



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Hamburg Sustainability Conference:

Responsible Digital and Artificial Intelligence track

Get Engaged and Contribute!

Background

The [Hamburg Sustainability Conference](#) (HSC) is an initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Michael Otto Foundation and the City of Hamburg. The inaugural HSC took place on 7 and 8 October 2024, bringing together political, scientific and business leaders as well as civil society and international organisations to develop solutions to the challenges of international development. Some 1,600 participants from 102 countries took part in more than 60 sessions, working on key issues of our time. The HSC is set to continue in 2025 and 2026, providing a context to initiate and support long-term change processes.

During the conference, UNDP and BMZ together with partners announced a global platform to harness the power of responsible artificial intelligence (AI) for sustainable development. This work has begun with the adoption of [joint principles on responsible AI](#) and the launch of the [AI SDG Compendium](#) (SDG: Sustainable Development Goals), a global registry of AI initiatives for sustainable development.

As a next step, UNDP and BMZ will leverage the platform to draw up language and commitments linking a responsible use of AI for the SDGs, working towards a **Hamburg Declaration on Responsible AI for the SDGs**, a new multi-stakeholder document likely to be adopted in June 2025, leveraging also other international for a, such as G7/G20. The aim is to create a shared global understanding of how responsible AI can drive better development outcomes. Key events, such as the AI Action Summit in Paris (February 2025) and the Global AI Summit for Africa in Kigali (April 2025), mark important steppingstones and will further contribute to the HSC's goals around responsible AI.

We warmly invite you to take part in this process by sharing your ideas, opinions, and inputs on the **future of responsible AI for sustainable development**. Your insights are invaluable, and we welcome contributions from across the globe and sectors. Please join us and contribute to the future of responsible AI!

How can you contribute?

We invite organizations, initiatives, and groups to submit inputs to how AI can be used responsibly to drive progress towards SDGs, and even to host a dialogue or session to gather and discuss contributions to a Declaration with your networks.

The format of these consultation sessions is flexible (whether in-person, virtual, or hybrid) and the main objective is to generate valuable input to drive forward the powerful impact that digitalization and AI can have on SDGs. It is important that expertise around the world from different points of view – Global South, private sector, civil society, academia and development partners – are incorporated in this process. You have full discretion over the participants, the number of sessions,

and how they are organized. Your session can be a stand-alone event, a dedicated block of time within an existing meeting, or even a side event during a larger conference.

You may choose to address all the key areas and principles outlined in the AI SDG Compendium or focus on specific themes that resonate with your group's interests. The organization, coordination, timing and structure are entirely up to you!

Ahead of preparing and submitting your inputs, or holding any consultations, you may wish to peruse some background materials on the HSC. Feel free to use the [HSC One Pager](#), the [HSC FAQ](#) and the [Conference Paper 2024](#). If you are convening a consultation, please feel free to use the [HSC visuals](#) for your communications, publications or social media coverage (#HSC), and to share the [recording of this year's high-level HSC panel discussion on "Responsible AI for Sustainable Development"](#).

Submitting your views

You can submit your inputs and contributions on behalf of yourself or your entity/organization until early April 2025 via email and our website. Please be aware that all submissions will be considered public and may be publicly quoted or shared. We will also open the draft Declaration for public inputs in 2025; currently scheduled in February and April 2025 and further details of this will be shared closer to the dates.

We invite you to share your views on key areas of action (you can them find listed on page 4) which the use of Responsible AI for the SDGs should address aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, we welcome suggestions for core commitments that should be actionable priorities for governments, companies, civil society organizations, international organizations, and other stakeholders like academia; in line with the 5 "Ps" of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership.

Concise and concrete inputs are important to effectively inform the Declaration. At the same time, we also welcome any further information that you may wish to submit, including recommendations for what actions could be undertaken to achieve these "commitments", and/or any specific targets or actions you or your organization have already undertaken in this regard.

After Submission of Inputs

Based on the contributions received, along with additional consultations and research, UNDP and BMZ will compile the material and, where pertinent, integrate it into the development of pertinent language that ought to lead towards a Hamburg Declaration on Responsible AI for the SDGs. This will subsequently be shared publicly for your further comments and inputs.

For any questions or clarification, please contact hsc@bmz-digital.global or digital@undp.org.
Please also sign up to our mailing list for further updates and information.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Areas of Action

on Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

We are at a crossroads. In a world facing rapid social, economic, ecological, climate, and technological changes, Artificial Intelligence (AI) emerges as a transformative force. AI is capable of either exacerbating inequality, digital divides, and environmental degradation or driving prosperity, sustainability, and inclusion.

Now is the time to **unlock the potential of responsible, human-centric AI** to catalyze breakthroughs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), benefiting both people and planet. We believe that **shaping AI responsibly is a common project for all of humanity. It must be built on a partnership of equals, with the Global South and emerging societies participating on an equal footing.** Wherever we live, we share many of the same hopes and concerns for the effects of AI.

