

UNESCO Chairs Seminar Series

Transforming Knowledge for Africa's Future

Advancing the reflection and the action on the ethics of Artificial Intelligence

Date and time: Tuesday 5 December 2023, 15:00 to 16:30 (Paris Time)

Languages: English and French

Format: Zoom – [Please click here to register](#)

Seminar Description

In the era of rapid technological advancement, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force with profound implications for societies worldwide. Africa, in particular, stands on the precipice of embracing AI's potential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through economic growth, enhancing healthcare, and improving education. However, as AI technologies continue to evolve, so do the ethical challenges they pose. To align with the African Union's [Agenda 2063](#), which envisions an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, it is imperative that African nations equip themselves to address the ethical dimensions of AI. Adhering to the UNESCO [Recommendation on the ethics of AI](#) is crucial for the responsible development and deployment of AI technologies. This seminar seeks to foster critical reflections on these issues and facilitate collaboration among stakeholders to strengthen Africa's capacities to navigate the ethics of AI.

Objectives:

- **Raise Awareness:** The Seminar will serve as a platform for raising awareness about the ethical considerations surrounding AI and their relevance to the African context.
- **Promote Ethical Principles on AI:** Through keynote speeches and interactive discussions, participants will explore ways to integrate ethical principles into AI development and deployment strategies. The seminar will emphasize the importance of inclusivity, transparency, and accountability in AI systems.
- **Implement UNESCO's Recommendation:** The Seminar will highlight UNESCO's **Recommendation on the ethics of AI** and discuss how UNESCO can assist capacity building in countries in Africa and beyond to address ethics of AI.
- **Foster Collaboration:** By bringing together UNESCO Chairs and their partners, UNITWIN Networks, civil society organizations, and other experts, the Seminar aims to foster collaboration and partnerships that will drive Africa's ethical AI agenda forward.

Expected Outcomes:

By the end of the Seminar, participants should:

- Have a deeper understanding of the ethical challenges posed by AI and their implications for Africa's future development.
- Gain insights into practical approaches to integrating ethics into AI initiatives referring UNESCO's Recommendation on the ethics of AI.

This Seminar represents a step towards empowering Africa to harness the potential of AI while safeguarding the ethical principles that underpin its development. Through shared knowledge and collaborative efforts, Africa can pave the way for an inclusive, equitable, and ethically responsible AI landscape in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and UNESCO's ethical framework.

Provisional Agenda

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| 15:00-15:05 | <p>Opening remarks</p> <p>Dr. Dafna Feinholz, Chief, Bioethics and Ethics of Science Section, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO</p> |
| 15:05-15:20 | <p>Keynote: Significance of the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in the African context</p> <p>Prof. Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem, Head of the Department of Philosophy, University of Pretoria, South Africa, and Chairperson of COMEST¹</p> |
| 15:20-16:00 | <p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem, Head of the Department of Philosophy, University of Pretoria, South Africa, and Chairperson of COMEST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Jerry Kponyo at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana • Ms. Kiito Shilongo, Senior Fellow at Mozilla, Namibia • Dr. Dafna Feinholz, Chief, Bioethics and Ethics of Science Section, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO |
| 16:00-16:25 | <p>Comments and Q&A</p> <p>All participants</p> |
| 16:25-16:30 | <p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Dr. Dafna Feinholz, Chief, Bioethics and Ethics of Science Section, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO</p> <p>Dr. Keith Holmes, Research Coordinator, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, Future of Learning and Innovation Division, Education Sector, UNESCO</p> |

**** [Register here](#) ****

¹ World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology