Techplomacy

Newsletter | September 2026

September's work on public services, investment, and international cooperation in technology.

IN THIS EDITION

AI MIDDLE POWERS
Kenya and Finland convene on shared sovereignty at the UN

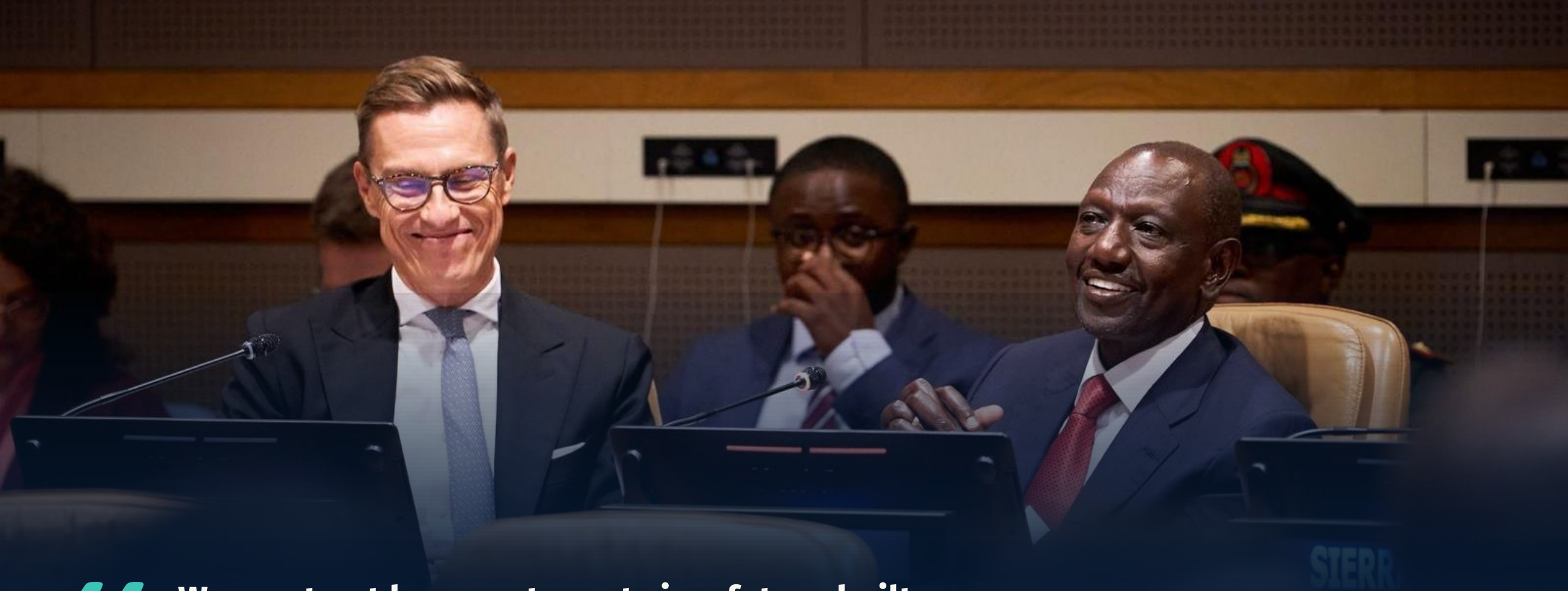
KENYA AND ANTHROPIC
A Joint Declaration on responsible AI cooperation

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE
New data centres and cloud options in Kenya

CHILDREN AND AI
Kenya co-chairs the global Coalition roadmap



Office of the Special Envoy ***on Technology***



> **We must not become tenants in a future built from our data, powered by our resources, shaped by technologies we cannot influence, and governed by rules we did not write.**

H.E. President William Samoei Ruto
AI Middle Powers High-Level Meeting
United Nations | New York | 21 September 2026

In this edition

FRONT MATTER

04 Editorial: September's Priorities

05 Foreword

07 September at a Glance

PART I · AT HOME, NAIROBI

09 Technology, Democracy and Human Agency

11 Preparing Kenya's Education System for AI

13 Making Digital Health Work Across Kenya

15 Business Systems That Support Growth

17 Financing Africa's Technology and Infrastructure

19 Expanding Kenya's Digital Infrastructure

21 Connecting UK Investment with Kenya's AI Priorities

23 Digital Capacity, Infrastructure & Productivity

26 Kenya–US Technology Cooperation

PART I · CONTINUED

29 Trusted Data Flows Across East Africa

31 Powering the Intelligent Age

33 Trust and Public Information in the Age of AI

35 Building Trust in Financial AI

PART II · UNGA81, NEW YORK

37 UNGA81: From Nairobi to New York

38 AI Middle Powers and Shared Sovereignty

41 Creating More Value in Africa's Digital Economy

43 Building Strategic Foresight in Public Institutions

45 AI, Competition and Shared Sovereignty

46 AI for Global Benefit: The Briefing by Anthropic

47 Child Safety in the Age of AI

49 Making AI's Environmental Impact Measurable

PART II · CONTINUED

50 Women in AI Network: From Access to Agency

52 Kenya–Anthropic AI Cooperation

55 Building Independent Capacity to Evaluate AI

57 Strengthening Cooperation on AI Safety

59 People, Power and AI: Shaping Development Choices

61 Building Democratic Agency over AI

63 AfroFrequency: Shaping Africa's Technology Future

65 Human Dignity in the Age of AI

67 Connecting Swiss Capital with Kenyan Opportunities

69 Kenya Signs the DCO Charter

71 TCS Sovereign Cloud Goes Live

THE RECORD

73 Continuing Technology Cooperation

EDITORIAL NOTE

September's Priorities

Technology cooperation should help Kenya's institutions serve the public.

September's technology engagements began with questions affecting everyday services and enterprise in Kenya. Educational institutions considered how to prepare for AI, while health actors examined how useful innovations could become part of routine care. Discussions on business systems and digital infrastructure addressed the conditions firms need to improve productivity and grow.

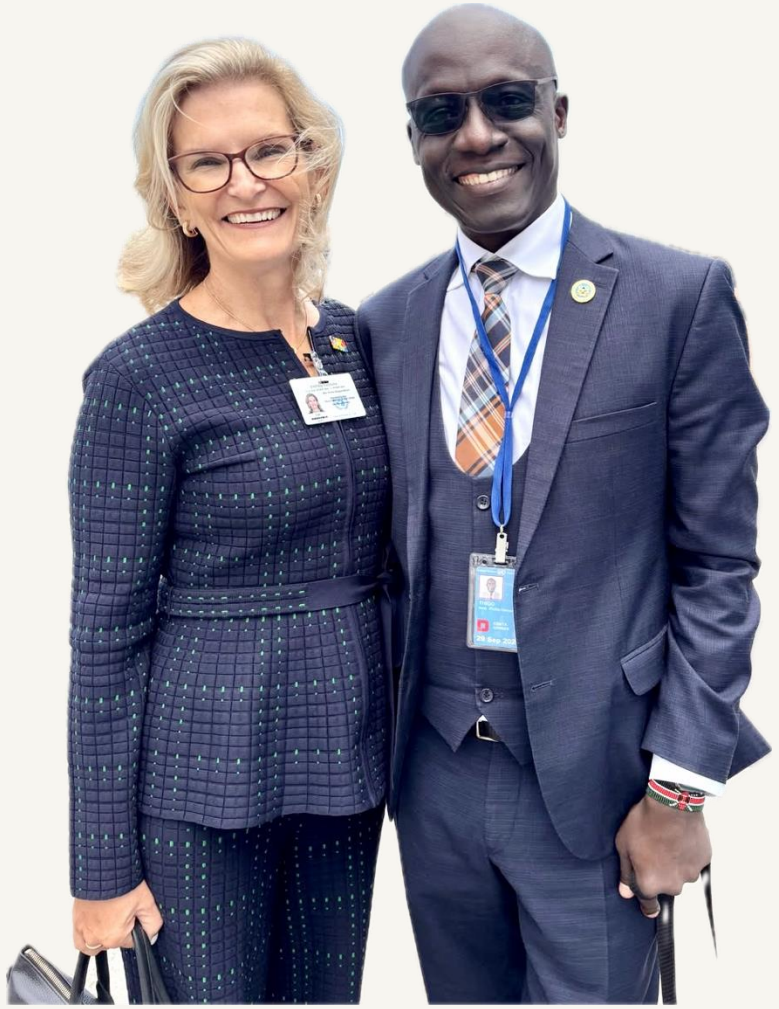
These priorities informed Kenya's program at the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Cooperation on advanced models and research connected with the expertise public institutions need to assess technology. Children's rights and independent evaluation linked international governance with the safeguards required by people using these systems.

The month produced agreements and infrastructure developments alongside discussions that require further work. Their contribution will emerge through implementation: stronger services, useful research and investment that supports productive activity within Kenya.

The articles explain the issues behind each engagement and the steps needed to realize those benefits.

This edition draws on the Office's September working record and expanded editorial manuscript, together with the programs and public statements reflected in those materials.



Doreen Bogdan-Martin, ITU Secretary-General with **Amb. Thigo** at the UN General Assembly



TECHNOLOGY, PUBLIC VALUE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Foreword

Building Kenya's capability and widening its choices in the Age of Intelligence.

September's work began with priorities close to people's lives: improving learning and care, helping businesses grow, expanding digital infrastructure and protecting public trust. We carried these priorities into our engagements in New York, where Kenya helped shape discussions on AI, investment and international cooperation. Our responsibility is to turn the access these relationships provide into capability and opportunity for Kenyans.

In education and health, we examined what makes technology useful in everyday practice. A teacher needs support that responds to the curriculum and the learners in the classroom. A health worker needs reliable information and tools that fit the care they provide.

Developing these applications requires collaboration with practitioners, research grounded in Kenyan conditions and evidence to guide their wider use. These requirements informed our exchanges with technology companies and partners working on public health, education and humanitarian services.

The investments and partnerships covered in this edition also expand the foundations on which Kenyan enterprises can build. Data centres, connectivity and cloud services provide capacity for developers, researchers and institutions to create and operate services. Connecting that capacity with skills, finance and demand opens opportunities in engineering, cybersecurity, research and business development. Technology diplomacy helps bring these elements together and secure partnerships through which Kenyan firms participate more fully in the economy being created.

At the United Nations General Assembly, President William Ruto and President Alexander Stubb of Finland convened the dialogue on AI and Middle Powers. Kenya advanced shared sovereignty through a practical understanding of our strengths and our interdependence.

Countries contribute different capabilities across energy, infrastructure, data, talent, research, and applications. Combining those strengths gives us greater influence over technology's development and more choice in how we use it.

Exercising that choice requires institutions able to assess the systems offered to them. Our discussions on independent evaluation, AI safety and environmental standards addressed how governments, researchers and industry can develop the evidence needed for sound decisions.

For Kenya, this work creates opportunities to build evaluation expertise, contribute knowledge from African languages and settings, and ensure that adoption responds to public needs.

Formal outcomes provide a basis for continuing work

- Kenya and Anthropic signed a Joint Declaration on responsible AI cooperation.
- Kenya and the Hoover Institution's Emerging Markets Working Group signed a five-year memorandum of understanding.
- Kenya signed the DCO Charter as a Signatory Member, with accession procedures continuing.
- TCS' sovereign cloud platform went live in Kenya.
- NIFC Africa and New Wind Ventures signed a cooperation agreement on investment pathways.
- Kenya co-chaired the launch of the Children's Rights and AI Coalition roadmap.

People must also be able to influence the changes affecting them. Engagements with the Women in AI Network, AfroFrequency, philanthropy and civil society connected technical development with leadership, journalism and public participation.

The launch of the child online safety roadmap reinforced our responsibility to protect children while enabling them to learn, communicate and participate safely.

The agreements and relationships developed during September give us avenues to carry this work forward. Their value will become clearer through the research undertaken, the skills developed, the investments realized, and the services improved.

This edition explains the opportunities we pursued and the work required to make them count for Kenya.



Amb. Philip Thigo, MBS
Special Envoy on Technology

FROM NAIROBI TO NEW YORK

September at a glance

6.4 MW
New data-centre capacity at Digital Realty NBO2, Nairobi

5 years
Kenya–Hoover Institution memorandum on foresight, AI and data governance

4
Co-chairs of the Children's Rights and AI roadmap: Kenya, France, Spain, Australia

~300
Leaders, ministers and researchers at AI Safety Connect, UN Headquarters

~500
Entrepreneurs, professionals and civic leaders at UAN Summit 3.0

1st
Central Bank of Kenya AI Conference, during CBK's 60th anniversary

INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES

21 Sep	Kenya–Hoover Institution five-year MoU
22 Sep	Children's Rights and AI Coalition roadmap launched
23 Sep	Kenya–Anthropic Joint Declaration
UNGA	NIFC Africa and New Wind Ventures agreement
28 Sep	Kenya signs the DCO Charter
28 Sep	TCS sovereign cloud live in Kenya

EXPERIENCE

Africa

PART I

At Home

Nairobi · 3–19 September 2026

The Nairobi program examined preparation for AI in education and health, the systems businesses need to grow, and the infrastructure and financing that support a digital economy. Regional data cooperation and public trust connected these opportunities with institutional responsibilities.

Pages 09–36





Ambassador Philip Thigo with Ford Foundation's **Helena Hofbauer Balmori, Margaret Mliwa and Roland Ebole** during their engagement on technology, democracy and human agency in Nairobi

LEADERSHIP **02 SEPTEMBER · NAIROBI**

Technology, Democracy and Human Agency

Reimagining the human agency, democracy and inequality in the age of acceleration and intelligence.

On 2 September, Ambassador Philip Thigo met Helena Hofbauer Balmori of the Ford Foundation at its Eastern Africa Regional Office in Nairobi. Coordinated by Regional Director Margaret Mliwa, the engagement explored how Kenya's digital transformation and AI agenda intersect with civic participation, open government and the foundation's work on governance.

