The 4th
UNESCO GLOBAL FORUM
ON THE ETHICS OF AI 2026

GFEAI
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
14 - 17 Sep 2026

Plenary Program



unesco

SDAIA
الهيئة السعودية للبيانات والذكاء الاصطناعي
Saudi Data & AI Authority

ICAIRE
International Center for AI Research & Ethics
Under the auspices of UNESCO

The 4th
UNESCO GLOBAL FORUM
ON THE ETHICS OF AI 2026

GFEAI
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
14 - 17 Sep 2026

unesco

Day 1 | 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

Program at a glance

▼▲ *Opening Remarks* ▼▲ *Fireside Chat* ▼▲ *Panel discussion* ▼▲ *Performance*

Time	*MASMAK HALL*
	Opening Ceremony
09:30–09:40	▼▲ **GFEAI Opening Show**
09:40–09:55	▼▲ **Opening Remarks by Co host**
09:55–10:00	▼▲ **Guest Remarks**
10:00–10:15	**Group Photo with Heads of Delegation**
	AI, Multilateralism and Diplomacy
10:15–10:30	▼▲ **Fireside chat I** *Speakers:* • *H.E. Egriselda Lopez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations; Co-Chair, Global Dialogue on AI Governance* • *Prof. Rita Orji, Canada Research Chair in Persuasive Technology, Member of the International Scientific Panel on AI* *Moderator* *Dr. Abou Amani, Assistant Director-General for Sciences a.i, UNESCO*
10:30–10:55	▼▲ **Regional Cooperation in Action** *Speakers:* • *H.E. Sid Ali Zerrouki, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Algeria* • ***H.E. Shaikh Ahmed bin Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa, Assistant Undersecretary for Telecommunications*** • *H.E. Dr. Kamal Shehadi, Minister of the Displaced; Minister of State for Technology and Artificial Intelligence, Lebanon* • *H.E. Dr. Salim Almalik, Director-General, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)* • *H.E. Dr Essam Alwagait, Director, National Information Center, SDAIA, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* *Moderator* *Salah Khaled, Director, Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen, UNESCO*
10:55–11:00	**Video address by Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector of the United Nations University**
11:00–11:25	▼▲ **From Multilateral Dialogue to Cooperation in Implementation** *Speakers:* • *H.E. Samba Diouf, Minister of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy, Senegal* • *Deemah Alyahya, Secretary-General, Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO)* • *Dr. Sattam Alsubaiee, Chief Executive Officer, National Center for AI, SDAIA, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* *Moderator* *Tomas Lamanauskas, Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)*
11:25–11:30	**Video address by Dr. Rania Almashat, UN Under Secretary-General, Executive Secretary, ESCWA**

SDAIA Saudi Data & AI Authority

ICAIRE International Center for AI Research & Ethics under the auspices of UNESCO

The 4th
UNESCO GLOBAL FORUM
ON THE ETHICS OF AI 2026

GFEAI
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
14 - 17 Sep 2026

unesco

Day 1 | 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

Program at a glance

▼▲ *Opening Remarks* ▼▲ *Fireside Chat* ▼▲ *Panel discussion* ▼▲ *Awarding Ceremony*

