REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY ON TECHNOLOGY

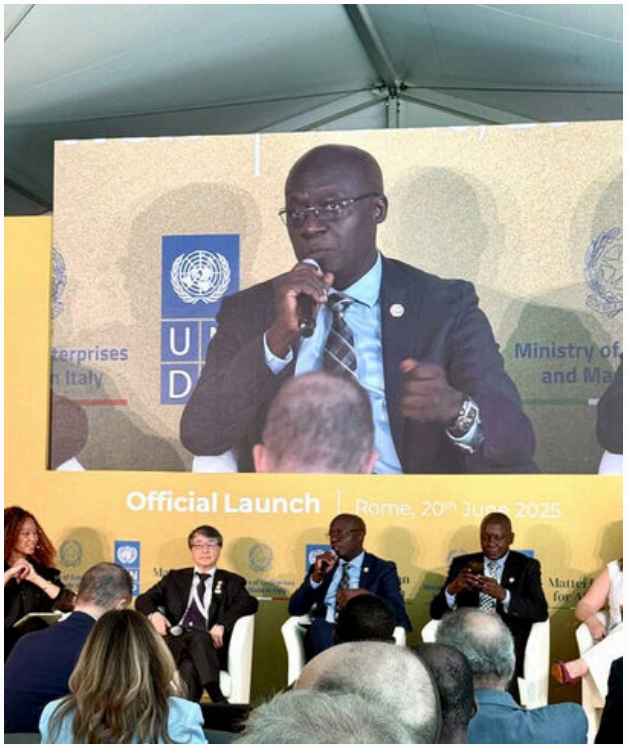


JULY 2025

NEWSLETTER

Ambassador Philip Thigo, MBS

AI Hub For Sustainable Development Launch in Rome



The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology joined the official opening, which brought together political and private sector leaders from the G7, the EU, Italy, and Africa. The AI Hub for Sustainable Development unveils its first wave of flagship initiatives designed to accelerate AI-driven industrial growth in Africa. These initiatives include:
AI Hub Platform — Connecting innovators, investors, and policymakers to foster collaboration and unlock new opportunities.
Compute Accelerator Programme — Expanding responsible, green access to computing power for research, innovation, and enterprise.
AI Infrastructure Builder Programme — Strengthening data foundations, talent pipelines, and regulatory frameworks essential for AI adoption.

Anchored in Africa's local needs and aligned with the Italy-Africa Mattei Plan, the Hub draws on participatory community insights to promote responsible AI adoption, delivering tangible impact across the continent.

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, through Amb. Philip Thigo joined the Executive Steering Group of the AI Hub for Sustainable Development. This appointment represents a key milestone in Kenya's and Africa's engagement in global efforts to advance responsible, inclusive, and development-focused artificial intelligence. Through this role, the Office will contribute to shaping policies and partnerships aimed at:

Accelerating access to scalable, sovereign computing infrastructure. Advancing data governance and sovereignty across African nations. Strengthening local capacity for AI research, development, and deployment

This engagement underscores Kenya's commitment to fostering an enabling environment for Africa's meaningful participation in the global AI ecosystem.
At the launch, the Office of the Special Envoy held a strategic discussion with Cisco's Charmaine Houvet on advancing an inclusive tech ecosystem. The conversation built on earlier engagements with Cisco leadership and highlighted Cisco's ongoing support for entrepreneurs and the public sector through cybersecurity training, incident response, and digital infrastructure resilience. Key announcements regarding the strengthening of tech diplomacy are expected soon.



Kenya's Strategic Engagement at WSIS+20 and AI for Good 2025 — Geneva

In July, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology led Kenya's active participation at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event and the AI for Good Global Summit 2025 in Geneva. The delegation, alongside Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for ICT, engaged in multilateral and bilateral forums, affirming Kenya's commitment to advancing responsible digital cooperation, AI governance, and inclusive innovation.

Key engagements included:

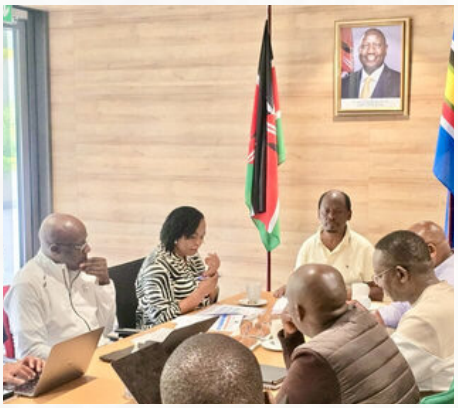
- **High-Level Sessions on Digital Cooperation and AI Governance**

Kenya reaffirmed its global leadership in championing emerging technologies for trust, equity, and sustainable development.
The delegation contributed to critical dialogues on global digital cooperation frameworks and AI's role in driving inclusive growth.

- **World Bank–ITU Meeting on Greening AI**

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology highlighted Kenya's leadership in digital environmental sustainability, showcasing green-powered data centers, Kenya's AI Strategy with a sustainability lens, and key AI applications in justice, energy, and environmental data collaborations with UNEP. Kenya reiterated its role as co-founder of the Coalition on Digital and Environmental Sustainability (CODES) and its advocacy for equitable, green AI globally.





- **UK AI for Good Reception – July 8, Geneva**

Amb. Philip Thigo represented the Office at the UK-hosted AI for Good Reception, engaging with global leaders on advancing the digital economy and online safety. The event spotlighted innovation diplomacy, featuring Ai-Da—the world's first ultra-realistic artist robot.

- **Bilateral Engagements with Kuwait's Minister for Communications (DCO Chair)**

Kenya's delegation, including the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, met with Kuwait's Minister for Communications. Discussions centered on Kenya's potential membership in the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), regional digital cooperation, and addressing misinformation. Kenya extended invitations to Kuwait for the upcoming Global Trust Dialogue and DCO Assembly, underscoring Kenya's commitment to digital diplomacy and South–South cooperation.

- **Centering Ethics in AI Storytelling: Voices, Inclusion & Representation**

At the AI for Good Global Summit, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology emphasized the ethical responsibility of storytelling in the age of generative AI—calling for inclusive, culturally grounded narratives co-created with the Global Majority to ensure AI reflects diverse realities and uplifts human creativity.

- **Advancing African Cooperation with South Africa**

Amb. Philip Thigo, alongside Kenya's Cabinet Secretary and South Africa's Minister Solly Malatsi, engaged in advancing regional collaboration on digital transformation and AI within the G20 framework—reinforcing Africa's collective leadership in shaping a just, open, and sovereign digital future.

- **Strengthening Kenya–Denmark TechPlomacy**

On the sidelines of WSIS+20, the Office met with H.E. Anne Marie Engtoft Meldgaard of Denmark to deepen Kenya–Denmark cooperation in digital governance. Commitments were made to strengthen engagement through the Tech Envoys Network, advance sustainable AI under Denmark's EU Council Presidency, and explore the establishment of a joint Tech Hub in Nairobi focused on trust, inclusion, and multilateral collaboration.

- **Exploring AI Use Cases for Health and Justice**

At AI for Good, the Office engaged with Dr. Scott Lundstrom to explore joint initiatives with partners such as the Gates Foundation, OpenAI, and Microsoft. Discussions centered on people-centered AI pilots in predictive health systems, ethical data use, and improved access to justice.

- **Collaboration with UNICC on Climate and Justice Innovation**

In a strategic dialogue with UNICC Director Sameer Chauhan, the Office advanced discussions on joint AI initiatives, including a sandbox on climate resilience, justice innovation, and clean energy mapping. Plans were made to co-develop a "Value of Data" white paper and playbook, promoting ethical, secure, and interoperable data ecosystems.

- **Deepening UK–Kenya Strategic Partnership on AI and Digital Cooperation**

The Office engaged bilaterally with the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, the FCDO, and the UK Mission in Geneva. Key areas of cooperation include AI governance, digital infrastructure, inclusive research partnerships, and Kenya's role within the International AI Safety Institutes Network and the AI for Development Challenge.

Green AI and Greening with Ai – Policies and standards for sustainable digital future, Ai 4 Good Summit, Geneva.