The discussion drew on a shared interest in technology that gives people greater influence over public decisions. Ambassador Thigo's earlier work with Uchaguzi and the Budget Tracking Tool provides practical examples of that purpose: enabling citizens to report concerns, access information and scrutinize the use of public resources.

As AI enters government and the economy, this experience offers a basis for assessing whether new applications strengthen people's ability to understand decisions and hold institutions accountable.

The conversation covered information integrity, civic space, and open government in the age of AI. For Kenyans, these issues affect everyday participation—from finding reliable information about a public program to contributing to a policy discussion or questioning a decision that affects access to services.

Opportunities for government, philanthropy and civil society include supporting public understanding of AI, developing evidence on its effects and widening participation in how it is governed.

These domestic priorities also informed discussion of shared sovereignty and the role of middle powers. Kenya's participation in global technology governance creates an opportunity to bring African experience into decisions about how AI is developed, evaluated and used.

Stronger African research and institutions would give that participation a firmer foundation, connecting international deliberations with conditions in the countries adopting these technologies.

The meeting explored collaboration around African capacity, evidence and institutional development. It advanced a discussion of how technology diplomacy and civic engagement can support a common public purpose: helping people shape technological change and exercise meaningful influence over the institutions that serve them.





Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba & Amb. Thigo agree that FREI would give educational institutions a way to test whether AI improves learning, supports teachers, and widens access.

CAPABILITY 3 SEPTEMBER · NAIROBI

Preparing Kenya's Education System for AI

The Future Ready Education Initiative (FREI) connects AI preparation with teaching and learning

On 3 September, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology met Cabinet Secretary for Education Julius Migos Ogamba in Nairobi to discuss how artificial intelligence could support teaching, learning and education administration. The discussion formed part of work on the Future Ready Education Initiative (FREI), a proposed framework for preparing Kenya's education system for AI through collaboration among public institutions, educators, researchers, technology partners and communities.

FREI connects this preparation with everyday needs in schools: strengthening literacy and numeracy, reducing teachers' administrative workloads and widening access to learning materials. AI applications could help teachers prepare exercises for pupils progressing at different speeds and spend more time on teaching. Involving teachers in designing and testing these tools would help ensure they meet classroom needs.

Learners would also need skills to assess information and use AI responsibly. An AI-generated explanation can help a pupil understand a difficult concept, but copying an answer without understanding it can conceal a gap in learning. FREI's proposed approach therefore combines AI literacy with critical thinking and source verification, helping young people learn effectively and prepare for work and participation in society.

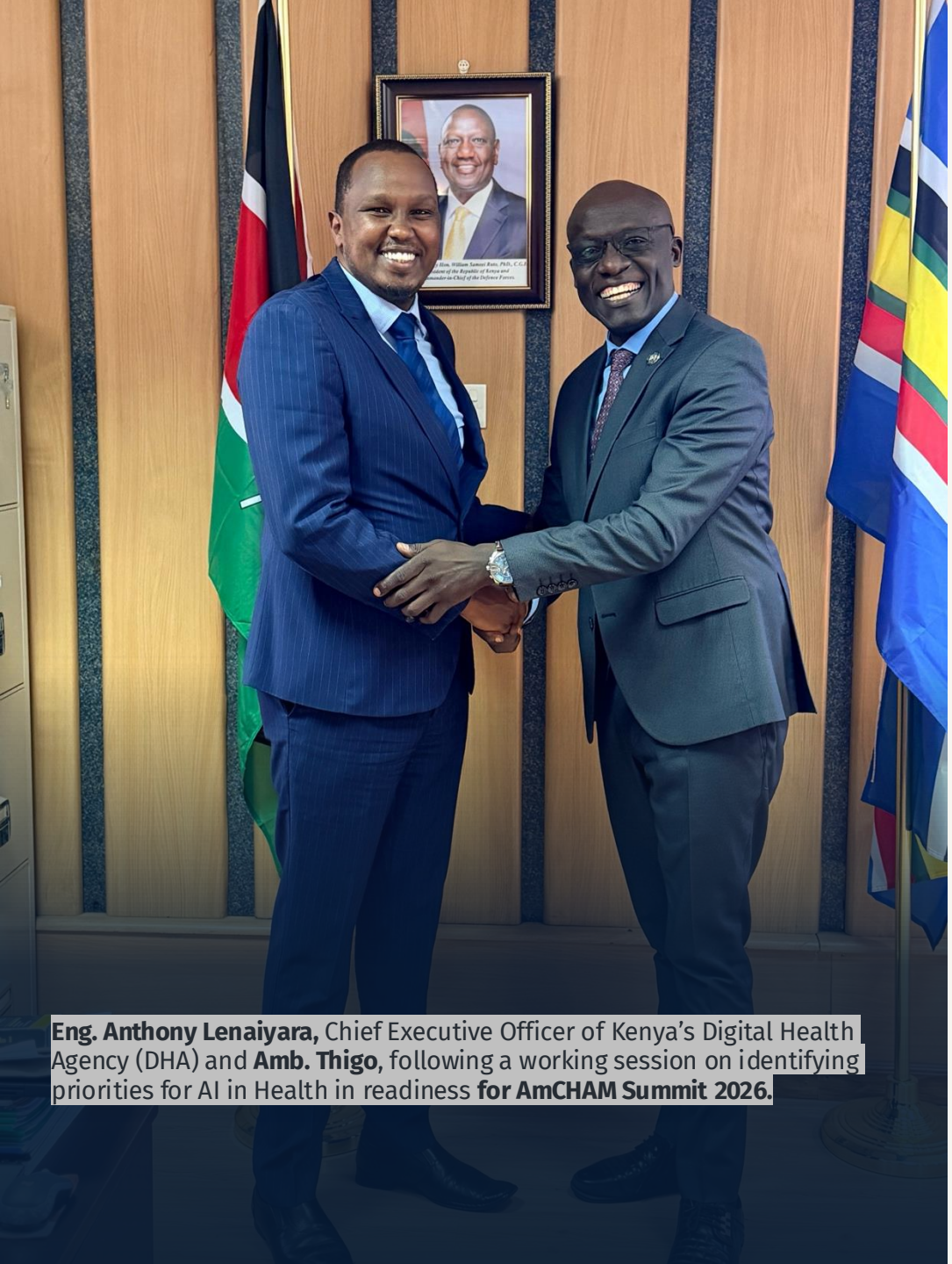
Access would depend on applications that serve Kenya's languages and different learning environments. Tools in Kiswahili and other Kenyan languages could reach more learners, while speech and text applications could support learners with disabilities. Kenyan educators, researchers, and developers would help adapt these tools to the curriculum, local knowledge, and cultural context, building expertise within the country.

FREI proposes supervised pilots to test these benefits in schools with different levels of connectivity, equipment and staffing. Alongside learning outcomes, the pilots would assess cost, accessibility, child safety and data protection. Schools would need evidence that responses are accurate and age-appropriate, clear rules on the information collected and accessible ways to report problems.



Tracy (FREI), CS Julius Ogamba, Amb. Thigo and Kate Idwasi (OSET) after the working session on Ai and Education.

The Ministry of Education's leadership would connect the proposed work with existing curriculum, teacher-development and digital-learning programs, supported by technology partners and independent evaluation. The September discussion explored this approach. Agreeing on pilot priorities, responsibilities and evaluation arrangements would allow evidence to guide decisions on which applications improve learning, support teachers and widen access.



Eng. Anthony Lenaiyara, Chief Executive Officer of Kenya's Digital Health Agency (DHA) and **Amb. Thigo**, following a working session on identifying priorities for AI in Health in readiness **for AmCHAM Summit 2026.**

HEALTH 3 SEPTEMBER · NAIROBI

Making Digital Health Work Across Kenya

Standards, evidence and reliable services would help useful innovations reach more patients

On 3 September, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology convened government, health, technology, and development actors in Nairobi to examine how AI and digital technologies could improve healthcare across Kenya. Participants considered community health, clinical decision support, and disease surveillance, along with the standards, certification, procurement, and infrastructure needed to move useful applications from pilots into routine care.

For patients, these technologies offer opportunities for more continuous care, earlier follow-up, and better access to services. When authorized health workers can securely exchange records between facilities, they can draw on a more complete patient history and reduce unnecessary repeat tests. Connecting applications with existing health systems would also give planners better information on service needs and resource allocation.

Health workers could use digital tools to identify people requiring follow-up, while forecasting applications could help facilities anticipate demand for medicines and supplies.

These benefits depend on tools that fit daily workflows, reliable access, and training, with clear responsibility for acting on the information. Involving health workers in development and testing would help establish whether an application improves care under actual working conditions.

For clinical decision support, testing in Kenyan settings would need to establish how accurately an AI system performs across different patients and facilities, where it makes errors and when its recommendations require additional scrutiny. Health professionals would retain responsibility for clinical decisions, supported by evidence they can assess and apply.

Patient confidentiality should also guide implementation. Institutions must establish who can access health information, where it can be processed, and how long it is retained. Clear safeguards would allow data to support care, research and planning while protecting patients and maintaining accountability.



Amb. Thigo, following the convening with the **US Embassy in Nairobi, Anthropic, CISCO, local start-ups, and DHA,** on how to best leverage best-of-class technology for the President's health Agenda.

Taking successful applications into routine use requires a sustainable route into service delivery. Certification can establish whether a technology meets defined requirements, while procurement should consider its contribution to care and the full cost of integration, maintenance and continuing support. Funding these needs alongside the initial purchase would help facilities sustain useful services.

Further work would need to identify priority applications and agree on the standards, evaluation, and procurement arrangements each requires. This would create opportunities for Kenyan health professionals, researchers and technology developers to build and assess services suited to local needs, helping more patients receive reliable care and making better use of health resources.



ENTERPRISE 3–4 SEPTEMBER · NAIROBI

Business Systems That Support Growth

Odoo Experience Africa examined the everyday technology behind enterprise productivity

Odoo Experience Africa brought the enterprise software ecosystem to Nairobi on 3–4 September, with more than 100 sessions organised around African business needs. The Special Envoy on Technology delivered Kenya's welcome address, linking the programme with the country's ambition to improve productivity and expand opportunities through digital technology.

For Kenyan businesses, enterprise software offers practical ways to connect sales, stock, accounts, payments and customer records. A retailer can track which products are selling and when to reorder, while a manufacturer can coordinate supplies, production and deliveries. Bringing this information together helps staff respond to customers, identify shortages and manage cash flow, reducing avoidable costs as the business grows.



Amb. Philip Thigo, MBS, Kenya's Special Envoy on Technology, **and H.E. Tom Neijens,** Belgium's Ambassador to Kenya, were chief guests at Odoo Experience Africa.

Reliable business records also support expansion. Clear accounts and transaction histories help owners understand performance and present their businesses to potential lenders and investors. The same information also underpins AI applications that forecast demand or support customer service, linking the adoption of advanced technology to improvements in everyday operations.

The Nairobi program also offered opportunities for Kenyan developers, accountants and technology service providers. Adapting enterprise software to local payment practices, tax requirements, and sector needs creates work in software development, implementation, training, and ongoing support. Building this expertise locally would give businesses access to partners who understand their operating environment and can help them use technology effectively.

For smaller enterprises, affordability and ease of use will influence whether these opportunities translate into growth.

Odoo Experience Africa provided a setting for businesses and technology providers to explore these possibilities. Its relevance to Kenya lies in the opportunity to strengthen local enterprise: helping firms serve customers better, manage resources more effectively and develop the capacity to compete in wider markets.



CAPITAL 7–11 SEPTEMBER · NAIROBI

Financing Africa's Technology and Infrastructure

Africa Capital Week on the savings & investment nexus

The inaugural Africa Capital Week convened in Nairobi on 7–11 September under the theme "Deepening Capital Markets to Advance Africa's Economic Sovereignty." It examined how African savings, investors and enterprises could connect more effectively, with the ambition of establishing a continuing continental platform.

The financing question has direct consequences for Kenya's technology plans. Data centers and energy systems require investment over many years, while research institutions and growing firms need funding that can support development beyond an initial demonstration.

Africa has businesses and infrastructure opportunities alongside pools of savings, yet moving capital between them can be difficult. Investors need credible information about projects and counterparties, and businesses need a route to suitable financing. Fragmented markets and inconsistent rules add cost to transactions across borders, limiting the range of investments that institutions can consider.

The Nairobi Declaration

An annual continental platform
A proposed African Securities Regulators Association
Implementation tracking twice a year
Stronger links between savings and productive investment

For Kenya, project preparation is part of that work. Building additional computing capacity requires a project with a credible energy supply, permits, and a revenue model. Investors must understand who bears construction and operating risks and how demand will develop. Preparing these details makes it easier to assess a project and compare the available financing options.



Local and regional capital can complement international investment while broadening ownership participation. When African institutions have the capacity to finance strategic infrastructure, they can take a greater role in decisions about how it develops. This depends on sound investment analysis and oversight, especially where institutions manage public savings entrusted to them.

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Dr. Musalia Mudavadi highlighted the connection between ambition and financing in opening the forum. The issue extends from large infrastructure to technology enterprises seeking growth capital. Different investments need different instruments and time horizons, and financial systems must support both.

The Declaration provides a basis for further cooperation, not evidence that the financing gaps have closed. Its contribution would become visible as more credible projects reach investors and more African enterprises gain access to suitable capital. For the public, the value would lie in the productive capacity, services, and employment those investments support.



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs **Frank Garcia;** Principal Secretaries **Eng. John Kipchumba Tanui and Stephen Isaboke; Wanja Muriithi,** Digital Realty's Country General Manager for Kenya**; and Amb. Philip Thigo, MBS,** formally launch **Digital Realty's Nairobi Two Data Centre (NBO2),** formerly under the iColo brand, on 7 September 2026.

