



EAST AFRICAN SCIENCE &  
TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION  
**EASTECO**



# The 4th EAC Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Conference

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## EAC Declaration on Artificial Intelligence

We, the Ministers responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation, ICT, Education and East African Community Affairs, meeting in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda, on the occasion of the 4th EAC STI Conference 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026.

**Recognizing** the strategic importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies as key drivers of economic transformation, regional integration, and sustainable development;

**Acknowledging** the leadership of the EAC Secretariat and its organs and institutions in advancing the regional STI and digital transformation agenda;

**Appreciating** the support of partnerships, especially with the Government of Rwanda, Federal Republic of Germany, AUDA-NEPAD, AU Commission, UNESCO, NCST, and EAC Partners States for economic transformation in the EAC region;

**Recalling** the EAC Vision 2050, the EAC Digital Transformation Strategy, and the EAC AI Strategy as guiding frameworks;

**HAVING DELIBERATED** on a wide range of issues concerning the application of science, technology, and innovation, and in line with the conference theme, 'Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for a Resilient, Inclusive, and Innovative East Africa,' we aim to promote regional collaboration and strategic initiatives that advance AI for sustainable development in East Africa.

**Hereby resolve to:**

1. Support development of national innovative and responsible AI policies, frameworks and strategies aligned with the EAC regional Artificial Intelligence strategy.

2. Support the East African Community Artificial Intelligence Alliance to strengthen regional AI skilling, research and innovation to address regional challenges and drive technological advancement through a regional network.
3. Establish and strengthen the EAC Regional Centre of Excellence for Emerging Technologies to coordinate AI policy development, research, innovation, infrastructure, and talent development across the East African Community.
4. Establish a Regional AI Technologies Fund to scale AI research, innovation, and commercialization through flagship EAC regional programs, leveraging blended finance and private sector participation and develop bankable regional AI projects that drive economic transformation.
5. Strengthen regional AI human capital and skills development to build a future-ready workforce through harmonized curricula, certification, and accreditation frameworks.
6. Develop shared regional AI infrastructure through strategic investment in compute capacity, data centres, cloud systems, innovation hubs, and digital networks to reduce duplication and enhance scalability across Partner States.
7. Establish harmonized regional data governance frameworks and coordinate investments in shared digital infrastructure to foster a secure, inclusive, and resilient AI ecosystem that promotes regional integration.
8. Establish a Regional Multi-Stakeholder Digital Leaders Forum to harmonize national efforts with regional AI and digital priorities.
9. Promote African AI Sovereignty and Local Digital Ecosystems, to support development of local AI datasets, African language AI models, local cloud infrastructure, and technological architectures that ensure African ownership of data and AI systems.
10. Elevate Artificial Intelligence as a strategic industrial policy priority by integrating AI into national and regional development plans and strengthening evidence-based policy review and adaptive governance frameworks.
11. Promote Responsible, Ethical, and Inclusive AI Governance through risk-based regulatory frameworks, strengthened transparency and accountability, alignment with international standards, and the integration of ethical and inclusivity principles across all AI systems.
12. Strengthen Talent Retention and Support Homegrown Innovation; to create incentives, revise procurement systems, and develop innovation financing mechanisms that retain AI talent and scale locally developed solutions.

13. Reform AI Innovation and Research and Open Science Ecosystems; to promote open science, interdisciplinary research, indigenous knowledge integration, sustainable research financing, and improved research evaluation systems.
14. Strengthen Academia-Industry Collaboration and Applied AI Research through institutionalizing structured collaboration between academia and industry to align education systems with emerging industry needs.
15. Establish strategic regional partnerships and collaborative initiatives to advance the development and responsible deployment of Artificial Intelligence across East Africa region.

**SIGNED:**