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, led by Ambassador Philip Thigo, participated in a high-level workshop in Geneva co-hosted by the World Bank, ITU, and UNEP. Titled “Greening AI and Greening with AI: Policies and Standards for Sustainable Digital Futures,” the event convened global policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society to explore concrete pathways for environmentally responsible AI.

Acknowledging AI’s potential and environmental risks—especially with energy use projected to rise 20-fold—the workshop emphasized the need to shift from “business-as-usual” to “sustainability by design” across the AI lifecycle, from algorithm efficiency to e-waste management.

Drawing on Kenya’s National AI Strategy (2025–2030), Ambassador Thigo outlined four guiding pillars:

- Green & Sustainable Infrastructure: Kenya aims to power data centers using geothermal, solar, wind, and hydro energy to reduce emissions and boost competitiveness.
- Sustainability as a Core Principle: Environmental stewardship is embedded alongside ethics, equity, and governance, including mandatory energy benchmarks and impact assessments.
- Geo-Strategic Advantage: Kenya’s renewable energy mix positions it to sustainably meet AI compute demands—a model other regions can replicate.
- Sustainability by Design: Environmental concerns are integrated into policy, procurement, and skills programs from the outset, advancing a low-carbon AI future.

Participants also assessed existing international frameworks. While the UN’s March 2024 Resolution A/78/L.49 was praised for linking AI to the 2030 Agenda, it was critiqued for lacking enforceable environmental safeguards, such as carbon disclosure requirements or biodiversity protection mandates. Similarly, the Global Digital Compact highlights environmental sustainability but stops short of prescribing binding, sector-specific metrics.

Building on these gaps, the workshop advanced key recommendations:

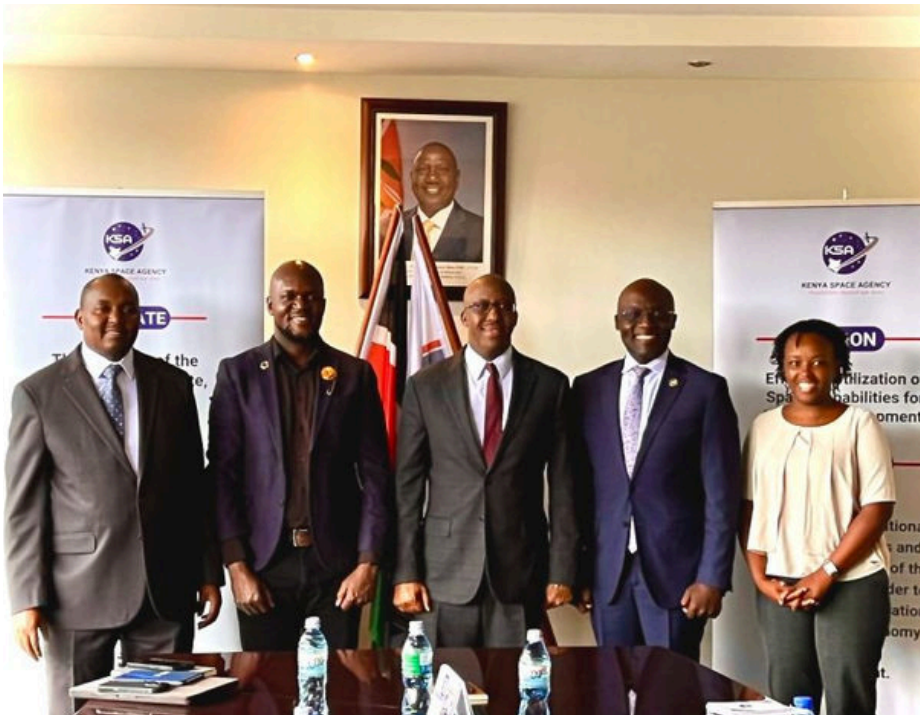
1. Mandatory Environmental Reporting: Standardize carbon and energy disclosures for AI systems using platforms like Hugging Face’s AI Energy Score and IAEA-OECD guidelines.
2. Green Data-Center Certification: Align siting and operations with the EU’s Energy Efficiency Directive and best practices, reflecting recent moratoria in countries like the Netherlands.
3. Regulatory Sandboxes for Green AI: Pilot innovations in cooling, e-waste, and AI-powered resource management through cross-agency oversight.
4. Global Action Plan for Sustainable Digitalization: Establish a UN-led task force to align AI, telecom, and environmental governance—supporting SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, and beyond.

Ambassador Thigo affirmed Kenya’s support for these priorities, committing to advance them through the African Union, Digital Cooperation Organization, and at the upcoming ITU WTDC in Baku (31 Aug–3 Sept 2025). “When Kenya sits at the table,” he said, “Africa’s voice on sustainable innovation is amplified.”
The workshop concluded with a strong call to action: policymakers, tech leaders, and civil society must collaborate on enforceable standards and open data to ensure AI becomes a driver—not a threat—to global environmental goals. Ambassador Thigo’s leadership reaffirms Kenya’s role in embedding sustainability at the core of digital transformation.



World Data Festival

Preparations are underway to host the World Data Festival in June 2026, with a focus on bridging space and Earth observation data gaps critical for climate action and inclusive development. The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology held consultations with the Kenya Space Agency and GPSDD, and is exploring a strategic partnership with GEO to co-host their Plenary. This positions Kenya as a global hub for data-driven solutions. Special thanks to Amb. Masila for his exemplary leadership.



Foreign Service Academy Cadet's Training

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology engaged Foreign Service Academy cadets in a two-day training on digital diplomacy, covering AI safety, cybersecurity, data governance, multilateral collaboration, and ethical tech engagement. The session aimed to equip future diplomats with the tools and values to lead in a rapidly evolving global digital landscape. Gratitude to Dr. Bright Gameli for his insights on threat intelligence and accountability.



Briefing Parliament on Kenya's Technology Diplomacy Agenda

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology briefed Parliament's ICT Committee on Kenya's evolving technology diplomacy agenda, offering insights into emerging global trends, AI governance, and the strategic importance of positioning Kenya as a leader in the digital economy. The briefing underscored the urgency of developing inclusive, forward-looking digital policies that protect national interests while fostering innovation. The Office emphasized Parliament's critical role in upholding digital sovereignty through legislative action and oversight, and expressed its commitment to ongoing collaboration with lawmakers to shape a transformative and resilient tech future for all Kenyans.



Techplomacy Collective





In a bold step toward redefining international engagement in the digital age, Kenya officially launched the TechPlomacy Connective, a flagship initiative aimed at bridging the gap between technological innovation and global governance. Spearheaded by the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, the Connective positions Kenya as a leader in tech diplomacy—an emerging field responding to the transformative impact of AI, big data, social media, and other digital technologies on international relations.
raditional diplomatic structures are increasingly challenged by the speed and scale of digital transformation.
Tech diplomacy emerges as a necessary innovation to engage with the growing influence of multinational technology corporations and cross-border issues.

Kenya's approach reflects an ambitious, homegrown model rooted in regional leadership and inclusive development.
Kenya's TechPlomacy Connective is built on three pillars: inclusive digital governance, regional innovation, and global digital engagement. It brings together government, tech leaders, and civil society to shape ethical digital policies, strengthen public-private partnerships, and position Nairobi as a regional tech hub.
Internationally, Kenya is leading as the only African member of the International Network of AI Safety Institutes and a key driver of the UN's first resolution on Artificial Intelligence.

"The digital future belongs to everyone—but only if it's built on resilience, safety, trust, and inclusion. This initiative is about empowering nations and ensuring that emerging technologies are developed with a human-first approach."
-Ambassador Philip Thigo, MBS. Office of the Special Envoy on Technology.

