UNESCO's AI Initiatives

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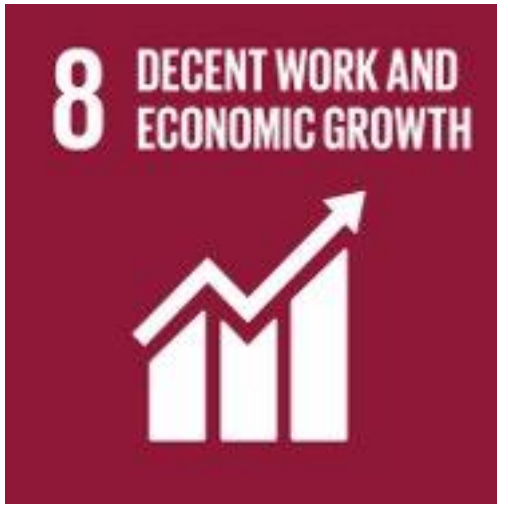
UNESCO Priorities

Harnessing AI
for the SDGs and
addressing related risks



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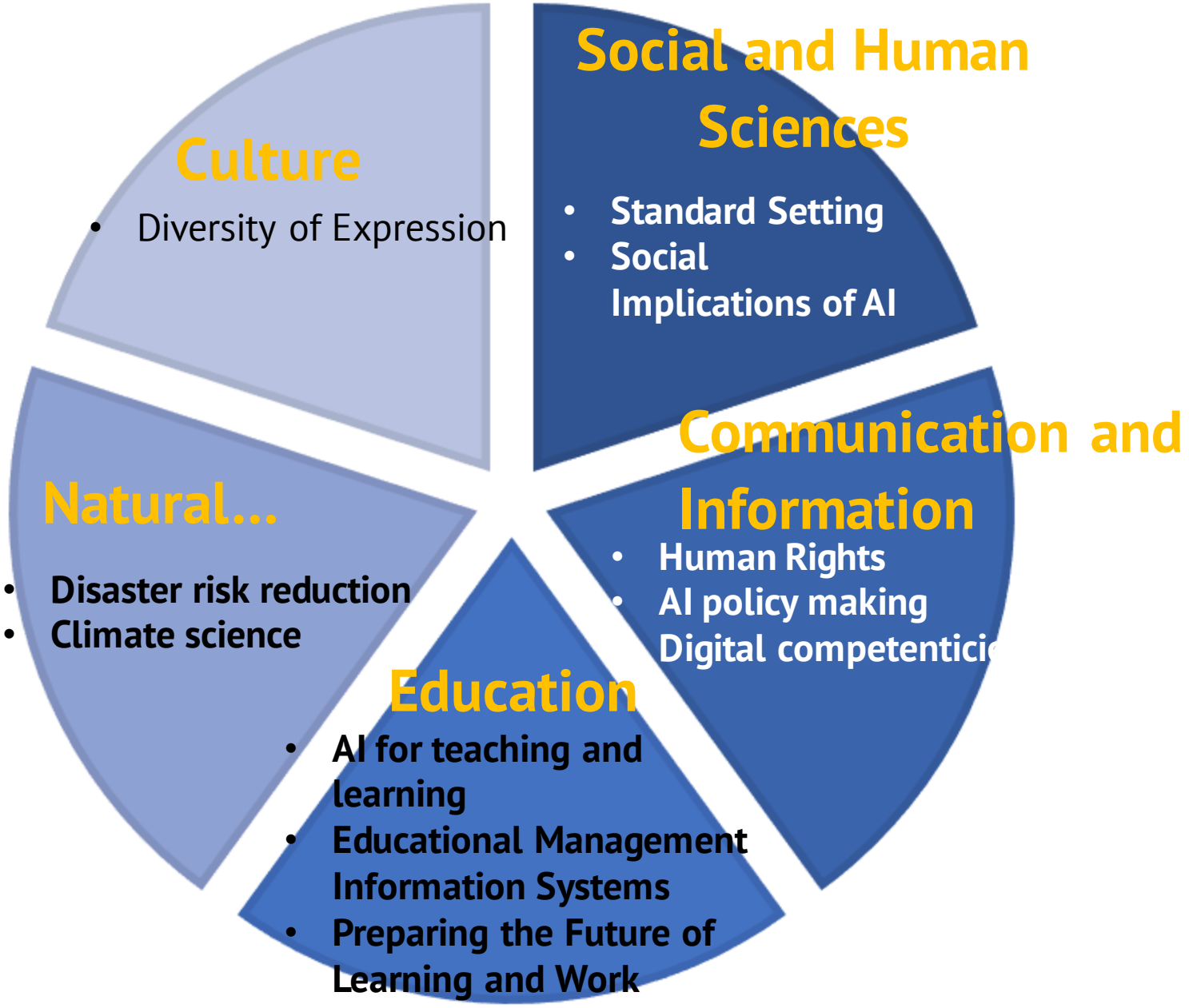