Time	MASMAK HALL
	AI, Multilateralism and Diplomacy
11:30–11:55	▼▲ **Converging Global Visions for Ethical AI Governance** *Speakers:* • *Andrea Droppelmann, Ambassador and Director of the Science and Technology Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile* • *Thomas Schneider, Ambassador and Director of International Affairs, Swiss Federal Office of Communications, Switzerland* • *Prof. Mohamed Jemni, Director of ICT, Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)* *Moderator* *Dr. Dafna Feinholz, Chief of the Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section, UNESCO*
11:55–12:00	**Video address by Roberto Viola, Director General of DG CONNECT, European Commission**
12:00–13:30	*Break*
13:30–14:00	▼▲ **National AI Index (NAII) Awarding Ceremony**
	Five Years of the Recommendation: Where We Are, Where We Go Next
14:00–14:15	▼▲ **Fireside Chat I** *Speakers:* • *Dr. Dafna Feinholz, Chief of the Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section, UNESCO* • *Prof. David Leslie, Professor of Ethics, Technology, and Society, Queen Mary University of London*
14:15–14:45	▼▲ **Panel I** *Speakers:* • *H.E. Wayde A. Watson, Minister of State for Innovation & National Development, Bahamas* • *H.E Dr. Mahamat Ahmad Alhabo, Minister of National Education, Bilingualism, and Civic Promotion, Chad* • *H.E. Safia Mohamed Ali Gadileh, Minister Delegate for the Digital Economy and Innovation, Djibouti* • *H.E. Samuel Nartey George, Minister for Communications, Digital Technology and Innovations, Ghana* • *H.E. Benjamín Barán Cegla, Minister of the National Council of Science and Technology, Paraguay* • *Abdullah Alkhodairi, Chief Strategy Officer, Saudi Data & AI Authority (SDAIA), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* *Moderator* *Dr. Latifa Alabdulkarim, Member of the Shura Council; Assistant Professor of Computer Science, King Saud University*
14:45–15:15	▼▲ **Panel II** *Speakers:* • *H.E. Adriana Baravalle, Secretary of Innovation, Science and Technology, Argentina* • *H. E. Anđela Jakšić-Stojanović, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro* • *Mohammed Ali Alqaed, Chief Executive Officer, Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA), Bahrain* • *Dr. Switbert Mkama, Deputy Minister, Communication and Information Technology, Tanzania* *Moderator* *Prof. Virginia Dignum, Director, AI Policy Lab, Umeå University*

SDAIA Saudi Data & AI Authority

ICAIRE International Center for AI Research & Ethics under the auspices of UNESCO

The 4th
UNESCO GLOBAL FORUM
ON THE ETHICS OF AI 2026

GFEAI
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
14 - 17 Sep 2026

unesco

Day 1 | 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

Program at a glance

Keynote | Fireside Chat | Panel discussion | Awarding Ceremony

Time	MASMAK HALL
	Five Years of the Recommendation: Where We Are, Where We Go Next
15:15–15:30	**Fireside chat II** *Speakers:* • *Dr. Majid Alshehry, Acting Director General, International Center for AI Research and Ethics (ICAIRE)* • *Tee Wee Ang, Team Lead for Ethics of AI, Sciences Sector, UNESCO*
15:30–16:00	**Panel III** *Speakers:* • *H.E. Laurent Serge Etoundi Ngoa, Minister, Basic of Education, President of the National Commission for UNESCO, Cameroon* • *Hon. Lavern King, Senator and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Innovation, Digital Transformation, and Information* • *H.E. Ateny Wek Aten, Minister of Information, Communication Technology & Postal Services, South Sudan* • *H.E. Prof. Dr. Alice de Fátima Pinto de Ceita e Almeida, Secretary of State for Science, Technology and Innovation, Angola* • *H.E Óscar Ondó Ngomo Nchama, Secretary of State in charge of AI, Equatorial Guinea* • *Phonpasit Phissamay, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Technology and Communications, Lao PDR* *Moderator* *Dr. Abdulrahman Habib, Senior Strategic Advisor, Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA)*
16:00–16:15	*Break*
	Financing and Partnerships for Ethical AI Governance for the People
16:15–16:50	**Panel I** *Speakers:* • *H.E Dr. Hossein Simaee Sarraf, Minister of Science, Research and Technology; President of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, Iran* • *Prosper C. Mopiwa, Principal Secretary for E-Government, Malawi* • *Dr. Beaullah Chirume, Permanent Secretary for ICT, Postal and Courier Services, Zimbabwe* • *Ambrose Makgonatsotlhe, Deputy Permanent Secretary for ICT; Chairman of the Botswana Innovation Fund, Botswana* • *Dr. Seng Sopheap, President of the Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology, Cambodia* • *Youchul Kim, Head of Strategy and Vice-President, LG AI Research* *Moderator* *Dr. Mariagrazia Squicciarini, Chief Researcher and Analyst, Sciences Sector, UNESCO*
16:50–17:00	**Keynote Address** *Speakers:* • *Dr. Mishari Almishari, Deputy Director, National Information Center, SDAIA, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