INFRASTRUCTURE **7–10 SEPTEMBER · NAIROBI**

Expanding Kenya's Digital Infrastructure

NBO2, ITW Africa and Datacloud Africa connected computing capacity with energy and investment

On 7 September, Ambassador Philip Thigo joined the official opening of Digital Realty's Nairobi Two data centre, NBO2, in Karen. The facility adds 6.4 megawatts of capacity alongside Nairobi One and marks iColo's transition to the Digital Realty brand in Kenya and Mozambique. His remarks connected the investment with Kenya's technology diplomacy and ambition to build domestic capability for the Age of Intelligence.

Senior participants included U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Frank Garcia; Eng. John Tanui, Principal Secretary for ICT and the Digital Economy; Stephen Isaboke, Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications; and U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Susan M. Burns. Digital Realty's leadership included Marcel Louw, Managing Director for Africa, and Wanja Muriithi, Country General Manager for Kenya. Their participation brought together the public institutions, international partners and company leadership supporting the investment.

6.4 MW	**34.5MW**	**2**	**1**
new capacity at NBO2	Total national capacity	internet exchange points	satellite teleport

The Nairobi campus connects customers with more than 100 networks, two internet exchange points, and a satellite teleport.

Enterprises, cloud providers and network operators can exchange traffic and connect with customers and partners through this concentration of infrastructure. Satellite connectivity provides an additional route to locations where terrestrial networks are limited, extending the campus's relevance beyond Nairobi.

For Kenya, additional domestic hosting capacity gives institutions more options to run applications closer to the people using them. Shorter distances between users and servers can improve response times for digital payments, business software, and public services. Local hosting also gives organizations more control over where sensitive information is stored and processed, along with the safeguards required for its use.

These advantages also matter across East Africa. Digital Realty's global platform connects the Nairobi campus with wider communities of carriers, cloud providers and enterprises. This strengthens Nairobi's position as a base from which companies can serve regional markets, bringing more of the infrastructure supporting cross-border digital services into the region.

For Kenyan technology firms, the opportunity extends to developing, integrating and supporting services for customers beyond Kenya.

Realizing that opportunity requires customers, expertise, and capacity. Banks, hospitals, universities and public institutions need hosting arrangements suited to their reliability, security and data-handling requirements. NBO2 therefore strengthens Kenya's ability to host and support a larger share of its digital economy.







DIPLOMACY 8 SEPTEMBER · NAIROBI

Connecting UK Investment with Kenya's AI Priorities

linking infrastructure investment with the enterprises and public services.

On 8 September, Ambassador Philip Thigo delivered remarks at the UK–Kenya Digital Infrastructure Event in Nairobi, convened by iXAfrica and British High Commissioner Matt Baugh OBE. He linked infrastructure investment to the Kenya–UK Strategic Partnership, particularly its commitments on artificial intelligence, innovation, and digital enterprise.

The partnership aims to support over 50 locally led AI use cases and strengthen governance for AI ethics and data protection. Its delivery matrix assigns joint responsibility to the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy and the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology. The Office's contribution therefore connects international cooperation with applications developed around Kenyan needs.



Ambassador Thigo drew on iXAfrica's experience in developing hyperscale infrastructure and the Oracle Cloud Region hosted at its Nairobi campus. Such investments bring computing services closer to Kenyan institutions and enterprises, while making the requirements for energy, connectivity, security and procurement concrete. Locally led AI applications require access to these services, technical expertise and evidence of their usefulness.

His address proposed a national workload study to identify demand across government and industry. Establishing which applications institutions intend to run, their capacity requirements and the timing of adoption would help investors plan expansion and institutions prepare for implementation. Procurement sandboxes offer a route to test suitable services before making longer commitments.

The partnership creates opportunities for Kenyan developers, universities and enterprises to work with UK counterparts on application development, research, evaluation and technical support. Their participation connects investment in facilities with expertise and businesses within Kenya. Regional interoperability also gives locally developed services a broader reach into neighboring markets.





DIPLOMACY 8 SEPTEMBER · NAIROBI

Digital Capacity, Infrastructure & Productivity

Linking infrastructure investment with the enterprises and public services.

During the ITW Africa and Datacloud Africa program in Nairobi, Ambassador Philip Thigo contributed to three engagements: the Digital Infrastructure Leaders Summit at Hemingways on 7 September, the Ministerial Keynote Panel, and the ITW closing keynote on 8 September. He presented an agenda for connecting infrastructure investment with productive enterprises, public services and African innovation.

At the ministerial panel, he joined Niger's Minister of Communication and New Information Technologies, Hon. Adji Ali Salatou; African Union Commission Director of ICT Magalie Anderson; and United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kenya Garry Conille. International Data Center Authority Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mehdi Paryavi chaired the session. The discussion brought national policy, continental coordination, and development priorities into the infrastructure investment conversation.

Datacloud Africa, held alongside ITW Africa at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Nairobi Upper Hill, brought the infrastructure investment agenda into focus. Its Leadership Forum, led by the International Data Center Authority, was designed to connect countries' priorities and enabling policies with global operators, investors, financiers, and energy providers. This provided a space to share our digital ambitions, renewable energy, connectivity, and regional market opportunities with investors.

Ambassador Thigo's keynote, *"Capacity to Productivity: Investing in Africa's Infrastructure for the Age of Intelligence,"* examined shifting investment economics. Cables and data centers take years to develop, while AI applications and their computing requirements change much faster. Understanding this trend is therefore essential to planning capacity and financing expansion.



01 Proposal: a joint workload study with ITW and its members

MAP 1 · DEMAND
Across sectors and markets

→

MAP 2 · ELECTRICITY
The power required to serve that demand

→

MAP 3 · INVESTMENT
Locations and sequencing of viable investments

Public services, finance, health, education, small businesses, universities and local content all form part of that demand. Bringing them into a common assessment would help investors and public institutions plan from a clearer evidence base.

02 Regional power, fiber, and data centers

The address proposed regional planning for power, fiber, and data centers, supported by interoperable rules and shared infrastructure. Aggregating demand across neighboring markets creates scale, while each country develops the capabilities it can sustain and retains authority over strategic functions.

03 Mobilizing local and patient capital

Financing this growth requires a wider range of partners and instruments. Ambassador Thigo outlined roles for pension and sovereign funds, local-currency financing, shared ownership and public capital to reduce early investment risks.



WHO NEEDS TO BE AT THE TABLE, ALONGSIDE TECHNOLOGY MINISTRIES AND REGULATORS

Finance | Planning | Energy | Land | Tax authorities | National statistical offices

For Kenya, the opportunity is to connect infrastructure expansion with investment in the firms and institutions that use it. Developers, researchers and service providers create applications and expertise that drive demand for more capacity.

Supporting that cycle links infrastructure investment with stronger public services, productive businesses and a greater share of economic value retained locally.



Dr. Jane Munga (PhD), Carnegie Africa Program, and **Amb. Philip Thigo, MBS,** moderate the session on Kenya- US Technological Cooperation. **Eng. John Tanui,** PS for Digital Economy, was also in attendance.

PARTNERSHIPS **9 SEPTEMBER · AMCHAM SUMMIT**

Kenya–US Technology Cooperation

The AmCham roundtable considered a more structured partnership across the technology sector

On 9 September, the American Tech Stack Roundtable at the AmCham Business Summit brought together business, government and development partners at the Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club in Nairobi to identify opportunities for Kenya–U.S. technology cooperation. **Ambassador Philip Thigo moderated the session together with Ms. Pressy Akinyi of AmCham and Dr. Jane Munga of Carnegie's Africa Program**.

The roundtable identified areas for AmCham and U.S. companies to pursue, including AI infrastructure, policy and standards, public-sector applications and agricultural technology. These opportunities connect American technology and investment with Kenya's demand for better services, stronger enterprises and locally developed solutions.

The discussion placed these opportunities within a coherent framework spanning computing hardware, cloud services, enterprise software, cybersecurity and AI. Investment across these areas needs to connect with financing, skills, and local implementation partners so Kenyan institutions and businesses can use and sustain the technology they acquire.

THE ROUNDTABLE

"Advancing Kenya's Digital Transformation through America's Technology, Strategic Partnership and Local Capability"

Amb. Philip Thigo
Moderator

Mark Mitchell
U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Africa

Heather Lanigan
Regional Director, Africa and the Middle East, USTDA

Eng. John Tanui
Principal Secretary for ICT and Digital Economy

Jane Munga
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace



For Kenyan firms, the opportunities include developing locally adapted services, joining technology supply chains, and reaching wider markets. Public services and agriculture offer areas for collaboration, connecting Kenyan needs with American technology, commercial expertise and development finance.

Carnegie's proposed **"technology prosperity deal,"** presented by Dr. Jane Munga, offered a framework for organizing these opportunities around defined priorities and responsibilities. The roundtable gave AmCham and participating companies practical areas to pursue through project preparation, partnerships, and financing, with better services, stronger local enterprises, and Kenyan expertise as the intended benefits.

FOUR PRACTICAL AREAS STOOD OUT IN THE ROUNDTABLE

AI infrastructure

Cooperation could connect U.S. technology and capital with Kenya's renewable energy, regional networks and workforce. Projects would need credible operating and financing plans.

Policy and standards

Predictable standards help institutions assess proposals and firms plan investment. They also need to protect privacy, competition and the public interest.

Public-sector applications

Public bodies need to define service problems and compare solutions. Procurement should address data protection, accountability and the ability to change providers.

Agricultural technology

Applications need to reflect farmers' languages, working practices and connectivity. Testing should establish whether advice is useful under local conditions.

A proposed working group could identify priorities and follow cooperation through to implementation. Its remit and responsibilities would need agreement, with projects assessed against the needs they address and the results they produce.

Kenyan institutions and firms need opportunities to develop expertise through that work. Training and local participation can help them adapt systems and manage their responsibilities as adoption expands.

The roundtable advanced discussion of a more structured relationship. Further agreement would need to turn the proposition into activities that expand investment and access while strengthening Kenya's capacity to assess and govern technology.



John Walubengo, Deputy Data Commissioner, and technology industry leaders, such as **META, CISCO, ORACLE, and Microsoft,** engaged on the possibility of cross-border data flows under a concept of **Shared Sovereignty** championed by **President Ruto, in the AI Middle Powers,** as articulated by **Amb. Philip Thigo, MBS,** during the session.

DATA **10 SEPTEMBER · AMCHAM SUMMIT**

Trusted Data Flows Across East Africa

Regional cooperation could make digital trade easier while preserving accountability

The East African Community Cross-Border Data Flows Forum took place on 10 September during the AmCham Business Summit. The Office delivered the keynote “The Regional Opportunity,” examining how trusted data arrangements could support trade and services across East Africa.

A payment, shipment or digital service may involve institutions in several countries. When their data requirements are difficult to reconcile, businesses face additional cost and uncertainty.

Cooperation on compatible safeguards could make regional activity easier while protecting the people whose information supports it.

Strict localisation
Every category of data held locally

Different kinds of information require different treatment. A patient's record carries risks that differ from those attached to public statistics or routine commercial data. Countries need arrangements that recognize these distinctions and specify when information may move, under what safeguards, and with which institutions remaining accountable. Some categories may require strong residency controls, while other uses can operate through trusted cross-border arrangements.

Compatibility matters where organizations put rules into practice. A business expanding into another East African market needs to understand its obligations, and regulators need ways to cooperate when an incident involves several jurisdictions.

Alignment on privacy, security, and lawful access could reduce duplication while preserving the ability to investigate misuse and provide remedies.

Trusted movement

Rules matched to sensitivity and purpose

For users, trust depends on knowing that a service remains accountable as their information moves. Clear responsibilities should follow the data across participating institutions.

Regional arrangements need to explain how people can raise concerns and how authorities will respond, so convenience does not come at the expense of protection.

Regional scale can also influence infrastructure investment. Firms considering cloud facilities or financial platforms assess how easily they can serve customers in neighboring markets.

Predictable data arrangements can expand the market a project can reach, making East Africa a more practical base for regional services and offering Kenyan firms additional opportunities to grow.

Unrestricted flows
No distinction by risk

Research and AI introduce further reasons for cooperation. Diverse data can improve analysis, but access needs a lawful purpose and safeguards matched to the information involved.

Countries can share expertise in evaluation and privacy-protecting technologies, helping institutions learn from regional experience while retaining responsibility for their own decisions.

The forum explored these policy choices within an economic cooperation agenda. Further work would need to translate common principles into legal and technical arrangements that institutions can use.

The public benefit would be services that operate more smoothly across East Africa, supported by clear protections and regulators able to cooperate when problems cross borders.

FINANCE 10 SEPTEMBER · PIEA, NAIROBI

Powering the Intelligent Age

Connecting energy investment with digital growth and a more efficient petroleum sector.

On 10 September, Ambassador Philip Thigo delivered the keynote at the Petroleum Institute of East Africa's Q3 2026 State of the Oil Industry Briefing at the Serena Hotel in Nairobi. Supported by Stanbic Bank Kenya, the briefing explored digitalization and the relationship between energy, technology and Kenya's economic growth.

The keynote connected the infrastructure behind AI with the productive activities Kenya seeks to develop. Data centres require electricity for computing, networking and cooling, while cloud services and advanced manufacturing introduce additional demand. Kenya's ambition to expand generation to 10,000 MW therefore calls for planning around the location, scale, and timing of future industrial, agricultural, transport, and digital activity.

Investors assess reliable power, connection timelines, costs and capacity for expansion alongside land and connectivity. A clearer picture of demand across public services, banks, telecommunications and enterprises would help guide infrastructure investment. The address also proposed assessing regional demand across East Africa, giving investors a stronger basis for developing facilities that serve a wider market.