UNESCO's work in the field of AI

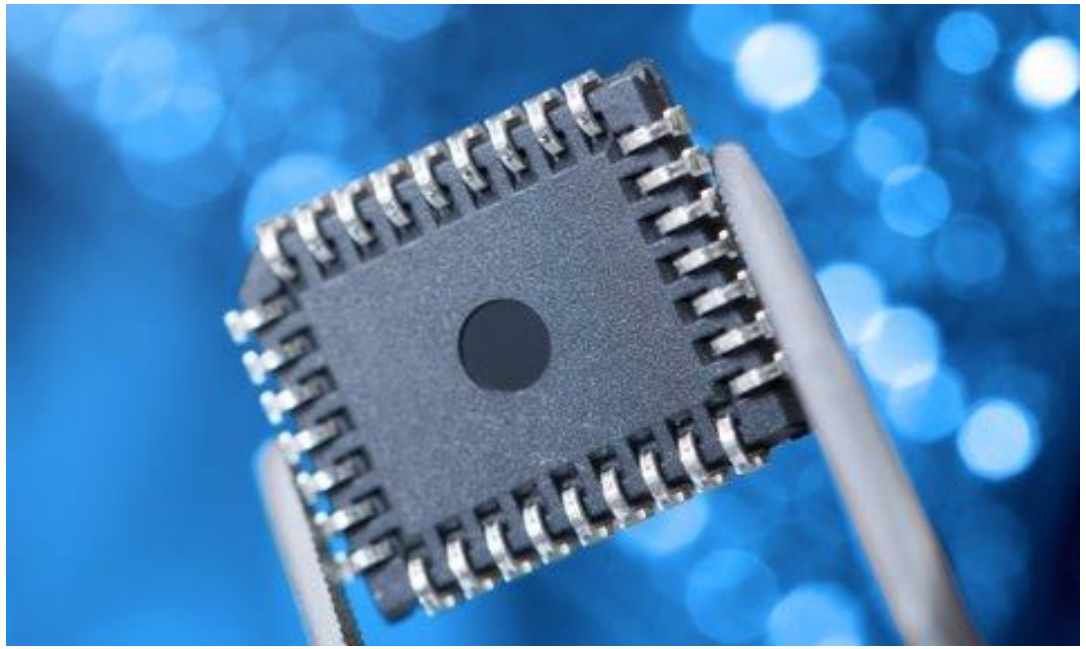
- Research and advocacy
- Standard Setting
- Policy Advice
- Capacity Development
- International Cooperation

UNESCO Approach

- Human Rights-based
- Openness in AI: Data, knowledge, markets and opportunities
- Inclusive Access for AI development
- Multi-stakeholder approach for AI governance
- Cross-cutting Issues: AI and gender equality, AI applications AI for Africa

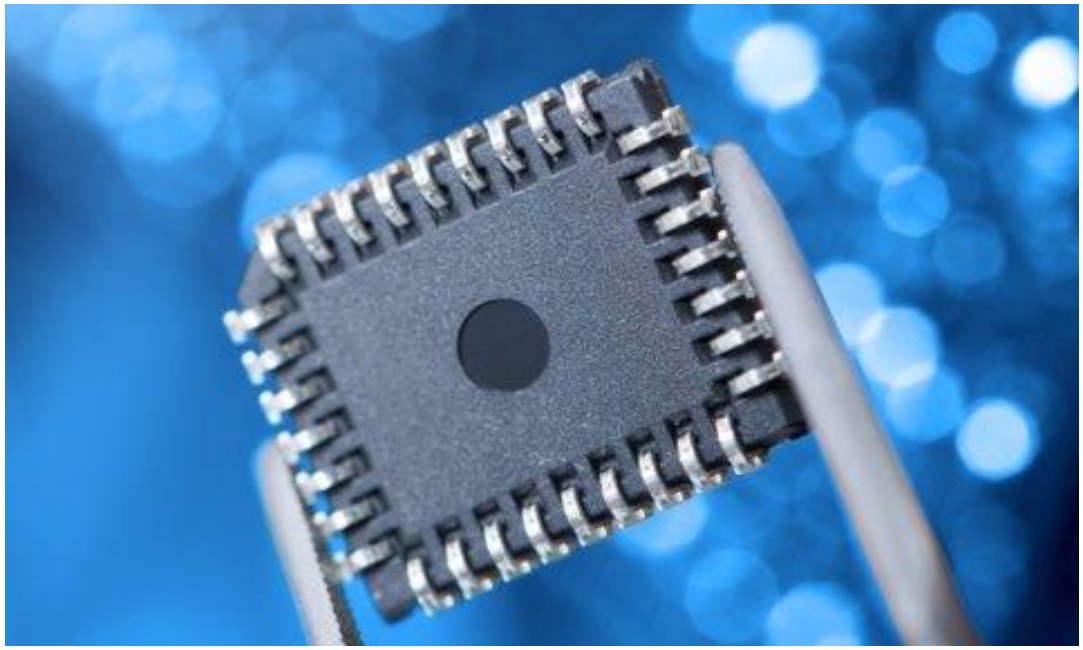
Draft Recommendation on Ethics

- **First global standard-setting instrument** on the **ethics of AI**
- The draft Recommendation offers values, principles and policy areas for action
- Human rights are central to the AI Ethics Recommendation
  - Privacy
  - Biases and Discrimination
  - Accountability and Human Control
  - Explainability & Transparency



