Special meeting of the Economic and Social Council on Artificial Intelligence

Tuesday, 6 May 2025, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations

PROGRAMME

VERSION: 2 MAY 2025

Opening	
3:00 – 3:20 pm	• **H.E. Mr. Bob Rae** (Canada), President of the Economic and Social Council • **Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill**, Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, United Nations
Fireside Chat: Emerging Trends of AI Innovations and the SDGs	
3:20 – 3:25 pm	**Videos**: Showcase of AI initiatives for SDGs (*from the UN system*)
3:25 – 4:25 pm	<u>Moderator:</u> • **Mr. Robert Opp**, Chief Digital Officer, UNDP <u>Speakers:</u> • **H.E. Mr. Philip Thigo**, Special Envoy on Technology, Office of the President of Kenya • **Ms. Rachel Adams**, CEO, Global Centre on AI Governance Guiding questions: • How can AI-driven innovations be effectively scaled to maximize their positive impact on the SDGs while ensuring equitable access, particularly in developing countries? What role do global partnerships and capacity-building efforts play in this process? • How can policymakers, private sector leaders, academia and civil society work together to balance AI regulation and innovation, ensuring that ethical considerations and inclusivity remain at the core of AI development and deployment? *Interactive discussion (Member States and other participants. Statements of speakers will be limited to three mins for groups of countries, and two and a half mins for individual delegations.)*

Panel: Building Foundations for AI in the Global South	
4:25 – 4:30 pm	**Videos**: Showcase of AI initiatives for SDGs (*from the UN system*)
4:30 – 5:50 pm	**Moderator:** • **Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas**, Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) **Panelists:** • **Prof. Jerry John Kponyo**, Head of Responsible AI Lab, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana • **Mr. Chris Sharrock**, Vice President, UN and International Organizations, Microsoft • **Ms. Oumaïma Makhlouk,** Data Focal Point for the Major Group for Children and Youth Guiding questions: • What are the key barriers preventing developing countries from fully leveraging AI for economic transformation? • How can governments, international organizations, academia, and the private sector collaborate to create AI ecosystems in the Global South, ensuring access to AI advancements and participation in the global digital economy? • What policy and governance mechanisms are needed to address AI interoperability and governance fragmentation in developing countries, and how can cross-regional partnerships and digital public goods support a more harmonized and accessible AI landscape? ***Interactive discussion** (Member States and other participants. Statements of speakers will be limited to three mins for groups of countries, and two and a half mins for individual delegations.)*
Closing	
5:50 – 6:00 pm	• **H.E. Mr. Bob Rae** (Canada), President of the Economic and Social Council