In the petroleum sector, digitalization offers immediate opportunities across the journey from imports and storage to transport and retail. Better information on stocks, deliveries, payments, and quality helps operators plan replenishment, reduce losses, and manage working capital. For consumers and businesses that depend on fuel, the public value lies in more dependable supply and stronger oversight of product quality and safety.

These gains depend on information moving securely between companies, transporters, financial institutions and regulators. Common standards can reduce repeated reporting and improve market visibility. As these systems become connected, cybersecurity and the ability to recover from disruption become part of maintaining physical operations.

The address outlined leadership AI literacy and preparedness assessments as practical starting points for identifying useful applications, skills gaps and security requirements. Alongside investment in generation and computing, these capabilities create opportunities for Kenyan firms in engineering, software, cooling, cybersecurity and maintenance.





Rob Burnet of Well Told Stories articulating a study on the nexus between technology, new media, democracy and youth in the age of intelligence, lack of trust and options for renewal

INFORMATION SEPTEMBER · NAIROBI

Trust and Public Information in the Age of AI

The Media and Technology Roundtable examined verification, platform accountability and local languages

In September, the Office co-convened a Media and Technology Roundtable ahead of the Trust Summit, bringing together media, technology, government, research and civil society representatives. Participants examined how AI is changing the production and circulation of information, and opportunities to strengthen public trust.

Shujaaz's Gen Z research, Reclaiming Tomorrow, provides a Kenyan context for this work. It describes young people increasingly engaged in governance, with differing priorities around livelihoods, public services and accountability. These findings offer media and public institutions a basis for understanding their audiences and explaining decisions in ways that respond to people's concerns.

Ai tools make convincing text, images and audio easier to produce, while digital platforms influence what reaches audiences. For citizens making decisions about health, public services or civic participation, both the accuracy of information and the way it is distributed matter.



Emmaculate Kassait, Data Commissioner



Viola Ocholla of Ombudsman, **Dr. Sally Radwan,** UNEP **& Shain RAHIM,** Country Manager, CISCO

The roundtable explored tools that trace where content originated and whether it was altered. These can help journalists investigate claims and identify manipulated material, alongside the editorial judgment needed to establish what an image depicts or whether a claim is accurate. Public literacy strengthens this work by helping audiences assess sources and recognize material shared without its original context.

Participants also considered ways to communicate verified information during crises and greater transparency about how platforms recommend content. Timely information from accountable sources helps people make decisions when uncertainty is high, while clearer explanations of distribution systems support scrutiny.

Evaluation in African languages and contexts offers opportunities for Kenyan researchers, media organizations, and technology developers to identify gaps that broader assessments may miss. Collaboration across these areas can strengthen verification in the languages people use every day and give citizens better information for participating in public life.



Dr. Julie Gichuru, Global Trust Summit Moderator.



FINANCE 16 SEPTEMBER · CBK, NAIROBI

Building Trust in Financial AI

CBK's first AI Conference examined the capability financial institutions and regulators need

On 16 September, the Central Bank of Kenya held its first dedicated AI Conference during the Bank's 60th anniversary celebrations. The theme, "Trusted Artificial Intelligence in Central Banking Practice," brought central banks, commercial banks, regulators, researchers, and AI experts together to examine adoption and oversight.

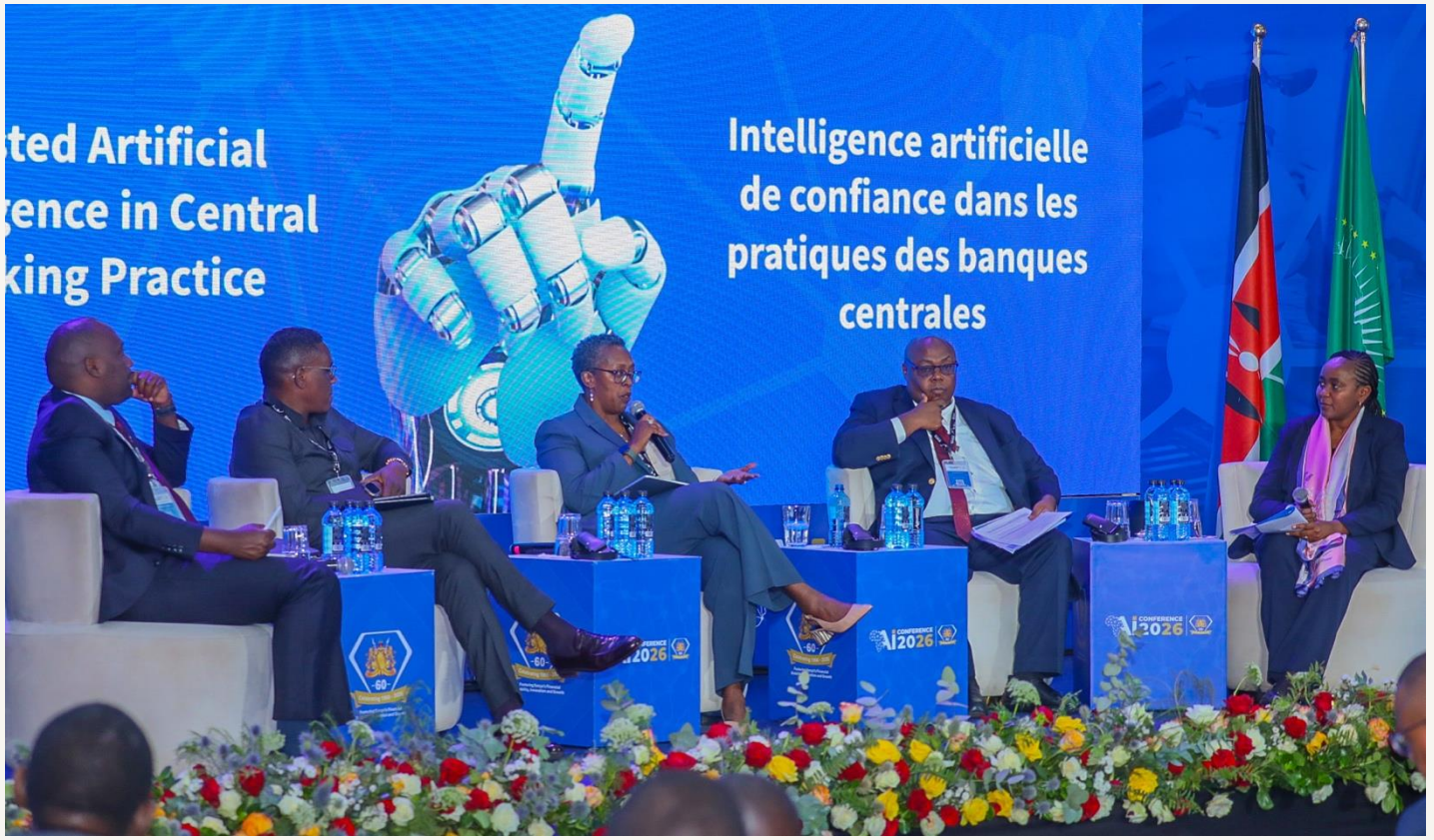
Financial institutions use AI in areas including fraud detection, credit analysis, and customer service. As these applications become more influential, institutions need evidence about their behavior and clear responsibility for decisions that affect customers.

For a customer, trust includes being able to understand and challenge a decision about access to a financial service. A model may identify patterns accurately on average yet perform poorly for particular groups or circumstances. Institutions need to examine those differences before relying on its recommendations, and keep a route through which people can seek review when an error affects them.

Kenya's financial environment makes local testing important. Mobile money and informal economic activity generate information that may differ from the data used to develop a system elsewhere. A borrower with a limited formal credit history may also be difficult for a model to assess. Evaluation should establish whether an application handles these circumstances appropriately and whether its assumptions create unfair barriers.

The required evidence should reflect the consequences of use. A tool that supports internal research carries different risks than one that influences credit decisions or a fraud investigation. Financial supervisors need enough understanding of model design and monitoring to assess these distinctions, ask informed questions and identify when independent testing is necessary.

Data governance forms part of that oversight. Banks need to know what customer information an application uses, where processing occurs and whether an external provider can access or retain it. Clear controls help institutions meet their responsibilities as systems enter existing workflows. Continuing monitoring is also needed because performance may change as customers and market conditions change



AI can create new threats while also supporting detection. Convincing impersonation and automated scams place additional demands on institutions protecting customers. Coordination between financial institutions and regulators can help identify emerging patterns, while staff need procedures to check unusual requests and respond to incidents.

Central banks can use AI to support analysis, research and supervision, with accountable officials reviewing consequential findings. ■

PART II

UNGA81

New York · 20–28 September 2026

From Nairobi to New York

Taking Kenya's domestic technology priorities into UNGA81

Kenya's priorities informed cooperation at UNGA81.

Kenya's delegation arrived in New York with priorities shaped by the Nairobi engagements. Education and health institutions needed useful, evidence-based applications, while businesses needed infrastructure and financing to improve productivity and expand services.

These questions extended across borders at UNGA81. Governments considered how to assess models developed elsewhere, protect children using international platforms, and secure access to computing and research. Kenya's program connected these debates with its domestic institutions and development priorities.

International cooperation can expand access to technology and expertise, while national capability helps countries determine how to use them. Researchers need the means to contribute evidence, and public institutions need the knowledge to apply agreed safeguards in local settings.

The month's program combined governance discussions with agreements on research and responsible AI, investment cooperation, and additional cloud capacity. Some outcomes established formal frameworks, while other engagements explored proposals requiring further work. Their contribution will depend on implementation that responds to Kenyan priorities and builds expertise within the country.



H.E (DR.) President William Ruto, CGH, co-chairs the AI Middle Powers: Shared Sovereignty Roundtable at UNGA81.

COVER STORY 21 SEPTEMBER · UN HQ

AI Middle Powers and Shared Sovereignty

Kenya and Finland examined how cooperation can widen national choices in AI

President William Samoei Ruto and President Alexander Stubb of Finland co-chaired “AI Middle Powers: Shared Sovereignty in the AI Era” at United Nations Headquarters on 21 September. The dialogue examined how countries can retain the ability to make consequential technology decisions while participating in international systems of computing, models and standards.

The issue is practical for Kenya. Access to global technology supports public services and enterprise, while the terms of that access influence costs, continuity and the country’s ability to govern systems used by its institutions.

The convening brought together ministers and senior representatives from middle powers, international organizations, technology companies, philanthropy and research. It built on Kenya–Finland discussions at the Kultaranta Talks, the G7 and other engagements.

It built on Kenya–Finland discussions at the Kultaranta Talks, the G7 and other engagements. These relationships provided a basis for considering cooperation among countries with substantial markets and diplomatic influence but limited control over the full AI supply chain.

Shared sovereignty links cooperation to the ability to make informed national choices. A government needs to understand its dependencies, assess alternatives and determine which functions require particular protection.

Sensitive public data and critical infrastructure may need tighter controls, while shared research or computing arrangements can offer advantages where individual countries face constraints.



The distinction also applies to public procurement. Institutions need independent advice about a system's performance and the consequences of adopting it. They should understand how they could change providers, maintain service during disruption and investigate errors. Building this expertise gives countries a stronger basis for negotiating access and holding providers accountable.

Where national control is essential

Sensitive information and critical infrastructure need safeguards, independent technical advice and procurement that preserves viable alternatives.

Where cooperation creates scale

Shared computing and evaluation can pool expertise, while common standards reduce duplication.

Cooperation can extend that capability. Shared evaluation networks would allow scarce specialists to test systems across participating countries, while regional computing arrangements could expand access to infrastructure. Common standards and coordinated procurement may reduce duplication and improve bargaining power.
Each mechanism would need agreed governance, financing and clear responsibilities to deliver those benefits.

Language affects the choices people can exercise within these systems. An application that performs poorly in a local language can undermine the quality of public services or the information people receive. Multilingual research and testing would help countries identify these gaps and contribute evidence to international standards.

Those standards influence documentation, interoperability and market access. Countries need the expertise to participate while rules are being developed, so their circumstances can inform the requirements. Diplomatic coordination can help middle powers bring technical evidence and shared concerns into forums where individual countries may have limited influence.

THE MINE-TO-MODEL VALUE CHAIN

ONE END
Minerals · Energy

LINKING THE LAYERS
Compute · Capital · Data · Talent

THE OTHER END
Models · Applications · Standards

The dialogue examined the AI value chain, linking minerals and energy with computing, capital, data and talent, through to models, applications and standards. This “mine-to-model” approach is relevant to Africa’s contribution to global technology and the opportunities to create more value within the continent.

A country contributing resources or data can still capture a limited share of the resulting intellectual property and income. Building research, infrastructure and viable enterprises would help African economies participate across more of the chain. Cooperation should therefore be assessed partly by the capability and productive opportunities it creates locally.

President Julius Maada Bio of Sierra Leone raised the idea of data embassies: arrangements to protect strategic digital assets across jurisdictions while preserving national authority.

The proposal shows how countries can cooperate on resilience, with governance and legal arrangements defining responsibilities.

For Kenya, participation in international technology markets provides opportunities to access investment and expertise. Stronger domestic institutions help determine how those relationships develop. Researchers and public bodies need the knowledge to evaluate proposed systems and the authority to specify the conditions under which they operate.

The dialogue explored these choices rather than establishing every mechanism required for implementation. Further work would need to identify feasible arrangements for evaluation, computing access and multilingual research, with partners agreeing priorities and resources.

Practical cooperation on these areas could give countries more options and a stronger agency in international governance. Its public value would emerge through services that work in local settings and institutions that can make informed decisions about the technology. ■





VALUE 21 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

Creating More Value in Africa's Digital Economy

Unstoppable Africa connected technology adoption with local enterprise and ownership

At Unstoppable Africa 2026 in New York on 21 September, Ambassador Philip Thigo moderated "The Future: Building Digital Africa's Value Change-Makers." Convened by the Global Africa Business Initiative, the panel examined how African economies could capture more value as digital services expand.