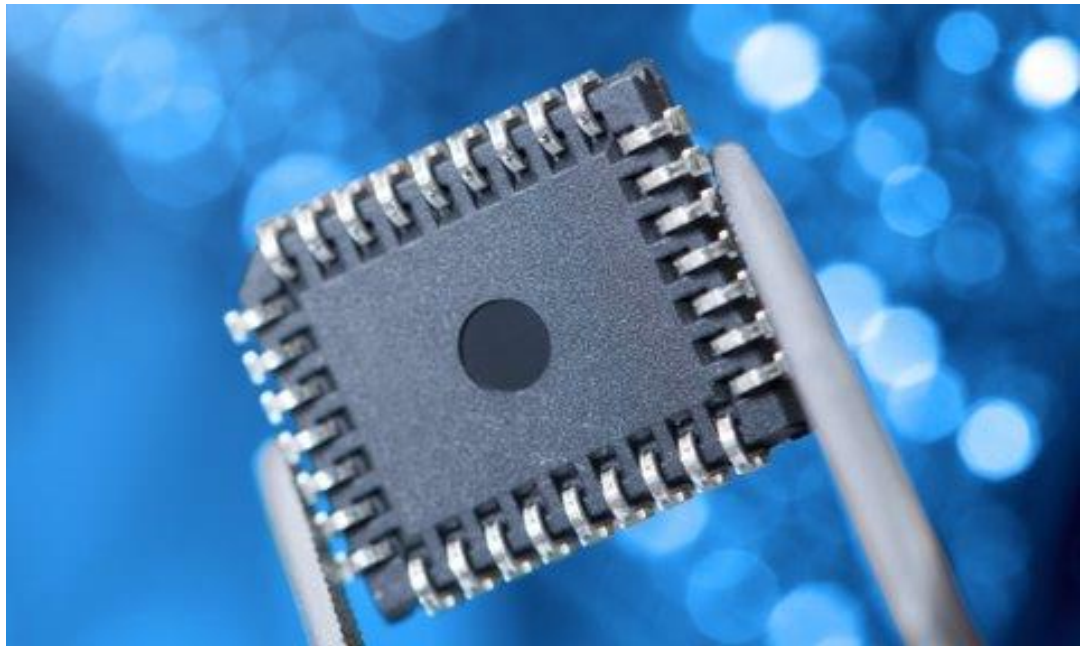
Draft Recommendation on Ethics of AI

- **Process:** Inclusive - multistakeholder, interdisciplinary, multicultural
- Pre-recommendation – Global and regional conferences for advocacy and knowledge exchange
- Background Study – COMEST
- Ad-hoc expert group – 6 regions
- Multistakeholder regional and national consultations



Draft Recommendation on Ethics of AI

- Submitted for Adoption by UNESCO's 41st General Conference in Nov. 2021
- Aims
- How?
  - Policy Advice across 11 policy areas
  - Ethical impact assessment tool
  - AI readiness methodology
  - Capacity building – executive, legislature, judiciary



AI and the Rule of Law: Training for Judicial Operators

- **Global online training** on AI and the Rule of Law
- Based on the findings of the **AI Needs Assessment Survey in Africa**, and another **survey of 1,200 judicial operators**
- Unpack AI's application and impact in the **administration of justice**
- Registration opens in Nov 2021, and training launch in March 2022

