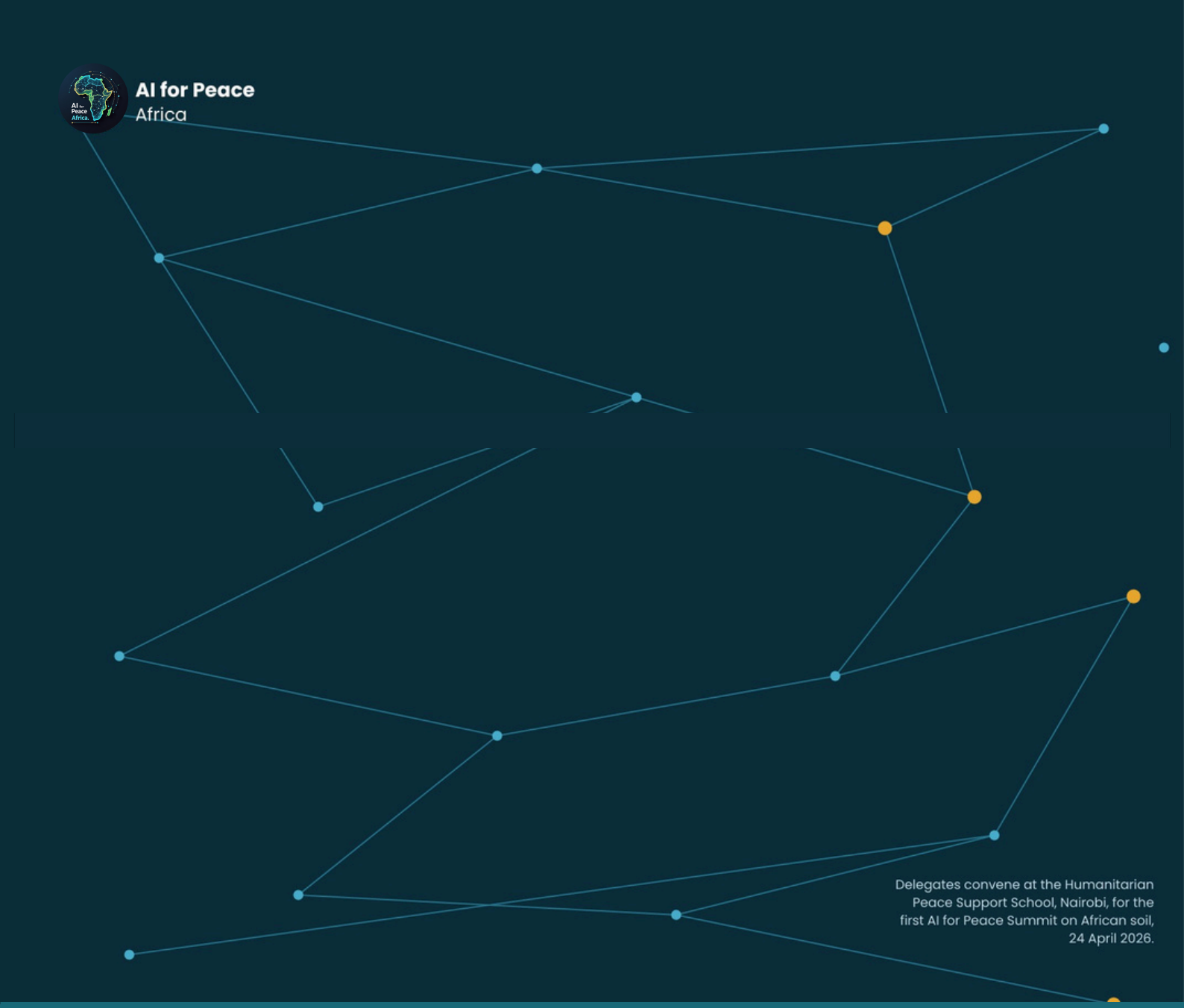
AI for Peace
Africa



Delegates convene at the Humanitarian Peace Support School, Nairobi, for the first AI for Peace Summit on African soil, 24 April 2026.

Advancing Artificial Intelligence for Peace, Governance, and Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa's Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts.

