

Solidarity

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# AFRICA AI VILLAGE AT THE G20 SUMMIT

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## The Africa AI Village at G20: Policy-Driven AI Leadership

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming Africa, presenting unparalleled opportunities to address critical developmental challenges and ignite innovative solutions. Recent global convenings have demonstrated Africa's growing influence in shaping AI discourse, positioning the continent as a vital voice that cannot be ignored in global policy frameworks.

The world continues to shape the AI future at a pace and scale that will define the next decade. Africa is now positioned to lead with its own use cases, infrastructure needs, and values, ensuring it shapes rather than inherits AI systems. The G20 presents a critical opportunity: a global stage where Africa can assert its agency, articulate its vision, and anchor its leadership in the global AI agenda.

### **The Global Majority Shapes AI: A bold move by the Global Central & Global Majority AI Actors**

We are forming a new coalition of African actors, dedicated to building a sovereign, African-centred AI model. This initiative is the cornerstone of a broader, historic collaboration: a Global Majority AI partnership.

This partnership is a declaration that the Global South will not merely adapt to the AI future but will take an active role in shaping it. The confluence of technical innovation, policy readiness, and social need across Global South nations creates an opportunity to demonstrate how AI can produce innovative & inclusive solutions that serve humanity, more impactfully through partnership, than by individual countries.

This vision will be brought to life in a landmark Presidential Fireside Chat featuring His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of South Africa, and His Excellency Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India. This dialogue will explore a powerful model of co-creation between countries in the Global Majority, bringing together countries leading in AI build, adoption, and delivery across the LATAM region, Africa & South East Asia. Convening top expertise from government, private sector, academia & civil society, we are shifting from a model of technical assistance to collaborative development, where the Global Majority build together as partners.

# Africa's AI Leadership: Evidence and Momentum

Recent high-level discussions have validated Africa's potential and revealed critical insights that inform our G20 strategy:

## **Economic Transformation Potential:**

- AI could add \$2.9 trillion to Africa's economy by 2030, lifting GDP growth by 3 percentage points
- Generative AI could contribute \$61-100 billion annually if infrastructure and skills barriers are addressed
- With 700 million children in Africa today, growing to 900 million by 2030, achieving the 15% AI literacy target could equip 200 million African youth with foundational AI skills

## **Innovation Leadership:**

- Africa is already serving as a "living laboratory" where AI applications address real-world problems: AI chatbots in Nigeria achieving two years of learning in six weeks, AI-powered messaging in Zambia bringing unbanked populations into formal financial systems
- African innovations in healthcare (ultrasound access, disease detection), education (addressing teacher shortages), and financial inclusion demonstrate the continent's role in pioneering contextual AI solutions
- Successful AI applications built on open-source models are already serving millions across health, education, and financial services

## **Policy Framework Development:**

- The Africa AI Declaration provides continental commitment across all 54 states
- Momentum toward establishing a pan-African AI Council with concrete governance frameworks
- African-led innovations in data sovereignty, ethical AI deployment, and inclusive technology development

## **Critical Infrastructure Needs Identified:**

- 600 million Africans still lack reliable electricity access, creating fundamental barriers to AI adoption
- Only 40% of Africans are online, with women facing 37% less likelihood of internet access
- African textbooks, histories, and cultural resources remain largely undigitized, limiting AI's contextual effectiveness

## **Strategic Focus Areas: Policy-Driven AI Development**

In partnership with leading African AI organizations developing multilingual technologies, the G20 Village will concentrate on three critical policy intersections:

### **1. Policy and AI Talent Development**

#### *Operationalizing Continental AI Literacy Goals*

- Drawing from insights that emphasize urgent investment in skills development, particularly for girls and young women, with focus on basic infrastructure like electricity and data access:
- Present evidence-based pathways for achieving continental AI literacy targets through the Africa AI Talent Readiness Index covering all 54 countries
- Showcase successful models of AI curriculum integration from leading African universities and vocational programs
- Facilitate policy dialogue on creating enabling environments for AI talent retention and cross-border mobility
- Launch frameworks for AI skills recognition and youth employment integration

Partnership Focus: Leverage multilingual AI capabilities to demonstrate how local language technologies can accelerate talent development across diverse African linguistic communities, addressing the critical need for culturally relevant educational content.