"Kenya's Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025 places technology diplomacy at the core of our international engagement. We aim to transform Nairobi into a global multilateral and financial hub."
-Hon. Musalia Mudavadi .Prime Cabinet Secretary of Kenya

"Let's move beyond a vendor–client relationship to something more collaborative. As the private sector, while some of our data carries commercial value, we need to be ready to dedicate a significant portion to be open source and drive shared progress."
-Dr. Charity Wayua. Director, IBM Research Africa

Advancing the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Kenya





Kenya is taking deliberate steps to harness the potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) to accelerate economic transformation and inclusive development. Through digital technologies, the country is positioned to drive innovation across key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, education, and governance. However, realizing the full benefits of 4IR requires strategic planning, robust policy implementation, and efforts to address persistent challenges such as infrastructure limitations and digital skills gaps.

In line with this vision, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology continued its strategic engagements with the World Economic Forum (WEF), reinforcing Kenya's commitment to innovation-driven growth.

Central to these discussions is the establishment of a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) in Kenya, in partnership with the Equity Group Foundation. The proposed Center will serve as a platform for applied artificial intelligence and technological innovation aligned with national development priorities.

As a foundational step, the Office is collaborating with partners to conduct a sectoral deep dive on food systems innovation—connecting Kenya's national goals with the global sustainable development agenda.

A high-level workshop is scheduled for Q3 to shape a shared vision for leveraging 4IR technologies to drive inclusive and sustainable impact.

Strengthening Digital Cooperation with the World Bank



As part of its ongoing mandate to advance Kenya's digital transformation agenda, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology participated in a high-level bilateral meeting with the World Bank, alongside senior government officials. The delegation included the Cabinet Secretary for ICT and the Digital Economy, Hon. Eliud Owalo; the Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Communication, Mr. Stephen Isaboke; and Ambassador Fancy Too, Kenya's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva. The team held productive discussions with Ms. Idah Z. Pswarayi-Riddihough, Global Director for Digital Development at the World Bank

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Another priority area was the creation of targeted capacity-building programmes for young people across four counties, equipping them with future-ready skills to thrive in the digital economy.

This collaboration is a testament to Kenya's commitment to building inclusive, innovative, and resilient digital ecosystems that serve as engines of socio-economic transformation. The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology remains committed to working with global partners like the World Bank to ensure that Kenya's digital future is equitable, human-centered, and responsive to local development needs.

Exploring Synergies on AI, Urban Resilience & Disaster Risk



the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology hosted a strategic meeting with representatives from the World Bank focused on Disaster Risk Management, Urban Development, and Resilience. The engagement aimed to exchange insights on current and emerging initiatives and explore alignment on shared priorities—particularly in the areas of data, digital infrastructure, and urban resilience.

The discussions emphasized the potential for collaboration on an AI Challenge centered on Disaster Risk Reduction. This initiative builds on foundational work previously undertaken with IBM, the Mohamed bin Zayed University of AI, and Kenya's broader climate adaptation efforts. A key component involves an ongoing partnership with Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change, Amb. Ali Mohamed, to ensure AI technologies contribute meaningfully to climate adaptation and early warning systems.

The meeting also reviewed progress on the development of a Digital Twin for Nairobi, in collaboration with Governor Sakaja, and underscored the growing significance of establishing a Data Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) platform under the Power of Data initiative. This platform aims to unlock inclusive, anticipatory, and climate-resilient development pathways for Kenya.

Italy–Kenya Technology Days



During the forum, a bilateral discussion was held with representatives from Telecom Italia (TIM) on the potential co-development of a Digital Twin for Nairobi. The proposed initiative aims to leverage advanced data modeling and analytics to optimize urban infrastructure, enhance service delivery, and accelerate the city's transition toward sustainable and resilient urban growth.



The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology participated in the recently held Technology Days, hosted by the Embassy of Italy in Nairobi. The event brought together key stakeholders to advance dialogue and collaboration on green industrialization and digital innovation, with a focus on implementing the Mattei Plan in light of the recent inauguration of the AI Hub for Sustainable Development.

The delegation from Kenya showcased the country's growing capabilities in clean energy, green manufacturing, and digital transformation, in collaboration with strategic partners including the Ministry of Energy, Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), and KenGen.

The event provided a timely platform for deepening Kenya–Italy cooperation, exploring mutually beneficial investments, and unlocking new pathways for innovation.

The Office looks forward to strengthening these partnerships and pursuing joint initiatives that contribute to inclusive development and shared technological advancement.

Ministerial Dialogue on Sustainable Digital Technologies, AI, and Early Warning Systems



The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, under the leadership of Ambassador Philip Thigo, participated in the high-level Ministerial Policy Dialogue held during the Africa Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN). The dialogue focused on how African governments and stakeholders can responsibly harness the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies across their full lifecycle to advance environmental sustainability and climate resilience across the continent.



The dialogue acknowledged AI's transformative impact—from agriculture to climate forecasting—while raising concerns about its growing environmental footprint. The Office underscored the need for robust safeguards to address energy use, water consumption, e-waste, and unsustainable extraction of critical minerals.

Ambassador Thigo called for a lifespan-based, systems-thinking approach that integrates sustainability from design to deployment. He stressed the importance of building local capacity, advancing fluency on AI governance, and embedding environmental responsibility as a core principle in AI adoption.

The dialogue brought together ministers, scientists, civil society actors, and innovators from the private sector, all of whom echoed the need to align AI development with planetary boundaries and ensure its benefits are equitably distributed.

SmartGov Summit

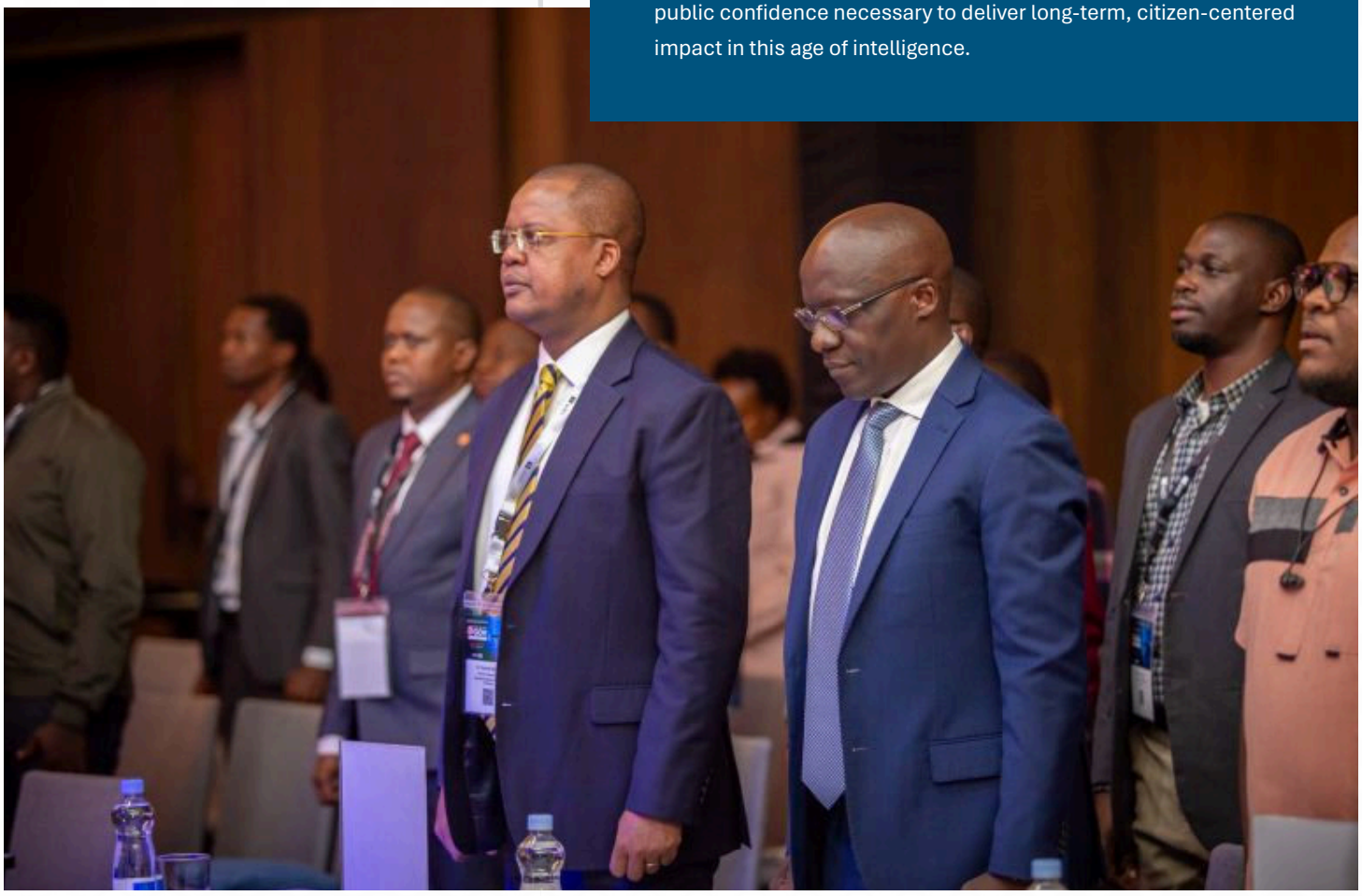
Transforming Governance in the Age of Intelligence