AI FOR PEACE SUMMIT 2026

Summit Report

REPORT ON THE AI FOR PEACE SUMMIT & THE NAIROBI DECLARATION

Convened by AI for Peace Africa · co-hosted by the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC)
Nairobi, Kenya · 24 April 2026

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Convening. AI for Peace Summit 2026 — AI for Peace Africa (convener) and co-host the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC), Nairobi, 24 April 2026. Supported by the Open Society Foundations and Aethics.ai. **Theme.** Advancing Artificial Intelligence for Peace, Governance, and Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa's Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts. Rapporteur. Stella Cherop.
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ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence	**AU**	African Union
CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism	**DRC**	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FCAS	Fragile and Conflict-Affected States	**HPSS**	Humanitarian Peace Support School
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	**IOM**	International Organization for Migration
IPSTC	International Peace Support Training Centre	**LAWS**	Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems
NSC	National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding	**ODPC**	Office of the Data Protection Commissioner
REAIM	Responsible AI in the Military Domain	**UNFPA**	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development	**NIS**	National Intelligence Service

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

1. The relationship between technology and political order has always been asymmetric. New capabilities arrive faster than the norms and institutions needed to govern them, and the gap between what technology enables and what governance permits is where the greatest harms concentrate. Artificial intelligence is not different in kind from its predecessors, but it is different in scale and speed, and the societies least equipped with the institutional infrastructure to manage those differences will bear the largest share of the costs.

2. It was against this backdrop that AI for Peace Africa convened the AI for Peace Summit 2026 under the theme of advancing artificial intelligence for peace, governance, and resilience. The Summit was conceived as a flagship initiative for advancing dialogue, innovation and policy at the intersection of AI, peacebuilding and governance across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Sahel and Fragile and Conflict-Affected States. It was anchored in the African Union's Agenda 2063, the AU Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy adopted in 2024 and the United Nations Global Digital Compact.

3. This report presents an account of the Summit's proceedings, from the institutional framing offered by the co-host to the Founder's message, the keynote address from the African Union and the three expert panels that examined emerging technologies, data governance and digital sovereignty and the relationship between AI and democratic integrity. It situates the Summit within the wider currents of African and global AI governance and documents the outcomes that followed from Nairobi, including the Nairobi Declaration on Ethical AI and Digital Peacebuilding.

4. A recurring theme throughout was the shift the Summit represented, away from reactive peacekeeping and towards proactive, technology-enabled peacebuilding. Delegates argued that AI, properly governed and grounded in African realities, can strengthen early warning systems, sharpen decision-making and reshape how threats are predicted, managed and prevented. The countervailing danger was equally clear: without robust governance structures, AI deployment risks outpacing the safeguards necessary to ensure its responsible use, filling institutional vacuums with consequences that are very hard to reverse.

5. **If a single conviction animated the proceedings, it was that sustainable peace cannot be imported.** Africa's AI systems must be built by Africans, governed by Africans and made accountable to African societies. Allowing the continent's AI future to be shaped by external interests whose priorities diverge from those of African populations is not a neutral choice. It is a form of abdication whose costs will be borne for a long time.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONFLICT DEATHS

+40%

increase 2023 to 2024, the third consecutive annual rise (UCDP/PRIO, 2025)

DISPLACEMENT

25M+

people internally displaced across Africa (IOM, 2026)

AID CUT

-23%

reduction in international humanitarian assistance, 2024 to 2025 (OECD DAC, 2026)

6. On 24 April 2026, AI for Peace Africa convened the first AI for Peace Summit in Africa at the Humanitarian Peace Support School of the International Peace Support Training Centre in Nairobi. The Summit brought together government officials, military officers, diplomats, legal experts, researchers, technologists, civil society representatives and youth innovators from across the continent. It was organised around a single uncomfortable premise: that the governance of artificial intelligence, which will shape the future of war, peace and democratic life, is proceeding without the participation of much of the world, and that Africa can no longer afford to be absent from those deliberations.

7. The proceedings were structured around three expert panels and three parallel roundtable sessions. Panel 1 examined how AI is reshaping peace-support operations and conflict in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States, exposing the uneven integration of AI across the continent and the near-total absence of dedicated governance institutions. Panel 2 turned to the harder questions of digital sovereignty and data rights, probing what it means for a state to claim sovereignty over the data of its citizens when the systems that collect, store and analyse that data are procured abroad. Panel 3 addressed what may be the most immediate threat: the use of AI-driven social media algorithms to manipulate elections, deepen ethnic polarisation and amplify violence.

8. The roundtable sessions addressed youth inclusion and the peace economy, the collapse of traditional humanitarian financing and the search for African-led alternatives, and the structural conditions needed to attract patient capital to peace technology. Taken together, the sessions made clear that Africa faces not one AI problem but several simultaneously, each compounding the others.

9. The Summit closed with the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on Ethical AI and Digital Peacebuilding, a collective commitment to human-centred technology, African epistemic sovereignty, binding governance and reimagined peace financing. The Summit will reconvene in 2027 to assess what has been accomplished. The credibility of the Declaration will rest entirely on what happens in the interval.

