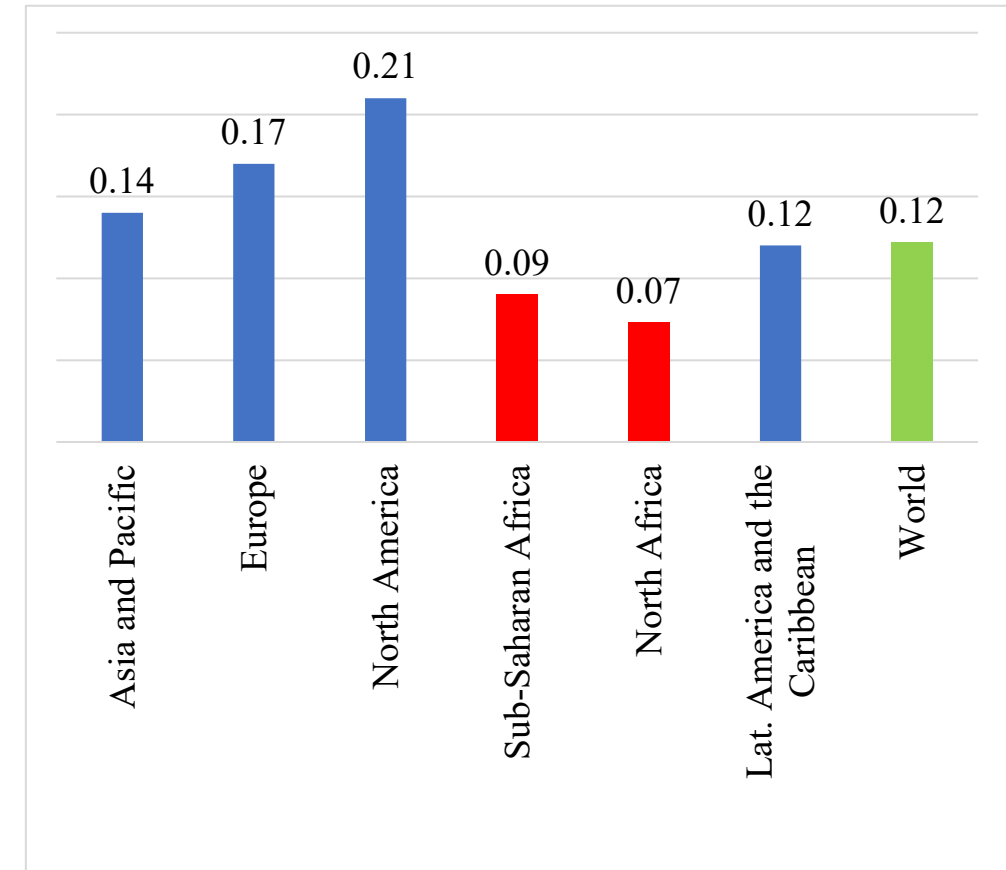
- With the rapid growth of AI use, it is important to establish boundaries in this sphere

	Benefits	Drawbacks
Government-imposed rules	More enforceable	Risk of excessive regulation
Self-regulation (ethical principles of AI use)	More industry-friendly (provides more room for innovation introduction)	Less enforceable

- ‘Over-regulation’ of AI is particularly relevant for Africa



AI preparedness index for selected regions
(IMF, 2023)



Regulation and ethics index for selected regions
(IMF, 2023)

Methodology

- ***Research hypothesis:*** Africa's AI future will depend not only on technological innovation and digital transformation but also on the progressive integration of safeguards capable of ensuring accountability, inclusion, transparency, security and public trust in AI systems.
- ***Elements of the study:***
 - Comparative analysis (a 'focus group' of initiatives in the sphere of ethical AI use and development)
 - Case studies (Rwanda, Egypt, Togo, Kenya, South Africa and Ghana)

What has been done: best practices

- Rwanda: *National AI Policy* (2023)
- Egypt: *National AI Strategy* (2021) and *Charter for Responsible AI* (2023)
- South Africa: *National Artificial Intelligence Policy Framework* (2024)
- Ghana: *National AI Strategy 2025-2035*
- Kenya: *National AI Strategy* (2025) and *M-PESA ecosystem* (fintech)
- Togo: *Novissi program* (finance)

However, the gap between high-level commitment and actionable governance exists and is becoming significant given the rapid expansion of AI applications

Principles of ethical AI use and development (comparative analysis)

	Principles									
	No harm	Fairness/Non-discrimination	Safety and security	Sustainability	Privacy/ Data Protection	Human oversight	Transparency/ Explainability	Responsibility/ Accountability	Awareness/ Literacy	Inclusiveness/ Dialogue
UNESCO	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
OECD		+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
ISO	+	+	+		+		+	+		+
DCO		+		+	+	+	+	+		
USA		+	+				+			
China		+	+				+			
IBM		+	+		+		+			
SAP	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kaspersky			+		+	+	+			+
AI Alliance	+	+	+				+	+	+	+

What can be done?

- Formulate principles of ethical AI use on the continental and national levels
- Introduce practical steps aimed at promoting ethical AI use:
 - Ethical AI certification programs
 - Incentives for companies adhering to ethical AI development and use
 - AI in pre-school and school education
 - Capacity-building programs

Potential challenges

- Institutional clarity and governance coordination
- Capacity-building and skills gaps
- Limits of self-regulation in critical sectors
- Verification of ethical AI use and ethics washing

Conclusion

- AI's long-term contribution to the continent's transformation will depend on the ability to ensure its transparency, accountability, and security;
- For Africa, ethical AI governance should draw on international standards while being enriched by local realities and ethical traditions;
- Ethical commitments can only become effective if supported by credible governance mechanisms, sufficient capacity, safeguards for high-impact uses and tools for verification;
- Future research could further examine the effectiveness of the operational tools.

Thank you!