User growth creates opportunities, but where companies develop products, raise capital and own intellectual property influences where the resulting income and expertise accumulate. The discussion connected these choices with the conditions African firms need to build and scale.

The panel brought together Dr. David Moinina Sengeh of Sierra Leone, Flutterwave Chief Executive Olugbenga Agboola, Microsoft President of Global Affairs Lisa Monaco and NVIDIA's Fatima Tambajang. Their perspectives linked public policy with financial platforms and the infrastructure supporting AI development.

ON THE PANEL

Dr. David Moinina Sengeh
Chief Minister and Chief Innovation Officer, Sierra Leone

Olugbenga Agboola
Chief Executive Officer, Flutterwave

Lisa Monaco
President of Global Affairs, Microsoft

Fatima Tambajang
Head of AI Ecosystem and Strategic Partnerships, Emerging Markets, NVIDIA



Data generated through commerce, payments, and public services can help developers understand local needs. Using it requires accountable governance, including clear rules on access and intended benefits. African research institutions and firms need opportunities to develop products from that knowledge, so the continent's contribution to global systems also builds local expertise and enterprise.

Access to infrastructure is an issue. A developer needs affordable computing and tools to move an application from a prototype into a reliable service. Investment in local infrastructure and procurement opportunities provide the demand needed to sustain a business.

Growth capital presents a related challenge. A firm may establish demand for its product yet struggle to finance expansion across markets. Deeper African financial markets could complement international investment and give founders more options over ownership and growth. Compatible regional rules can also reduce the cost of serving customers beyond a single national market.



Prime Cabinet Secretary, **H.E. Hon. (Dr.) Musalia Mudavadi and Amb. Jendayi Fraizer** of the Hoover Institute at Stanford University sign instruments of collaboration.

AGREEMENT 21 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

Building Strategic Foresight in Public Institutions

A five-year Kenya–Hoover framework connects policy research with preparation for change

On 21 September, the Government of Kenya and the Emerging Markets Working Group at Stanford University's Hoover Institution signed a five-year memorandum of understanding. The framework covers digital transformation, AI and data governance, alongside policy research, innovation and institutional capacity.

Strategic foresight offers one way to apply this cooperation. It helps institutions examine plausible changes and test the assumptions behind long-term decisions, so they can prepare while options remain available.

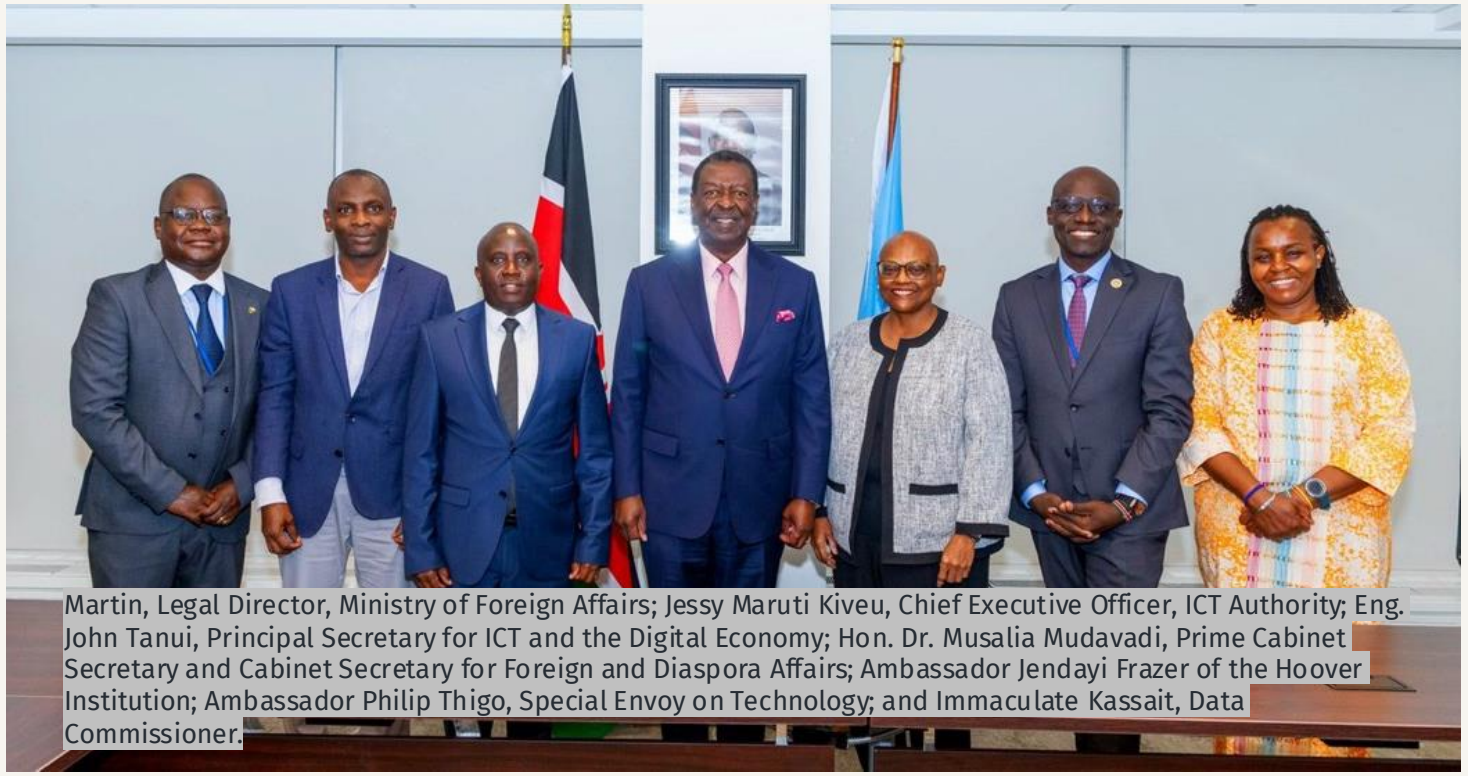
An infrastructure or skills decision may have consequences for many years, during which technology and markets can change substantially. Foresight develops several plausible scenarios and examines how a policy would perform under each. This can reveal weaknesses in a plan and identify conditions that officials should monitor as implementation proceeds.

THE FRAMEWORK COVERS Digital transformation | Artificial intelligence | Data governance | Policy research | Innovation | Inst. capacity

A decision about infrastructure or skills may have consequences over many years, during which technology and markets can change substantially. Foresight develops several plausible scenarios and examines how a policy would perform under each. This can reveal weaknesses in a plan and identify conditions that officials should monitor as implementation proceeds.

Access to computing hardware illustrates the value of this approach. Changes in international supply or export arrangements could alter costs and availability for an infrastructure project. Examining such possibilities early can help institutions consider alternatives and avoid treating current conditions as permanent. Similar work can support preparation for changes in employment, climate pressures or public services.

The partnership connects Kenyan institutions with international research networks. Combining comparative research with Kenya's development priorities would help ensure that joint work addresses decisions public institutions actually face. Local expertise is essential to interpret evidence and understand the constraints officials operate.



Martin, Legal Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Jessy Maruti Kiveu, Chief Executive Officer, ICT Authority; Eng. John Tanui, Principal Secretary for ICT and the Digital Economy; Hon. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs; Ambassador Jendayi Frazer of the Hoover Institution; Ambassador Philip Thigo, Special Envoy on Technology; and Immaculate Kassait, Data Commissioner.

The five-year framework provides time to develop research relationships and institutional routines. Specific activities would still need agreed priorities, responsibilities and resources. Training has lasting value when officials can apply it to their work and when methods become part of how institutions prepare decisions.

The memorandum established a basis for this cooperation. Its contribution would be assessed through the capacity Kenyan institutions develop to identify emerging changes, examine options and use evidence in planning. For citizens, better preparation can improve the use of public resources and reduce the disruption caused by decisions that overlook foreseeable changes.



VALUE 21 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

AI, Competition and Shared Sovereignty

Building the capability to choose partners and capture value from AI.

On 22 September, Ambassador Philip Thigo joined a discussion at the **World Economic Forum's** Sustainable Development Impact Meetings in New York alongside **Sarah B. Rogers, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs**, and government and industry leaders. The exchange addressed the choices countries face as AI becomes part of their economic infrastructure, including the importance of competition and access to different technology partners.
Thigo connected these choices with Africa's capacity to develop and benefit from technology. His contribution highlighted access to computing power, data and skills, together with investment in local research and applications. These capabilities determine whether businesses and institutions can adapt technology to their priorities and retain more of the value it creates.

Competition has practical consequences for this work. An institution comparing providers can assess cost, performance, data arrangements, and continuing support against its needs. Its bargaining position becomes stronger when it has credible alternatives and the expertise to evaluate them.

For Kenyan developers, a wider choice of platforms also expands the tools available to build services and reach customers.

Thigo's proposition on shared sovereignty connected national capability with international cooperation. Countries depend on one another across chips, energy, computing, research and markets. Trusted partnerships can expand access to these resources while preserving the ability to make informed decisions about their use.

For Kenya, the opportunity is to negotiate partnerships that develop local expertise alongside access to technology. Research collaboration, skills transfer and opportunities for Kenyan enterprises give those relationships lasting economic value. The Office's contribution brought these requirements into a discussion with the governments and companies shaping the international AI market.

Activities

22 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

AI for Global Benefit | The Briefing by Anthropic

Connecting frontier technology with human needs.



During UN General Assembly week in New York, Ambassador Philip Thigo joined Anthropic's "The Briefing: AI for Global Benefit" in a conversation with Elizabeth Kelly, Head of Beneficial Deployments at Anthropic; Paula Ingabire, Rwanda's Minister of ICT and Innovation; and Meenakshi Ramesh. The exchange examined practical applications, access, skills, local research and independent evaluation across the different settings in which AI is being introduced.

The wider briefing illustrated how these technologies are entering work with direct public consequences. Anthropic's partners described applications in epidemic preparedness, clinical decision support and forecasting food shortages, alongside efforts to reduce child malnutrition. These examples brought governments into conversation with organisations already testing AI against health and humanitarian needs.

Thigo's contribution emphasized collaboration between technology providers and practitioners to test applications, learn from their use, and build evidence for responsible expansion. For Kenya, this approach connects international expertise with local researchers and institutions that understand the services, languages and working conditions an application must support.

The briefing also included measures to widen access. Anthropic announced a 90 per cent discount on Claude Team plans for eligible nonprofits in low- and middle-income countries, and participation in a Gates Foundation initiative intended to help more than three billion people use AI in their own language and voice. Work with the Gates Foundation and IDinsight on making national curricula usable by learning tools was starting in Nigeria, Rwanda and India.

These developments give Kenyan organizations ways to explore affordable tools and research partnerships. Their usefulness will depend on the task: a service organisation handling documents has different requirements from a health institution supporting clinical decisions. Local testing and staff expertise help establish where a tool improves work and where additional safeguards or adaptation are required.

The Office's participation placed Kenya's health, education, and public-sector priorities within this exchange. The opportunity is to develop applications with Kenyan practitioners, measure their contribution to services and build local capability through the process

WATCH THE BRIEFING HERE



CHILD SAFETY 22 SEPTEMBER · UN HQ

Child safety in the Age of AI

Kenya co-chaired the launch of a roadmap linking protection with access to beneficial technology

On 22 September, President William Ruto joined French President Emmanuel Macron, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in New York to launch the 2026–2027 roadmap of the Coalition for Children's Rights and Protection in the Age of Artificial Intelligence. Held during the United Nations General Assembly, the engagement outlined work on safer technologies, independent evaluation, and company accountability, with children's rights guiding implementation.

The roadmap followed a process in which Kenya helped bring African children's experiences into the international discussion. At Africa Forward in Nairobi in May, First Lady Rachel Ruto convened governments, technology companies, international organizations, civil society and children. Young participants wanted technology that supported learning, creativity and participation, with safeguards and a voice in decisions affecting them. Kenya subsequently supported the G7 Évian Call for a Safer Digital Space for Minors and became a founding member of the coalition alongside France and Spain at the UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance in Geneva on 7 July. Australia later joined as a co-chair.

At UNGA, President Ruto linked protection to the ongoing need to expand access. Connectivity, languages, parental support and institutional capacity differ across countries and communities. For many African children, digital access opens routes to education, information and services otherwise beyond reach.

Kenya's position was that safeguards must enable children to benefit from technology while protecting them from harms they cannot reasonably manage alone.

The roadmap gives that position practical substance. Its work covers safety and privacy by design, benchmarking and accountability, AI literacy, and action against AI-generated child sexual abuse material and deepfakes. It also proposes a global network of research centers and access to developers' models for independent evaluation.

These measures would help establish how applications affect children before accepting claims of educational or developmental benefit. The coalition intends to present its first voluntary commitments at the Paris Peace Forum in November.

Partners brought complementary approaches. Prime Minister Albanese emphasized shared standards for cross-border risks, while Prime Minister Sánchez called for companies to answer for their impact on children. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen described the proposed EU KIDS Act's approach of requiring platforms to demonstrate that their services are safe for children. UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell emphasized evidence on learning, development and mental health, alongside children's participation in decisions about AI.

For Kenya, participation creates a route for educators, researchers, child-protection institutions and technology developers to contribute to international assessments and apply the resulting guidance locally. President Ruto called for a national dialogue involving children, parents, educators, communities, researchers and companies, with further discussion at Nairobi's Trust Summit and Internet Governance Forum.

This connects Kenya's international leadership with the work of building safeguards suited to Kenyan children, their languages and their everyday use of technology. ■



Prime Minister Sanchez, President Macron, Prime Minister Albanese and President Ruto opening the session.