AI Policy Protocols

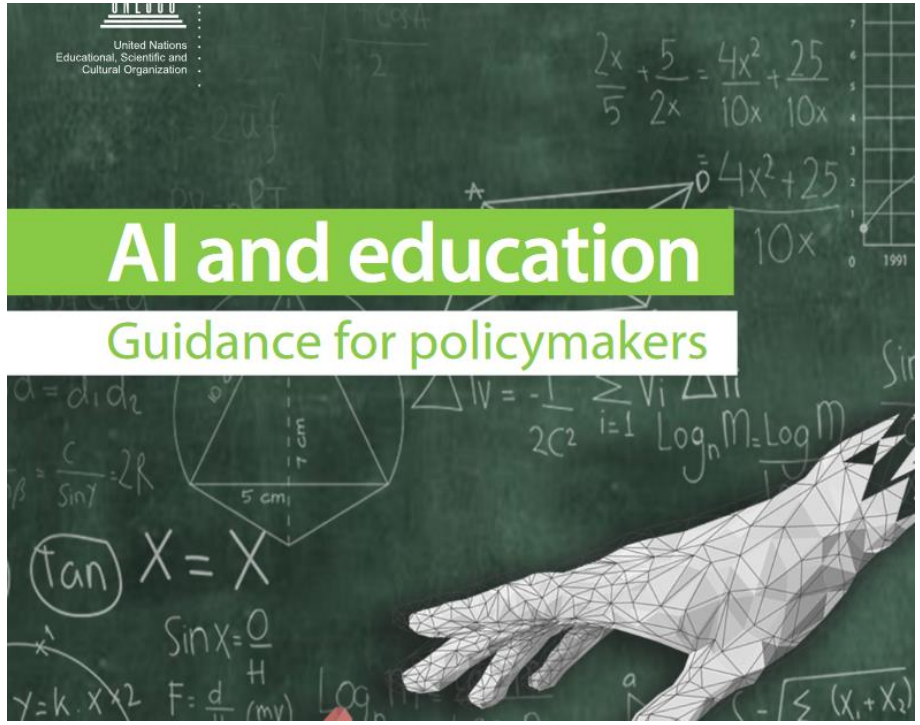
- Facilitating community consultations
- Aim to provide advice to governments on **inclusive and multi-stakeholder driven processes** for AI policies.
- Through a series of workshops, i4Policy and UNESCO are developing a report: **Activating Collective Intelligence for Artificial Intelligence Policy Frameworks**.

#i4Policy

INNOVATION FOR POLICY FOUNDATION

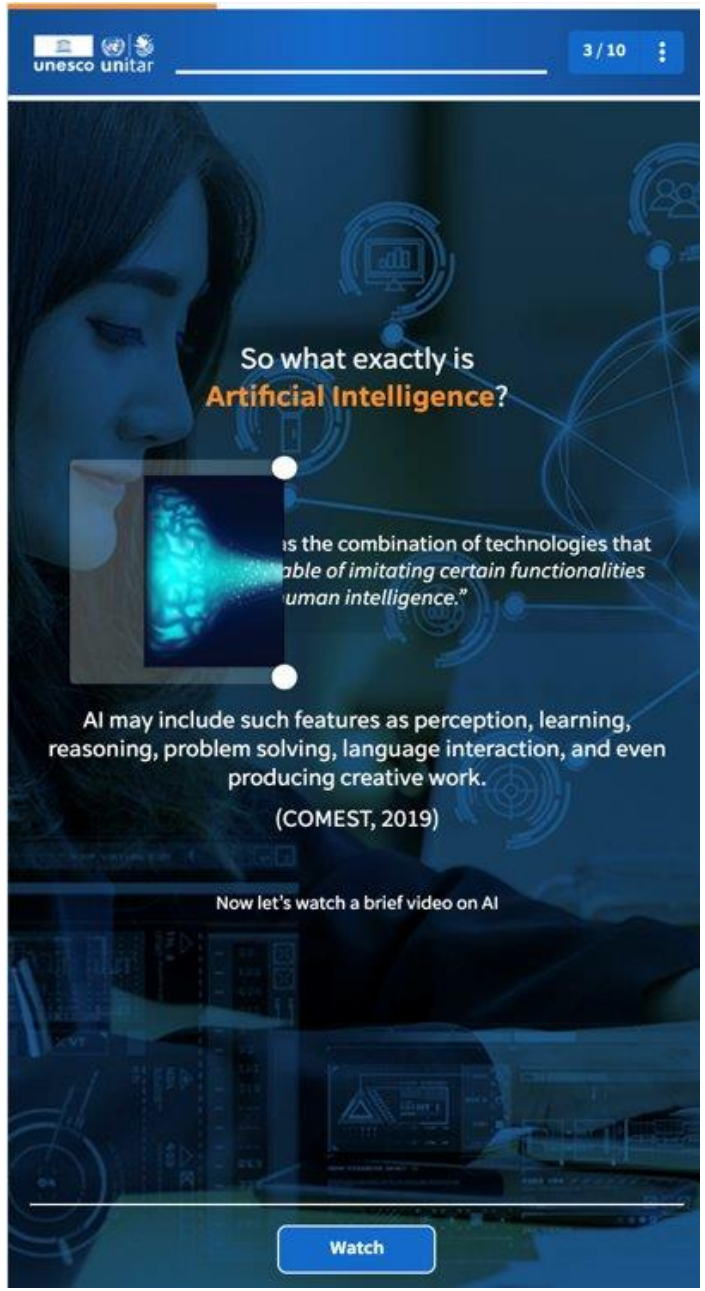
AI and Education Policies

- Emerging practices and benefit-risk assessment
- Harnessing AI 4 SDG4
- Review of policy responses



AI Microlearning for Youth

- Responds to the needs assessment survey in Africa
- The online learning course seeks to advance knowledge and capacities of **young people**
- Topics covered include **impact of AI on freedom of expression, right to equality and the right to privacy**