WHY THIS SUMMIT, WHY NOW

AN ASYMMETRY OF MEANS

10. Liberal theories of progress tend to assume that the benefits of new technology spread relatively quickly and evenly across societies. The history of the past two centuries suggests otherwise. The gap between what a technology can do for a well-governed, well-resourced society and what it does to a fragile, under-resourced one has repeatedly proved to be a source not of convergence but of divergence. Artificial intelligence, on current trajectories, will deepen that divergence unless specific, deliberate choices are made to prevent it.

11. Africa's exposure to that risk is acute. More than 118 countries were absent from the global deliberations that set worldwide AI policy. Over 25 million people are internally displaced across the continent. Africa is being used as a testing ground for autonomous weapons systems, with consequences that are poorly understood and largely unaccountable. The withdrawal of more than US$60 million in USAID commitments has opened a severe gap in the humanitarian and development financing that fragile states depend upon, precisely at the moment when those states need the most support.

12. The African Union responded to this moment with its Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy, endorsed at its 45th Ordinary Executive Council Session in Accra in July 2024. The Strategy is built around five priorities: harnessing AI's benefits, minimising its risks, building capabilities, accumulating investment and fostering cooperation, with a 2025 to 2030 implementation timeline. The Summit was convened as a direct contribution to the first phase of that timeline, which calls on stakeholders to deliver governance frameworks and national AI strategies by 2026.



OPENING SESSION

OPENING SESSION AND FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

WELCOME AND INSTITUTIONAL REMARKS: IPSTC

14. Colonel E M Kinyua delivered the opening remarks on behalf of the Director of the IPSTC, Major General Charles Lenjo Mwazighe, welcoming delegates and expressing the institution's gratitude to AI for Peace Africa for choosing the HPSS as the venue. He noted that the HPSS provides tactical training and support on peace-support operations spanning civilian, civil police and military components. He observed that AI is reshaping economies, governance systems and social interactions worldwide, and that in Africa this shift presents a unique opportunity to address longstanding challenges of conflict, inequality and development.

15. He set out three institutional priorities: advancing policies and regulatory approaches for responsible AI; strengthening cross-sector and cross-border partnerships; and supporting research and innovation tailored to Africa's peace and security landscape. The institutional position was stated plainly: technology alone cannot deliver peace. Sustainable peace requires human-centred approaches, strong institutions and collaborative leadership, and AI innovation not aligned with those principles serves other interests.

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE: AI FOR PEACE AFRICA

16. Ms. Naomi Kilungu described the convening of the first AI for Peace Summit in Africa as a remarkable achievement: the ability, at this specific moment in history, to hold a continental conversation about technology on African terms. Africans have long been consumers of technology rather than producers of it, seated outside the governance table while the rules that will shape AI worldwide are written without them. The Summit was convened to change that, not by issuing demands to those already at the table but by building an African table of sufficient institutional weight to matter.

17. She grounded the urgency in hard realities: over 25 million internally displaced persons across the continent, the use of Africa as a testing ground for autonomous weapons, collapsing humanitarian funding and the severe gap opened by the USAID withdrawal. She called on delegates, speaking as a decolonising and localising scholar, to hold an inward-looking conversation while still pursuing cooperation with other states and international organisations. The imperative above all was for Africa to develop its own AI systems and govern them, so that generations to come are kept safe by the decisions taken in Nairobi.

18. She located the Summit squarely within the AU Continental AI Strategy and its first implementation phase, and called for Africa to move from the aspiration of sovereignty to its practice, developing homegrown AI systems, domesticating data governance frameworks and holding international technology vendors to standards that protect African citizens rather than extracting value from them. The choices made now, she argued, will determine whether Africa enters the age of AI as an agent or a subject.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

AI, CONFLICT AND AFRICAN AGENCY



Delegates in the HPSS auditorium during the AI for Peace Summit 2026, Nairobi, 24 April 2026.

19. The keynote was delivered by Ambassador Fred Ngoga of the African Union. He opened by recalling the Mashariki Conference in Diani, where Kenya's NIS Director-General Noordin Haji named three major challenges confronting the continent: the evolving threat of terrorism with armed groups seeking to substitute themselves for existing governments; a predatory global rush for Africa's natural resources; and artificial intelligence itself as a strategic threat.

20. Ambassador Ngoga set out the ways in which AI is reshaping the character of conflict. AI is transforming information warfare in ways that are particularly dangerous in societies with weak institutional trust. Deepfake videos, synthetic news and automated networks can distort reality at scale, and in fragile political systems this is a recipe for electoral violence, ethnic tension and a direct assault on public confidence. Groups such as Al-Shabaab and ISIS can now tailor messaging across languages and potentially integrate AI into surveillance and drone operations, enabling them to function with a sophistication previously available only to state actors.