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, Amb. Philip Thigo, was honoured to participate as Chief Guest at the Fourth SmartGOV Summit—an influential platform for dialogue on how digital transformation can place citizens at the heart of public service. In his keynote address titled "Governing in the Age of Intelligence," Amb. Thigo emphasized the importance of agile and adaptive governance structures powered by data, artificial intelligence, and secure digital platforms that can learn from emerging trends and better anticipate citizen needs.

He underscored the critical role of cybersecurity, public sector capacity building, and collaborative ecosystems that transform innovative use cases into tangible, real-world outcomes.



The Office highlighted the essential role of trust—within institutions, systems, and between people—as a foundational element for sustaining transformative governance. Through transparent and inclusive approaches, governments can build the public confidence necessary to deliver long-term, citizen-centered impact in this age of intelligence.



Sovereign AI Collaboration at the 5th India-Africa Summit



The office under Amb. Philip Thigo participated in a high-level panel discussion titled “Can India Help Africa Build Its Own AI?” during the 5th India–Africa Entrepreneurship & Investment Summit, held in New Delhi. The session offered a timely reflection on how Africa and India can co-create sovereign AI capabilities grounded in shared cultural, historical, economic, and innovation contexts.

Discussions explored the importance of cross-cultural fluency, particularly in appreciating local needs, from precision agriculture in Africa to healthcare solutions in India. The panel underscored the opportunity for joint ventures across the AI stack, from indigenous data platforms to green data centers, as a means to drive inclusive growth and digital sovereignty. There was consensus on the value of collaborative problem-solving to address shared challenges such as healthcare access, food security, financial inclusion, and expanding opportunities in education and infrastructure.



The Summit, organized as part of the India–Africa Entrepreneurship Forum, reinforced the power of partnerships in scaling high-impact ventures. It served as a strategic platform to connect African and Indian entrepreneurs, innovators, and investors—highlighting AI as a key frontier for South–South cooperation. Learn more about the Summit

Global Somali Entrepreneurship Forum 2025: Driving Inclusive Tech Growth

Ambassador Philip Thigo underscored the role of AI and digital infrastructure in unlocking innovation, empowering youth, and deepening Kenya–Somalia collaboration.





Kenya was prominently represented at the Global Somali Entrepreneurship Forum, where Amb. Philip Thigo joined Principal Secretary Susan Auma Mang'eni of the State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, alongside policymakers, innovators, and members of the Somali diaspora.

The forum focused on the role of digital technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), and payment systems in accelerating inclusive growth and deepening regional integration. Discussions highlighted practical applications ranging from seamless remittances and last-mile connectivity to harnessing Somalia's demographic dividend to support youth and women's economic empowerment.

In his keynote, Amb. Philip Thigo emphasized the power of sovereign AI partnerships and resilient digital infrastructure to drive innovation. He highlighted use cases such as AI-driven forecasting and traceability in dairy value chains, digital platforms for real-time emissions monitoring, and the Model Action Lab aligned with President Ruto's vision of using technology to tackle grand challenges and empower youth. The forum also strengthened Kenya–Somalia ties through shared innovation goals and regional collaboration.

Advancing Made-in-Kenya Innovation: Manufacturing, Sports, and Smart Cities



The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology continues to accelerate its agenda on rapid manufacturing and local value addition, with a renewed focus on strengthening Kenya's innovation and production ecosystems.

In a recent engagement with the dynamic team at Enda, the Office, in collaboration with the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA), explored strategies to bring Enda's full advanced, technology-enhanced manufacturing operations back to Kenya. This partnership aims to bolster resilient, locally driven production systems while showcasing Kenya's capacity for globally competitive innovation.

Discussions extended beyond manufacturing to include sports diplomacy, technology, and the future of climate-smart cities. The Office and Enda share a commitment to convening key dialogues, alongside Ambassador Ali Mohamed, around critical areas such as mobility, health, and urban innovation.

The meeting highlighted the global recognition of the iconic "Nairobi Shoes"—a powerful symbol of Kenyan design, ingenuity, and the potential of local manufacturing.



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Inaugural Partners Meeting of Current AI: A New Era for Public-Interest AI



The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology joined the Governments of France and Morocco, alongside leading philanthropic foundations, at the inaugural high-level partners meeting of Current AI—a groundbreaking initiative launched during the Paris AI Action Summit held on 10–11 February 2025.

Current AI is a global effort bringing together governments, philanthropies, and technology firms around a $400 million endowment aimed at building the infrastructure, tools, and governance frameworks needed to ensure that AI serves the public interest. The initiative emphasizes open datasets, open-source tools, and responsible AI governance as key pillars of inclusive technological advancement.

The Office expressed deep appreciation for the leadership of President William Ruto and President Emmanuel Macron, whose bilateral discussions during the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD-4) in Seville, Spain (30 June – 3 July 2025), reaffirmed a joint commitment to linking sustainable development financing with equitable AI access for the Global South. Their alignment at the 4P Leaders Meeting underscored the importance of democratizing AI benefits across all regions.

As implementation begins, the focus shifts to translating this visionary coalition into action through programs that expand access to AI compute infrastructure, support inclusive research rooted in local languages and cultural contexts, and champion ethical AI applications in areas such as climate action, health, and beyond. The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology looks forward to continued collaboration with all partners to turn shared ambition into measurable global impact.

Advancing Public AI and Infrastructure for Africa

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology convened a productive working session with Robin Miller, Co-Founder and Partner at Axum, in New York City to advance shared initiatives focused on scaling public-interest AI across Africa. Central to these discussions was the AI Infrastructure Builder Programme under the AI Hub for Sustainable Development—a collaborative effort to equip African innovators with access to localized, smart, and scalable infrastructure that enhances accessibility and drives inclusive economic impact.

This initiative is being advanced in partnership with the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the African Development Bank, Axum, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), Confindustria, and EgyptSAND, among others. Together, these partners are laying the groundwork for infrastructure that supports equitable AI deployment and African digital sovereignty.

Progress was also made on the upcoming white paper co-developed with the Mozilla Foundation, led by Mark Surman, President of the Foundation. This think piece will explore what it means for AI to truly serve the public interest, and the foundational elements required to achieve that vision, including open-source development, sovereignty and independence in an interdependent world, and robust principles for procurement, trust, and safety.

The Office looks forward to releasing this important publication in the coming weeks and expresses deep appreciation to Robin and Mark for their continued leadership and collaboration in advancing a public infrastructure model for AI that reflects African priorities and global values.



Conversations on AI and Africa's Future at the UN



The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology was pleased to host a high-level working session in New York City with Robin Miller, Co-Founder and Partner at Axum, to advance shared priorities in building public-interest AI systems across the African continent..



A key highlight of the discussion was the AI Infrastructure Builder Programme, housed under the broader AI Hub for Sustainable Development. This transformative initiative is focused on delivering localized, smart, and scalable infrastructure to empower African innovators and ensure that AI is accessible, inclusive, and reflective of local realities. By building a robust foundation for AI rooted in African contexts, the programme aims to unlock long-term economic resilience, skills development, and innovation. This work is being developed in close partnership with a powerful coalition that includes the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the African Development Bank, Axum, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), Confindustria, and EgyptSAND. Together, we are laying the groundwork for a new model of digital public infrastructure—one that safeguards African digital sovereignty and accelerates inclusive growth.

