

OUTCOME STATEMENT: CHILDREN GLOBAL AI SUMMIT ON AFRICA

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming our world, and as children across Africa, we recognize both its opportunities and risks. AI should be a tool that empowers, includes, and protects us, ensuring our voices are heard in decisions that shape our future. From education and accessibility to safety and fairness, AI has the potential to bridge gaps, create opportunities, and improve lives. However, without proper regulation and inclusion, it can also expose children to risks such as misinformation, data privacy breaches, and exclusion from crucial decision-making processes. As the next generation of leaders, we believe our perspectives must be actively considered in AI policies, development, and implementation.

On April 2, 2025, in Kigali, Rwanda, children from Somalia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Rwanda, and South Africa gathered in person and virtually for the Children Global AI Summit on Africa. Through interactive discussions and panel sessions and a learning session (AI foundational knowledge) via Africa AI Literacy initiative, we explored how AI is shaping our education, digital safety, and future job opportunities. We identified barriers preventing children from meaningfully participating in AI governance, including limited access to AI education, lack of awareness, and exclusion from policy discussions. We also shared solutions, calling on policymakers, governments, and tech companies to prioritize AI education in schools, establish ethical and rights respecting AI regulations, and create platforms where children's voices can influence AI decisions. This summit marked an important step in ensuring that AI serves as a force for good—one that is ethical, rights respecting, inclusive, and beneficial to all children across Africa.

1. Children's Participation in AI Decision-Making

Children emphasized the importance of having a voice in AI policies as AI shapes their future, impacting education, job opportunities, privacy, and daily life. They highlighted that:

- AI decision-making is currently dominated by governments, tech companies, and researchers, but children's insights are often overlooked.
- AI literacy programs should be integrated into education systems to equip children with the knowledge and confidence to engage in AI discussions.
- Dedicated platforms, child advisory committees, and capacity-building initiatives should be established to include children's perspectives in AI governance.

2. AI for Social Good and Inclusion

Children explored how AI can be leveraged to address social challenges such as climate change, accessibility for children with disabilities, and digital inclusion. Key takeaways included:

- AI can bridge accessibility gaps, such as providing voice-assisted technology for visually impaired children.
- There is a need for Africa-specific AI development, including local language integration and culturally relevant applications. AI-driven translation tools can help children learn in their native languages, promoting inclusive education and cultural competence.
- Children have innovative ideas that can drive AI solutions for community challenges if given the opportunity to participate in AI development.

3. Risks and Safeguards for AI and Child Safety

While AI presents opportunities, children also recognize risks associated with AI-driven platforms, including privacy concerns, data exploitation, manipulation, autonomy, misinformation, and AI bias. They called for:

- Stronger data protection policies to safeguard children's data, by design and default.
- AI transparency to ensure children and families understand how AI systems are designed and process and use their data.
- Regulations that prevent AI-generated bias, manipulation, and ensure fair representation of all communities, including marginalized groups.
- AI companies implement child-centered guidelines, including safety-by-design and parental controls and content moderation, to create a safer digital environment.

4. Policy and Governance Recommendations

Children urged policymakers, governments, and tech companies to:

- Recognize and integrate children's voices in AI governance by developing child-inclusive and rights respecting policy frameworks that ensure their participation in AI decision-making.
- Implement AI education in schools and provide learning resources to equip children with future-ready skills, ensuring they understand AI and can engage critically with its impact.
- Promote safe, inclusive and accessible AI by ensuring AI policies consider all children, especially those in marginalized communities and children with disabilities.
- Increase engaging AI learning tools such as AI-based educational games and interactive platforms to make AI education fun and effective.
- Guarantee free and equitable internet access so that all children, regardless of their background, can benefit from safe AI for education and development.



- Enhance digital safety measures by ensuring AI is developed safely, implementing parental controls, misinformation detectors, and stronger data protection policies to safeguard children online.
- Establish ethical AI regulations and guidelines that prioritize fairness, safety, and child rights while preventing harmful AI biases, manipulation and exploitation.
- Encourage the responsible and ethical use of AI in ways that foster inclusion, innovation, and social good, ensuring AI serves as a tool for positive change.