21. He confronted the reality of digital colonialism directly: African data fuelling global AI systems while the continent captures only a fraction of the value, with control over infrastructure, standards and governance remaining largely external. He warned of a surge in AI-enabled cybercrime exploiting vulnerabilities in mobile money systems, eroding confidence in the digital transformation that African economies depend upon. Underpinning all of this, he said, is a regulatory framework that is not keeping pace with the deployment of the technologies it is supposed to govern.

> *"AI does not create new conflicts; it amplifies existing vulnerabilities. Where institutions are weak, AI deepens instability. Where societies are divided, AI sharpens divisions. Where governance is absent, AI fills the vacuum."*
>
> *The question before Africa is not whether to adopt AI, but whether Africa will shape it or be reshaped by it.*
>
> Ambassador Fred Ngoga, African Union

22. Ambassador Ngoga described how AI is also reshaping the very nature of conflict, with low-cost drones, semi-autonomous systems and improved targeting accelerating warfare particularly in the Sahel. He acknowledged the deep asymmetry in AI military capability across African states: some countries, among them Rwanda, Botswana and Mauritius, have invested heavily, while others lag far behind. He called for a continental approach to AI governance that pools African expertise and negotiating leverage, rather than leaving each state to face technology giants individually.

PANEL 1

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN FCAS

UNEVEN INTEGRATION AND THE CHANGING NATURE OF OPERATIONS

23. The opening panel examined how emerging technologies are reshaping peace-support operations and conflict itself in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States. A panellist observed that some countries, among them Rwanda, Botswana and Mauritius, have invested heavily in AI, while others lag far behind. The Rwanda-DRC conflict illustrates the point starkly: Rwanda's deployment of an Iron Dome-style defensive system demonstrates how unevenly AI capability is distributed across African defence establishments, with consequences for the balance of force that are not yet well understood.

STRATEGY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE MISSING INSTITUTION

24. A panellist argued that the central problem is the absence of governance structures adequate to manage AI responsibly. Training curricula have been overtaken by AI capabilities; commanders face information overload because existing systems cannot filter or contextualise AI-generated data accurately; and doctrine and rules of engagement have not kept pace. The gravest risk is a peacekeeper who treats AI-generated analysis as established fact, a category error that could produce catastrophic consequences in fragile environments where mistakes cannot easily be undone.

25. A panellist noted that most African states have neither ratified nor domesticated the AU Continental AI Strategy, with only 16 African countries holding a national AI strategy. The deeper gap is not funding but accountability: the continent lacks designated oversight bodies with the mandate and authority to ensure transparency in how data is used, stored and deployed in peace and security contexts. A panellist added that AI governance is scattered across ministries of ICT and Defence with no single institution accountable, a structural problem the AU can help address through knowledge exchange.

REACHING THE COMMUNITY

26. A panellist pointed to Kenya's domestication of the IGAD CEWARN protocol as a model: AI is embedded in early-warning systems with verified ground-level reporting feeding timely interventions, supported by a toll-free SMS platform through which citizens report peace and conflict issues. A panellist stressed that governance frameworks will only work if communities are involved in the conversation and if a clear oversight body is designated with genuine enforcement capacity.

PANEL 2

ETHICAL AI GOVERNANCE, DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY AND DATA RIGHTS

THE COST AND MEANING OF SOVEREIGNTY

27. A panellist opened from a single premise — that data is the fuel of AI — and urged delegates to interrogate the context in which AI regulation is being developed in Africa. Each African state has a responsibility to draw on AU best practices and define its own national AI strategy, while recognising that the continent is not uniform in its regulatory maturity or its AI uptake.

28. A panellist observed that the continent must first reach agreement on what digital sovereignty means before it can be pursued. Too often, AI legislation addresses AI security as a technical matter without addressing AI in security as a political one. Who may collect, store or retrieve a country's sensitive data is not a question of digital policy; it is a question of national security. Kenya procures AI and data systems from abroad and stores its data outside its borders, creating a particular vulnerability given the conflicts in neighbouring states. The panellist called for vendor transparency requirements, jurisdiction clauses and reciprocal access rights for governments over the servers of vendors operating in their territory.

29. A panellist identified a structural bias in global AI governance: African data and African expertise are not accorded the same weight as Western counterparts. Negotiating individually, African states have little leverage. Negotiating as a bloc through the AU and IGAD, they have considerably more, and national bodies such as the ODPC must be empowered to pursue extraterritorial violations and enforce instruments such as Kenya's Data Protection Act of 2019.