SDAIA | ICAIRE

The 4th
UNESCO GLOBAL FORUM
ON THE ETHICS OF AI 2026

GFEAI
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
14 - 17 Sep 2026

unesco

Day 1 | 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

Program at a glance

▼▲ *Keynote* ▼▲ *Fireside Chat* ▼▲ *Panel discussion* ▼▲ *Awarding Ceremony*

Time	*MASMAK HALL*
	Financing and Partnerships for Ethical AI Governance for the People
17:00–17:30	▼▲ **Panel II** *Speakers:* • *H.E Prof. Pierre Gomez, Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, The Gambia* • *H.E. Mahefa Andriamampiadana, Minister of Digital Development, Posts and Telecommunications, Madagascar* • *Prof. Anicia Peters, Chief Executive Officer, Namibian National Commission on Research, Science and Technology, Namibia* • *Esmail Alsallom, Chief Executive Officer, National Infrastructure Fund, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* • *Dr. Andrei Neznamov, Managing Director, Sberbank of Russia; Member of the UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, Russia* • *Dr. Paris de l'Etraz, Managing Director, IE Venture Lab* *Moderator* *Dr. Fadi Daou, Executive Director, Globethics*
17:30	*End of Program*

SDAIA Saudi Data & AI Authority

ICAIRE International Center for AI Research & Ethics Under the auspices of UNESCO

The 4th
UNESCO GLOBAL FORUM
ON THE ETHICS OF AI 2026

GFEAI
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
14 - 17 Sep 2026

unesco

Day 2 | 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Program at a glance

▼▲ Launch ▼▲ Fireside Chat ▼▲ Panel discussion ▼▲ Keynote

Time	MASMAK HALL
	A New Phase of AI Readiness: Evidence from RAM and the Road Ahead
10:00–10:30	▼▲ **RAM 2.0 & RAM Meta-Analysis** *Speakers:* • *Prof. Marc-Antoine Dilhac, Director of Governance and International Collaboration, OBVIA* • *Dr. Julia Pomares, Co-Founder & Regional Lead, LATAM Chapter, The Global Initiative for Digital Empowerment* **Moderator** *Dr. Dafna Feinholz, Chief of the Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section, UNESCO*
10:30–11:15	▼▲ **A New Phase of AI Readiness** *Speakers:* • *H.E. Mmadi Hassani Oumouri, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications, Digital Economy, and Transparency, Comoros* • *H.E. Ahmed Osman Dirie, State Minister of Communications and Technology, Somalia* • *H.E. Andrew Baasaron, Minister of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation, Suriname* • *Dr. Abdulrahman Habib, Senior Strategic Advisor, Saudi Data and AI Authority (SDAIA)* • *Dr. Lourino Chemane, Chairman of the Board, National Institute of Information and Communication Technology (INTIC), Mozambique* • *Dr. Joyce Nakatumba-Nabende, Senior Lecturer, Makerere University, Member of the UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI* **Moderator** *Prof. Marc-Antoine Dilhac, Director of Governance and International Collaboration, OBVIA*
11:15–11:30	*Break*
11:30–12:15	▼▲ **Building Institutional Capacity for AI in Public Administrations** *Speakers:* • *Akmaral Orazaly, Principal Researcher, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government* • *Dr. Coffi Dieudonné Assouvi, Director General, African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development* • *Prof. Mamdouh Alenezi, Head of SDAIA Academy, Saudi Data & AI Authority (SDAIA)* • *Natalia Domagala, Founder, Uncovering Algorithms* • *Nadeen Matthews Blair, Chief Executive Officer, Crescent Advisory Group* **Moderator** *Idil I. Kaner, Senior AI Policy Fellow, Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP)*
12:15–12:30	▼▲ **Enabling Public-Sector AI at Scale: Saudi Arabia's Experience** *Speakers:* • *Dr. Hotham Altuwaijri, Deputy Director, National Center for AI, SDAIA, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*
12:30–14:00	*Break*
	AI, Environment, Ecosyste and Energy: From Readiness to Action for All, and the Tools that Will Get You There
14:00–14:15	▼▲ **Announcement: Toolkit Launch** *Speakers:* • *Constanza Gómez Mont, Founder, C-Minds and AI for Climate and Biodiversity*

SDAIA Saudi Data & AI Authority

ICAIRE International Center for AI Research & Ethics under the auspices of UNESCO

The 4th
UNESCO GLOBAL FORUM
ON THE ETHICS OF AI 2026

GFEAI
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
14 - 17 Sep 2026

unesco

Day 2 | 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Program at a glance

▼▲ *Launch* ▼▲ *Fireside Chat* ▼▲ *Panel discussion* ▼▲ *Keynote*

Time	MASMAK HALL
	AI, Environment, Ecosyste and Energy: From Readiness to Action for All, and the Tools that Will Get You There
14:15–15:00	▼▲ **AI, Environment, Ecosystems and Energy: From Readiness to Action for All** *Speakers:* • *H.E Lavina Ramkissoon, Co-Chair, Science Technology Commission ASRIC/ASTR Council on 4IR, African Union* • *Yahya Khoja, General Manager of Artificial Intelligence & Business Development, Saudi Ministry of Energy* • *Boris Gamazaychikov, Co-Founder and CEO, Sustainable AI Group* • *Dr. Letetia Addison, Researcher & Adjunct Lecturer, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine* • *Dr. Lourino Chemane, Chairman of the Board, Mozambique National Institute of Information and Communication Technologies (INTIC)* **Moderator** *Constanza Gómez Mont, Founder, C-Minds and AI for Climate and Biodiversity*
15:00–15:30	*Break*
15:30–16:15	▼▲ **The role of international collaboration in AI supervision – with the Global Network of AI Supervisory Authorities (GNAIS)** *Speakers:* • *H.E Aylin Febles, Vice Minister for Communications, Cuba* • *Alain Herrmann, Commissioner, Luxembourg Data Protection Authority (CNPD)* • *Célestin Kadjidja, President, Gabon Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (ARCEP)* • *Dr. Chaichana Mitrpant, Executive Director, Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), Thailand* • *Raneem Alkattan, General Manager for AI Governance, Saudi Data and AI Authority (SDAIA)* **Moderator** *Huub Janssen, AIEB Member, Netherlands*
16:15–16:30	▼▲ **From Language to Knowledge: Unlocking the Potential of AI** *Speaker:* • *Dr. Abdullah Alwashmi, Secretary-General, King Salman Global Academy for Arabic Language*
16:30–17:15	▼▲ **A Network for Implementation: How UNESCO Category II Centres and Partner Institutions Are Turning the Recommendation into Practice** *Speakers:* • *Fabio Senne, Coordinator of Research Projects, Cetic.br* • *Prof. Joao Pita Costa, Head of Research, International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI)* • *Josep Ollie Pous, Head of Social Observatory and Head of Palau Macaya* • *Dr. Kais Hammami, AI Foresight Centre, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)* • *Rojana Lamlert, Director, AI Governance Practice Centre* **Moderator** *Dr. Majid Alshehry, Acting Director General, International Center for AI Research and Ethics (ICAIRE)*
17:15	*End of Program*

SDAIA Saudi Data & AI Authority
ICAIRE International Center for AI Research & Ethics under the auspices of UNESCO

The 4th
UNESCO GLOBAL FORUM
ON THE ETHICS OF AI 2026

GFEAI
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
14 - 17 Sep 2026

unesco

Day 3 | 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Program at a glance

▼▲ *Launch* ▼▲ *Presentation* ▼▲ *Panel discussion* ▼▲ *Keynote*

Time	*MASMAK HALL*
	Rethinking Sciences in the Age of Artificial Intelligence
10:00–10:10	▼▲ **Keynote** *Speakers:* • *Prof. Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem, Professor and Head, Department of Philosophy, University of Pretoria, Member of UNESCO COMEST*
10:10–11:00	▼▲ **Rethinking Sciences in the Age of Artificial Intelligence** *Speakers:* • *Prof. Anicia Peters, CEO, Namibian National Commission on Research, Science and Technology* • *Carlo Angeles, Director of Impact, C-Minds, Inaugural Senior Fellow, Science Panel for the Amazon* • *Denisse Albornoz, Deputy Director, The Engine Room* • *Dr. Maad Alowaifeer, Assistant Professor, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM)* • *Dr. Tran Tien Cong, Vice Dean, Faculty of Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Information Technology, Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology (PTIT)* • *Liviu Știrbăț, Head of Unit for AI in Science, DG RTD, European Commission* **Moderator** *Dr. Abou Amani, Assistant Director-General for Sciences a.i, UNESCO*
11:00–11:30	*Break*
	Neural Data and Mental Privacy: AI Challenges in Consumer Neurotechnology
11:30–11:45	▼▲ **UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Neurotechnology** *Speakers:* • *Dr. Dafna Feinholz, Chief of the Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section, UNESCO* • *Mylène Deschênes, Chair, International Bioethics Committee (IBC), UNESCO*
11:45– 12:30	▼▲ **Neural Data and Mental Privacy: AI Challenges in Consumer Neurotechnology** *Speakers:* • *Prof. Ahmad AbuSalah, Founding Director, Digital Innovation Hub, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center* • *Prof. David Leslie, Professor of Ethics, Technology and Society, Queen Mary University of London* • *Maria Patrão Neves, President, Portugal National Council of Ethics for the Life Sciences* • *Prof. Mark Daley, Chief AI Officer, Western University* • *Dr. José M. Muñoz, Founding Director, International Neurotechnology Governance Observatory* • *Prof. Pamela Andanda, Professor of Law, Oliver Schreiner School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand* **Moderator** *Dr. Dafna Feinholz, Chief of the Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section, UNESCO*
12:30–14:00	*Break*
	Shaping the Future of Work for in the Age of AI and Digital Technologies
14:00–14:15	▼▲ **Opening & Setting the Scene** *Speakers:* • *Salah Khaled, Director, Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen, UNESCO*