RT. Hon. Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese, Amb. Philip Thigo and Cabinet Secretary for ICT & DE, Hon. Kabogo at the margins of the Child Safety Online Convening.

Activities

23 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

Making AI's Environmental Impact Measurable

On 23 September, Ambassador Philip Thigo delivered framing remarks at the CODES Roundtable on AI and the Planet at UNDP Headquarters in New York. Convened by the Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability, UNDP, Germany's Federal Environment Agency and the Global Enabling Sustainability Initiative (GeSI), the discussion connected AI's applications for climate and nature with the environmental consequences of developing and operating these systems.

Thigo emphasised collaboration with industry on evaluations and standards for the environmental sustainability of AI systems. Governments and institutions need evidence to assess environmental claims, compare alternatives and understand the resources an application requires. Common methods give developers, operators and purchasers a basis for measuring performance and identifying improvements.

The programme included Professor Dirk Messner, President of the German Environment Agency; Francine Pickup, Deputy Director of UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support; and Luis Neves, Chief Executive Officer of GeSI. Industry contributors included Jean-Manuel Canet, Senior Manager for Climate and Biodiversity at Orange Group, and Philippe Tuzzolino, Orange Group's Vice President for Environment. Their involvement connected policy discussions with expertise in operating infrastructure and assessing its footprint.

Orange's published work provides a practical example of this approach. Its AI Carbon Value Navigator compares the expected economic value of an AI application with its effect on the carbon footprint of the service into which it is introduced. This brings assessment closer to an actual deployment decision: what benefit does the application deliver, and what environmental cost accompanies it?



Developing this capability would strengthen decisions about public procurement, computing infrastructure and sector applications. An institution selecting an AI service can assess whether its resource requirements are justified by the task and whether a more efficient option delivers comparable results. Kenyan researchers and engineers also have opportunities to contribute evaluation methods grounded in local infrastructure and environmental conditions.

The roundtable connected this assessment work with applications for climate resilience and environmental protection. Kenya's contribution pressed for the evidence and shared standards that make both ambitions credible: useful AI applications whose benefits can be demonstrated, and systems whose environmental impacts can be measured and reduced.



DEVELOPMENT 23 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

Women in AI Network: From Access to Agency

Connecting women with the knowledge, capital and influence to build and lead in AI..

On 23 September, **iamtheCODE** launched its Women in AI Network at PwC in New York, alongside the UN General Assembly. Founded by **Lady Mariéme Jamme and chaired by Baroness Martha Lane Fox**, the network brings together women in technology, business, investment, research and policymaking to strengthen their role in shaping AI. The launch formed part of the Digital@UNGA programme.

Ambassador Philip Thigo delivered the keynote, **"AI, Sovereignty and the Future of Global Leadership,"** and joined a fireside conversation moderated by Bhushan Sethi, Partner at Strategy&, PwC.

His contribution connected women's leadership with a wider question for Kenya and the Global South: how countries develop the expertise and institutions to influence the technologies entering their economies and public services.

Built around Access, Wisdom, Agency, and Leadership, the network connects women with the expertise, finance, and professional support to develop technology and shape its direction.

Young hackathon winners from Chile, who presented a product focused on women's safety, demonstrated how these connections can give emerging innovators an audience for their work.

For Kenya, the opportunity spans entrepreneurship, research and public leadership. Alongside support for women building businesses, training in public service and diplomacy would strengthen officials' ability to assess AI proposals, negotiate partnerships and oversee services.

These are practical routes to greater influence over how technology is developed and used.

Thigo also emphasized girls' rights as current users of digital services. Their participation in learning and public life requires age-appropriate design, privacy and protection from abuse, together with opportunities to develop skills and make informed choices.

Connecting these safeguards with women's leadership gives the network a public purpose that extends beyond its membership. ■



Contact IAMTHECODE



Dr. Korir Sing'oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and **Elizabeth Kelly, Head of Beneficial Deployments at Anthropic**, sign a **Joint Declaration** on collaboration in advanced AI models and their application in health, education, research and foresight, during UNGA81 in New York

AGREEMENT 23 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

Kenya–Anthropic AI Cooperation

The Joint Declaration connects advanced models with Kenyan priorities, evaluation and law

On 23 September, Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Dr. Abraham Korir Sing'Oei and Elizabeth Kelly of Anthropic's Beneficial Deployments team signed a Joint Declaration on responsible AI cooperation in New York.

It followed several months of engagement and established a framework covering skills, research, and responsible public-sector applications, including education and health.

The cooperation seeks to connect access to advanced models with expertise within Kenyan institutions. That expertise would help institutions identify suitable applications, evaluate their performance, and govern their use under Kenyan law.

Ambassador Courtney O'Donnell, Anthropic's Global Impact Lead, and Ambassador Philip Thigo witnessed the signing. The Foreign Affairs framework connects cross-ministry cooperation with Kenya's international partnerships. Each participating institution still needs to determine how an application supports its responsibilities and what arrangements are required to use it.

The framework places Kenyan institutions at the center of defining applications and assessing their value. Its principles link local testing and independent evidence to safety and Kenyan legal requirements.



The declaration's design principles

01

Context before deployment

Testing should establish how a model performs in Kenyan languages and institutional settings before wider adoption.

02

Co-creation

Kenyan institutions define the need and work with partners to determine whether AI offers a suitable response.

03

Independent evaluation

Evidence should establish benefits and costs, informing decisions about wider adoption.

04

Safety by design

Safeguards and responsibility for errors need to form part of development and deployment.

05

Kenyan law

Activities remain subject to Kenya's requirements for data, procurement, cybersecurity and the relevant sector.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

- Skills and capacity building
- Research
- Responsible public-sector applications
- AI safety and evaluation
- Priority areas including education and health

These areas of cooperation create space to build expertise in Kenya. Access to advanced models can support research, while local testing helps institutions understand how those models perform in the settings where they would be used. Agreed activities would need to connect that access with lasting institutional knowledge.

Education illustrates how the framework could connect with work already under discussion, including FREI. An application supporting lesson preparation would need evaluation of accuracy, curriculum relevance and teachers' experience.

A service used directly by children would also require age-appropriate safeguards. This provides a way to relate international cooperation to priorities set by Kenya's education institutions.

Health applications require a corresponding assessment of clinical risks and sensitive information. Any proposed work would need sector institutions to define its purpose, establish data arrangements and examine evidence before adoption. The declaration creates space for cooperation, while specific applications remain subject to institutional decisions and applicable requirements.

Public officials need the knowledge to manage these choices. Capacity building can help them assess what models can do, ask providers for evidence, and understand how procurement or oversight should operate.

Researchers also need meaningful access and technical skills to test performance independently, so knowledge developed through cooperation remains useful in Kenya.

The Joint Declaration established an institutional framework rather than approval for every possible deployment. Ministries and agencies still need to agree on use cases, responsibilities, and evaluation arrangements. Its contribution would become visible through the expertise Kenyan institutions build and the public outcomes of projects that proceed on that basis.







Dr. Rumman Chowdhury, founder of the Independent AI Evaluation Foundation, during the UNGA engagement on building independent capacity to assess AI's impact on people, New York, 23 September 2026.

EVALUATION 23 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

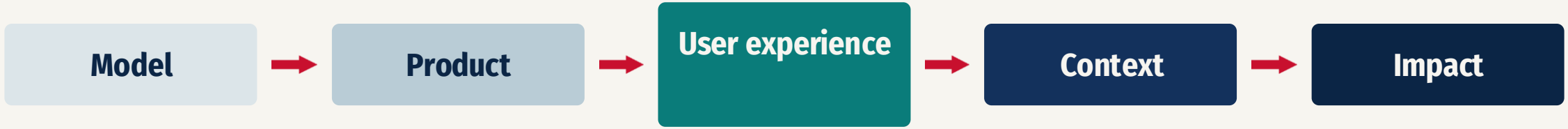
Building Independent Capacity to Evaluate AI

Testing needs to examine how systems work in the settings where people use them

"On 23 September, Ambassador Philip Thigo participated in a meeting on independent AI evaluation at Copinette in New York during the United Nations General Assembly. Hosted by Humane Intelligence, UNICEF and the UN Human Rights Office, the engagement brought together policymakers, researchers, technology leaders and funders to examine how independent institutions can assess AI's effects on people and sustain that work."

Ambassador Philip Thigo contributed to the panel, "Harnessing Capital and Community for an Independent AI Evaluation Ecosystem," moderated by Urvashi Aneja of Digital Futures Lab. Fellow panellists included Gabriella Waters of Virginia State University, Ellen Pack of Common Sense Media, Wan Sie Lee of Singapore's Infocomm Media Development Authority and Beth Goldberg of Humanity AI. Their discussion connected financing and technical expertise with the participation of communities affected by AI.

TESTING THE SYSTEM AND ITS USE



The engagement accompanied the launch of the Independent AI Evaluation Foundation, announced by Dr. Rumman Chowdhury with US$10 million in philanthropic backing. Its initial focus is education, examining whether AI supports reasoning, creativity, human relationships and learners' longer-term opportunities. The foundation aims to develop a profession of independent evaluators through funding, training, shared tools and technical infrastructure.

Ambassador Thigo's contribution connected this agenda with the ability of Kenya and other countries to make informed decisions about AI adoption. Evaluation must examine the underlying model, the application built around it, people's experience of using it and its effects over time. Testing across languages, contexts, use cases and risks gives institutions evidence relevant to the services they intend to provide. Kenyan researchers, educators and practitioners bring knowledge essential to that assessment.





Meaningful access to systems is part of building this capability. The discussion drew on Anthropic's proposal to give independent evaluators access comparable to employees, enabling deeper scrutiny of models and safety practices. Such access needs arrangements that protect evaluators' independence and allow credible findings to inform decisions. Anthropic's September announcement on embedded evaluation offered a concrete example of how this approach was beginning to take shape.

UNICEF's contributions showed why evaluation also needs to follow everyday use. Children's experiences vary with age, language, culture and circumstances, while some effects emerge only through repeated interaction. An educational application therefore needs assessment of what learners understand and retain, how it affects their development and whether it supports their ability to exercise their rights.



AI SAFETY 24 SEPTEMBER · UN HQ

Strengthening Cooperation on AI Safety

AI Safety Connect examined crisis preparedness and international coordination

On 24 September, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology co-hosted "Governing at the Speed of AI" at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The evening brought governments, scientists and technology companies together to examine how countries can assess advanced AI systems, prevent serious harm and coordinate responses when safeguards fail. AI Safety Connect organized the engagement with support from Minderoo Foundation and sponsorship from JPMorganChase. Co-hosts included Canada, Finland, Estonia, Singapore, Brazil, and Costa Rica, alongside the OECD, UNDP, UNESCO, and the United Nations Foundation.

The meeting followed President William Ruto's endorsement of "A Call for Control of Frontier AI Models," initiated by Finnish President Alexander Stubb and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre on 21 September. The call responded to evidence that capable AI systems can circumvent safeguards and gain unauthorized access to real-world systems. It sought independent testing before deployment, access for qualified evaluators, reporting of serious incidents and wider access to scientific expertise, while maintaining human direction and control.

KENYA'S FRAME

AI safety and access

Use

Evidence and safeguards for reliable use

Misuse

Protection against harmful use

Missed use

Capability to access beneficial applications

Ambassador Philip Thigo contributed to the Government in Action panel alongside Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, David Lametti, Finland's Under-Secretary of State, Outi Holopainen, California State Senator Jerry McNerney, and former Irish President Mary Robinson. Other speakers included Estonian President Alar Karis, Rwandan Prime Minister Justin Nsengiyumva, Professor Yoshua Bengio and Maria Ressa. The program connected governments' responsibilities with scientific evidence and developers' proposals for managing frontier AI risks.

A central concern was whether institutions can identify and address risks as AI systems become more capable. Systems that can write code, use external tools, and carry out tasks create responsibilities beyond checking an answer's accuracy. Institutions must understand what a system is authorized to do, what information it can access, and how people can intervene if it behaves unexpectedly. Pre-release testing provides an initial assessment; monitoring during use helps detect failures that emerge under different conditions.