The session also marked important progress on the forthcoming white paper co-authored with the Mozilla Foundation, under the leadership of its President, Mark Surman. This publication will explore what it means to build AI that truly serves the public good, focusing on critical enablers such as open-source development and governance, the pursuit of sovereignty and independence within an interconnected world, and the establishment of clear principles for procurement, safety, and trust.

The white paper is expected to be released in the coming weeks, offering a bold vision and practical roadmap for shaping a people-centered AI future.



Deepening France–Kenya Collaboration on AI

1. Seville Bilateral at FFD4

On 30 June 2025, at the margins of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) in Seville, President William Ruto and President Emmanuel Macron met under the "4P" (Prosperity, People and Planet) framework to advance their joint Africa-focused AI agenda. The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, working closely with teams from the Élysée Palace, organized this high-level dialogue to ensure swift follow-through on AI commitments.

Key Talking Points

1. Investing in Sustainable AI Infrastructure. Both Presidents committed to mobilizing public- and private-sector financing for multilingual data repositories and open-source toolkits, alongside shared compute resources—regional GPU clusters and sovereign data centres—to establish Africa's AI backbone.
2. Building Inclusive, Secure AI Ecosystems. They agreed to create continent-wide governance bodies, harmonized procurement standards, and cross-border data-flow arrangements rooted in digital sovereignty, complemented by public-sector skilling programmes for current leaders and future graduates.
3. Catalyzing Green AI Innovation. They highlighted flagship use cases—precision agriculture, renewable-energy optimization, and environmental monitoring—and pledged to scale existing Kenyan pilots via public-private partnerships to drive sustainable growth and resilience.

2. UNEA-7 Resolution on AI

The two Presidents further agreed that Kenya would lead the development and tabling of a United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) resolution, "Safe, Responsible and Sustainable AI for People and Planet." UNEA-7—under the theme "Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production"—offers a timely opportunity to embed concrete environmental safeguards into global AI governance:

- Binding Design Guidelines. Drawing on UNEP lifecycle assessments to limit greenhouse-gas emissions and e-waste.
- Capacity Building. Channeling UNEP expertise to help Member States, especially in the Global South, develop national standards for green AI procurement and strategic data-centre siting.
- Multilateral Momentum. Leveraging Oman's UNEA-7 presidency and recent traction at COP and UNGA to secure early co-sponsors.

Environmental Deficits and AI's Lifecycle Impacts

- Energy & Emissions. Training large AI models can emit hundreds of tons of CO_2—equivalent to dozens of cars' lifetime emissions—and requires massive electricity inputs.
- Water Footprint. Data centres powering AI are projected to consume 4.2–6.6 billion m^3 of water by 2027.
- Electronic Waste. Rapid hardware turnover in AI compute clusters generates significant e-waste, largely unaddressed by existing UNGA resolutions.
- Resource Extraction. High-performance AI chips rely on critical minerals, raising concerns about mining impacts on biodiversity and local communities.

UNEA-7 will convene in Nairobi from 8–12 December 2025 under the theme "Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Planet," with digital transformation and AI among its core focus areas.



Deepening France–Kenya Collaboration on AI



3. Shaping the Africa Forward Summit: “Emerging Technologies & Innovation”
In preparation for Africa Forward: Shaping Global Finance, Innovation, and Sustainable Growth, the Office led development of the “Emerging Technologies and Innovation” pillar, organized into three segments:

1. Investing in Sustainable Infrastructure, Local Data Repositories, and Compute Capacity. Securing funding and partnerships to expand high-quality datasets, open-source tools, and regional compute resources.
2. Building Capacity for Inclusive and Secure AI Ecosystems. Defining institutional frameworks for AI governance bodies, procurement standards, cross-border data arrangements, and comprehensive public-sector skilling initiatives.
3. Catalyzing Innovation and Green AI Use Cases. Identifying priority applications—regenerative agriculture, circular-economy models, renewable-energy optimization, environmental monitoring—and charting pathways for scaling through aligned public-private collaborations.

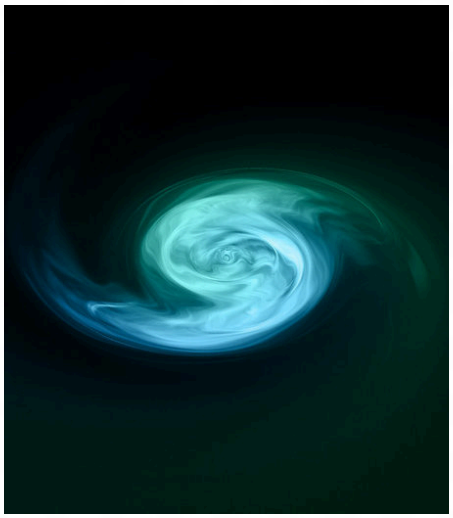
These discussions built on the initiatives co-developed by the two countries from the Paris AI Action Summit: the Current AI Initiative, Kenya’s Silicon Savannah Innovation Park with the University of Nairobi, and the Sustainable AI Coalition in collaboration with ITU and UNEP.

4. Bastille Day Celebrations
On 14 July 2025, Nairobi’s French Embassy hosted Bastille Day festivities. The Office was honored to join Hon. Dr. Wycliffe Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H., Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of Kenya H.E. Arnaud Suquet, Ambassador of France to Kenya and Somalia and President Macron’s Special Envoy, for an honorary toast to the health and prosperity of both nations. This symbolic moment celebrated our shared heritage and reaffirmed Kenya and France’s united leadership in steering global AI governance toward ethical, inclusive, and sustainable outcomes.



AI-Powered Apprenticeships





The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology convened a productive working session with award-winning social entrepreneur Chid Liberty and workforce development expert Charles Lwanga to explore scalable, AI-powered apprenticeship models aimed at addressing youth unemployment and labour market disruptions in Kenya.