HYBRID SOVEREIGNTY, AWARENESS AND THE PATH TO LAW

30. A panellist cautioned against positions that outrun the continent's current infrastructure. The model of hybrid sovereignty, pursuing incremental control while building the domestic capacity needed for full control, is more honest about present realities. The foundational problem is citizen awareness: most Africans do not know they have data rights, so any genuine data protection strategy must begin with affordable, inclusive capacity-building. A panellist called for a binding continental AI law imposing clear legal obligations on states, addressing the social dimensions of AI and creating enforcement powers with teeth.

> *"The burden of protecting citizens' data from unlawful abuse and misuse falls on the state. It is not aspirational — it is a security imperative."*

PANEL 3

AI, ELECTIONS, SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMS AND DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

31. Panel 3 examined the growing role of AI-driven social media algorithms in shaping political discourse, influencing elections and amplifying electoral violence across Africa. The discussion was anchored in a recognition that democratic institutions are not simply weakened by disinformation; they can be destroyed by it, and the speed and scale at which AI-enabled disinformation operates exceeds anything that electoral governance institutions on the continent are presently equipped to counter.

AI AND ELECTORAL VIOLENCE

32. Research presented documents how AI-driven social media algorithms are actively amplifying disinformation, ethnic polarisation and coordinated inauthentic behaviour across the Sahel and Sub-Saharan Africa. The algorithms are not politically neutral; they are optimised for engagement, and in societies where political identity is tightly bound to ethnic affiliation, engagement and polarisation are close synonyms. The panellist called for governance frameworks specifically designed to safeguard electoral processes, grounded in African epistemic traditions rather than imported from regulatory systems designed for very different contexts.

MILITARY AI AND KENYA'S STRATEGIC APPROACH

33. A panellist, as a key contributor to Kenya's National AI Strategy 2025 to 2030 and as Kenya's Point of Contact for REAIM, described the country's emerging approach to responsible military AI. His central argument was about participation: African states must assert their perspectives in multilateral discussions on autonomous weapons regulation rather than accepting norms written without them. The gap between military AI capability and the governance frameworks designed to constrain it is a political problem requiring political presence.

THE GENDERED DIMENSIONS OF AI IN CONFLICT

34. A panellist drew on their work with AU FemWise-Africa and the Africa Women Leadership Network to highlight a dimension of AI risk that tends to be under-addressed. Technology-facilitated gender-based violence, online harassment and disinformation targeting women leaders are among the most acute AI-related threats to democratic governance on the continent. Women who enter politics face a distinctive kind of AI-enabled attack that discourages participation and narrows the political field. Gender-responsive AI governance is not a subsidiary concern; it is a condition of democratic legitimacy.

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

35. Alongside the plenary panels, the Summit convened three interactive roundtable streams, reinforcing the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration in unlocking AI for societal good. Each stream drew together practitioners, researchers, finance specialists and community advocates to deliberate on specific dimensions of the AI-for-peace agenda. The roundtables were less about information exchange than about the harder work of identifying what needs to change and who has the standing and the responsibility to change it.



High-level engagement on arrival: the Chief Guest is received by the host and the AI for Peace Africa convening team.

THE NAIROBI DECLARATION ON ETHICAL AI AND DIGITAL PEACEBUILDING

THE NAIROBI DECLARATION

Adopted at the AI for Peace Summit 2026 · HPSS, Nairobi, Kenya · 24 April 2026

> *"Africa's future in AI must be shaped by Africans themselves — not as a technological tool alone, but as a strategic enabler for sustainable peace, effective governance and long-term resilience."*
>
> AI for Peace Summit 2026

39. We have gathered at the Humanitarian Peace Support School in Nairobi at a defining moment for our continent and for the world. The decisions we take on artificial intelligence, in how it is built, governed and deployed, will shape the prospects for peace, dignity and democratic governance across Africa for generations to come.

40. Over the course of this Summit, we have confronted hard truths: that AI-generated disinformation is eroding electoral trust; that autonomous weapons are being deployed in our conflict zones without adequate oversight; and that too many AI systems governing African lives have been built without African voices. We leave Nairobi unwilling to accept these realities as inevitable.

41. We, the participants of the AI for Peace Summit 2026, affirm our shared commitment to advancing artificial intelligence in the service of peacebuilding and social cohesion across Africa, in contribution to phase one of the AU Continental AI Strategy.

42. We commit to **human-centred AI**: technologies whose design, deployment and oversight place the dignity, rights and safety of people at their centre, with particular attention to women, youth and marginalised communities.

43. We affirm **African epistemic and data sovereignty**: the right of African societies to govern their own data, to shape the frameworks that will govern AI and to develop and domesticate AI systems in line with their own contexts and peacebuilding priorities.