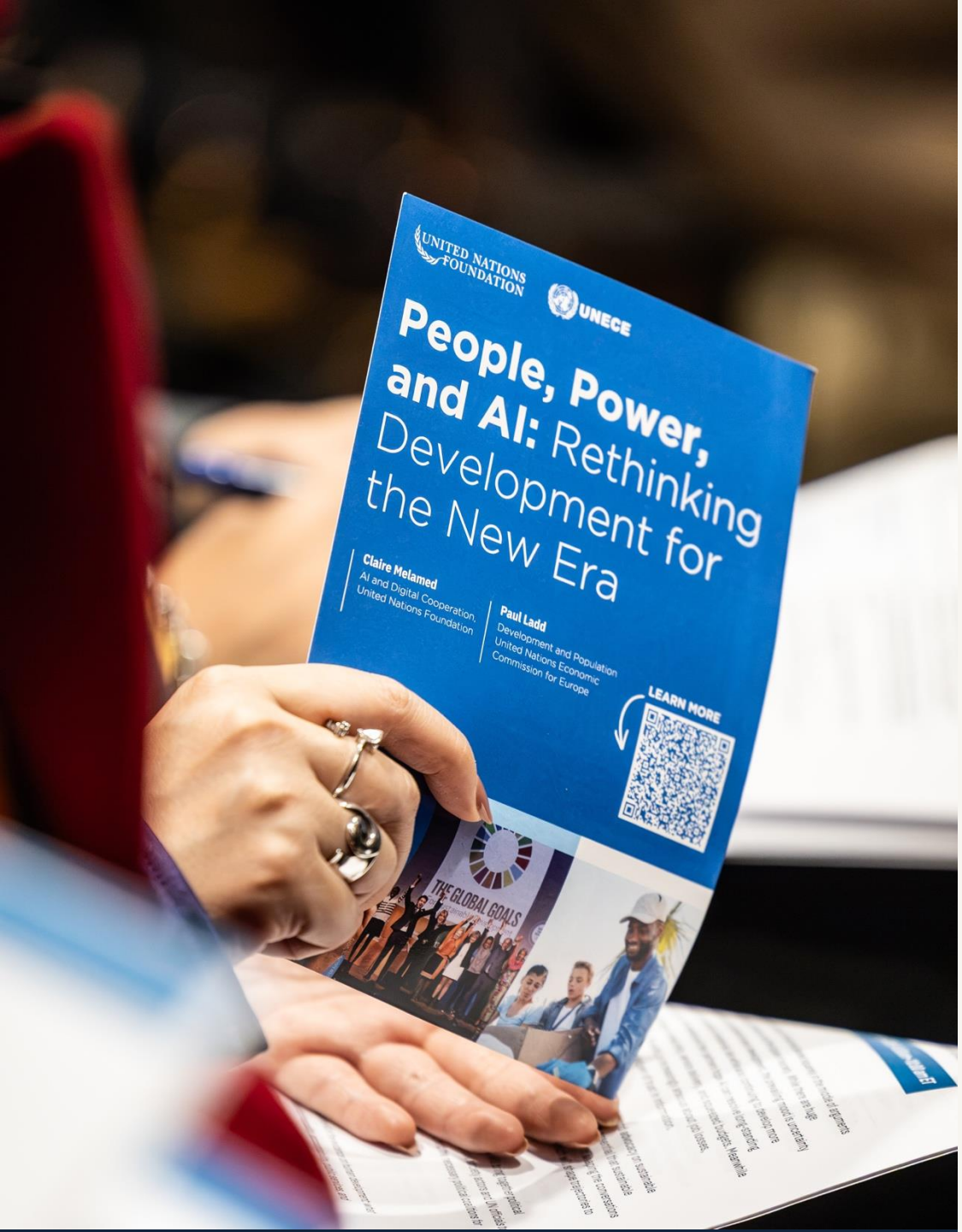
These responsibilities extend across borders because organizations in many countries rely on the same underlying models. Sharing evidence of a serious failure lets other users assess their exposure and take precautions. Common reporting arrangements also help governments and developers investigate incidents and coordinate corrective action. Cooperation gives countries with limited testing resources access to expertise they would struggle to assemble alone.

Ambassador Thigo emphasized that African institutions need the capability to contribute to this work. Evaluations must reflect local languages, services, and operating conditions, with researchers able to scrutinize systems and compare their findings internationally.

For Kenya, this means building expertise that helps a hospital assess a clinical application, an education authority examine a learning tool or a public institution supervise an automated service.

Universities, researchers, and technical specialists play a role in testing systems, documenting their effects, and informing adoption decisions. As discussions continue through the UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance and towards the Geneva AI Summit in June 2027, Kenya's priority is to ensure that African institutions, in partnership with AI Safety Connect, can help shape safety measures and apply them to the services people use.





DEVELOPMENT 24 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

People, Power and AI: Shaping Development Choices

The UN Foundation discussion examined who can access AI and influence its use

On 24 September, Kenya co-hosted “People, Power and AI: Critical Choices Ahead” with the United Nations Foundation and AI Safety Connect in New York, on the margins of the UN General Assembly. Ambassador Philip Thigo joined a discussion moderated by Claire Melamed, Vice President for AI and Digital Cooperation Strategy at the United Nations Foundation, to examine how AI will affect livelihoods, public services, and people’s ability to influence decisions that shape their lives.

The programme brought development policy into the AI conversation, with speakers including Pakistan’s Minister of State Bilal Bin Saqib, Mamta Murthi, the World Bank’s Vice President for People, and Foo Chi Hsia, Singapore’s Second Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Its questions reached beyond adopting technology: how will countries share the economic gains, protect people facing disruption and maintain accountability as AI enters public institutions?

Melamed's work with Paul Ladd provides a framework for considering these questions together. Their report, People, Power, and AI: Rethinking Development for the New Era, examines AI through its effects on economic opportunity, public services, governance and the environment. These connections matter because a system that improves productivity also changes who earns income, who controls a service and how resources are used. Policy choices determine how those changes affect people.

For Kenya, this means examining where local enterprises and workers participate in the emerging AI economy. Purchasing an application brings access to a tool; developing, adapting and maintaining it also builds expertise and business opportunities. Partnerships that involve Kenyan researchers, developers, and service providers give the country a stronger role in shaping how technology responds to local languages, working conditions, and service priorities.

Public services make the question of power particularly tangible. When an institution uses AI to inform a decision affecting someone's access to a service, that person needs an explanation and a route to challenge an error. The institution must retain the expertise and authority to review the decision. Faster processing delivers public value when it also makes services more reliable and responsive to the people using them.



Claire Melamed, Vice President for AI and Digital Cooperation Strategy at the United Nations Foundation; **Ambassador Philip Thigo, Kenya's Special Envoy on Technology**; and **Bilal Bin Saqib, Pakistan's Minister of State,** during **"People, Power and AI: Critical Choices Ahead"** in New York on 24 September, on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

The session explicitly asked Ambassador Thigo and **Charlotte Pierre, the UK's Director for Africa**, where AI offers opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships between countries at different income levels. For Kenya, the opportunity spans joint research, locally relevant applications, and the skills needed to operate and evaluate them.

Cooperation becomes more valuable when Kenyan institutions help define the problem, assess the results and retain the capacity to improve the service. As discussions continue toward the 2027 Global Dialogue on AI Governance and the SDG Summit, they offer concrete questions to assess progress.



DEVELOPMENT 24 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

Building Democratic Agency over AI

The UN Foundation discussion examined who can access AI and influence its use

On 24 September, Kenya co-hosted “Shaping Democratic Agency over the Course of AI Development” with the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies at UN Headquarters in New York. **Rob Jetten, Prime Minister of the Netherlands**, joined **Ambassador Philip Thigo**, **Maria Ressa, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Co-Chair of the UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI**, and **Nicolas Miailhe, Founder of The Future Society and Co-Founder of AI Safety Connect**, in a panel moderated by **Keyzom Ngodup Massally of UNDP.**

The engagement examined how countries can influence AI’s development while combining their different strengths. National strategies, research institutes, safety standards and sector applications are developing in parallel. Connecting this work gives governments a stronger basis for addressing shared risks and pursuing useful applications without requiring every country to build the same capabilities.

Ambassador Thigo challenged the assumption that countries without leading frontier models have little influence over AI. His intervention located African capabilities across the wider value chain, from minerals and energy to infrastructure, talent, and applications. Bringing these capabilities together through partnerships strengthens countries' ability to build technology and shape its development. He also framed AI as a structural transformation affecting the economy and society, requiring leadership beyond the technology sector.

For Kenya, this approach creates opportunities to negotiate partnerships around what its institutions and enterprises can contribute. Researchers can develop evaluation methods grounded in African languages and conditions; developers can build applications around local service needs; infrastructure providers can support the computing that those applications require. Participating in this work builds expertise and gives Kenyan institutions evidence to inform adoption decisions.

Ressa emphasized independent testing and scrutiny of how systems are designed, including the mechanisms that target and amplify information. Jetten called for national efforts to reinforce one another through shared safety principles and transparent standards. Amandeep Singh Gill, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, connected the agency with democratic accountability, human rights, and maintaining human control.



Public value lies in institutions that can make informed choices and remain accountable for them. A government procuring an AI service needs the expertise to assess its claims, specify its responsibilities and monitor its effects. International cooperation can provide shared evidence and methods, while local institutions determine whether the service meets their population's needs.

Kenya's co-hosting brought its proposition on shared sovereignty into this discussion: countries gain influence by developing capabilities, contributing them to international cooperation and retaining the authority to govern technology in the public interest. ■



DEVELOPMENT 24 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

AfroFrequency: Shaping Africa's Technology Future

Connecting journalism, culture and innovation to strengthen African agency in the age of AI.

AfroFrequency launched in New York during UN General Assembly week, bringing together artists, technologists, journalists, researchers, lawyers and civic actors to influence how emerging technologies develop in Africa. The launch at the Knight Press Freedom Center launched a coalition intended to carry African knowledge, priorities, and ideas into decisions about technology, policy, and investment.

Ambassador Philip Thigo delivered a keynote that connected the initiative to the Office's work on open government and public participation. His contribution emphasized that shaping the technological future requires participation across society. He also addressed journalism's role in protecting truth and informed public discussion, while recognizing that responsibility for the information environment extends to technology companies, institutions, and the public.

Churchill Otieno, President of the African Editors Forum and Executive Director of the Eastern Africa Editors Society, coordinated the initiative, with **journalist Larry Madowo moderating the launch discussion**. Contributors included **Shikoh Gitau, Monicah Waceke Ndungu, Maurice Otieno and Cheryl Akinyi** of the Open Society Foundations, bringing perspectives from technology, media and philanthropy to the discussion on African agency.

AfroFrequency's approach brings these communities together while products, policies and public narratives are still being shaped. Journalists investigate claims and follow decisions about data, procurement and investment. Researchers examine how systems perform, lawyers connect rights with safeguards, and artists and storytellers help people explore the futures they want. Communities contribute experience and knowledge that technical development can overlook.

For African audiences, this work matters when technology mediates access to information. A convincing image or fluent answer still requires verification. Newsrooms, researchers, and developers can collaborate on fact-checking, investigate errors in African languages, and explain how information is generated and distributed. That collaboration can give audiences clearer evidence to assess claims and give developers practical findings to improve their systems.



The opportunity also extends to Kenyan creators and innovators. Participation allows them to help define problems, develop tools and contribute research grounded in local needs. Bringing cultural knowledge and lived experience into that work strengthens the foundation for services people understand and can influence.

The roadmap envisages work beginning in Nairobi in October, expanding to Johannesburg and Lagos, and culminating in the first AfroFrequency Festival in May 2027. The planned activities include cultural work, public-interest journalism, experiments, prototypes and policy engagement.



RIGHTS 26 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

Human Dignity in the Age of AI

Protecting agency, widening access and strengthening accountability in the Global South.

At the invitation of Binaifer Nowrojee, President of the Open Society Foundations, Ambassador Philip Thigo served as a lead discussant at “Human Dignity in the Age of AI: A Global South Perspective” in New York, on the margins of the UN General Assembly. The roundtable examined the responsibilities of governments, companies and international institutions towards people affected by AI, including those without meaningful access to its benefits.

Ambassador Thigo’s contribution centred on agency and choice: people’s ability to understand decisions, influence how technology is used and seek redress when it causes harm. The discussion also considered which decisions should remain fundamentally human and how countries with different resources and capabilities can help govern AI.

These concerns have practical implications for public services.. A person affected by an error needs an accessible explanation, a way to correct inaccurate information, and someone with the authority to review the outcome. Human oversight becomes meaningful when it gives people an effective route to resolve a problem.

These concerns have practical implications for public services. An institution using AI to assess an application for assistance must remain answerable for the decision. A person affected by an error needs an accessible explanation, a way to correct inaccurate information and someone with the authority to review the outcome. Human oversight becomes meaningful when it gives people an effective route to resolve a problem.

Responsibility also extends to people who cannot use these technologies. A service offered only through a digital channel can exclude someone without connectivity, a suitable device or the language skills required to navigate it. Expanding access therefore involves both improving digital services and preserving workable ways for people to receive assistance. Institutions must assess whom a new system serves and whom it leaves behind.

For countries in the Global South, the ability to make these choices depends partly on technical and institutional capacity. Public authorities need expertise to examine an application, negotiate its terms and determine whether it serves their population. Researchers and civil society provide evidence about effects that development or testing may overlook. This gives substance to Kenya's shared-sovereignty approach: international cooperation should strengthen countries' ability to shape technology and exercise responsibility for its use.

The roundtable also examined where philanthropy can help address gaps. Independent research, public-interest evaluation, and support for civil society offer ways to bring affected communities' experiences into decisions about AI. Funding this work gives institutions evidence beyond a supplier's performance claims and helps people articulate concerns before systems become embedded in essential services.

The opportunity is to connect technological capability with experience in civic participation and open government. Universities, public institutions, and organizations working on rights and accountability can help evaluate services, explain their effects, and develop routes for public scrutiny. That work makes human dignity a practical standard for adoption: people should gain useful services while retaining the ability to question decisions and influence how those services operate.



Donald Omondi Deya, Chief Executive Officer of the Pan African Lawyers Union; **George Kegoro; Binaifer Nowrojee**, President of the Open Society Foundations; and **Ambassador Philip Thigo,** Kenya's Special Envoy on Technology,



INVESTMENT UNGA WEEK · NEW YORK

Connecting Swiss Capital with Kenyan Opportunities

NIFC Africa and New Wind Ventures established a framework for testing investment pathways

September, the Nairobi International Financial Centre (NIFC Africa) and Swiss technology company New Wind Ventures signed a cooperation agreement at the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York, on the margins of the UN General Assembly. Daniel Mainda, Chief Executive Officer of NIFC Africa, and Veronica Almedom, Chief Executive Officer of New Wind Ventures, signed the agreement, witnessed by Joachim Tomaschett, Deputy Consul General of Switzerland. The partnership will develop and test a framework linking participants in the Swiss banking sector with Kenya's capital markets.

The signing followed months of preparation involving Ambassador Fouzia Abdirahman Abass, Kenya's Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Ambassador Philip Thigo and NIFC Africa.

The initiative grew out of discussions at Trust Valley, EPFL Innovation Park, and diplomatic introductions and engagement with Ambassador Thigo during the G7 week in Geneva and Évian.