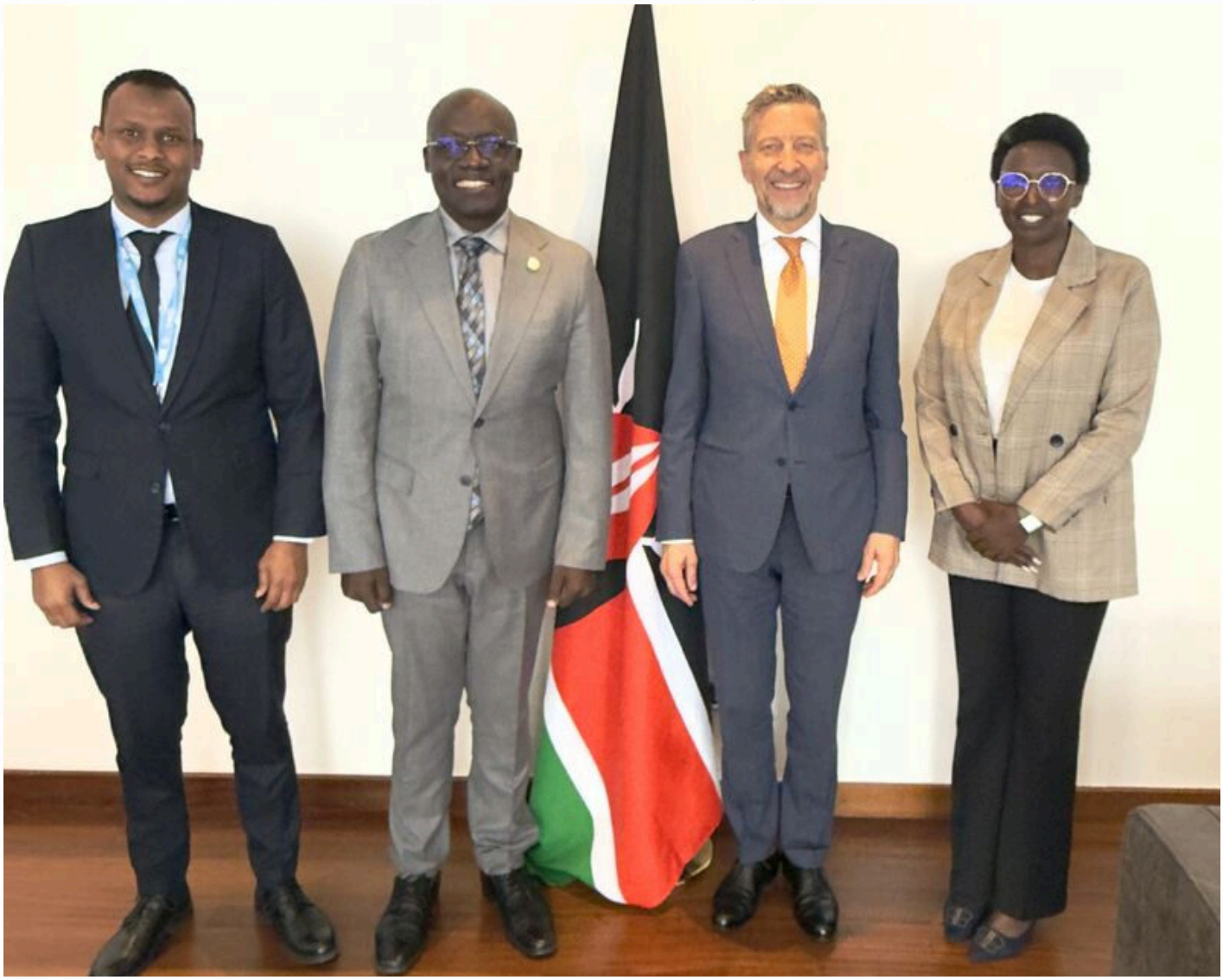
Chid Liberty, co-founder of Liberty & Justice —Africa's first Fair Trade Certified apparel factory—brings extensive experience in ethical manufacturing, women's economic empowerment, and community-centered economic models. Charles Lwanga contributed deep insights from his work in building tech-driven skills ecosystems and demand-led workforce training programs across Africa. The discussion focused on developing paid, AI-augmented apprenticeship pathways that combine digital skilling with wraparound support services, including housing, meals, transportation, and stipends.

The proposed model aims to provide young people not just with technical expertise, but with structured, dignified employment opportunities that foster long-term career growth.

Building on progress made during earlier engagements in New York, the session outlined next steps for localizing the apprenticeship programme in Kenya—with an emphasis on using intelligent technologies to create jobs, reduce inequality, and equip youth to participate meaningfully in the global digital economy.

This initiative aligns with the Office's broader agenda to support inclusive innovation, expand access to opportunity, and leverage technology as a force for sustainable development and social mobility. Further updates and partnership announcements will follow in due course.

Twinning Nairobi & Geneva: Embracing CERN's Open-Source Ethos in Tech Diplomacy



The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology hosted H.E. Mirko Giulietti, Switzerland's Ambassador to UNON, and Ms. Magdaline Morijoi, Trade Officer, for a follow-up meeting to the Techplomacy Connective launch. Discussions focused on twinning Nairobi and Geneva through joint capacity-building programmes in policy, research, and industry engagement; collaborative convenings to share best practices in digital diplomacy and technology governance; and exchange visits aimed at fostering cross-learning and deepening professional networks.

A key highlight was CERN's open-source ethos—central to the forthcoming "AI Factories" initiative. From the 1994 release of the World Wide Web to the Open Hardware Licence, SCOAP, and LHC Open Data Portal, CERN's commitment to transparency and reusability continues to drive global innovation. The Office looks forward to deepening collaboration with Swiss partners to scale open, inclusive, and sustainable tech ecosystems.

Strengthening Kenya–China Family Business Partnerships for a Sustainable Future

Ambassador Philip Thigo recently reconnected with William Zhu (China) and Lemmy Gitahi (Kenya), fellow alumni of Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Global Management. Zhu previously served as General Manager of the Thunderbird Center of Excellence for China, while Amb. Thigo was the Founding and Executive Director for Africa. In their current roles, the trio is leveraging the networks, global perspective, and expertise cultivated at Thunderbird to strengthen ties between second-generation, Western-educated Chinese family businesses and their African counterparts.

At the center of their renewed collaboration is Kenya's agenda for green and clean energy. Building on President Ruto's commitment to sustainable development, the group initiated a pilot investment in Narok County focused on solar power and high-performance battery technologies. The success of this pilot not only affirms the viability of clean-energy ventures at the county level but also opens pathways for scaling such initiatives nationally.

In addition to energy, discussions also focused on equipping heirs of established family businesses with the tools to thrive in evolving global markets. Through a shared emphasis on global entrepreneurship, inclusive innovation, and resilient governance, the partners aim to create a learning ecosystem that fosters capability development across governance, digital transformation, and sustainable supply chains.

To operationalize this vision, the team has developed a phased engagement framework. In the coming months, they plan to engage approximately 5,000 Chinese manufacturers across sectors—including agribusiness and clean tech—with the goal of facilitating joint ventures in Kenya. By the end of the year, a curated pilot group of 50 high-net-worth, second-generation family-business leaders will participate in peer-learning exchanges, mentorship with Kenyan industry leaders, and targeted investment missions.

This initiative reinforces Kenya's role as a gateway for responsible, impact-driven investment into Africa. As Special Envoy on Technology, Amb. Thigo emphasized that these partnerships are poised to drive economic growth while fostering cross-cultural understanding and shared prosperity. Updates on progress and future collaboration opportunities will follow in subsequent communications.







Smart Cities and Urban Innovation:

Digital Twin:

Ambassador Philip Thigo held a roundtable together with Her Excellency Lorenza Gambacorta, Deputy Head of Mission of Italy in Kenya, alongside senior representatives from Telecom Italia (TIM) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). The deliberations centered on strengthening Nairobi's Smart City and Urban Innovation Agenda, laying the groundwork for an upcoming engagement with Governor Johnson Sakaja and the County Government of Nairobi.

At the heart of these conversations was the ambition to develop a comprehensive digital twin of Nairobi—an interactive, data-driven model that will enable real-time monitoring and more responsive urban planning under the Plano Mattei Plan for Africa.

Drawing on lessons from across Europe, the delegation explored how artificial intelligence and Internet of Things (IoT) platforms can optimize service delivery in areas such as traffic management, environmental monitoring, and energy efficiency. Under the Plano Mattei framework, which seeks to harness Italian expertise and investment for sustainable urban transformation in African cities, the Nairobi digital twin will serve as a flagship project. Ambassador Thigo emphasized that integrating AI-driven analytics into the County's existing digital infrastructure will not only improve operational resilience but also deepen citizen engagement by making municipal services more transparent and accessible.

Telecom Italia's portfolio of Smart City solutions provided practical insights for Nairobi's path forward. In Turin, TIM's intelligent street-lighting network leverages motion sensors and adaptive dimming to reduce energy consumption by up to 40 percent. Milan's smart-parking system—built on real-time space-availability sensors and mobile-app integration—has cut congestion and reduced carbon emissions by guiding drivers directly to available bays. Additionally, TIM's environmental-monitoring stations in Lucca capture air-quality metrics that feed into public dashboards, empowering local authorities to issue timely health advisories. These case studies underscored how Nairobi might adapt similar technologies—customized to its unique topography and demographic dynamics—to enhance urban liveability and sustainability.

Ambassador Thigo concluded by expressing to the Italian Delegation Governor Sakaja'songoing support and collaborative spirit in these initiatives. Governor's vision for Nairobi as a leading technology hub in Africa is inspiring. With the Governor's continued partnership, Nairobi is poised to showcase a world-class digital twin, setting a new standard for smart urban development on the continent.









