

Event title: Artificial Intelligence Governance and Environmental Impact Considerations

Date: Tuesday, 9 July 2024

Time: 13:15 to 14:45 (time in Nairobi, EAT)

Location: Conference Room 4 in the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) or on MS Teams in [this link](#).

Concept note

The governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become increasingly center stage, particularly after the swift advancements in Generative AI and Large Language Models in the past couple of years. Global leaders have been expressing concerns about the threats posed by AI and there is a growing demand for effective and coherent international AI governance frameworks that are integrated within the broader landscape of digital technology regulation and sustainable development efforts. Meanwhile, the environmental impacts of AI as well as its potential to advance the environmental dimensions of the Global Goals remain largely unexplored and outside the scope of most debates on AI.

The event will include a segment dedicated to presentations showcasing examples of AI applications for environmental sustainability, followed by a panel discussion on the environmental impacts of AI and recommendations to guide the future efforts on AI governance for environmental sustainability. The session will end with a Q&A session.

The expected impact of this event is multifaceted. Firstly, it aims to enhance the general understanding of AI technologies and governance efforts, emphasizing their implications for the triple planetary crisis - climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Secondly, by spotlighting the largely unexplored environmental impacts of AI, the event seeks to bridge the current knowledge gap. Thirdly, the event format stimulates informed discussions and allows for identifying areas of collaboration and generating actionable insights. Finally, the interactive Q&A segment will foster engagement and allow for diverse perspectives.

Overall, the event aims at fostering the integration of environmental considerations into AI governance at international, national, or local level. This should support the advancement of sustainable and environmentally friendly AI, advancing the environmental dimensions of the Global Goals.

Presentations

- Martin Röw (German Embassy, Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat) - “Searching the web for the preservation of species diversity “
- Leonida Mutuku (Local Development Research Institute, AI Research Director) - Early Warning System in Kenya for food security and climate smart agriculture
- Théo Alves (Data For Good, Co-President) - Ecologits.ai & CodeCarbon

Panel

Moderator:

- Sally Radwan (UNEP, Chief Digital Officer)

Panellists:

- Antonia Gawel (Google, Global Director, Sustainability & Partnerships)
- Shaolei Ren (UC Riverside, Associate Professor)
- Vlad Coroamă (Roegen Centre for Sustainability, Founder)
- Melanie Stolzenberg-Lindner (BMUV, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, head of AI unit)