These exchanges addressed a recurring difficulty: investors expressed interest in Kenya, but identifying suitable opportunities, conducting due diligence and completing transactions remained costly and fragmented.

THE PROPOSED WORK

- Improving the quality and reliability of capital data
- Strengthening transparency across the transaction lifecycle
- Exploring responsible applications of tokenisation within Kenya's regulatory framework
- Developing a recurring pipeline of opportunities

The proposed pilot bridges the gap between investor interest and completed investment. It will seek to improve the reliability of investment data, make transactions more transparent, and establish a recurring pipeline of opportunities. New Wind Ventures brings technology and Swiss market relationships, while NIFC Africa provides connections to Kenya's financial institutions and regulatory environment. The collaboration will also explore responsible applications of tokenization within Kenya's regulatory framework.

Enterprises seeking capital can provide better information, making a business easier to assess. Investors need credible records of performance, ownership, risks, and proposed uses of funding; businesses benefit when those requirements are clear, and the assessment process avoids unnecessary duplication. Reducing these costs creates a stronger basis for financing firms that want to expand, develop products, or enter new markets.

The next stage is to prepare credible opportunities, test the framework with financial-sector participants and complete transactions.







COOPERATION 28 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

Kenya Signs the DCO Charter

The signing advances accession and opens further opportunities for digital cooperation

Kenya signed the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Charter during the United Nations General Assembly in New York, advancing its accession to an international organization dedicated to cooperation in the digital economy. **William Kabogo Gitau, Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, signed the Charter with Deemah AlYahya, DCO Secretary-General**, in the presence of **Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs**. Kenya became a Signatory Member, with full membership subject to completion of the accession procedures.

The signing followed nearly two years of engagement and the DCO Council's approval of Kenya's candidature on 28 August. Ambassador Philip Thigo acknowledged the DCO leadership's contribution, **Kenya's former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohamed Ruwange**, and officials advancing the process under Cabinet Secretary Kabogo's leadership. This sustained diplomatic work established a route for Kenya's policymakers, entrepreneurs and institutions to pursue digital cooperation with fellow member countries.

KENYA'S PATH TO FULL DCO MEMBERSHIP

Candidature approved
August '26

→

Charter signed · Signatory Member
28 September 2026

→

National accession procedures
Continuing

→

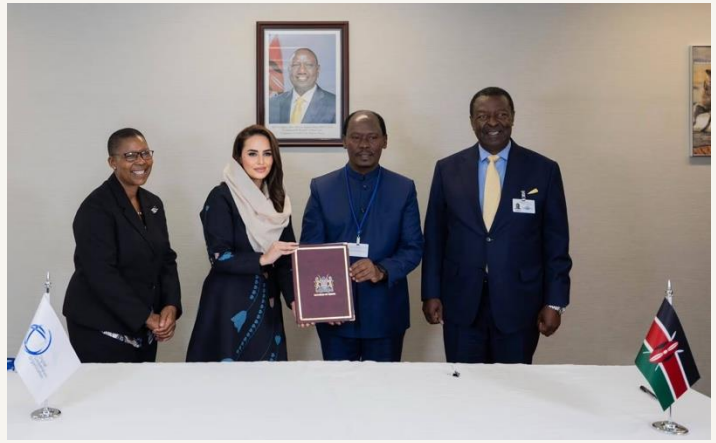
Full membership
After accession

The opportunity lies in connections to investors, business partners, and markets beyond Kenya. Expanding internationally requires knowledge of establishment procedures, regulations and commercial conditions. DCO's Startup Guides explain requirements across member countries, while its STRIDE initiative supports connections between entrepreneurial ecosystems. These resources offer practical support for firms seeking to take Kenyan products and services into new markets.

Cooperation also provides evidence for improving the environment in which those firms operate. The Digital Economy Navigator assesses digital maturity across 80 countries, combining quantitative indicators with a survey of more than 41,000 respondents. Kenyan institutions can use this comparative evidence to identify gaps, examine approaches elsewhere and prioritize improvements in infrastructure, skills and policy.

Kenya brings its own experience to this work. Its mobile financial services and entrepreneurial ecosystem provide lessons on extending digital participation and developing services around everyday needs. Cabinet Secretary Kabogo emphasized sharing that experience while learning from fellow members. Cooperation on responsible AI, digital skills and innovation also creates space for Kenyan institutions to contribute expertise and develop solutions with international partners.

For the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, the accession process connects technology diplomacy with opportunities for Kenyan enterprises and public institutions. Completing the national procedures is the next formal step. The wider value will come from using the platform to help entrepreneurs find partners and financing, strengthen institutions' ability to make informed decisions, and bring Kenyan experience into international cooperation on the digital economy.







CLOUD 28 SEPTEMBER · NEW YORK

TCS Sovereign Cloud Goes Live

TCS, iXAfrica and Sybyl expand the infrastructure available within Kenya

Tata Consultancy Services' sovereign cloud platform is now live in Kenya, hosted at iXAfrica Data Centers' Nairobi campus and delivered in partnership with regional technology integrator Sybyl. **Ambassador Philip Thigo joined the announcement at the Harvard Club in New York**, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, alongside **Snehar Shah, Chief Executive Officer of iXAfrica Data Centers; John Mwendwa, Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Investment Authority (Invest Kenya)**; and **Frank Mwiti, Chief Executive Officer of the Nairobi Securities Exchange,** together with TCS representatives.

The announcement followed the partnership established in November 2025 to develop sovereign cloud services in Kenya and East Africa. Each partner supplies a different part of the service: TCS provides the cloud architecture and security expertise, Sybyl handles local implementation and technical support, and iXAfrica supplies the data center infrastructure. This combination gives institutions access to locally hosted computing, along with the expertise needed to adopt and operate.

Tata Consultancy Services
Sovereign cloud platform

iXAfrica Data Centres
Host, Nairobi campus

Sybyl
Regional systems integrator

For public institutions and businesses handling sensitive information, where and how their systems operate affects decisions about cloud adoption.

They need to know where information is stored, who can access it and how services will continue during a disruption. The platform is designed to support in-country data residency and the requirements of government, public enterprises and regulated industries, while providing access to AI and analytics capabilities.

These capabilities matter through the services built on them. A public institution modernizing its systems needs dependable hosting and support; a business expanding its digital operations needs computing that can grow with demand.

Local infrastructure provides another option for meeting those requirements. Its usefulness depends on matching the service to the institution's needs, with clear arrangements for security, continuity and accountability.

Ambassador Thigo's participation placed this investment within Kenya's technology diplomacy agenda: attracting international expertise while building the infrastructure and local capability to use it.

The partnership also creates opportunities for Kenyan specialists and service providers in cloud migration, systems integration, cybersecurity, and continuing support.

The next measure of progress is adoption that delivers results. Institutions using the platform will need to assess reliability, costs, and operational improvements.

For the public, the value will emerge in services that work consistently and businesses that can expand, supported by infrastructure and expertise available in Kenya. ■



Frank Mwiti, Chief Executive Officer of the Nairobi Securities Exchange; **Snehar Shah, Chief Executive Officer of iXAfrica Data Centres**; **Ambassador Philip Thigo,** Kenya's Special Envoy on Technology; and **John Mwendwa, Chief Executive Officer of Invest Kenya**, at the announcement of TCS's sovereign cloud platform at the Harvard Club in New York

THE RECORD SELECTED MEETINGS AND BILATERALS DURING UNGA81

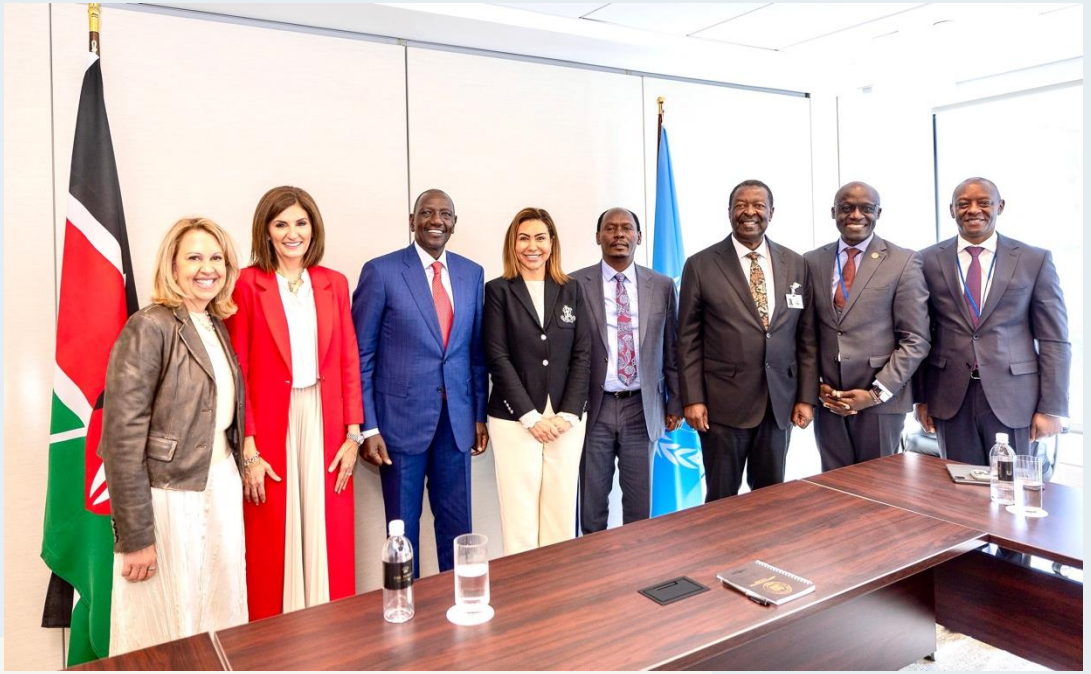
Continuing Technology Cooperation

The selected meetings below continued relationships on skills, connectivity and public accountability.



Kenya–Finland cooperation

Pre-UNGA engagements in Nairobi followed up on the Kenya–Finland State Visit and Kultaranta Talks. Discussions covered AI, connectivity, Earth observation, and climate applications. These relationships supported the two countries' international convening on shared sovereignty, while further technical work would help relate cooperation to services and evidence useful within Kenya.



Cisco and the Moran AI Center of Excellence

Engagements with Cisco's senior leadership, including Executive Vice President Francine Katsoudas, covered digital and AI skills, cybersecurity, and public-sector transformation. They included the Moran AI Center of Excellence, being developed with the Kenya Defense Forces and the Ministry of Defense. Training and technical cooperation could strengthen participating institutions' ability to assess and manage their systems.

THE RECORD SELECTED MEETINGS AND BILATERALS DURING UNGA81

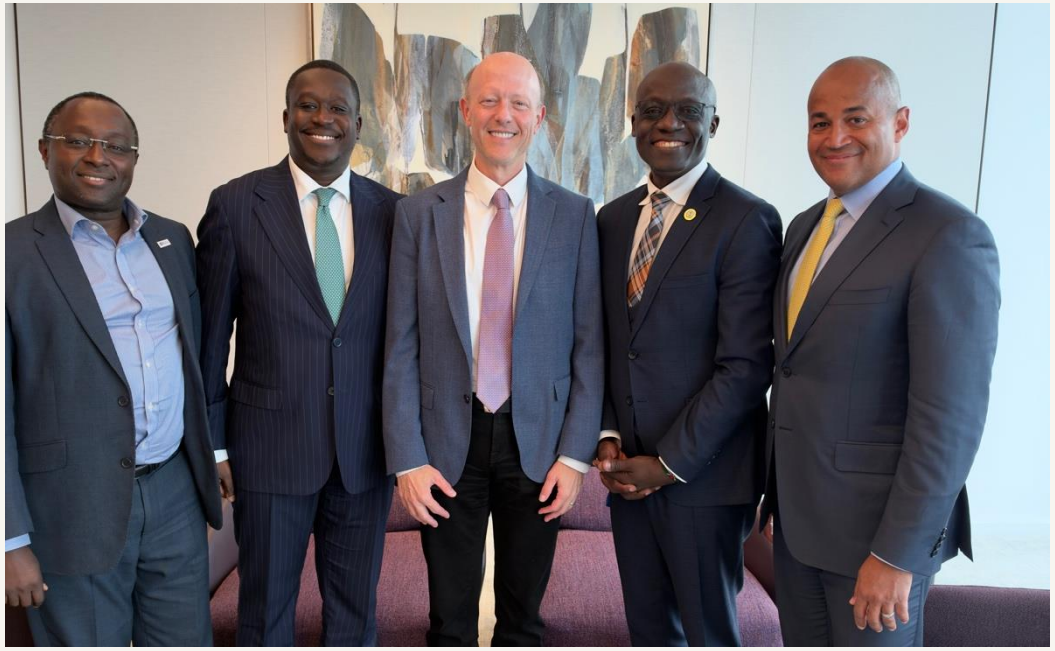
Continuing Technology Cooperation

The selected meetings below continued relationships on skills, connectivity and public accountability.



Open Government Partnership at 15

Kenya joined the OGP community in marking its fifteenth anniversary. AI-enabled public services bring new questions into the partnership's work on transparency and participation. People need explanations and meaningful ways to challenge consequential decisions, while public institutions need to account for how automated systems inform their work. These responsibilities connect open government with digital governance.



Digital finance and capital markets

Discussions with Circle, NIFC Africa, the Nairobi Securities Exchange and other partners examined stablecoins, virtual assets and capital markets. The exchanges considered the regulatory conditions needed to assess these innovations within Kenya's emerging Virtual Asset Service Providers framework. Any further work would need to establish the purpose of a proposed service and the protections required for its users.



Techplomacy

Office of the Special Envoy on Technology

Republic of Kenya

In pursuit of a Safe, Secure, Inclusive, and Trustworthy Digital Future.

TECHPLOMACY NEWSLETTER · SEPTEMBER 2026