### **2. Policy and Data Governance**

#### *From Data Colonialism to African Data Sovereignty*

- Building on calls for investing in diverse African data collection, translating Ubuntu philosophy into AI ethics, and using diaspora financing to strengthen negotiating power:
- Present the African Data Governance Toolkit developed through continental collaboration
- Showcase successful implementations of data protection policies that enable innovation while ensuring safety
- Advance child impact assessment standards ensuring AI systems are safe for Africa's 700 million children before deployment
- Facilitate discussions on cross-border data governance for continental AI initiatives that balance sovereignty with integration
- Evidence-Based Advocacy: Present case studies from healthcare, agriculture, and education showing how African-controlled datasets lead to better outcomes and more inclusive AI systems that serve local contexts while informing global standards.

### 3. Policy and Use Cases Implementation

#### *From Declaration to Deployment*

- Leveraging Africa's role as a "living laboratory" where AI addresses local problems with global applications:
- Showcase successful operationalization of the Africa AI Declaration through concrete, scalable use cases
- Present policy frameworks that enable successful AI startup ecosystems, including regulatory sandboxes and innovation-friendly policies
- Demonstrate African innovations like Atunzi (maternal health), Hakii.ai (legal access), and agricultural AI solutions that show how supportive policies enable local innovation with global impact
- Advance discussions on the proposed \$60 billion Africa AI Fund as a concrete mechanism for scaling successful use cases

Demonstrated Impact: Feature AI applications already generating results: educational solutions condensing learning timelines, financial inclusion tools bringing millions into formal systems, and healthcare AI improving maternal and child outcomes across the continent.

#### **Pan-African AI Council: From Vision to Institution**

##### Why G20 Matters

With the increasing integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into various sectors, the G20 plays a vital role in shaping global AI governance, promoting responsible AI development, and addressing the ethical implications of AI. South Africa's presidency of the G20 in 2025 provides a crucial platform to champion the interests of the African continent and the Global South, fostering inclusive global governance and addressing key development challenges, including the equitable deployment and impact of AI technologies. The Africa AI Village at the leaders' summit will be important as it will showcase African innovation in AI, highlight the continent's unique perspectives on AI ethics and governance, and ensure that African voices are integral to global discussions on AI's future.

The G20 provides the perfect venue to:

- Scale Policy Innovation: Transform successful African AI policies into global standards and best practices
- Secure Implementation Funding: Build strategic partnerships to unlock significant investment for African AI initiatives
- Influence Global Frameworks: Ensure ongoing global AI governance discussions incorporate African perspectives from the outset

- **Demonstrate Concrete Progress:** Show measurable advancement on continental AI commitments and policy implementation

The Africa AI Village at G20 represents the next critical phase in Africa's journey from AI consumer to AI co-creator, building on established leadership to ensure African voices, values, and innovations shape the policies, investments, and innovations that will define the AI future for all humanity.

Through focused policy implementation across talent development, data governance, and use case scaling, the Village will demonstrate that Africa is not just participating in the global AI conversation – it's leading it.

## Expected Outcomes

- 1. Increased Investment in African AI, Demonstrating Alignment with Continental Investment Frameworks:** New connections are formed between African AI startups, research institutions, and global funders, creating opportunities to unlock financing, drive innovation, and catalyze economic growth. This includes contributing to the realization of ambitious continental investment targets, such as those outlined for the \$60 billion Africa AI Fund, by showcasing investable African AI solutions and fostering a conducive investment environment.
- 2. Launch of the Global Majority AI Coalition:** Formal establishment of the coalition to build an African-centred AI model, with concrete commitments from partner nations and institutions, marking a historic step towards technological sovereignty and South-South co-creation.
- 3. Enhanced Partnerships for Advancing the African AI Agenda:** Concrete commitments are made towards advancing the Global Majority AI's agenda through strengthened alliances, demonstrated by the expression of intent by the ecosystem actors across governments, development banks & private sector champions to collaboratively develop a set of flagship AI initiatives.
- 4. African-Led Insights Shaping Global AI Policy:** Practical insights, case studies, and early policy outcomes from pioneering African countries are shared to guide and inspire broader policy adoption, contributing to a growing body of African-led evidence and best practice in AI governance. African policymakers

actively contribute to shaping global AI policy, ensuring international frameworks reflect the continent's diverse values and realities.

## **Conclusion**

The Africa AI Village represents Africa's determination to lead in shaping the future of AI, not as a passive recipient but as an active co-creator. By centering women and girls, amplifying homegrown innovations, and connecting local realities to global frameworks, the Village ensures that Africa's digital future is inclusive, sovereign, and transformative. The G20 Leaders' Summit is the stage where this vision must be declared, demonstrated, and advanced.