44. We call for **governance, transparency and accountability**, moving from aspiration towards binding continental and national law, with designated oversight institutions and AI literacy embedded in security training.

45. We resolve to **reimagine the financing of peace**, advancing innovative, African-owned instruments and the AU

OUTCOMES AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

OUTCOMES, POLICY ENGAGEMENT AND WAY FORWARD

47. The Summit's value extended beyond its proceedings. It generated partnerships, attracted national and continental media attention and connected directly to AI for Peace Africa's ongoing policy work. The Summit was featured by the Kenya Ministry of Defence under the headline "Driving African-led AI solutions for peace and security" and by The Exchange Africa in its April 2026 feature "AI Systems, Peace and Security in Africa," which profiled Ms. Naomi Kilungu as Founder and convener of the Summit.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

48. Ahead of the Summit, AI for Peace Africa contributed to the Stimson Center brief "Priorities for Africa: Artificial Intelligence Governance at the Global and National Level" (2026), co-authored by Ms. Naomi Kilungu and Dr. Sandra Poni Tombe. The brief examined Kenya and Ethiopia as case studies of continent-wide patterns of weak institutional capacity and put forward three core recommendations: integration of South-South AI cooperation in national AI strategies; African Union participation in UN multilateral discussions on lethal autonomous weapons regulation; and development of robust national AI oversight mechanisms. The brief was published to orient the Summit and is not itself an outcome of it. The organisation's Pluriversal AI framework, a decolonial and epistemically plural approach to AI governance, underpinned the deliberations throughout.

WHAT COMES NEXT: AI FOR PEACE AFRICA

1. Publish its policy brief and summit proceedings in 2026.
2. Translate the Nairobi Declaration into clear action points.
3. Convene partners for follow-up dialogue and coordination.
4. Support Kenya's AI-for-peace implementation through policy input.
5. Promote AI literacy for peacebuilding, elections and digital rights.
6. Support research on AI risks in conflict and governance.
7. Build partnerships with universities, civil society and innovators.
8. Advocate for better AI and data governance in Africa.
9. Promote African-led peace-tech financing discussions.
10. Reconvene in 2027 to assess progress and share lessons.

WAY FORWARD

WAY FORWARD: KENYA AND AFRICAN CONTEXT

Declarations without implementation benchmarks are political theatre. The following priority actions are proposed for Kenya and African states to translate the Nairobi Declaration into concrete, accountable governance change.

1. Establish a single national AI governance authority in Kenya to coordinate AI policy across security, data protection, elections, justice and digital rights.
2. Align Kenya's National AI Strategy 2025 to 2030 with the Nairobi Declaration and the AU Continental AI Strategy so that implementation is coherent rather than fragmented.
3. Strengthen data sovereignty by investing in domestic data infrastructure, local hosting for sensitive public-sector systems and stricter controls on cross-border data transfers.
4. Require mandatory AI and data impact assessments for all AI systems used in public administration, security, elections and peacebuilding.
5. Embed AI literacy in military, police, electoral and peace-support training institutions so that decision-makers understand both the promise and the limits of AI.
6. Create an election-focused AI early-warning and response mechanism to monitor deepfakes, disinformation, hate speech and algorithmic amplification of violence.
7. Integrate gender-responsive safeguards into AI governance to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence, online harassment and attacks on women leaders.
8. Harmonise early-warning systems across Kenya, IGAD and the wider continent to support rapid conflict detection and coordinated response.
9. Move the African Union from strategy to binding law by developing a continental AI legal framework with clear obligations, enforcement powers and oversight mechanisms.
10. Designate one authoritative AI oversight institution in each African state to avoid fragmented mandates across ICT, security, intelligence and justice sectors.
11. Support African states to negotiate data and AI terms as a bloc through the AU and IGAD rather than individually, to strengthen bargaining power.
12. Invest in African-owned peace-tech and AI innovation through the AU Peace Fund, blended finance and targeted national innovation grants.
13. Build citizen awareness of data rights through affordable, inclusive digital literacy programmes for communities, youth, women and marginalised groups.
14. Strengthen African participation in global discussions on autonomous weapons, responsible military AI and digital governance so that African perspectives shape international norms.
15. Promote South-South cooperation in AI for peace by linking Kenya with other African states, regional organisations, universities and homegrown tech firms.
16. Create clear accountability and reporting benchmarks so that progress can be reviewed annually, with a full assessment at the 2027 Summit.

A CALL TO PARTNERS

A CALL TO PARTNERS

The Summit produced not only analysis but direction. Drawn from the deliberations of all panels and the Founder's message, the calls below are addressed to the actors whose decisions will determine whether the promise of AI for peace is realised across Africa.