Leveraging Digital Levers for Regenerative Agriculture: RAFT Workshop Kicks Off in Murang'a County



Ambassador Philip Thigo, MBS, Special Envoy on Technology for the Republic of Kenya, opened the RAFT Investment Prioritization Workshop at Murang'a University of Technology with a call to transform aspiration into action. Welcoming Prof. Dickson Nyariki, Vice Chancellor, and County Executive Committee Members Dr. Kamau Kiringai and Faith Wairimu, he thanked the County Government of Murang'a and the Institute for Culture and Ecology for convening an ambitious agenda centered on regenerative, agro-ecological approaches to food-systems innovation. Reflecting on his long partnership with Hon. Kiringai, Amb. Thigo recalled how local interventions in Murang'a have dovetailed with global efforts such as the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition. "Small levers move large stones," he observed, and he commended Murang'a County for choosing the right lever in this era of demographic change, climate pressures, geopolitical uncertainty, and technological acceleration.

Kenya's youthful demographic and impressive digital engagement formed a central theme of his address. With a median age of 20 and rural connectivity levels among the highest in Africa, Amb. Thigo noted that "four hours of online engagement per young Kenyan per day" represents an untapped reservoir of creativity. He urged workshop participants to channel this digital fluency toward community-led solutions in regenerative agriculture.

Data and digital public infrastructure, he argued, are the new backbones of development. Just as roads and rails once powered growth, so must Kenya's digital highways—connectivity, clean energy, data platforms, and interoperable systems—be fortified. Amb. Thigo outlined seven critical foundations for sustaining food ecosystems: digital public infrastructure, data and digitization, skilling, innovative financing, research and experimentation, agile governance, and inclusive, multistakeholder partnerships

Through FarmHubs, traceability systems, and micro-investment platforms, Murang'a is already pioneering solutions adapted from advanced agricultural economies in Europe, Latin America, and Asia. Yet he stressed that local work must be paired with global vision. Murang'a University of Technology, he said, will play a vital role in connecting county innovations to international networks on regenerative agriculture, digital innovation, and climate-smart finance.

Amb. Thigo closed by issuing a challenge and invitation: to envision RAFT not merely as a county success story but as a blueprint for all 47 counties of Kenya and beyond. He posed three guiding questions for deliberation—how to harness youth digital engagement, how to integrate and scale the seven foundational pillars, and how to forge new partnerships that leave no voice behind.

"Think global, act local," he reminded the audience, urging them to draw on international best practices but ground every decision in the lived realities of Murang'a's farmers and communities. With the right leverage in hand, he concluded, RAFT can reimagine food-systems innovation in a way that feeds people, creates opportunities for youth, and preserves our planet for generations to come.





Murang’a County: Tapping Technology and Innovation to Drive Inclusive Development

A delegation from the Office of the Special Envoy of Technology visited Murang’a County to review key initiatives and challenges. Highlights include plans for a Centre of Excellence in the dairy value chain, a Big Data and AI hub to enhance decision-making and jobs, and expanded community health through CHPs. Murang’a is a leading producer of tea, coffee, avocado, and milk, with growing livestock and beekeeping ventures. The “Inua Mkulima” program supports farmers with financial aid and services, while “AfyaKe” and Telemedicine improve healthcare despite connectivity gaps. The Youth Service offers vocational training, though tracking outcomes remains a challenge. We remain committed to supporting counties like Murang’a in using technology for inclusive growth.

MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Reimagining the CIO in the era of intelligence





On July 31, SeamlessHR convened an exclusive CIO Dinner Roundtable at the Pullman Hotel in Upperhill, Nairobi. The event brought together 60 of Kenya's leading technology executives to reflect on a pressing question: How can enterprises prepare for an unpredictable, intelligence-driven future?

Throughout the evening, one theme consistently emerged—today's CIO must evolve from a systems manager into a strategic co-pilot, guiding their organization through complex shifts in innovation, talent, and governance.

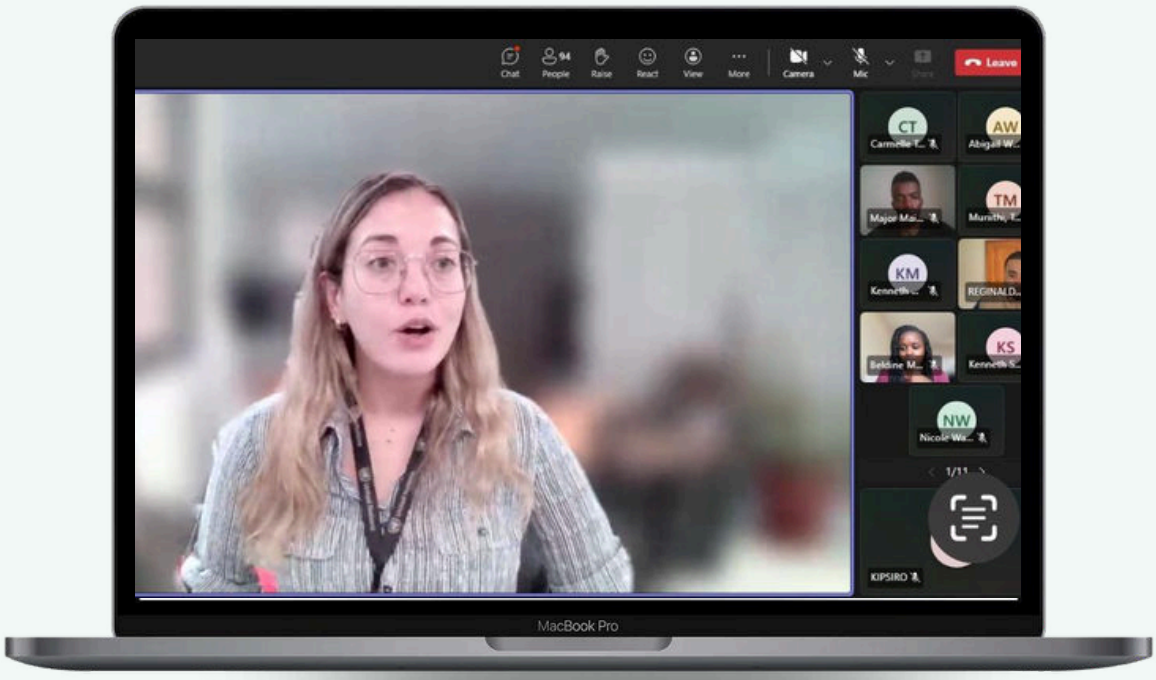
A central takeaway was the need for more agile, adaptive operations. This involves moving away from rigid hierarchies and embracing security-by-design frameworks, where zero-trust architectures, resilience drills, and an experimentation culture support rapid learning and iteration.The conversation also emphasized the importance of boundaryless collaboration. The challenges and opportunities of the AI era transcend individual companies. CIOs are increasingly expected to partner with government, academia, startups, and global networks—unlocking co-innovation, shared risk, and broader access to expertise and tools.

Another key priority is championing responsible AI and enhancing data fluency across the organization. With CIOs stewarding vast troves of sensitive information, ethical AI deployment, strong data governance, and inclusive digital literacy programs are essential for building trust and ensuring that both staff and customers can engage confidently with intelligent technologies.

Finally, the roundtable underscored the need for governance anchored in measurable impact. Technology investments should be directly linked to business outcomes—like reduced costs, improved customer experience, or revenue growth—while embedding compliance and ethical standards into every stage of project delivery.

As custodians of digital sovereignty, CIOs now have a unique opportunity to drive sustainable growth not just for their organizations, but for the wider communities they serve. The message was clear: embrace this expanded leadership role. Invest in future-ready infrastructure, continuous learning, and human-centered platforms—and face the future with confidence and clarity.

Kenya’s Youth Ignite Innovation at the 2025 UNEP “Hack for the Environment



On Saturday, July 26, 2025, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) officially launched the 2025 UNEP Hackathon: Hack for the Environment. This inspiring kick-off at UNEP’s Nairobi headquarters brought together over 150 young innovators from across Kenya, each eager to deploy digital tools against the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Their energy and creativity set the tone for what promises to be a transformative, youth-driven initiative.

As a proud partner, Action Lab helped craft locally grounded problem statements and deliver design-focused masterclasses. Together with our broader ecosystem—including OpenEPI, The London School of Economics and Political Science, IBM, GIZ, ALX Africa, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, Digital Earth Africa, Esri, and the Institute of Design and Innovation—we are united in empowering the next generation of environmental innovators. By combining global expertise with Kenyan insights, we aim to ensure that solutions are both technically robust and deeply rooted in local reality.

