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.

This event aims at increasing the general understanding of AI technologies and their impact on the triple planetary crisis, as well as exploring the gaps and opportunities in the current AI Governance Frameworks and what needs to be done to ensure AI technologies are environmentally friendly. Additionally, the event seeks to identify areas of collaboration between various actors.

The first thirty minutes will be dedicated to presentations from member states from different parts of the world showcasing best practice examples of AI applications for environmental sustainability. The following 20 minutes will be dedicated to a panel where experts will exchange on the environmental impacts of AI and discuss recommendations to guide the future efforts on AI governance for environmental sustainability. The session will end with 10 minutes of Q&A from the audience.

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, stimulate informed discussions, and generate actionable insights through the exchange between participants. Finally, the interactive Q&A session will foster engagement and allow for diverse perspectives.

Overall, the event impact will be to foster 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.