1. GOVERNMENTS AND THE AFRICAN UNION

Move from the aspirational AU Continental AI Strategy to a binding continental AI law and domesticate national AI strategies in line with phase one of the Strategy.

Designate clear oversight institutions, embed AI literacy in professional military training and harmonise early-warning systems across the continent.

Tap the AU Peace Fund and negotiate data terms as a bloc through the AU and IGAD.

2. THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND INNOVATORS

Prioritise the domestication of AI by building context-specific, user-friendly tools designed with African realities in mind and invest in local innovation ecosystems and domestic data infrastructure.

Adopt transparent, accountable, human-rights-anchored AI practices and partner with peacebuilding institutions to align innovation with the public good.

3. CIVIL SOCIETY, RESEARCHERS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Build citizens' awareness of their data rights through inclusive, affordable capacity-building and centre women, youth and marginalised communities.

Provide predictable, coordinated and long-term financing for AI-driven peace initiatives and support African participation in global AI governance.

Translate the Nairobi Declaration into measurable national and continental action and reconvene to assess progress.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PARTNERS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PARTNERS

The AI for Peace Summit 2026 was made possible through the collaboration of institutions and individuals committed to advancing ethical AI for peacebuilding and social cohesion across Africa.

CONVENER

AI FOR PEACE AFRICA

A Nairobi-based organisation advancing ethical, inclusive and peace-positive AI across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Sahel and FCAS, working at the intersection of technical AI expertise and frontline peacebuilding.

aiforpeaceafrica.com

HOST / CO-HOST

IPSTC

The International Peace Support Training Centre is a Centre of Excellence mandated to build capacity in international peace support operations and related activities involving military, police and civilian personnel from the member states of the Eastern Africa Standby Force, Africa and the rest of the world.

ipstc.org

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

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One of the world's largest private funders of independent groups working for justice, democratic governance and human rights. Supporting partner of the Summit.

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An advanced ethics-in-AI partner supporting responsible AI deployment, ethics frameworks and governance for conflict-sensitive contexts.

aethics.ai

ABOUT AI FOR PEACE AFRICA

AI for Peace Africa is a Nairobi-based organisation advancing ethical, inclusive and peace-positive artificial intelligence across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Sahel and Fragile and Conflict-Affected States. It operates at the intersection of deep technical AI expertise and frontline peacebuilding practice, structured around two pillars — a policy think tank and an AI automation agency — and grounded in the Pluriversal AI framework (Zenodo DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.19161260).

12	25+	50+
COUNTRIES OF OPERATION	PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS	PUBLICATIONS AND POLICY BRIEFS

SOURCES AND NOTES

SOURCES AND NOTES

REPORT

AI for Peace Africa Summit 2026 Report; rapporteur, Stella Cherop. Convening: AI for Peace Summit 2026, AI for Peace Africa (convener) and co-host the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC), Nairobi, 24 April 2026; supported by the Open Society Foundations and Aethics.ai.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Kenya Ministry of Defence, "Driving African-led AI solutions for peace and security" (mod.go.ke); The Exchange Africa, "AI Systems, Peace and Security in Africa," April 2026 (theexchange.africa).

POLICY

N. M. Kilungu and S. P. Tombe, "Priorities for Africa: Artificial Intelligence Governance at the Global and National Level," Stimson Center, 2026 (stimson.org). Published to orient the Summit. The dedicated policy publication will be published in August 2026.

FRAMEWORK

Pluriversal AI governance framework, Zenodo, DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.19161260 (doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19161260).

FRAMEWORKS REFERENCED

African Union Agenda 2063; AU Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy, endorsed July 2024, Accra (implementation 2025 to 2030); IGAD protocol on CEWARN; Kenya Data Protection Act, 2019; United Nations Pact for the Future and Global Digital Compact.

KEY STATISTICS

Internally displaced persons data: International Organization for Migration, 2026. Conflict deaths data: UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, 2025. International assistance figures: OECD DAC Preliminary ODA Statistics, April 2026. Africa data centre share: ITU, 2025. National AI strategies: AU Continental AI Strategy tracking, 2026.

NOTE

This report presents the substance of the AI for Peace Summit 2026 in a structured report format. AI for Peace Africa, aiforpeaceafrica.com · info@aiforpeaceafrica.com · Nairobi Garage, Kilimani, Nairobi, Kenya.