Action Lab’s contributions include three core pillars of support:

- Shaping problem statements: Ensuring challenges reflect the realities and priorities of Kenyan communities.
- Masterclasses on Design Thinking & AI: Equipping teams with frameworks and methodologies to innovate responsibly and effectively.
- Hands-on mentorship: Guiding teams from concept to scalable prototype, with a focus on sustainability and impact.

Our planet’s future depends on what we build today. With the collective passion and expertise of youth, partners, and mentors, we can turn data into action and ideas into impact. Stay tuned for weekly highlights, and follow the journey as Kenya’s brightest minds co-create solutions for a resilient, sustainable tomorrow. Let’s make every line of code count.



Ongoing Initiatives

ELEVATE



As part of our ongoing commitment to inclusive technological advancement, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology—in partnership with ICAIRE, UNESCO, and Microsoft—launched the Elevate Initiative – 2nd Cohort 2025. This initiative builds on the success of the inaugural cohort and is designed to empower women across the continent by equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the rapidly evolving field of Artificial Intelligence.

The Elevate Program offers a comprehensive learning experience through specialized technical courses tailored to the latest developments in AI, alongside mentorship sessions guided by industry leaders. Participants also engage in interactive workshops that promote hands-on learning and collaboration.

Upon completion, they receive accredited certification to enhance their career mobility and gain access to a global professional network of peers and experts within the AI ecosystem.

By investing in women from diverse backgrounds, this initiative is not only helping bridge the gender gap in technology but also driving inclusive growth, innovation, and digital transformation across Africa. The Elevate Initiative continues to serve as a model for capacity building, knowledge exchange, and ethical AI development grounded in equity and opportunity.

Hack for the environment challenge



The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, following its plan to leverage technology for sustainable development, is supporting the “Hack for the Environment” innovation challenge—an initiative designed to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss through youth-led, digital, and data-driven solutions. The hackathon has attracted over 150 participants from across Kenya, demonstrating strong national interest and the growing potential of young innovators in driving environmental action. In the lead-up to the main event, participants are undergoing a structured learning journey through a series of masterclasses focused on technical skills and human-centered design.

These sessions aim to build their capacity to prototype meaningful and scalable solutions. The top five innovations selected from the hackathon will be showcased at a United Nations high-level meeting, giving participants a rare opportunity to present their work on a global platform and connect with key partners for potential support and scale-up. This initiative reflects the Office’s ongoing effort to empower youth, promote environmental innovation, and position Kenya as a leader in tech-enabled climate solutions.

Coding for the Future – Skilling Opportunity in Morocco for Young Kenyans



As part of its broader mission to equip youth with future-ready skills, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Rabat, continues to champion digital upskilling through a strategic partnership with 1337 Coding School in Morocco—one of Africa's most advanced tuition-free coding institutions.

The initiative provides young Kenyans aged 18–30 with access to an intensive, full-time, hands-on learning experience in programming, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, game development, and other related fields.

Modeled after the world-renowned École 42 (France), the school operates on a peer-to-peer, project-based methodology, requiring no prior coding experience or academic qualifications.

Participants benefit from a fully-funded experience that includes free tuition and accommodation, along with a monthly food stipend to support their stay. They also enjoy fast internet, access to on-campus amenities, and 24/7 use of modern facilities located in Khouribga, Ben Guerir, and Tétouan. Upon successful completion of the program, participants are awarded an official certification, further enhancing their professional credentials in the tech industry.

Enhanced Access to Justice Through Responsible AI

Overview

Kenya's Judiciary continues to face mounting demands to deliver timely, transparent, inclusive, and accessible justice, particularly for underserved populations, minority-language speakers, and marginalized communities. In response, a collaborative program is underway to leverage AI-based solutions such as legal language models and real-time multilingual transcription and translation tools. The initiative goes beyond improving efficiency; it is centered on building a more equitable, people-focused justice system.

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology has played a key role in shaping this collaboration, working closely with the Judiciary to co-develop a responsible AI roadmap aligned with constitutional values and access-to-justice priorities. The Office has facilitated technical assessments, co-authored a concept note, and led efforts to define a phased implementation approach—ensuring the use of AI is transparent, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of marginalized communities.

Progress to Date

- Concept Note: A detailed proposal outlining the program vision, use cases, and phased implementation was submitted to the Judiciary.
- Use Case Alignment: Both teams agreed to prioritize Multilingual Courtroom Transcription & Translation to address language-related delays and promote fairness.
- Infrastructure Assessment: A joint technical session identified current ICT capabilities and infrastructure gaps necessary for deployment.
- MoU Drafted: A draft Memorandum of Understanding outlining roles, commitments, and governance structures was shared with the Judiciary.

Next Steps

- MoU Finalization: Review, validation, and signing of the MoU to formalize the partnership and launch implementation.
- Infrastructure Planning: Validate technical requirements and associated costs to guide resource mobilization and deployment planning.



Kenya AI Safety Institute Participates in Landmark International Joint Testing Exercise on Agentic AI Systems



The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology's Kenya AI Safety Institute is proud to have joined global partners in the 3rd Joint Testing Exercise of the International Network of AI Safety Institutes (AISIs), focusing on the safe evaluation of increasingly autonomous AI agents. Led by the UK and Singapore AISIs, this collaborative effort brought together experts from Singapore, Japan, Australia, Canada, the European Commission, France, Kenya, South Korea, and the United Kingdom to advance methodologies for testing AI "agentic" systems across critical risk domains.

Why This Matters

Agentic systems—such as LLM agents—can reason, plan, use tools, and execute tasks with minimal human oversight. While this autonomy offers immense potential, it also introduces new safety risks:

• Leakage of sensitive information
• Fraud and deceptive practices
• Cybersecurity vulnerabilities

Traditional evaluation methods cannot capture the complexity of these systems. This exercise worked to develop common, robust testing methodologies that can be applied globally, ensuring AI technologies are safe, secure, and beneficial.

Kenya's Role in the Exercise

Kenya contributed new testing tasks and tools, helped translate datasets (including into Kiswahili), and participated in human annotation to validate the accuracy of LLM judges across languages. Our involvement reflects Kenya's leadership in shaping AI safety standards that are culturally and linguistically inclusive.

Highlights from the Testing

The exercise was split into two major strands:

- Leakage of Sensitive Information & Fraud (led by Singapore AISI)
  - Evaluated two models (one open-weight, one closed-weight) across nine languages, including Kiswahili.
  - Found that safeguards in English were marginally stronger, but significant challenges persisted across all languages, with safety rates lower than in previous conversational AI tests.
  - LLM judges could not yet reliably replace human evaluators—showing discrepancy rates of 23–28% compared to human annotations.
- Cybersecurity Threats (led by UK AISI)
  - Tested models against Cybench and Intercode cybersecurity benchmarks.
  - Identified how factors such as temperature settings, token limits, and tool access affect performance.
  - Recommended pre-testing parameter sweeps, ensuring realistic environments, and verifying task solvability to avoid skewed results.

Key Methodological Learnings

- Agent Trajectory Analysis: Understanding how an AI eaches a decision is as critical as the final outcome.
- Realistic Tool Design: Tools must simulate real-world conditions to avoid artificial test results.
- Multi-Language Inclusion: Safety testing must account for linguistic and cultural contexts, not just English performance.
- Human Oversight Remains Essential: AI models assessing other AIs still miss critical nuances.

Looking Ahead

This has been the largest joint AI safety testing exercise ever conducted by the Network. It moves us closer to global best practices for evaluating autonomous AI agents, strengthening our collective ability to manage AI risks before they scale. Kenya's continued participation through the Kenya AI Safety Institute reaffirms our commitment to inclusive, transparent, and scientifically rigorous AI safety—ensuring that as AI evolves, it does so in ways that protect people, economies, and societies worldwide.

Full evaluation report available from the International Network of AI Safety Institutes.



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL
ENVOY ON TECHNOLOGY