AI Graphic Novel

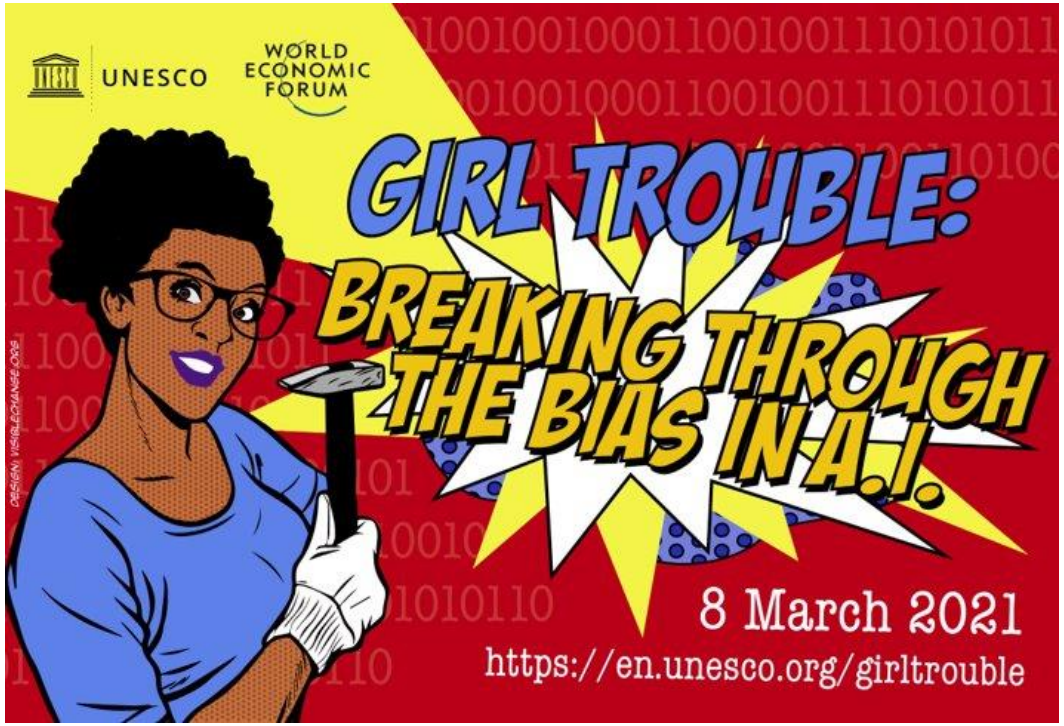
- Go beyond a theoretical understanding of AI, shows the **everyday parts** where we are already confronted with AI

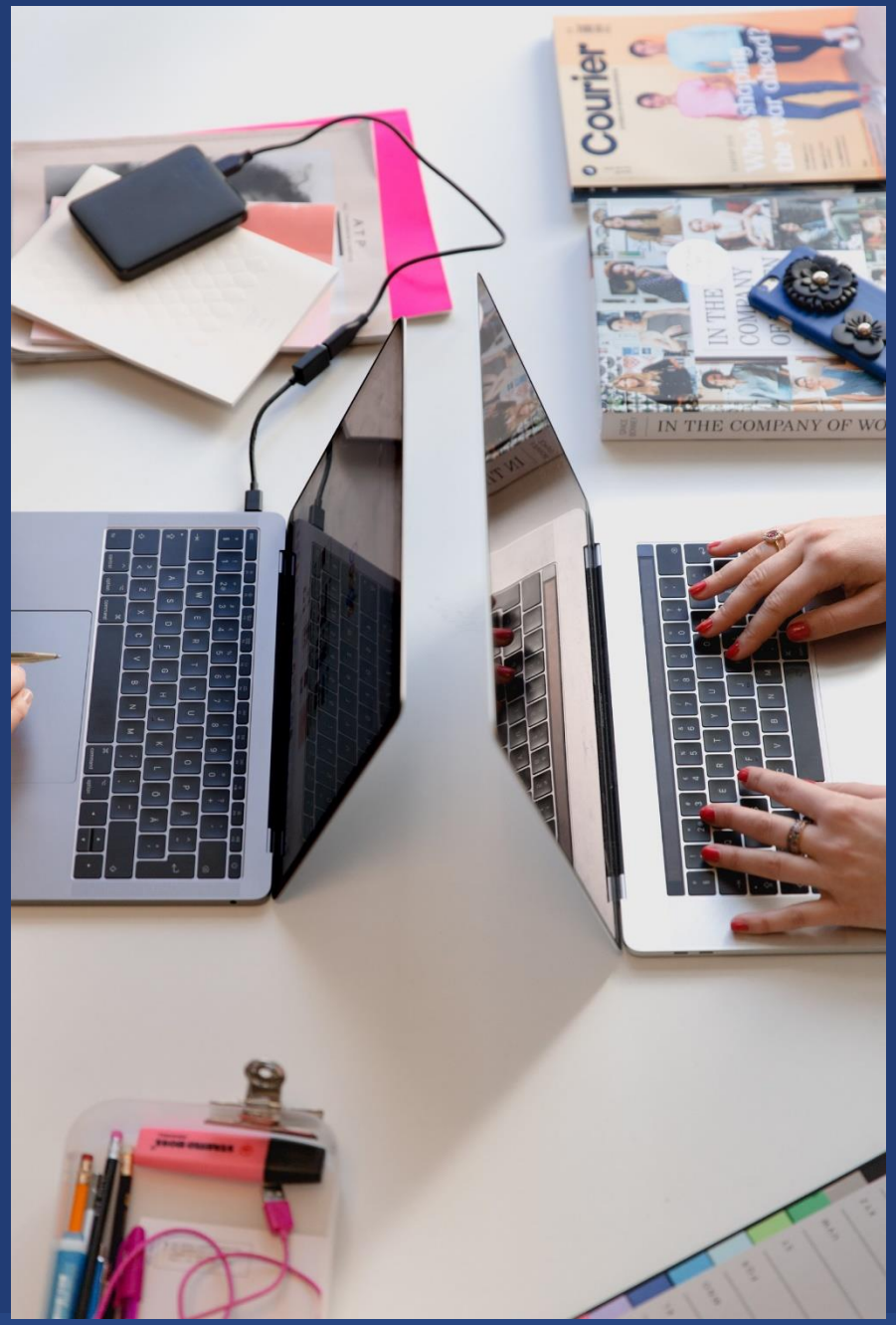
- Story respects geographical diversity and gender distribution

