Online Forum
13-14 December 2023

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Artificial Intelligence & Youth

14th International Forum of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO

Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a pivotal force in various fields and has been recognised for its transformative potential. AI has been entrusted by countless organisations and institutions as a tool for advancing global progress. Whilst there are obvious opportunities in the deployment of machine learning, especially in scientific and technical fields, as well as increasing efficiency and reducing repetition in every-day tasks for many workers, there is always a risk when profit-led processes reduce human interaction or ethical leadership. UNESCO sits at the critical nexus of international communities, scientific and educational institutions, businesses, and NGOs. This Forum seeks to encourage active and productive discussion amongst all stakeholders.

Taking note of UNESCO's groundbreaking Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence , as well as global trends and the acceleration of AI-powered systems being deployed in almost every field, the programme for the Forum will aim to foster the responsible deployment of Artificial Intelligence, enhance understanding amongst civil society partners of the opportunities and potential risks of using AI, and ensure that the voices of youth – those who will face the impacts of decisions made today – are heard clearly. The Forum will be a mobilising event to encourage international cooperation, partnerships, and networking.

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14ᵗʰ International Forum of NGOs
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Provisional Programme

Day 1: Wednesday 13 December 2023 - 10.30-16.45 (All times are CET)

10.30 - 11.00   **Opening Ceremony**
Introduction from the Chairperson of the International Conference of NGOs and President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and, joined by UNESCO officials and the Forum Co-Chairs.

11.05 - 12.15   **Session 1: Artificial Intelligence and Youth - "Understanding Today"**
UNESCO's Secretariat outlines their perspective on the global situation regarding our theme. This will include the building of the Global Observatory of AI Ethics and the role of NGOs.

12.15 - 13.30   **Session 2: AI for an Inclusive Future**
Experts from academic institutions in Afghanistan, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Lebanon, Ukraine, and United Kingdom, address the opportunities and needs for ensuring that AI contributes to a more inclusive future, rather than perpetuating inequality.

13.30 - 14.00   **Networking Break**
Join one of our two break-out rooms whilst you enjoy your lunch (or breakfast or dinner). Room 1: Networking and Idea Exchange, Room 2: Videos from presenters and partners.

14.00 - 15.15   **Session 3: AI in a Changing World**
This Youth Panel examines changing modes of interaction, how AI is being deployed in new arenas, and how we can tackle the challenges that are becoming increasingly urgent. Speakers from Colombia, Italy, South Africa and the United States of America.

15.15 - 16.30   **Session 4: Artificial Intelligence in Education**
Educators and researchers examine the impact, opportunities, and risks of AI in the education sector, with perspectives from Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, United States of America and Venezuela.

16.30 - 16.45   **Reflections on Day 1**
Highlighting key messages to reflect on ahead of the second day, including a draft of a civil society declaration for participants to consider.

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Day 2: Thursday 14 December 2023 - 10.30-16.45

10.30 - 10.35

Welcome to Day 2
Introduction from the Vice President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and Forum Co-Chair Dr Teresa Kennedy

10.35 - 11.30

Presentation on the UNESCO Global Observatory on AI Ethics
An opportunity to learn more about the new Global Observatory from the Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section of the Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO

11.45 - 13.00

Session 5: Empowering Youth to Drive Policy
The second Youth Panel examines the need for inclusion in the creation of policy, as well as future realities for policy implementation and political process. Perspectives from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, India, South Africa and the United States of America.

13.00 - 13.30

Networking Break
Join one of our two break-out rooms whilst you enjoy your lunch (or breakfast or dinner). Room 1: Networking and Idea Exchange, Room 2: Videos from presenters and partners.

13.30 - 14.45

Session 6: The Only Way is Ethics
This panel brings together input from speakers from Australia, Czechia, France, and India on the need for an ethical appraoch to the use and regulation of Artificial Intelligence.

14.45 - 15.45

Session 7: The Many Faces of Artificial Intelligence
The final thematic session considers the implications of greater reliance on AI in multiple fields, including medicine, gender policy, arts and culture, human rights, and education. Perspectives from Brazil, Ethiopia, France and Republic of Korea.

15.45 - 16.20

Mobilising NGOs
Open discussion of the civil society declaration draft, further input, and the opportunity for attendees to pledge their support for action in support of UNESCO's 2021 Recommendation on AI Ethics.

16.20 - 16.45

Closing
Concluding remarks from the Co-Chair of the Forum, UNESCO, and the Chairperson of the International Conference of NGOs.