SDAIA Saudi Data & AI Authority

ICAIRE International Center for AI Research & Ethics under the auspices of UNESCO

The 4th
UNESCO GLOBAL FORUM
ON THE ETHICS OF AI 2026

GFEAI
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
14 - 17 Sep 2026

unesco

Day 3 | 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Program at a glance

▼▲ *Remarks* ▼▲ *Fireside Chat* ▼▲ *Panel discussion* ▼▲ *Keynote*

Time	*MASMAK HALL*
	Shaping the Future of Work for in the Age of AI and Digital Technologies
14:15–15:00	▼▲ **Shaping the Future of Work for in the Age of AI and Digital Technologies** *Speakers:* • *Albara Alauhali, Deputy Minister of Strategies and Policies, Saudi Ministry of Culture* • *Malik Afegbua, Filmmaker, Artist and Creative Technologist* • *Mesfer Hamed Alqahtani, Registry and Protection Manager, Saudi Heritage Commission* • *Michele Woods, Director, Copyright Law Division, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)* • *Dr. Ona Vileikis, Secretary-General, CIPA Heritage Documentation International Scientific Committee (ICOMOS/ISPRS)* • *Robbert Baruch, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, Europe and Multilateral Relations, Universal Music Group* *Moderator* *Klara Dreze, Executive Office, Culture Sector, UNESCO*
15:00–15:30	*Break*
	AI for the People: Towards a Shared Future
15:30 – 16:00	▼▲ **AI for the People: Towards a Shared Future Panel I** *Speakers:* • *Dr. Abdelhaq Azzouzi, Chair, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations* • *Dr. Chalidta Madhyamapurush, Executive Senior Consultant, Thailand Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), Dr. Gemma Galdon Clavell, Founder and CEO, Eticas* • *Dr. Ramy Niazi, Vice Governor for Research Grants and National Programs &Acting Vice Governor for StrategyResearch, Development and Innovation Authority (RDIA)* *Moderator* *Dr. Dafna Feinholz, Chief of the Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section, UNESCO*
16:00 – 16:30	▼▲ **AI for the People: Towards a Shared Future Panel II** *Speakers:* • *Alaa Abdulaal, Chief of Digital Economy Intelligence, Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO)* • *Dr. Jehan Almahmoud, Advisor, Saudi Ministry of Culture* • *Thomas Schneider, Ambassador and Director of International Affairs, Swiss Federal Office of Communications, Switzerland* *Moderator* *Dr. Dafna Feinholz, Chief of the Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section, UNESCO*
16:30 – 16:40	▼▲ **Closing Remarks** *Speakers:* • *H.E. Khondker M. Talha, President of the 43rd session of the General Conference, UNESCO*
16:40–17:00	▼▲ **Joint Closing Address** *Speakers:* • *Dr. Abou Amani, Assistant Director-General for Sciences a.i, UNESCO* • *H.E. Dr. Essam Alwagait, Director, National Information Center, SDAIA, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* • *Dr. Majid Alshehry, Acting Director General, International Center for AI Research and Ethics (ICAIRE)*
17:00	*End of Program*

SDAIA Saudi Data & AI Authority

ICAIRE International Center for AI Research & Ethics under the auspices of UNESCO

The 4th
UNESCO GLOBAL FORUM
ON THE ETHICS OF AI 2026

GFEAI
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
14 - 17 Sep 2026

unesco

Thank You



SDAIA
الهيئة السعودية للبيانات والذكاء الاصطناعي
Saudi Data & AI Authority

ICAIRE
International Center for AI Research & Ethics
Under the auspices of UNESCO