- Will be published in 2022

International Women's Day 2021

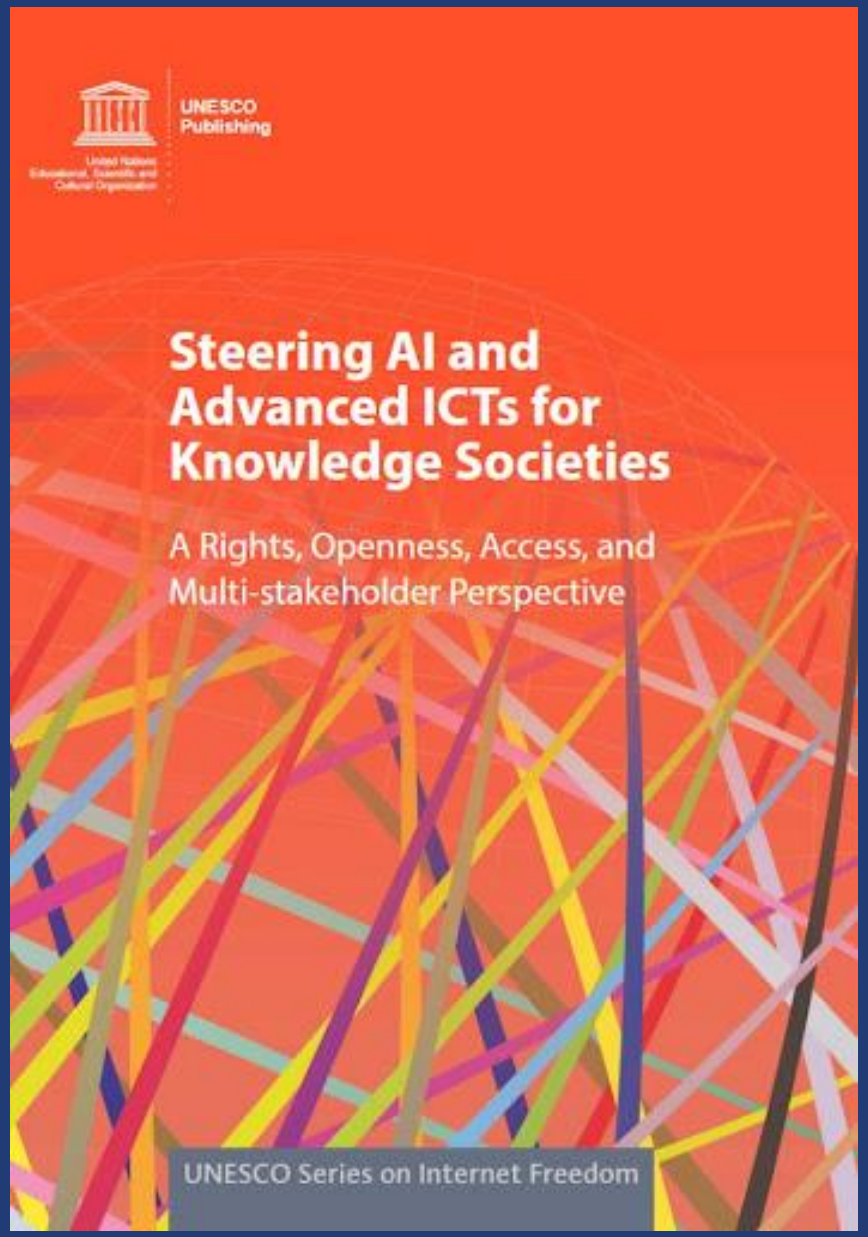
- Virtual event showcasing **women in AI research and work force**
- Brought together **leading female voices** in tech and female change-makers in AI
- Confronted the deep-rooted **gender imbalances** that impact AI





