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Intelligence for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"
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AI's potential to address global challenges and drive progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is immense. But - there is also a risk that uneven global adoption could widen the gap between developing and developed countries.

To mitigate this risk - Governments should invest in responsible AI development and governance, so we can harness this technology to create safe, secure, and trustworthy AI which can help accelerate progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and ensure AI leaves no one behind.

AI governance should strike a balance between mitigating risks and enabling innovation, empowering ecosystems to fully harness AI's potential for the SDGs. Governments should adopt a risk-based, proportional approach. This means regulatory frameworks that assess AI risks based on their potential impact, tailoring regulations accordingly to avoid unnecessary burdens on innovation and research.

It is important to enable access to data for Innovation. This means promoting privacy and copyright frameworks that enable responsible use of publicly available data for AI training and development, while respecting legitimate rights.

It is also crucial to develop international cooperation on AI technical standards to create a common foundation for regulation and avoid fragmented approaches that could hinder innovation.

Lastly, collaboration between governments, industry, civil society, and academia will allow to build a thriving and responsible AI ecosystem - that leaves no one behind.

The UN High-level Advisory Body on AI (HLAB) addressed AI Governance in their interim report. The report also highlighted the need for AI to be governed inclusively and for the benefit of all.

Given that most AI breakthroughs originate in the private sector, international organizations and governments must collaborate with industry on AI governance. This collaboration should not only ensure responsible innovation and robust guardrails but also promote equitable access to AI's benefits, particularly in developing countries. **Here are few examples for the benefit of such collaboration:**

UN Data Commons for SDGs: A great example of such partnership is our work with the UN on tracking SDGs progress by deploying AI technologies. The SDGs set an ambitious, vital agenda – one the global community must urgently pursue. Key challenge lies in accurately assessing

progress. AI can play a crucial role. At UNGA of 2023, Google's Data Commons team and the UN Statistics Division [announced](#) a tool that will track progress on the SDGs, showing how much progress has been made on each goal. The project currently includes data from UN Stats and WHO, and will soon include UNICEF and ECLAC - and the International Labor Organization just partnered with us as well. AI-powered natural language search functionality, provided by Data Commons, makes it easy for policy-makers and the public to access relevant, trustworthy data, which helps accelerate progress on achieving the SDGs.

AI and Climate Change: [A recent study](#) we commissioned suggests AI could slash global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 5-10% by 2030 — a reduction matching the European Union's annual output — potentially revitalizing green economies worldwide.
A key example on how AI can support global warming is - Flood Hub: Floods affect >250 million people globally every year and cause around $10B economic damages. Google's AI-powered Flood Hub [covering 80 countries](#) predicts flooding 7 days in advance.

AI and Public Health: AlphaFold and Malaria: Malaria is the second-most deadly mosquito-borne disease in the world (627,000 deaths in 2020). AlphaFold, a revolutionary protein structure prediction tool from Google DeepMind, is proving its power in the [fight against malaria](#). AlphaFold's protein prediction prowess helped **Oxford researchers** identify a key malaria parasite protein, accelerating vaccine development. This paves the way for a vaccine that not only protects individuals but also halts transmission, a game-changer in the fight against malaria.

SDG number 10 calls to **reduce inequality** within and among countries. Speaking about AI- it is important to recognize the risk that developing countries would stay behind. A month ago, we published the "**[AI Sprinters](#)**" (*you can find it if you google: "Google AI Sprinters"*). A report that lays out how governments and international organizations can use AI to drive prosperity specifically for developing countries. We outline four key actions governments and international institutions should pursue to maximize AI's potential:

- *On infrastructure* - urgently prioritizing adoption of **cloud-first policies** to promote rapid scaling of AI solutions. To accelerate progress and innovation across ecosystems, governments should lead by example and transition to cloud themselves.
- *On people* - pursuing **national AI skills initiatives** that build basic AI literacy across society, while also investing in developing the deep technical expertise needed to design the future of AI - with a focus on underserved communities.
- *On innovation* - modernizing **national data systems**, which is what many of you here are doing to ensure that governments have the resources, expertise, and political will to undertake that difficult task.
- *And on policy* - pursuing policies that ensure that **AI's benefits extend** throughout society and across economic sectors.

Finally, to realize the AI potential **for all countries** - we're calling on governments, international institutions and development agencies to make AI a core pillar of national development plans, including by committing dedicated funding.