PARTICIPANTS

HIGH-LEVEL PARTICIPANTS, SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

Summit attendance:79participants

OPENING SESSION AND KEYNOTE

Colonel E M Kinyua, IPSTC — opening remarks and welcome on behalf of IPSTC

Ambassador Fred Ngoga, African Union — keynote address; read and confirmed the Nairobi Declaration at closing

Ms. Naomi Kilungu, Founder, AI for Peace Africa — Founder's message

Joy Gitau— AI for Peace Africa Legal Expert and Summit moderator

Colonel Catherine Lagat, Head of Research, IPSTC — senior guest & Summit Support Lead for IPSTC

Major General Charles Lenjo Mwazighe- *In absentia* **-The Director of the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC)**

Abdisaid Ali — ***in absentia*** · 30th Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Somalia · Summit Advisor

PANEL 1 — EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN FCAS

Prudence Chepngeno Rutto — moderator

Ambassador Fred Ngoga, African Union — senior AU figure advising on AI governance and peace support in Africa

Lt. Col. Juma Mayamba, IPSTC and Kenya Defence Forces — Commanding Officer, Technical Intelligence Battalion; specialist in unmanned systems, AI militarisation and lethal autonomous weapons systems

Brenda Maina, Centre for AI and Digital Policy and UN — Team Leader, Global Majority Group; focuses on AI governance, data rights and responsible innovation

Clause Okwuku Obote, National Steering Committee for Peace, Kenya — Senior Assistant Secretary; specialist in early warning systems, grassroots peacebuilding and multi-agency coordination

PANEL 2 — ETHICAL AI GOVERNANCE, DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY AND DATA RIGHTS

Rachel Olepenges — moderator

Dr. Esther Kibe, IPSTC — applied researcher; PhD in International Studies; over eight years of experience in conflict management, AI governance and natural resource governance

Major Olivia Mjomba, Kenya Defence Headquarters — military legal officer and IHL expert; LLM, University of Amsterdam; decorated UNAMID peacekeeping service in Darfur.

Aly Ramji-Director Mediapix limited

Muraya Karanja, Security Consultant — focuses on data sovereignty, digital rights and the intersection of African knowledge systems with global AI governance

Sameen Ashraf, Aethics.ai — consultant in international AI development; former UN Analyst; specialist in native-inspired AI models and legal pluralism

PANEL 3 — AI, ELECTIONS, SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMS AND DEMOCRACY

Major Jamal Mohamed Hassan, Kenya Defence Forces and AU Working Group on AI — SO1 Cyber Intelligence and AI; Kenya's REAIM Point of Contact; Fulbright Scholar

Dr. Emily Okuto, IPSTC — over three decades of expertise in peacebuilding and conflict prevention

Dr. Janet Achieng' Onyango, Africa Nazarene University — specialist in AI-driven social media algorithms and electoral violence

Anne Judy Kathurima, OGW, Elections Specialist — AU FemWise-Africa; Africa Women Leadership Network

Dr. Dan Odada, Beyond Borders Research and Consulting — advisor to AU, IGAD and UN agencies

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

Fatuma Muhumed, UNFPA WCARO — Youth, Peace and Security Programme Specialist-West Africa

Wavinya Makai, Development Political Economist and Author of Capital Violence and Intellectual Chains

Mary Yvonne Ododah, Nuru Trust Network and Jarumi Ventures Africa — Executive Director; UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group

Christine Odera, Governance and Inclusion Specialist; **Caleb Gichuhi,** Technology and Innovation, Youth Representative;

Kelvin Waigwa, Fintech and Digital Economy Specialist

O'Maxwell Gad, Impact360 and DINAO — ecosystem builder focused on decentralising innovation

Dr. Amos Chege Kirongo, Research and Policy; **Fiona Asuke,** Open Society Foundations — Programme Manager, Transformative Peace in Africa

Jackie Malomba, Arnova and One Voice Women Network; **Dr. Lilian Macharia,** IPSTC; **Oscar Luchivya,** KCYPS; **Raiser Olwande-Flick,** Development Finance Specialist

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS — AI FOR PEACE AFRICA ORGANISING TEAM

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Prudence Rutto — Research and Training Head

Emma Omondi — Project Coordinator

Bryson Mutuma — Research Associate

John Macharia — Head of Administration

Yeshua Owel Emmanuel — Tech Lead

Rapporteur: Stella Cherop.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

AI FOR PEACE SUMMIT 2026

The following photographs document proceedings at the AI for Peace Summit 2026, convened on 24 April 2026 at the Humanitarian Peace Support School of the International Peace Support Training Centre, Nairobi, Kenya.



Group photograph of Summit delegates, speakers and organisers — IPSTC/HPSS, Nairobi, 24 April 2026.



Panel speakers on stage — HPSS auditorium, 24 April 2026.



Delegates in attendance during plenary sessions — HPSS auditorium, 24 April 2026.



Participants outside the HPSS venue following sessions, 24 April 2026.



Roundtable session in progress — IPSTC/HPSS, Nairobi, 24 April 2026.