Short courses for Permanent Missions in Geneva
Organised by the Division on Technology and Logistics-Technology, Innovation and
Knowledge Development Branch
Policy Capacity Building Section / P166 courses

The Technology and Innovation Report 2025: Inclusive Artificial Intelligence for Development

Thursday, 19 June 2025
Delivered by the Division on Technology and Logistics
UNCTAD

PROGRAMME

Geneva, Palais des Nations	Room XVII
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome address Mr. Angel Gonzalez-Sanz, Head, Technology, Innovation and Knowledge Development Branch, ia Director of Division, UNCTAD Moderator Ms. Randa Jamal, Economic Affairs Officer, Policy Capacity Building Section/P166, Technology, Innovation, and Knowledge Development Branch-DTL, UNCTAD
10:15 - 11:15	**Session 1** This first session will introduce the *Technology and Innovation Report 2025* and focus on the requirements and policies to support the adoption, adaptation and development of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Frontier technologies, particularly AI, are profoundly transforming our economies and societies, reshaping production processes, labour markets and the ways in which we live and interact. AI has a significant market potential but the concentration of market power and the existing digital gaps risk widening inequalities both within and among countries. This session will provide concrete policy recommendations to support economic trajectories that can move developing countries beyond the development trap and economic conundrum, utilizing maximum policy space for AI and technology. Evidence and policy recommendations will be presented along the three key leverage points that trigger AI-driven transformations: infrastructure, data and skills. Presented by Antonio Vezzani, Economic Affairs Officer, Technology, Innovation and Knowledge Development Branch, UNCTAD Q&A
11:15 - 11:30	**Break**

11:30 - 12:3	**Session 2** This session will focus on the implication of AI for the workforce, present successful cases of AI adoption in developing countries, and propose recommendations to improve global AI governance. AI is expected to reshape global industries significantly and could affect up to 40% of jobs worldwide. Automation may increasingly favour capital over labour, potentially reducing employment opportunities, particularly in developing economies that rely on low-cost labour. AI also holds the potential to create new industries and empower workers, provided that investments in reskilling and workforce adaptation are prioritized in developing countries. While many AI-related issues can be addressed at the national level through well-designed policies, AI influence extends beyond borders necessitating international collaboration. Yet, a vast majority of countries in the Global South is underrepresented in global AI governance. If this trend persists, it will further deepen the technological divide. Inclusive, multi-stakeholder cooperation is essential to ensure that AI is accessible and beneficial to all. This requires enhancing accountability in AI governance, developing shared digital infrastructure, promoting open innovation and strengthening capacity-building —laying the foundation for more promising and sustainable development. Presented by Wai Kit (Jackie) Si Tou, Economic Affairs Officer, Technology, Innovation and Knowledge Development Branch, UNCTAD Q&A

The Technology and Innovation Report 2025: Inclusive Artificial Intelligence for Development
19 June 2025, Room XVII

The Technology and Innovation Report 2025 highlights the pressing need for developing countries to prepare for the opportunities and challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence. The report examines how Artificial Intelligence can drive progress toward sustainable development while emphasizing the importance of minimizing risks, such as exacerbating inequalities among countries. The short course will focus on three aspects covered by the report: infrastructure, data, and skills. It will also zoom in on the analysis of the policies and requirements necessary to foster inclusive technological progress. Additionally, the importance of policies as related to ethical oversight, transparency, and international cooperation to co-create a global framework for Artificial Intelligence that promotes equity and prosperity will be addressed. What are the short falls and where we are lagging behind, will be addressed, from the prism of developing countries.

At the end of this course, delegates will have gained knowledge of:

- Insights into national-level policies to support Artificial Intelligence, adoption, and adaptation, as related to SDG 9.
- Understanding of global governance strategies and partnerships for inclusive AI, as related to SDG 17.
- Practical recommendations to harness Artificial Intelligence for sustainable development while mitigating risks.