Effects of AI on Women in the Workforce (2022)

- Documents the effects of AI on women
- Looks particularly at **challenges and opportunities** for women throughout their workforce lifecycle
- In collaboration with OECD, IDB and Oxford Internet Institute



Steering AI and Advanced ICTs for Knowledge Societies

- Research report that assesses Artificial Intelligence (AI) through UNESCO's Internet Universality **ROAM framework**

- UNESCO gives attention to the role of **human agency** and **human-centred value**s in the development of AI and other ICTs

AI Needs Assessment Survey in Africa

- Addresses **gap in information** on AI policies from Developing Countries

- Survey is now used by UNESCO and partners to **better support** member states

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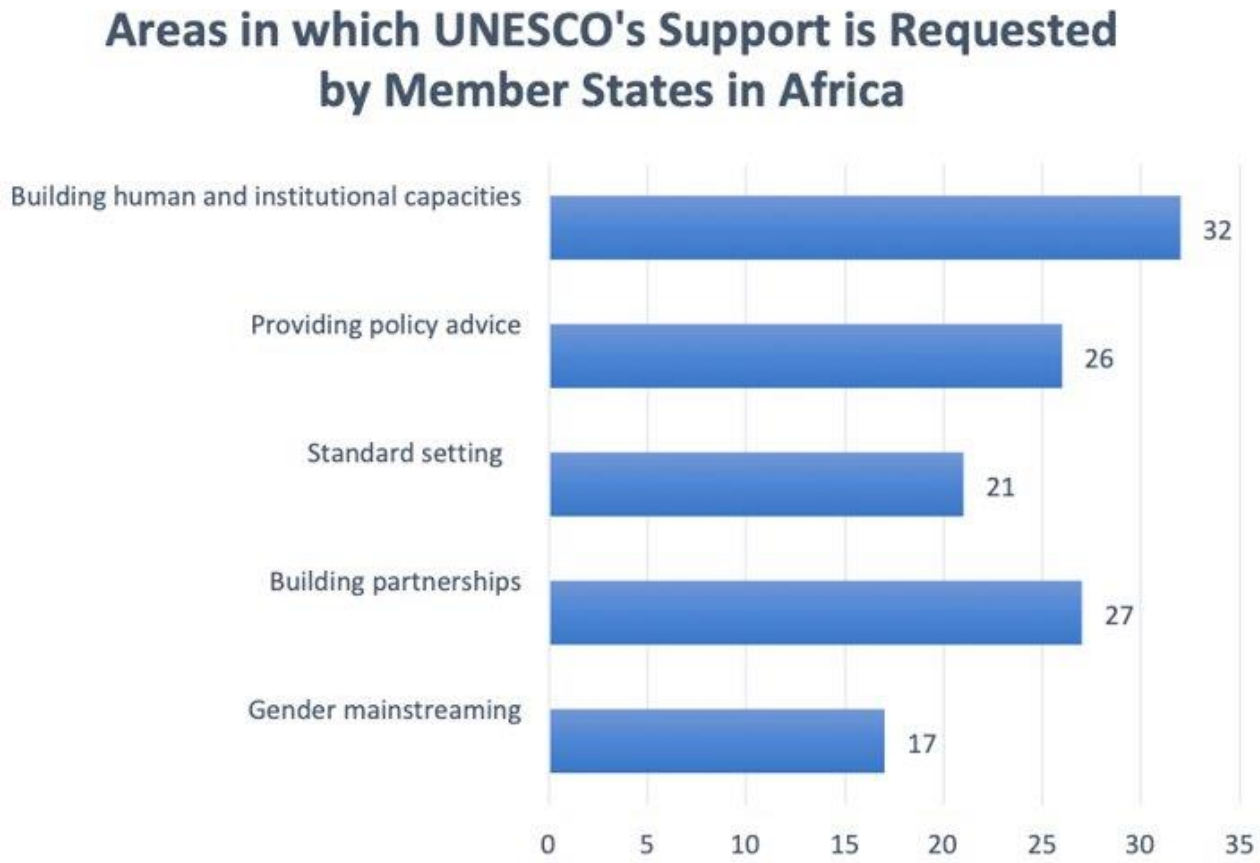
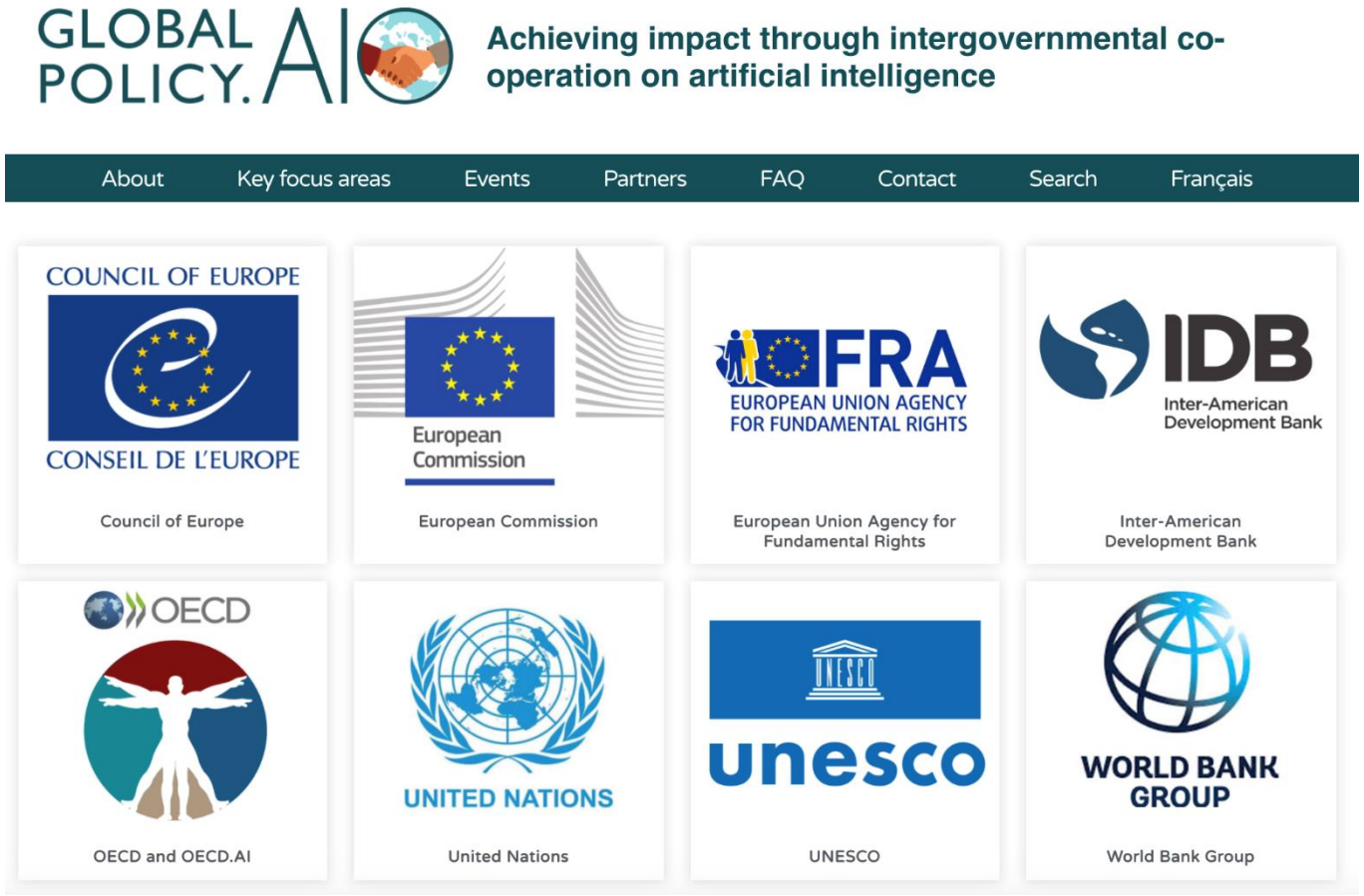


Gaps in AI Policy and Research (2022)

- Foresight piece in collaboration with MILA
- **Identify blind spots** in AI Policy and Programme Development
- Exploring **creative, novel and far-reaching approaches** to tackling blind spots in AI

GlobalPolicy.ai

- Portal launched in 2021
- Provides policy and decision makers with **data, research, use cases,** and **best practices**
- Includes data and latest news from **8 international organizations**



Athens Roundtable on AI and the Rule of Law

- Annual conference
- Involves **multistakeholder actors** working at the intersection of AI and law
- Help stakeholders in **developing relevant legal frameworks** for AI

AI For the Planet

- Global virtual conference, series of monthly dialogues
- Bring together the world's **best experts and AI pioneers**
- Highlights **AI innovations** related to **sustainable development**

Open for Good Alliance

- Increased availability and quality of training data in Africa and beyond

open for good

Inclusive AI commons with localized data

- Localized training data for AI and machine learning

- Improve public services and strengthen private sector

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unesco

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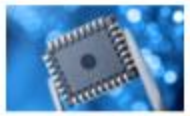

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