Together, we can shape a historical technological, environmental, and societal transformation through mutual discussion, cooperation, and knowledge exchange. We are committed to prioritizing the Global South and emerging societies in our collective effort.

We, the undersigned, declare our intention to work towards the following ambitions to ensure that AI will be a force for prosperity, sustainability, and inclusion. We are guided by the five key areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership. Much as the SDGs are overlapping and mutually reinforcing – so too should be the guiding principles for our approach:

Note to Contributors: For each suggestion under the 5 Areas of Action where your inputs are sought in “yellow”, please provide the following:

- a. **Short introduction:** 2-3 sentences outlining the area, and explaining its importance. Please try to use statistics or numbers to stress the urgency, and provide citations or research.
- b. **Significance:** 1-2 sentences explaining the impact/significance for 1) the SDGs and 2) developing countries.
- c. **Commitments/targets:** 2-3 examples of commitments that could form the core of what signatories to the Declaration would work towards. This should be written in clear, non-platitudinous language, without caveats.

Our vision, for instance, is a set of commitments that are broad enough to allow flexibility but also as concrete as possible, with signatories agreeing to meet them through specific targets.

People

Human Rights

The promotion and protection of human rights must be a cornerstone of the responsible governance of AI. We commit to ensure that AI systems are human-centric and do not infringe on Universal Human Rights, for instance, the right to privacy or freedom of expression.

(Possible Area of Action)

- a. Short intro**
- b. Significance**
 - a. SDGs:**
 - b. Developing countries:**
- c. Commitments/targets:**

Gender Equality

AI technologies should be designed to promote gender equality, avoiding biases that perpetuate or exacerbate gender disparities. Gender-responsive AI governance ensures equal opportunities and benefits for all.

(Possible Area of Action)

- a. Short intro**
- b. Significance**
 - **SDGs:**
 - **Developing countries:**
- c. Commitments/targets**

Inclusion

The development, deployment and use of AI must be inclusive, leave no one behind, protect from bias, discrimination and persecution, and increase opportunity and equity for women and girls, children and youth, as well as older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples, persons in vulnerable situations and those in underserved, rural and remote areas.

(Possible Area of Action)

- a. Short intro**
- b. Significance**
 - **SDGs:**
 - **Developing countries:**
- c. Commitments/targets**

Prosperity

Development Orientation

Our approach to AI is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We will harness the opportunities of AI to close all digital divides, ensuring that no-one is left behind, and to achieve the SDGs.

(Possible Area of Action)

a. Short intro

b. Significance

- **SDGs:**
- **Developing countries:**

c. Commitments/targets

Equitable opportunities

AI technologies must be accessible to all, ensuring that the opportunities and benefits from technological progress are distributed equitably. This includes creating inclusive job growth also locally, promoting talent, and ensuring that the benefits of AI are shared broadly across and within countries and societies.

(Possible Area of Action)

a. Short intro

b. Significance

- **SDGs:**
- **Developing countries:**

c. Commitments/targets

Planet

Green AI

AI systems should be designed, developed and deployed to minimise their climate and environmental impact, promoting sustainability.

(Possible Area of Action)

a. Short intro

b. Significance

- **SDGs:**
- **Developing countries:**

c. Commitments/targets

AI for Environmental Solutions

AI systems should advance sustainability and climate targets across all sectors in a holistic way. We will utilise AI in ways that promote sustainable socio-economic climate and environmental action and foster sustainable practices and solutions.

(Possible Area of Action)

a. Short intro**b. Significance**

- **SDGs:**
- **Developing countries:**

c. Commitments/targets**Peace**Integrity

Our approach to AI is committed to preserving the integrity of information and combating the spread of disinformation which is crucial to promoting public trust, ensuring people's full ability to participate in public life, and upholding societal cohesion.

(Possible Area of Action)**a. Short intro****b. Significance**

- **SDGs:**
- **Developing countries:**

c. Commitments/targetsDe-escalation

AI technologies can amplify hate speech in the digital public sphere and incite violence online and offline. We stand against misuse of AI in aspiring towards a more open, free, inclusive and secure digital future for all, commit to uphold safety, reliability, and human rights.

(Possible Area of Action)**a. Short intro****b. Significance**

- **SDGs:**
- **Developing countries:**

c. Commitments/targets**Partnership**Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

AI must be developed and deployed with inclusive participation of all stakeholders globally advancing, protecting and preserving diversity. We will ensure that diverse voices also from emerging societies in the Global South are elevated and heard.

(Possible Area of Action)**a. Short intro****b. Significance**

- **SDGs:**
- **Developing countries:**

c. Commitments/targets

Open Access and mutual learning

AI can best benefit people and planet if developed in cooperation and open to all. We therefore strive to scale up AI capacity-building and open up access to essential AI resources as global digital public goods. By doing so, we promote collaboration and mutual learning and promote fairness and innovation.

(Possible Area of Action)

a. Short intro

b. Significance

- **SDGs:**
- **Developing countries:**

c. Commitments/targets